

**Research Group on
Political Institutions and Economic Policy
PIEP XLIII
Los Angeles, December 6, 2025**

Sponsored by Caltech

Organizers: Gabriel López-Moctezuma and Alexander Hirsch (Caltech), Nico Voigtlaender (UCLA), and Jeffry Frieden (Columbia)

8.30 – 9 AM Continental breakfast and introductions

9 -11 AM

Peter Buisseret (Harvard) and Richard Van Weelden (Pittsburgh) “Inequality, Polarization, and Culture Wars”

Discussants: Avidit Acharya (Stanford) and Daniel Diermeier (Vanderbilt)

11 - 11.30 AM Coffee break

11.30 AM –1.30 PM

Juan Felipe Ladino (Stockholm), with Saad Gulzar (Princeton), and Juan Felipe Riaño (Georgetown), “Pay-to-Play: Political Contributions and Long-term Distortions in Public Procurement”

Discussants: Leander Heldring (Northwestern) and Karam Kang (Wisconsin)

1.30 – 3.00 PM Lunch

3.00 – 5.00 PM

Silvia Vannutelli (Northwestern), with Raymond Fisman, Jetson Leder-Luis, and Catherine M. O'Donnell (Boston University), “Revolving Door Laws and Political Selection”

Discussants: Gleason Judd (Princeton) and Matthew Stephenson (Harvard)