



Economics Seminars

Thursday 14 March 2024 at 12:00

Aula Magna Edificio Baffi

Facoltà di Scienze Economiche Giuridiche e Politiche - Viale Sant'Ignazio 74

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Fear to vote: explosions, salience and elections

with Miguel Purroy, Felipe Coy, Sergio Perilla, Mounu Prem

Abstract. We study how antipersonnel landmines thwart democratic accountability and the consolidation of post-conflict democratic institutions. We do so by exploiting the randomness in the timing of landmine explosions relative to election days, comparing the electoral outcomes of voting polls located close to a pre-election explosion with those of polls near a post-election blast. We show that landmine explosions are salient stimuli that produce fear, reducing political participation. While the turnout reduction takes place across the ideological spectrum, we document that the explosions induce shifts in the political preferences of individuals who do vote, which are inconsistent with retrospective voting.