

Invitation to ASREC virtual graduate student workshops, May 13 and May 27



## 2 VIRTUAL GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP EVENTS!

We are thrilled to announce the first ever set of “virtual” ASREC graduate student workshops! They will take place on **May 13** and **May 27** at 10:30am EST (7:30am PST, 3:30pm London). Each workshop will take place on Zoom and consist of 3 papers over two hours. The schedules for the two events are below.

To prevent “Zoom bombing” and other distractions, we reserve the right to not extend an invitation to everyone who asks to attend. We will likely be able to accommodate anyone that has been to one of our past events or has an academic email address. We will send information about the Zoom link and where papers can be accessed to all those whom we are able to accommodate.

We hope you can make it!

[REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)

**MAY 13, 2020 10:30 AM (EST) - Introductions**



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**Session 1 - 10:35 AM (EST)**

**Eva Tène, Toulouse School of Economics**

## **“On the Historical Roots of Gender Norms: Evidence from Matrilineal Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa”**

Abstract: This paper studies both the geoclimatic origins and the long-term impacts of matrilineal kinship systems, where inheritance is along the maternal line, in Sub-Saharan Africa. Exploiting the cross-ethnic group variation in geoclimatic conditions, I first document that land suitability for root crops cultivation and its unsuitability for the husbandry of large domesticated animals, both positively predict the incidence of matrilineal kinship systems. I explain these findings by two theories. The first explains matrilineality by the prevalence of extensive hoe agriculture in root crops, where women tend to perform most tasks such as planting and harvesting, whereas men perform land clearing. The second theory argues that matrilineality is less likely to emerge in environments that are favorable to movable property (including large domesticated animals), as opposed to immovable property (such as land). I then examine the long-term effects of ancestral matrilineality and find that matrilineal-origin women are less educated compared to their patrilineal counterpart, suggesting a difference in parental investment's preferences in matrilineal and patrilineal societies and a substitution between human capital (education) and physical capital (landed property). In fact, as daughters cannot inherit in patrilineal societies, patrilineal-origin parents might be more willing to invest in the education of their daughters. The causal interpretation of the results is supported by a geographic regression discontinuity analysis.

### **Session 2 - 11:15 AM (EST)**

**Tianyi Wang, University of Pittsburgh**

## **“Media, Pulpit, and Populist Persuasion: Evidence from Father Coughlin”**

Abstract: New technologies make it easier for charismatic individuals to influence others. This paper studies the political impact of the first populist radio personality in American history. Father Charles Coughlin blended populist demagoguery, anti-Semitism, and fascist sympathies to create a hugely popular radio program that attracted tens of millions of listeners throughout the 1930s. I evaluate the short- and long-term impacts of exposure to Father Coughlin's radio program. Exploiting variation in the radio signal strength as a result of topographic factors, I find that a one standard deviation increase in exposure to Coughlin's anti-FDR broadcast reduced FDR's vote share by about two percentage points in the 1936 presidential election. Effects were larger in counties with more Catholics and persisted after Father Coughlin left the air. An alternative difference-in-differences strategy exploiting Coughlin's switch in attitude towards FDR during 1932-1936 confirms the results. Moreover, I find that places more exposed to Coughlin's broadcast in the late 1930s were more likely to form a local branch of the pro-Nazi German-American Bund, sell fewer war bonds during WWII, and harbor more negative feelings towards Jews in the long run.

### **Session 3 - 11:55 AM (EST)**

**Lydia Assouad, Paris School of Economics**

## **“Charismatic Leaders and Nation Building”**

Abstract: Can leaders shape the evolution of social norms? I address this question by studying the role of Mustafa Kemal, the founder of modern Turkey, in spreading a new national identity. Using a generalized difference-in-differences design, that exploits time and geographic variation in Kemal's visits to cities, I test whether exposure to a charismatic leader affects citizens' take-up of the new national identity. I show that cities visited are more likely to embrace the common identity, as proxied by the adoption of first names in "Pure Turkish", the new language introduced by the state. I investigate the mechanisms and find that Kemal was more efficient in spreading a new identity compared to Ismet Inonu his second man, suggesting that he did not only have a pure informational effect. This is consistent with the Weberian view that charismatic authority can play a role in legitimizing new social orders.



**MAY 27, 2020 10:30 AM (EST) - Introductions**

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**Session 4 - 10:35 AM (EST)**

**Feyaad Allie, Stanford University**

**“The Marriage Market and Anti-Muslim Violence in Colonial Burma”**

Abstract: Reports of anti-Muslim violence have become increasingly prevalent in South and Southeast Asia. This paper uses historical anti-Indian violence in Burma to study one often overlooked reason for religious rioting – marriage market competition. After large groups of Indians—both Hindus and Muslims—migrated to colonial Burma in the early 20th century, instances of violence broke out between these migrants and native Burmese Buddhists. One major episode of violence occurred in 1938 where four weeks of rioting resulted in over 200 deaths and 1000 injuries. Using newly digitized archival data from British colonial rule, I construct a dataset of riot exposure during this episode in all townships across Burma. I combine this with British colonial census data to investigate the determinants of rioting. I show causal evidence that in-migration skewed the sex ratio leading to an increased likelihood of rioting. I interpret this finding as being driven by Buddhist men having heightened anxieties about marriage-based conversions to Islam. This paper contributes to the literature on the causes of religious violence and the impact of marriage market competition.

**Session 5 - 11:15 AM (EST)**

**Augustin Bergeron, Harvard University**

## **“Religion and the Scope of Morality: Evidence from Exposure to Missions in the DRC”**

Abstract: Across the social sciences, a key question is whether religion facilitates cooperation and pro-social behavior. In this paper, I examine if religion has long-term effects on individuals' "scope of morality" defined as (i) the extent to which an individual favors or is biased towards in-group members (e.g. family and coethnics) over out-group members (e.g. non-coethnics, strangers, foreigners), (ii) whether individuals have more communal or more universal moral values. To study this question, I use archival records of the location of European Christian missions, as well as novel survey questions and a lab-in-the-field referral experiment conducted with over 1,000 respondents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I find that exposure to Christian missions results in less bias against out-group members, relative to in-group members. Similarly, I show that exposure to Christian missions leads to broader social networks - defined as a lower fraction of family members and coethnics in the respondent's network. Finally, I find that Christian missions are associated with the adoption of more universal moral values. The identification of the effect of Christian missions emerges after comparing them with neighboring abandoned missions. The enduring effect of Christian missions on individuals' scope of morality are better explained by an increase in religiosity, the adoption of Christian moral values and the development of a Christian in-group identity than by changes in respondent's education or income.

**Session 6 - 11:55 AM (EST)**

**Guillaume Blanc, Brown University**

## **“Modernization Before Industrialization: Cultural Roots of the Demographic Transition in France”**

Abstract: This research identifies the origins of the early demographic transition in France, before the French Revolution and more than a century before the rest of Europe. I show that dechristianization accounts for the bulk of the decline in fertility and document large, significant, and robust results across specifications, datasets, and estimation methods. I draw on a novel individual-level dataset crowdsourced from publicly available genealogies to study individuals in the the eighteenth century and to establish a causal interpretation. This dataset allows to control for time-varying unobservables, to study the effect of treatment before and after secularization in a differences in differences framework, and to exploit the choice of second generation migrants in order to control for unobserved institutional factors. Finally, I discuss the roots of the rapid process of secularization and suggest that the burden imposed by taxation on the lower classes and the strength of the Counter Reformation following the demise of Protestantism in France played an important part.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**