

REGIMES, STATES AND INSTITUTIONS.

2017. LONG-TERM EFFECTS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

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INTRO

This 12-session course deals with standard issues of comparative politics from the perspective of the long-term. These issues are: (i) the determinants of political regimes, (ii) the origins and causal effects of institutions, (iii) the determinants of good government, (iv) the cultural basis of politics, (v) the causes of development, and (vi) the determinants of political violence.

By looking at the (sometimes remote) past, we try to avoid problems of endogeneity. Much attention is paid in the course to the methodological problems of causality.

Most of the material that is covered is of quantitative nature. Students are expected to discuss not only substantive issues, but also to analyze the research design and the statistical methodology of the papers.

EVALUATION

You are expected to make presentations of the readings in the class and to participate actively in the discussions of the readings. This will be organized in the first session. Also, you are expected to write a research paper using some type of long-term explanation. As for mid-term (week 6), you have to write a critical review of Knack and Keefer (1997). The paper counts 70% of the final grade, the class presentations and participation 15%, and the mid-term assignment another 15%.

WEEKLY PLAN

Week 1. The problem of causality in comparative politics

Many explanatory variables in comparative politics are subject to the problem of endogeneity. This is why, in the last 20 years or so, there has been a serious attempt to find exogenous factors in the past. We start the course with a discussion about the problems of causality and endogeneity in comparative politics and political economy.

Readings:

Przeworski (2004)

Rodden (2009)

Optional: King & Zen (2007), Przeworski (2007). This is more technical stuff.

Week 2. Concepts: Historical Legacies, Path-Dependence

We introduce some concepts that will be useful to analyze long term effects. After reading one example, we will discuss two different phenomena: historical legacies that establish temporal continuity or persistence and path-dependence dynamics.

Readings:

We start with a spectacular example: Voigtländer & Voth (2012): The medieval origins of anti-semitic violence in Nazi Germany.

Read Pierson (2000), a highly cited article on path-dependence and the mechanisms behind it.

Slater and Simmons (2010) on critical junctures and critical conditions.

Wittenberg (2015) on the nature of historical legacies.

Week 3. Democracy and Social Capital: Putnam's *Making Democracy Work*

The current interest in the long-term was probably initiated with Putnam's *Making Democracy Work* (1993). It makes sense to start with Putnam and posterior studies on the historical origins of social capital.

Readings:

Putnam (1993): read the whole book, Chapters 5-6 with special care.

Week 4. More on Social Capital

Putnam's book generated a hot debate in many fields. In this session we discuss Putnam's social capital from several angles.

Readings:

Guiso, Sapienza & Zingales (2008) for an econometric confirmation of Putnam.

Ferragina (2013) for an alternative explanation to Putnam's on social capital in Italy.

Berman (1997) for a critique of Putnam based on the analysis of the collapse of the Weimar Republic: the negative side of social capital.

Portes & Vickstrom (2011) for a methodological critique of Putnam.

Boix & Posner (1998) for a theoretical critique of Putnam.

Optional: De Blasio & Nuzzo (2010), another econometric confirmation.

Week 5. Quality of Government, institutions

In this session, we discuss the origins and consequences of quality of government (QoG).

Readings:

We start with two papers by Rothstein & Uslaner: read Rothstein & Uslaner (2005) on corruption and then Uslaner & Rothstein (2012).

We end with the long-term effects of executive constraints: read Charron & Lapuente (2013).

Week 6. Democracy, development, and religion

The more important determinant of democracy is economic development (modernization theory). But Woodberry (2012) has shown that, for developing countries, the legacy of protestant missionaries trumps economic development

Readings:

We start reading two highly influential pieces in the literature on modernization and democracy: Przeworski & Limongi (1997) and Boix & Stokes (2003).

After you are familiar with the literature, read Woodberry (2012).

Week 7. Political Culture & Voting

The origin of much of the historical legacies research lies in continuity in political culture and voting patterns despite all kinds of historical discontinuities (most typically, the long Communist parentheses in many Eastern European countries).

Readings:

The seminal reference is Wittenberg (2006): Intro, Chapters 1-2, 6-7.

A more recent research is Lupu & Peisakhin (2017).

Week 8. Culture

There has been a growing interest in political economy about the importance of culture for economic development and institutional politics.

Readings:

We start with an excellent (and long) review of recent findings in Alesina & Giuliano (2015).

Then we move back into a revision of Weber's thesis on the impact of Protestantism on capitalism (Becker & Woessman 2009).

Read Licht et al. (2007) on the cultural basis of the rule of law.

Week 9. The long-term effects of family structures

Todd (1990) tries to prove that family structure going back to the Middle Ages exerts a strong influence on ideology. The book was originally written in French and has not been translated into English. We will read it in Spanish (or in French if you don't read Spanish).

Readings:

Le Bris (2015): a general overview.

Dilli (2016): on family structure, democracy and corruption.

Alesina et al. (2015): on family structure and the labor market.

Optional (in Spanish): Todd (1990): pp. 35-73, pp. 199-283.

Week 10. The long-term effects of invasions, wars, and other catastrophes

In this session we discuss the long-term effects caused by wars, invasions,

Readings:

Nunn (2008): the long-term economic consequences of slavery in Africa

Acemoglu et al. (2010): the long-term consequences of the French revolution

Acharya & Lee (2016): the long-term consequences of dynastic fights in Europe

Week 11: The long-term determinants of political violence

In this session you will read part of my manuscript on the long-term determinants of revolutionary terrorism in the developed world (1970-2000).

Reading:

Sánchez-Cuenca (2017)

Week 12. General discussion

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