Leicester Inter-disciplinary Workshop on Elections, Public Opinion, Participation and Parties

Agenda
3rd workshop, 2nd October 2013
ATT 111 Attenborough Seminar Block, First floor.

(Lunch & refreshments available from 13.00)

13:30– Welcome and new members’ presentations

13:50 - First Paper Presentation (Yupei Zhao- Department of Media and Communication)

Citizen participation in the political communication via Weibo: A case study of Chief Executive Election of Hong Kong
This research aims to examine the different ways of contributing to Weibo. In some senses, representing the different degrees of citizen participation and measuring the extent and distributions of these over time could illustrate the nature and motivations of citizen participation in political communications. Thus, this research will focus on: participation, citizenship, motivation and micro-blogs discussions. This research will not measure the level of democracy but will draw on the interactive model of theory of democracy in terms of agreeing with the views from Schudson and Astrom, focusing on citizen information dissemination through online debate and discussions (Weibo) thereby investigating the strengthening of civic engagement and the several participatory forms of citizenship. Analysing different kinds of contributions in the political discussions of Weibo through content analysis will help to generate potential targets for interview and potential questions to ask.

14:05 – Discussant: Leah Bassel (Department of Sociology)

14:10 - General discussion of the paper

14:25 - Second Paper Presentation (Rutvica Andrijasevic- School of Management)

‘Disappearing Workers’: Foxconn in Europe and the changing role of Temporary Work Agencies

14:40 – Discussant: Zakaria Sajir (Department of Sociology)

14:45 - General discussion of the Paper

15.00 – 15.20 Coffee break

15:20 - Third Paper Presentation (Shane Martin- Department of Politics and IR)

Political Dynasties and the Distribution of Power in Legislatures: Evidence from Ireland and Japan
In this paper, we use legislator-level data from Ireland (1981-2011) and Japan (1980-2012) to examine whether and how MPs who come from political dynasties, what we call “legacy MPs,” possess advantages over non-legacy MPs in gaining promotion from the backbench to the cabinet. Are legacy MPs over-represented in cabinet simply because they are better at getting reelected, and thus are more senior, on average, than non-legacy MPs in their parties? Or do legacy MPs enjoy an additional advantage owing to their closer ties to party leaders and an established family record in politics? Our preliminary results indicate that, once controlling for political strength and seniority, the perceived advantage of legacy MPs in cabinet selection in Japan and Ireland is not particularly significant. The implication of this finding is that the ostensible inequalities in power between legacy and non-legacy MPs are the result of the electoral advantages enjoyed by legacy MPs more so than intangible interpersonal relationships that are borne from their family histories in parliament.

15:35 – Discussant: James Rockey (Department of Economics)

15:40- General discussion of the Paper