



Seminar

“Faith, Hope and Christian Charity? How Religion Explains Giving when Impure Altruism and Warm Glow Do Not.”

(in English)



Professor Clive FRASER
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Biography:

Clive Fraser is a microeconomist and public economic theorist. Born in Jamaica, West Indies, he has lived in the United Kingdom since 1960. He has a BSocSci degree in Mathematical Economics from Birmingham University and a PhD in Economics from Southampton University. Having lectured at the Universities of York (UK) and Warwick, he has been a Professor of Economics at the University of Leicester since 1995. He has published in journals such as Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organisation, Economica and Economics Letters. His current research is on the theory of clubs and the economics of charity.

Date: 15 June 2016 (Wednesday)

Time: 11am – 12:30pm

Venue: LBYG06, G/F, B. Y. Lam Building

Abstract:

Many charities, especially religious ones, spend significantly to improve poor community members materially. Standard theoretical philanthropy models with altruism or impure altruism/warm glow cannot explain private poverty-alleviating transfers in the type and size of communities where this occurs - e.g., congregations. However, if preferences reflect religious precepts ("you are your brother's keeper"; "treat neighbours like yourself"), using charitable donations for poverty alleviation can be optimal even in large communities. Income and price elasticities for giving prove important. Surprisingly, charitable private transfers are less likely when donors care for recipients' living standard instead of the aggregate amount all recipients get.