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Manuscript Workshop – Financial Gains



### **Proposal Summary**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, Cardiff University will host a workshop on the growing field of policymakers' financial gains. This topic explores the relationships between policymakers' public policies and their own personal financial interests. The literature on financial gains requires immediate attention, given the depth and breadth of self-enriching behaviour occurring among political elites in democratic and authoritarian states, nation-state and subnational governments. My vision for this workshop is so that like-minded scholars may kick-start a conversation on our research agendas in a way that advances the literature beyond the question of whether financial gains occur (and under what circumstances) into a broader series of questions about how financial gains change political institutions or voter behaviour.

### **Invite and Details**

Each of you is invited to participate in this workshop by submitting a manuscript or manuscript proposal that focuses on an aspect of financial gains. I have asked you to attend, in part because your current work touches on a wide variety of financial gains-related questions; proposed projects or research questions that fall under the broad umbrella of your published scholarship fits in line with the workshop's goals.

Each manuscript or proposal will be submitted to the workshop participants by 24<sup>th</sup> May, allowing everyone two weeks to read each other's work. Proposals may range from tentative analyses to conference- or publication-ready submissions. I will set up a shared Dropbox folder for everyone to deposit their proposals.

### **Workshop Format**

The workshop will consist of a two-hour morning session (10-12) and a four-hour afternoon session (13:30-17:30). In the morning session, each participant will deliver no more than a 5-minute presentation (no slides required) of their project. These presentations will be followed by a Q&A session where participants learn more about the projects, the publication goals/timetables, data and analytical challenges, or theoretical and framing challenges.

Following the morning session, a ninety-minute lunch break will take place in Cardiff City Centre. This lunch will be paid for by the workshop.

After lunch, the afternoon session will allow participants to engage with the proposals and discuss paths forward on each. It will be loosely structured by four pre-determined questions, approximately one per hour. In this session, we will have the opportunity to engage in some constructive discussions regarding:

- 1) Next steps – what research questions remain unanswered by the literature?
- 2) Theory – what gaps in our theoretical models of politician behaviour exist?

3) Data – Which political institutions have financial registers/financial transparency for public servants? What outcomes does the literature need to measure?

4) Impact – how do/should we tell a more nuanced story than “corruption”?

The conversation can (and should) steer away from these four questions into the details of projects and proposals, potential for future collaboration, or intriguing debates in the wider academic literature to which financial gains could contribute.

The afternoon session will have two tea/coffee breaks.

Following the afternoon session, all participants are invited to attend dinner in Cardiff City Centre.

### **Logistics**

Lunch and dinner the day of the workshop will be provided free of charge to all participants. My intention is to book a large table at a restaurant for each meal, so please let me know which dietary restrictions/requests you have at least two weeks before 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Beyond the lunch and dinner, participants will be reimbursed in part for travel and lodging. I have secured funding for approximately £240 for each individual, and Cardiff University is able to book a group rate at Travelodge for £81/night. I am able to reimburse for air travel, although these were based off of cheapest flights possible as of Monday – prices are likely to have gone up so I will consult with my Finance department to manage reimbursement.