

Inequality, Identity and Conflict

Syllabus

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Course's objective

The purpose of this course is to provide you with a deep understanding of some of the recent literature on Inequality, Identity and Conflict. Under each section, we will explore different theories, study in detail two or three relevant papers and discuss related empirical work.

Outline

Lecture 1: Inequality & Aspirations

Lecture 2: Identity

Lecture 3: Conflict

Session 1 - Inequality & Aspirations

How do we think of inequality and mobility? What is the role of aspirations?

Sessions 2 - Identity

How do we think of identity in economics? Is identity primordial or endogenous?

Session 3 - Conflict

Is conflict triggered by economic similarities or difference? Why is ethnic conflict so prevalent?

Grading:

In time, I will communicate to you a few topics related to the sessions, but you are welcome to contact me to propose a specific topic, and discuss your proposed reading list.

[1] Ahead of class:

No later than a month prior to the first class, I'll ask you to contact me with your selection.

No later than two weeks prior to the first class,

[2] Review the literature on the topic, with a focus on the empirical literature, and write an approximately 8-10-page review.

[3] The presentation of a specific paper or your review. You will have a total of 45 minutes, including time for interruptions, questions and comments. You will be expected to experience, accept, and respond to, audience participation.

Preliminary references. Stars indicate essential readings.

Lecture 1:

* Genicot, G. and Ray, D. (2020). Aspirations and economic behavior. Annual Review of Economics , 12.

* Garance Genicot and Debraj Ray "Inequality and Aspirations". Econometrica, Econometric Society, vol. 85, pages 489-519, March.
<http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/gg58/aspirations.pdf>

Lecture 2:

* Social Identity and Economic Policy

Moses Shayo
Annual Review of Economics

* George A. Akerlof & Rachel E. Kranton, 2000. "[Economics and Identity](#)," [The Quarterly Journal of Economics](#), Oxford University Press, vol. 115(3), pages 715-753.

Lecture 3:

* Joan Esteban & Debraj Ray, 2008. "[On the Salience of Ethnic Conflict](#)," [American Economic Review](#), American Economic Association, vol. 98(5), pages 2185-2202, December.

* Joan Esteban & Debraj Ray, 2011. "[Linking Conflict to Inequality and Polarization](#)," [American Economic Review](#), American Economic Association, vol. 101(4), pages 1345-1374, June.

Anirban Mitra & Debraj Ray, 2014. "[Implications of an Economic Theory of Conflict: Hindu-Muslim Violence in India](#)," [Journal of Political Economy](#), University of Chicago Press, vol. 122(4), pages 719-765.