



Theme:



2019 The 4th PKU-WASEDA

Workshop

*“Peace and Conflict in the Developing World:
Resources, Technology and Trade”
November 1, Peking University*

Speakers:



Topic: “Spatial Dimension of Conflict: Case of Tunisia After Arab Spring”

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Spatial econometrics has received research attention not only within regional science and economic geography, but also increasingly in the leading journals of economics, political science and sociology. Recently, a popular statistical software STATA has added a new default command of spatial autoregressive (or autocorrelation) (SAR) model. The current renewed interest in spatial econometrics is largely related to the observations that spatial externalities have been observed in many social phenomena. Productivity, wage, unemployment, crime rate, and poverty are among those that are considered to have spatial spillover effects. This paper looks at riots in Tunisia after 2011 Arab Spring as a variable that could have spatial externalities; apparently, one riot (or demonstration) triggers another riot in adjacent town which is repeated across all locations in Tunisia. The country collects data of riots and demonstrations and they are on the rise. In September 2019, the country has gone through the second Presidential Election since the Arab Spring and there has been a growing sense of dissatisfaction among the youth about the current situation. The unemployment rate among the youth peaked in 2011 with more than 40%, but it has remained as high as 35% since Arab Spring. Regional inequality has remained high, and poverty rates remains high and unequally across regions.

Poverty distribution map shows concentration of poverty in the South and West Tunisia, which are also areas where riots and demonstrations have taken place more frequently. This paper uses data of violent and non-violent manifestations in Tunisia reported at county level (there are approximately 250 counties in Tunisia) since 2011 and estimates determinants of riots and demonstrations, using SAR model.