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LAURENCE ANTHONY GO

- EMPLOYMENT** Post-Doctoral Researcher, MIGRADEMO • *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*
Consultant • *Action for Economic Reforms*
- EDUCATION** 2020 • PhD in Applied Economics • *Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania*
2016 • MS in Applied Economics • *Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania*
2014 • MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics • *London School of Economics (Merit)*
2011 • BS in Business Economics • *UP School of Economics (Summa cum laude)*
- RESEARCH PAPERS** *First Among Equals: The First Place Effect and Political Promotion in Multi-Member Plurality Elections (with Dean Dulay). Forthcoming, Journal of Public Economics*
ABSTRACT: We study the impact of rank-based decision-making in a multi-member plurality electoral system by examining the decisions of Philippine legislative councilors to run for and win higher office. By focusing on multi-member plurality elections, we identify the effect of rank amongst politicians that hold the same office and received a similar number of votes. To identify the causal effect of rank, we conduct a close-elections RD at the village, municipality, and province levels. Our main result is the first place effect: incumbent first placers are 5-9% (1-4%) more likely to run (win) in future elections than incumbent second placers. The first place effect is unique among rank effects: subsequent rank comparisons yield substantially weaker or insignificant results. Further evidence suggests that a variety of potential mechanisms—party alignment, strategic voting, differential levels of media exposure or the better performance of first placers—do not seem to explain our results. These results improve our understanding of the variety of ways rank effects interact with electoral systems.
- When Running for Office Runs in the Family: Horizontal Dynasties, Policy and Development in the Philippines (with Dean Dulay). Forthcoming, Comparative Political Studies*
ABSTRACT: Political dynasties exist in practically every variant of democracy, but take different forms in different places. Yet the types of dynastic structures have remained unexplored. We argue that horizontal dynasties—multiple members from the same political family holding different political offices concurrently— affect policymaking by replacing potential political rivals, who may oppose an incumbent’s policy choices, with a member of the family. But in developing countries, the policy change that accrues from dynastic status may not lead to higher levels of economic development. We test this argument’s implications in the Philippines. Employing a close elections regression discontinuity design on a sample of mayors, we show that (i) horizontally dynastic mayors have higher levels of government spending, (ii) direct institutional constraints are the mechanism that drives this core result, and (iii) horizontally dynastic mayors do not lead to economic growth or lower poverty.
- PAST EMPLOYMENT** 2015-2018 • Research Assistant for Professor Shing-Yi Wang
2016 • Consultant • *World Bank, Washington D.C.*
2015 • Research Assistant for Professor Maisy Wong
2011-2012 • Researcher • *Action for Economic Reforms*
- CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** 2017 • Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, London Business School
2016 • Wharton-INSEAD Doctoral Consortium, INSEAD, Singapore
- GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS** 2015, 2017 – 18 • Mack Institute for Innovation Management Research Fellowship
2018 • Institute for Humane Studies Humane Studies Fellowship
2018 • Institute for Humane Studies Hayek Fund Scholarship
2017 • Rodney L. White Center for Financial Research Grant
2017 • Institute for Humane Studies PhD Scholarship
2017 • Wharton Doctoral Travel Grant
2016 • GAPSA Travel Grant
2015 • Wharton Social Impact Initiative Research Grant
2014 – 2019 • Wharton Doctoral Education Fellowship
- OTHERS** Refereed for: *Journal of Public Economics*
Software: Stata, MATLAB, R, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX
Languages: Filipino (native), English (fluent)
Citizenship: Philippines