

European Union Center, Texas A&M University

Past Events: 2013

Department Seminar by Robert Franzese

Date: November 21, 2013 - 2:00pm to November 21, 2013 - 3:30pm

Description: Robert Franzese presented his paper titled Comparative Democratic Budgeteering: Policymakers' Context-Conditional Incentives and Capacities for Policy Manipulation to faculty and students in the Department of Political Science, Department of Economics, and the Mays Business School. Dr. Franzese is Professor & Associate Chair for the Department of Political Science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. This project attempts to build an estimable empirical model of the complexly context-conditional process of comparative democratic budgeteering, with policy manipulation toward electoral and/or partisan ends visible in the budget modeled as the resultant product of the context-conditionally varying magnitude of policymakers' incentives to budgeteer, their context-conditionally varying strategic capacities to respond to those budgeteering incentives, and the context-conditionally varying nature of those incentives regarding how best to budgeteer.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and the Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Department Seminar by Martial Foucault

Date: October 28, 2013, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Description: Martial Foucault gave a seminar titled Decentralisation in Africa and the Nature of Local Governments' Competition: Evidence from Benin to faculty and students in the Department of Political Science. This paper showed how and under which conditions spillovers among jurisdictions induce strategic behaviors from local officials in a developing country. By estimating a spatial lag model for a panel data analysis of the 77 communes in Benin from 2002 to 2008, the empirical analysis establishes the existence of the strategic complementarity of jurisdictions' public spending.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Project for Equity, Representation and Governance (PERG), Department of Political Science

Seminar: Lessons from the Great Depression in Europe for the Current Global Economic Crisis

Date: October 15, 2013, 11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Description: This lecture described the social and political consequences of the Great Depression in Europe, and drew some comparisons with, and lessons for, the handling of the current global financial and economic crisis. Dr. Berg-Schlusser is Director of the Institute of Political Science at Marburg University, Germany. He has taught and conducted research on political culture, the theory of democracy, the study of developing countries, and comparative political science at the universities of Munich, Berkeley, Nairobi, and Marburg. He is currently director of the IPSA Summer Schools on Research Methods at the universities of Sao Paulo and Stellenbosch. Previously he was Chairman of the Research Committee on Democratization in Comparative Perspective of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Chair of the European Consortium

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for Political Research (ECPR), and Vice-President of IPSA. His research interests include political culture, empirical democratic theory, Third World studies, comparative politics, comparative methodology.

Cosponsors: European Union Center; The Scrowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University; and The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Department Seminar by Dirk Berg-Schlosser

Date: October 14, 2013, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Description: Dirk Berg-Schlosser gave a lunch-time talk titled Recent Advances in Comparative Research Methods to the faculty and students in the Department of Political Science. Berg-Schlosser is Professor and Director of the Institute of Political Science and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophy, at Philipps-University, Marburg, Germany. He has done research and taught at the universities of Munich, Aachen, Augsburg, Eichstaett, Nairobi, Stellenbosch/South Africa and Berkeley. Previously he was Chairman of the Research Committee on Democratization in Comparative Perspective of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Chair of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), and Vice-President of IPSA. His research interests include political culture, empirical democratic theory, Third World studies, comparative politics, comparative methodology.

Cosponsors: European Union Center and Project for Equity, Representation and Governance (PERG), Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Study Abroad: Germany's Role in NATO and the European Union

Dates: May 14, 2013 - May 28, 2013

Description: This course provided graduate students with an understanding of the role that Germany plays in the European Union and NATO, and to highlight Germany's role on the ongoing Euro crisis. It offered a unique combination of academic and policy makers' perspectives. Students were given the opportunity to: attend lectures, briefings, and discussions with German policy makers at the German Federal Chancellery, the Deutscher Bundesrat, and the Deutscher Bundestag; meet with journalists at Deutsche Welle and the Rias Berlin Media Foundation; attend seminars at Free University in Berlin; and participate in a tour of the Battle of Berlin. The class also traveled to Dresden and Leipzig to meet with local politicians, economists, and security analysts. This seminar, led by Bush School faculty, carried three semester credits.

Sponsor: The Bush School of Government and Public Service in collaboration with the Texas A&M University European Union Center

Scholarly Conference: Foreign Direct Investment and Labor

Dates: May 7, 2013 - May 8, 2013

Description: In this conference designed to induce a productive intellectual dialogue, facilitate future inter-disciplinary collaboration, and offer insights that inform the public about FDI and labor, political scientists and economists shared their research findings

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related to the foreign direct investment (FDI) and multinational enterprises (MNEs) and its relationship with labor

Cosponsors: European Union Center and The Program on International Conflict and Cooperation, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Scholarly Conference: Spatial Models of Politics in Europe and Beyond

Dates: February 21, 2013 - February 23, 2013

Description: This conference brought together the leading scholars who are using spatial econometrics techniques to present their latest work. Papers from this conference will be submitted for publication as a special edition of Political Science Research and Methods, the journal of the European Political Science Association. This program drew research together that deals with different aspects of spatial modeling in political science and economics, including spatial econometrics, geo coding of conflict, spatial voting models, and modeling diffusion, spill-over, and interaction effects among groups, countries, and individuals.

Sponsor: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Seminar: Robustness - Model Uncertainty and Robustness Tests

Date: February 21, 2013, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Description: In this graduate-level seminar, Dr. Thomas Pluemper, Professor of Government at University of Essex, discussed his recent work with Dr. Eric Neumayer (London School of Economics and Political Science) on model uncertainty and robustness tests.

Sponsor: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Workshop: The European Union and the Global Financial Crisis

Date: January 31, 2013, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Description: The European Union Center cosponsored a day-long seminar series on the global impact of the European economic crisis. A series of expert speakers covered topics including the structure of the European Union and relationships between EU members; today's key EU political and economic issues; and their affects from the European, US, and Asian perspectives. Talks included "Structure of the European Union and the Relationship Between the EU and its Member Countries", "The European Union Financial Crisis", "The EU-US Relationship", "China's Global Financial Position: China Household Finance Survey and Income Inequality", and "Global Perspective 2013"

Cosponsors: European Union Center, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, and Public Partnerships & Outreach, Office of the Provost, Texas A&M University