

## **Robots at Work and Voting Behavior: Evidence from South Korea (Jae CHO and Nourhan HASHISH)**

### **Abstract**

South Korea witnessed a period of automation manifested in rapid robot adoption phases as of 2005 peaking in 2009 with the implementation of the Development and Distribution of Intelligent Robots Act. As per the results of our first project presented in last year's Friday Lunch Seminar, the rise in robot adoption at work had significant repercussions on the labor market outcomes and the life satisfaction of the workers with high probability of being exposed to robotization risks. This project is a consecutive project to the first one, where we aim at further disentangling the impact of robotization on voting behavior in both the presidential and parliamentary elections at the regional level. Using an instrumental variable approach, we establish a causal link between the rise in robotization at work in the different South Korean districts and a rise in political polarization between right- and left-wing parties in parliamentary elections. A resembling political polarization pattern is also present in the presidential election but to a lesser extent.