

EITM 2023
The Political Economy of Parliaments
July 5th-July 7th

Alexandra Cirone
Assistant Professor of Government, Cornell University
Email: aec287@cornell.edu

Course Description

It's often difficult to evaluate theories of parliamentary politics or populism using observational data, and it's challenging to run experimental studies with sitting politicians. Instead, scholars can turn to methods of design-based inference or experimental game theory. This module will introduce students to the foundations of behavioral game theory and design-based inference, and illustrate these concepts with a series of applied papers, looking at voters, politicians, and coalition formation in parliaments.

The course will be a mix of lectures and in-class exercises. Readings and slides will be available in advance.

Preliminary Course Plan

Part I: Legislative Bargaining Experiments

- Introduction to Experimental Game Theory
- Legislative Bargaining
- Lab Game Design

Readings:

Agranov, Marina. (2021). "Legislative Bargaining Experiments" in *Bargaining: Current Research and Future Directions*, edited by Emin Karagozoglu and Kyle Hyndman, Palgrave Macmillan.

Sheffer, Lior; Peter John Loewen; Stefaan Walgrave; Stefanie Bailer; Christian Breunig; Luzia Helfer; Jean-Benoit Pilet; Frédéric Varone; Rens Vliegthart. (2023). How Do Politicians Bargain? Evidence from Ultimatum Games with Legislators in Five Countries. *American Political Science Review*, 1-19. doi:10.1017/S0003055422001459

Aldrich, J., & Lupia, A. (2011). Experiments and Game Theory's Value to Political Science. In J. Druckman, D. Greene, J. Kuklinski, & A. Lupia (Eds.), *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science* (pp. 89-101). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511921452.007

Part II: Natural Experiments and Design-based Inference

- Causal inference versus Design-based inference

- Natural Experiments
- Applied work on parliaments and populism

Readings:

Titiunik, Rocio. 2021. Chapter 6: Natural Experiments, in *Advances in Experimental Political Science*, Cambridge University Press. See:
<https://titiunik.mycpanel.princeton.edu/papers/Titiunik2021-NaturalExperiments.pdf>

The Effect, Nick Huntington-Klein. Selected chapters, <https://theeffectbook.net/>

Cirone, Alexandra and Brenda Can Coppenolle. 2018. Cabinets, Committees, and Careers: The Causal Effect of Committee Service, *The Journal of Politics* 2018 80:3, 948-963,
<https://doi.org/10.1086/697252>

Dinas, E., Matakos, K., Xefteris, D., & Hangartner, D. (2019). Waking Up the Golden Dawn: Does Exposure to the Refugee Crisis Increase Support for Extreme-Right Parties? *Political Analysis*, 27(2), 244-254. doi:10.1017/pan.2018.48