Course Syllabus

Spring 2021 Boston University

EC722A: COMMUNITY AND GENDER IN DEVELOPMENT

Dilip Mookherjee
dilpm@bu.edu
Room 500A, 264 Bay State Road, 617-3534392

This is the first half of the second PhD elective course in development. It focuses on topics located at the intersection of sociology and economics: how community and ethnic networks help overcome market imperfections, generate social inequality, discrimination and conflict in developing countries. Specific topics covered: social networks, ethnic diversity, and gender inequality.

The second part of this course (722b) will be taught by Martin Fiszbein, focusing on long run growth, history, culture and institutions.

Class: T, Th 11am-1215 (Jan 26—March 11), held remotely in Zoom at https://bostonu.zoom.us/j/97788715683?pwd=MmFoMmV6azJtOVVhcyFIcXdoUT09

Attendance in IED seminar on Mondays and Development Reading Group Tuesdays 1230—145 is strongly recommended.

Office Hours: M 215-335 pm, T 210-330 pm, Zoom Personal Meeting Room 6179475198

Prerequisites: PhD core courses

Grading (for 722a,b combined): will be based on class presentation/participation (30%), a research proposal/paper/literature review (45%), and problem sets in 722b (25%). You can each select a paper to present in class, from those marked (P). Each presentation will last about 20-25 minutes, followed by open discussion.

Zoom Class Recordings: will follow BU LFA prescribed policies:

All class sessions will be recorded for the benefit of registered students who are unable to attend live sessions (either in person or remotely) due to time zone differences, illness or other special circumstances. Recorded sessions will be made available to registered students ONLY via their
password-protected Blackboard account. Students may not share these recordings with anyone not registered in the course and may not repost them in a public platform.

Students have the right to opt out of being part of the class recording. Please contact your instructor or teaching assistant to discuss options for participating in the course while opting out of the class recording.

No student may record any classroom or other academic activity (including advising sessions or office hours) without my express written consent. Unauthorized use of classroom recordings – including distributing or posting them – is also prohibited. If you have (or think you may have) a disability such that you need to record classroom activities, or need other assistive services, you should contact Disability & Access Services to request an appropriate accommodation. More information may be found here.

TOPICS AND READINGS

1. Social Networks, 5 sessions  (Jan 26, 28, Feb 2, 4, 9)

   Overview (Jan 26)


   Social Diffusion and Learning (Jan 28, Feb 2)


   (P) Lori Beaman, Arien BenYishay, Jeremy Magruder and Mushfiq Mobarak, ‘Can Network-Based Targeting Increase Technology Adoption?’ forthcoming, American Economic Review.
Network Agents: Motivation and Heterogeneity (Feb 4)

Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Erika Desseranno and others, ‘Development Policy Through the Lens of Social Structure,’ working paper, Kellogg School of Management, June 2020. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xL5pbTaEQMFOfgNURYVoLOQGH0pZCmBc/view


Networks and Migration (Feb 9)


2. Ethnic Diversity, Conflict and Cooperation. 4 sessions (Feb 11, 18, 23 25)

Overview (Feb 11)


Conflict and Public Goods (Feb 18 (presented by Sid George), Feb 23)


Sam Bazzi, Arya Gaduh, Alex Rothenberg and Maisy Wong, ´Unity in Diversity? How Inter-Group Contact can Foster Nation-Building,’ American Economic Review, 2019.
Discrimination (Feb 25)


3. Gender and Children, 4 sessions (March 2, 4, 9, 11)

**Background (March 2)**


**Female Autonomy and Property Rights (March 4,9)**


Siwan Anderson and Garance Genicot, 'Suicide and Property Rights in India,’ *Journal of Development Economics*, 2015, 114, 64-78.


**Son Preference (March 11)**
