

Title: Social Networks and Intergenerational Mobility

Speaker: Prof. Sudipta Sarangi (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Area: ESS

Date: 30.06.2022, Venue: P22 @ 4PM

Abstract:

We examine intergenerational mobility in the context of networks under different institutional structures. We consider a dynastic overlapping generations model where each generation lives for two periods: young and adulthood. As youth, each generation inherits the network of their parents and chooses whether to acquire accumulate human capital. Parental centrality helps increase the children's productivity. Human capital on the other hand is necessary to form the professional network. Both human capital and formation of a professional network are costly. Effort in the professional network provides utility which is finally used for consumption by adults. Parental networks thus have a bearing on their children's networks and productivity. This allows us to study mobility of dynastic families and the importance of human capital for this. Thus, we explain why lack of mobility is entrenched in some societies across generations and not in others.

Speaker Profile:



Sudipta Sarangi is the Department Head and Professor of Economics at Virginia Tech (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University). Prior to joining Virginia Tech, he has been a Distinguished Professor of Business Administration at Louisiana State University and a Program Director at the National Science Foundation. His research interests range from network theory to experimental and behavioural economics. He is a research associate of DIW Berlin, GATE, University of Lyon-St. Etienne, and the Lima School of Economics. He has been a consultant to organisations like the World Bank and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). He currently serves on the editorial boards of Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Public Economic Theory and Studies in Microeconomics.