

Department Talk

The Department of Economic Sciences invites you for a seminar by Dr. Sabyasachi Das from Ashoka University as per the following schedule:

Title: **Group Size and Political Representation Under Alternate Electoral Systems**

Speaker: **Dr. Sabyasachi Das, Ashoka University**

Date: **05 April 2019, (Friday)**

Venue: **AB-1 Conference Room**

Time: **03:00 PM**

Abstract: We examine the effect of group size of minorities on their representation in national government under majoritarian (MR) and proportional (PR) electoral systems. We provide a theoretical framework that models spatial distribution of multiple minority groups to analyze equilibrium behavior. The model predicts that a minority's population share has no effect on its representation (and per capita resource allocation) under PR, but has an inverted-U shaped relation in MR. We compile an ethnicity level panel data comprising 421 ethno-country minority groups across 92 democracies spanning the period 1946–2013 to test the predictions. We show that the relationship holds for measures of political representation and per capita resource allocation (proxied by nightlight emissions and road construction in a group's settlement area) under various alternate specifications and sub-samples. Further, we replicate the results by instrumenting colony's voting system by that of the primary colonial ruler. Remarkably, the result also holds up when we compare the same ethnicity across countries within a continent. The result has important implications for how electoral systems can affect power inequality across minorities and consequently, their well-being.