

# Institutional Challenges in Emerging Economies

## Monday, September 2

8:00            Opening: Torbjörn Becker (SITE)

### Session 1: Access to Finance

8.15 – 9.00    Emily Breza (Columbia GSB)  
                  “Savings Monitors”

                  9.00 – 9.15    Discussant: Konrad Burchardi (IIES)

9.15 – 10.00   Simone Schaner (Dartmouth)  
                  “The Cost of Convenience? Transaction Costs, Bargaining Power, and Savings Account  
                  Use in Kenya”

                  10.00 – 10.15   Discussant: Maria Perrotta Berlin (SITE)

10.15 – 10.30   Coffee Break

### Session 2: Informal Economy and Corruption

10.30 – 11.15   Mauricio Prado (Copenhagen Business School)  
                  “Informality: Institutional Challenges”

                  11.15 – 11.30   Discussant: Jens Prüfer (Tilburg)

11.30 – 12.15   Stephan Litschig (Pompeu Fabra)  
                  “Judicial Presence and Rent Extraction”

                  12.15 – 12.30   Discussant: Giancarlo Spagnolo (SITE)

12.30 – 13.30   Lunch Break

### Session 3: Gender and Religion

13.30 – 14.15   Andreas Madestam (Stockholm U)  
                  “Sex and Credit: Is there a Gender Bias in Lending?”

                  14.15 – 14.30   Discussant: Ruixue Jia (UCSD)

14.30 – 15.15   David Yanagizawa (Harvard)  
                  “Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan”

                  15.15 – 15.30   Discussant: Andreas Madestam (Stockholm U)

15.30 – 16.00   Coffee Break

#### Session 4: Education

16.00 – 16.45 Leonid Polishchuk (Higher School, Moscow & UCRS)  
“Institutions and the Allocation of Talent”

16.45 – 17.00 Discussant: Ina Ganguli (SITE)

#### Keynote:

17.00 – 18.00 David Laitin (Stanford)  
“Institutions and Development: Limits to Causal Identification”

18.00 – 18.30 General Discussion

19.15 Conference dinner for presenters and discussants

### **Tuesday, September 3**

#### Session 5: Political Economy

8.15 – 9.00 John Morrow (LSE)  
“A Theory of the Political Economy of Inclusive Rural Growth”

9.00 – 9.15 Discussant: Teodora Borata (Uppsala U)

9.15 – 10.00 Camilo Garcia (U Penn)  
“A Network Approach to the Political Economy of State Capacity”

10.00 – 10.15 Discussant: Elena Paltseva (SITE)

10.15 – 10.30 Coffee Break

#### Session 6: Institutional Reform

10.30 – 11.15 Tim Willems (Nuffield College)  
“Learning Dynamics and the Support for Economic Reforms: Why Good News can be Bad”

11.15 – 11.30 Discussant: Tom Cunningham (IIES)

11.30 – 12.15 Daniel Keniston (Yale)  
“Can Institutions be Reformed from Within? Evidence from a Randomized Experiment with the Rajasthan Police”

12.15 – 12.30 Discussant: Anders Olofsgård (SITE)

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch