



Decentralized Governance: Crafting Effective Democracies Around the World

13-14 December 2021

The literature and policy consensus of the 1970s and 1980s were full of hope about decentralization's potential to make government more effective and responsive to citizens. But a wave of empirical studies in the 1980s and 1990s cast doubt on its ability to meet these lofty goals. At the turn of the new millennium, evidence on decentralization's effects remained mixed and unclear.

Since then, a growing body of research has shown that decentralization can improve public sector efficiency by, in effect, bringing government closer to the people. While decentralized governments can be captured by elites or undermined by the clientelistic distribution of public resources, a broad consensus holds that – under the right conditions – decentralized systems produce more effective public services and are more democratic. What these conditions are, and where they hold, remains insufficiently understood. This online workshop aims to bring together studies that explore this analytically, mainly empirically, with new evidence from around the world, but also theoretically.

Keynote speaker: Professor Dilip Mookherjee, Boston University

Programme: Day 1 – 13 December 2021

1200: Welcome message - Jean-Paul Faguet and Sarmistha Pal

1205: Welcome message from LSE Press - Professor Patrick Dunleavy (LSE)

1215: Understanding Decentralization: Theory, Evidence and Method, with a Focus on Least-Developed Countries
– *Jean-Paul Faguet (LSE)*

1315: Realizing the Promise of (Partial) Decentralization
– *Shanta Devarajan (Georgetown) and Stuti Khemani (World Bank)*

1415-1430: Break

1430: Efficacy of centralised and decentralised monitoring of corruption in Developing Countries.
– *Farzana Afridi (Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi), Amrita Dhillon (King's College London) and Arka Roy Chaudhuri (Shiv Nadar University)*

1530: Birth registration records, Child Rights and local governance in Bangladesh
– *Zaki Wahhaj (Kent) and Abu Shanchoy (Florida International University)*

1630: Break

1645: Devolution in Autocratic Regimes – Lessons from Pakistan

– Adeel Malik (*University of Oxford*), Rinchan Mirza (*University of Kent*) and Jean-Philippe Platteau (*University of Namur*)

1745: Concluding comments: LSE Press representative

Programme: Day 2 – 14 December 2021

1200: Local autonomy and the provision of local public goods: Evidence from a Colombian natural experiment

– Fabio Sánchez and Isabela Munevar (*Columbia University*)

1300: Can parliamentary sanctions strengthen local political accountability? Evidence from Kenya

– Michael Mbate (*ODI & LSE*)

1400: Break

1415: How does fiscal decentralisation affect local polities? Trade-offs between electoral and participatory democracy in Indonesia

– Anirban Mitra (*University of Kent, UK*) and Sarmistha Pal (*University of Surrey*)

1515: Local elections and recentralization in China (*Precise title tbc*)

– Gerard Padro-i-Miquel (*Yale University*) & Nancy Qian (*Northwestern University*)

1615: Break

16.30 Subnational governance in Ghana: How can new comparative assessment help us to better understand what makes decentralised governance work?

– Rachel Gisselquist (*UNU-WIDER*), Michael Danquah (*UNU-WIDER*) and Daniel Chachu (*University of Ghana*)

1730: Keynote speech (Title tba): Dilip Mookherjee (*Boston University*)

1830: Discussion

1900: Concluding comments

THE END

Organisers:

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