

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“Political Hawks vs. Technocrats:
The Impact of Governor’s Career
Path on Gubernatorial Performance”



Wednesday, April 18, 2018

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

This paper aims to identify leaders’ skills that either enhance or hinder government performance. We estimate the causal effect of the career pursued by a chief executive on government performance. We argue that skills accumulated from technocratic experience differ from those accrued from a political career. Once in office, leaders align their differentiated set of skills with implementing certain policies to boost performance. We expect that chief executives who pursue mainly technocratic career paths will have higher performances in carrying out policies requiring an administrative implementation process. Chief executives focused on political career paths will have higher performances in carrying out policies requiring a political implementation process. We test our proposition in the Mexican context, using a panel dataset of governors over 1995–2014 period. State performance is operationalized in terms of infant mortality rates and vocational training. The empirical strategy uses a Diff-in-Diff model, along with an instrumental variable approach.



Johabed Olvera is a third-year PhD student in Public Affairs at the School of Public & Environmental Affairs, concentrating in policy analysis and public management. Her research interests include policy implementation, evaluation, and management in developing countries with a regional focus on Latin American. She specializes in health and welfare programs targeting vulnerable population. Johabed holds a BA in international affairs from Universidad de las Américas-Puebla, and a MPA from CIDE ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).