

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA

R-1 BAIASHNABGHATA PATULI, KOLKATA 700094

ECONOMICS STUDY GROUP SEMINAR

Subhasish Dugar

University of Utah

shall present

Lying for Votes

Subhasish Dugar

Quazi Shahriar

Abstract

To what extent do pivotal nonpartisan voters believe and act upon potentially deceptive messages from partisan voters who privately observe candidates' ex-ante fitness-for-office attributes? How do nonpartisan voters' responses to messages vary with changing odds of candidates' ex-ante suitability for office? This paper derives contrasting predictions regarding pivotal nonpartisan voters' reactions to possibly untruthful messages across two-candidate voting competitions and tests them in the laboratory. We find that the partisan voters lie substantially more when candidates possess unequal than equal ex-ante odds of performing better in office. The inferior (superior) candidate's base transmits more unfavorable (favorable) lies about their opponent (own) candidate. Facing candidates with different fitness-for-office odds, the nonpartisan voters largely ignore the message and vote for the ex-ante superior candidate. Yet, voting efficiency is lower in the competition with differentiated than undifferentiated candidates. We develop a behavioral framework including lying aversion to explain key features of our data.

Date: 30th March 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 3 P.M.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

All are welcome to attend

Dr. Sattwik Santra

(Co-Convener, Seminar Sub-Committee)