

**Economics
Seminar
Series
2019**



**SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS**

Seminar

***Condoning Corruption: Who Votes for Corrupt
Political Parties?***

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Date: August 8, 2019
(Thursday)
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Multipurpose Hall, Mezzanine Floor
Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

All are Welcome

ABSTRACT

Electing corrupt politicians remains much a problem around the world, yet little is known about the factors that determine the election of corrupt politicians over and over again. This paper explores the factors that affect an individual's decision to vote for her preferred party even if that party was involved in a corruption scandal. It finds that greater levels of education and income are associated with a greater tolerance for corruption. While individuals with extreme political leaning are more likely to condone corruption by their preferred political party, women are less likely to do so. Besides individual characteristics, country characteristics are also found to significantly influence an individual's decision to condone corruption, while regional-level factors are shown to have no effect. The paper also finds that corruption may weaken democracy because a significant proportion of voters choose to abstain from voting if their preferred party was involved in a corruption scandal. The study goes on to explore the factors that determine the likelihood that an individual will abstain away from voting rather than vote for a non-corrupt alternative, provided she has decided to punish her preferred party if that party was involved in a corruption scandal. Education and income levels, sex, political leaning, the presence of bribery, and the prevalence of corruption in politics, among other factors, are found to affect the likelihood of abstaining from voting (as opposed to voting for another established party that was not involved in corruption).