Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium

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Follow the Leader: Prominent Female Politicians and the Emergence of Women Candidates for Public Office

Can prominent female politicians inspire other women to enter politics? A woman ascending to a high-profile office directly impacts women's representation through her policy actions. Here we consider whether these female leaders also facilitate a "multiplier effect" by motivating other women to run for office. We posit that prominent women in politics serve as role models for women interested in political careers, causing an increase in female candidates. We test this theory with data from the American states, which exhibit considerable gender variation in candidates for state legislature as well as the high-profile offices of governor and U.S. senator. Using methods for dynamic causal inference, we demonstrate that high-profile women exert substantively large positive effects on female candidates. We conclude that women in major offices are crucial for women's representation. Beyond their direct policy impact, they amplify women's political voice by leading more women into the political system.

Monday, April 10, 2017
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM
127 Hayes-Healy Center

Colloquium Tea 3:45 PM to 4:15 PM 154 Hurley Hall