Dr. Stéphane Luchini

‘Experimental Distributive Justice: How We Earn Money Matters’

This seminar will examine how preferences for redistribution of members of the general public depend on how money is earned. On the basis of a number of distributive justice theories, Dr. Luchini set out to find people’s preferences for redistribution when they earned their money either through effort, social circumstances, brute luck and option luck. In the aggregate, results show that people agree to redistribute for social circumstances and for brute luck while people generally voted against redistribution for effort and option luck. This is consistent with the view discussed among political philosophers and economists that responsibility matters for the fairness of redistribution: only in cases in which people cannot be hold responsible for the situation in which they find themselves, redistribution should take place.