



SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL, University of Oxford

SEMINAR SERIES / TRINITY 2011

Convenors: Felix Reed-Tsochas, Institute for Science, Innovation and Society,
Saïd Business School
Eduardo López, Saïd Business School

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information please
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Seminar webpage:
www.cabdyn.ox.ac.uk/complexity_seminars.asp

Sandwiches and
drinks will be
provided

Please note: although
the seminar
programme detailed
was correct at time of
printing, seminar
arrangements are
subject to change -
for the latest
information, please
check the seminar
webpage.

Tuesday 7th June

(12.30 - 2.00pm) James Martin Seminar Room

Professor Delia Baldassarri
Department of Sociology, Princeton University

**'Cooperative Networks, Social Capital, and the provision of
Public Goods: drawing evidence from Field experiments in
rural Uganda'**

ABSTRACT

Producer organizations are a core component of poverty reduction strategies, but little is known about the role of social networks, associational capital, and leadership accountability in making certain organizations more successful than others. My research on farmer cooperatives in Uganda will cast some light on how producer organizations solve classic problems of collective action. It also contributes to the shift from a suggestive to an empirically grounded understanding of social capital, and makes an innovative use of behavioral games to capture the motivations behind actors' interdependent decision making.

The presentation will focus on the multilevel and multimethod research design (which involved 50 producer organizations, 300 villages, and 3,000 individuals, and relied on survey, networks, and behavioral games data collection strategies), and discuss the use of behavioral games in 'real world' settings to capture the motivations underlying individuals' strategic behavior. By using different variants of Dictator and Public Goods Games, the research tests whether contributions to the group welfare are based on mechanisms of altruism, bounded solidarity, reciprocity, or enforceable trust. Preliminary results show that the presence of a sanctioning system, the group involvement in the selection of a leader, and communication between actors greatly improve cooperation.



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