

Political Connections EPSA Preconference 25th June 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The EPSA pre-conference on *Political Connections*, will take place on June 25, 2025, at Carlos III University of Madrid.

Political Connections involve a range of political actors. For example, relations between politicians and firms, party brokers and voters, or interest groups and bureaucrats. Accepted papers in our pre-conference include papers about bureaucracy, transparency, revolving doors, private clubs, procurement, money in politics, and political connections, among others. A full **schedule can be found below**.

The day will be organized in 10 panels, organized in 2 parallel tracks, from 9 am to 6 pm (schedule available below). Each panel will have 2 papers, with a 30-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute time for Q & A. We will cover coffee breaks and lunch for all registered participants, and there will be a social event at the end of the day (details to be confirmed).

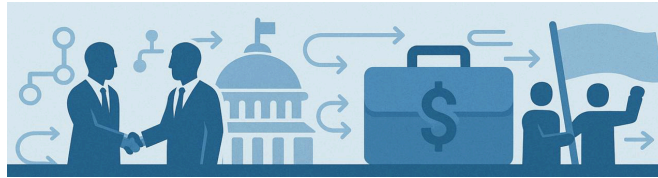
If you are interested in attending, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/Ei5T4hHtWFFSH1Qg9>

Our preconference is not part of the EPSA organization, and *there will be no preconference registration fees*. We do, however, ask that participants register using the link above so we can have a headcount.

Best,

The organizing team

David Szakonyi
Elisa Wirsching
Guillermo Toral
Jan Stuckatz
Luca Bellodi
Miguel Rueda
Mogens K. Justesen
Nelson A. Ruiz
Pablo Fernandez Vazquez
Sarah Brierley
Sebastian Lavezzolo
Victoria Paniagua



Political Connections EPSA Preconference Program - 25th June 2025

08:30-09:00	Registration and coffee	
9:00-10:30	Session A: Bureaucratic embeddedness	Session B: Transparency
PANEL 1	<p>How are Embedded Bureaucrats Different? Evidence from a Survey in Bihar (Dan Berliner)</p> <p>Bureaucratic Selection and Politics: Evidence from Teachers in Brazil (Jonathan Phillips)</p>	<p>Does Greater Transparency Equal Greater Accountability? Empirical Evidence from Side Job Disclosures and Legislators' Moonlighting Activities (Lukas Seibert)</p> <p>Do Dynastic Politicians Evade Transparency? Evidence from Brazil (Virginia Rocha)</p>
10:30-12:00	Session A: Bureaucratic Recruitment	Session B: Political Selection
PANEL 2	<p>Undoing Weber: How Bias, Revolving Doors, and Politicization Undermine the Insulation of the Civil Service (Guillermo Toral)</p> <p>What is the Price of Political Loyalty? Measuring the Bureaucratic Competence-Loyalty Trade-off Using University Admissions Test Scores (Daniel Briebea)</p>	<p>Elite Clubs and Political Office Holding (Pablo Querubin)</p> <p>Do their Interests Matter? Finance Ministers and Tax Reform in Democracies (Despina Alexiadou)</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-14:30	Session A: Authoritarian Bureaucracies	Session B: Legislatures
PANEL 3	<p>How Dictators Attract Talent (David Szakonyi)</p> <p>Feather-Handed Fascists: Repression as a Signal of Bureaucratic Alignment (Lorenzo Vicari)</p>	<p>Oligarchic Networks of Influence and Legislatures in Developing Democracies: Evidence from Ukraine (Silviya Nitsova)</p> <p>Map out Elite Networks: Methods and Application to German Political and Economic Elites (Yuequan Guo)</p>
14:30-15:00	Coffee break	
15:00-16:30	Session A: Courts	Session B: Lobbying
PANEL 4	<p>Can Corruption Crackdowns Level the Playing Field for Business in Authoritarian Courts? (Siyun Jiang)</p> <p>Family Network Structures, Nepotism Types, and their Differentiated Effects on Courts Performance (Luis Fernando Soto Tamayo)</p>	<p>When Business Speaks, Legislators Listen: Evidence from Brazil (Fernando Barros de Mello)</p> <p>Does Access Mean Success? Connection to Policy-Makers and Lobbying Success of Political Actors (Rosanne Logeart)</p>
16:30-18:00	Session A: Government Spending	Session B: Revolving Door
PANEL 5	<p>Who Pays for the Church? Political Connections and Religious Clientelism in Postwar Italy (Roberto Valli)</p> <p>Taking the Executive: Political Connections and Federal Procurement (Kyuwon Lee)</p>	<p>Revolvers in the Corporate Elite (Benjamin Egerod)</p> <p>Expertise or Cronyism? How Markets and Voters React to the Revolving Door (David Vilalta)</p>
18:00 -	Social event	