Spatial Models of Electoral Competition

PHD program 2015

The course will consist on two lectures (2 hours each)

1st Lecture Electoral competition when candidates' characteristics are identical: Candidates' objectives, information about voters' preferences, candidate entry and electoral institutions (Downs 1957; Calvert 1985; Roemer 1994; Palfrey 1984; Osborne and Slivinski 1996; Ortuno-Ortin 1997; Llavador 2007; Matakos, Troumpounis and Xefteris 2013).

2nd Lecture Electoral competition when candidates' characteristics are non-identical: candidate valence and differentiated candidates (Groseclose 2001; Aragonès and Palfrey 2002; Aragonès and Xefteris 2012, 2015; Krasa and Polborn 2012, 2014; Xefteris, 2015).

Reading Material

Aragonès, E. & T.R. Palfrey 2002. Mixed strategy equilibrium in a Downsian model with a favored candidate. Journal of Economic Theory, 103, 131-161.

Aragonès, E. & D. Xefteris 2012. Candidate quality in a Downsian model with a continuous policy space. Games and Economic Behavior, 75:2, 464-480.

Aragonès, E. & D. Xefteris 2015. Voters' private valuation of candidates' quality.

Calvert, R. L., 1985. Robustness of the multidimensional voting model: Candidate motivations, uncertainty, and convergence. American Journal of Political Science, 69-95.

Downs, A. 1957. An Economic Theory of Democracy, Harper, New York.

Krasa, S. & M. Polborn 2012. Political Competition between Differentiated Candidates. Games and Economic Behavior, 76:1, 249-271.

Krasa, S. & M. Polborn 2014. Social Ideology and Taxes in a Differentiated Candidates Framework. The American Economic Review, 104(1), 308-322.

Llavador, H. 2007. Electoral platforms, implemented policies and abstention. Social Choice and Welfare, 27, 55-81.

Matakos, K., Troumpounis, O. & D. Xefteris 2013. Electoral Rule Disproportionality and Platform Polarization. In EPSA 2013 Annual General Conference Paper (Vol. 809).

Ortuno-Ortin, I. 1997. A spatial model of political competition and proportional representation. Social Choice and Welfare, 14, 427-438.

Osborne, M. J. and A. Slivinski, 1996. A model of political competition with citizen-candidates. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 111(1), 65-96.

Palfrey, T. R. 1984. Spatial equilibrium with entry. Review of Economic Studies, 51, 139-56.

Roemer, J. E. 1994. A theory of policy differentiation in single issue electoral politics. Social Choice and Welfare, 11(4), 355-380.

Xefteris, D. 2015. Multidimensional electoral competition between differentiated candidates. University of Cyprus Department of Economics working paper No. 01-2015.