

Abstract:

India is the world's largest democracy. One of the reasons why it is considered a "flawed" democracy is that elections are often manipulated by political candidates paying "cash for votes" (C4V). My talk provides a progress report on a project to identify determinants and motives for why voters do (or do not) sell their votes. We use a large-scale survey with registered voters and with politicians in a rural border region of Kerala and Tamil Nadu to test for potential determinants of C4V. We also explore the causal effects of informational interventions (RCTs) to mitigate CFV which relate to strengthening civicness among voters and improving transparency about politician characteristics.