

WORKSHOP

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The Political Economy of Inequality: Fairness, Redistribution and Crime

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Abstract

Beliefs in equality of opportunity are increasingly popular as an explanation for redistribution preferences. Some individuals (even if they are poor) may be more willing to accept inequality as a result of a fair meritocratic process. Others (even when they are rich) may support redistribution if they believe inequality to be the result of an unfair system. I will introduce some recent survey and lab experimental work (with Noah Bacine and Verena Fetscher) about the effects of procedural fairness on (1) preferences for redistribution and (2) the willingness to invest in policing as crime deterrent (amongst the wealthy) or to commit crime (amongst the poor).