

POLICIES & POLITICS: UNDERSTANDING DISRUPTIONS THROUGH THE LENS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

Professor: Julia CAGÉ

Session 1

Language of instruction: English

Number of hours of class: 2.5

Summary

The objective of this master class is to provide students a first insight into political economy using recent events such as the US 2020 Elections or the Covid-19 pandemic.

First, we will review the determinants of political participation and votes, considering the role played by money in elections, and the impact of social media and “fake news” on the rise of populist movements. We will also investigate the role of social media in the organization and success of demonstrations and protests.

Second, we will investigate to which extent economic inequalities are transformed into political inequalities that affect both legislative and electoral outcomes.

Finally, we will study the effects of COVID-19 media coverage - and misinformation - on social distancing and Covid cases around the world.

Main Professor Biography



Julia Cagé is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at Sciences Po Paris and a Research Affiliate at the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR). She is also co-director of the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP)’s “Evaluation of Democracy” research group. She is a board member of the Agence France Presse (third largest international news agency in the world) and of *Le Monde*

newspaper.

She completed her PhD at Harvard University in 2014. Her research interests focus on political economy, industrial organization, and economic history. Her work has been published in leading journals in Economics, including the *Review of Economics Studies*, the *Journal of International Economics*, the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, the *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, the *European Economic Review*, and *Explorations in Economic History*, as well as in several handbook chapters.

She is particularly interested in media economics, political participation and political attitudes. She has authored several books on the subject: *Saving the Media. Capitalism, Crowdfunding and Democracy* (Paris, Le Seuil, 2015, translated in eleven different

languages; English translation: Harvard University Press, 2016); *L'Information à tout prix* (with Nicolas Hervé and Marie-Luce Viaud, INA Editions, 2017); *The Price of Democracy* (Paris, Fayard, 2018; English edition: Harvard University Press, 2020); *Libres et égaux en voix* (Fayard, 2020).

Saving the Media was awarded the *Special Jury Prize for Best Book on Media* of the 2016 edition of the “Prix des Assises du Journalisme”. *The Price of Democracy* was awarded a “Prix Ethique” by Anticor, an association that combats corruption and helps restore ethics in politics, and the “Prix Pétrarque de l’Essai France Culture-Le Monde”.

