

IDSK
SEMINAR

The Two Logics of Party Violence

Speaker

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Venue

Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

Political violence persists in many countries, and politicians at times incite or sponsor violence. We argue that politicians employ violence for one of two purposes; first, to deter participation from those targeted with violence, or second, to mobilize participation from those sympathetic to the perpetrators. We derive distinct empirical implications for the actors, targeting, and nature of the two types of violence. Aiming to deter participation, incumbents use violence in opposition strongholds and structure it around partisan cleavages. Aiming to mobilize participation, opposition parties target competitive and diverse districts with violence and structure violence around social cleavages. We present suggestive evidence from West Bengal.

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay

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