

"Different Roads to Democracy?: Conflict, the rule of law and development"

The seminar will investigate the emergence of democracy and rule of law in an economy where heterogeneous individuals can engage in predatory activities. The features of the new democracies are shown to be path-dependent, depending crucially on the initial conditions under which democratization takes place. Democratic transitions supported by a broad social consensus tend to be more stable politically and economically (better protection of property), than democratic transitions that evolve under conflictual arrangements. The predictions are in line with existing evidence and with results from newly collected data on constitutional principles.