

Research Findings Seminar

Topic A: “*Political Party Fragmentation, Reelection, Electoral Constituency and Efficiency in Road Maintenance*” (in English)

Presenter: Ms. KATUNZE Miriam Nabawanga (PhD Student)

Date: 17 April 2020 (Friday)

Time: 13:45 – 14:30

Venue: ZOOM Meeting (Registration link:
<https://lingnan.zoom.us/meeting/register/vJcldOispj4uaLZUZRB3RASp92a2U-yCMw>)

Chief Supervisor: Prof. Thomas VOON (Associate Professor)

Co-supervisor: Prof. HONG Fuhai (Associate Professor)

Abstract:

Politics plays a vital role in public sector efficiency. In this paper, efficiency is defined as the ratio of output to available resources. While the global sense of efficiency is taken to mean the general service provision, I align efficiency in this paper to a single service that is road infrastructure, specifically road maintenance. This paper is not the first to do so as many others have focused on evaluation of efficiency for a singular service. Efficiency is also an antidote to political costs arising from tax and deficit increases (De Witte & Greys, 2011).

In this article, I analysed whether re-election, the presence of a new electoral constituency and political party fragmentation of local government parliamentary representatives is associated with road maintenance efficiency. I measure road maintenance efficiency indirectly (distance to district headquarters) and directly (road maintenance in the last two years). The literature shows both mixed associations and a reverse causality situation, which is solved through a multilevel analysis using MLwiN software. Uganda is considered as a case study and data corresponding to 2015/16 from various sources is used for the analysis. The findings of this study contribute to the debate from a heterogeneous perspective by the type of road maintained. I find that the presence of a new constituency in a district is less likely associated with better/improved road maintenance efficiency of community access roads.

This result can be explained from two perspectives. The first is that less prudent spending may arise because the MP of the new constituency might have spent heftily during the campaigns. This is common in Africa and other less democratic countries. The second is that new leaders are less likely to administer good efficiency because they are in the learning process. Notwithstanding significant results point to a need to have fewer electoral constituencies.

ALL ARE WELCOME

For enquiry: 26167047 (Kathy)