Comparative Federalism: Economic and Political Dimensions

Instructor: Pablo Beramendi (Duke University)

Date: June 27 - 28

Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Room: 24.224 - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 2)

This short course will review the main theories of federalism and assess their empirical validity to understand comparative institutional development. Along the way we will discuss issues such as the relationship between federalism, efficiency, and inequality and the ability of different federal arrangements to channel territorial tensions and demands for more political autonomy/independence.

Session 1. The Economic Dimension

Topics:

- What is Federalism?
- The Economic Promise of Federalism
- Federalism, Efficiency, and Equality
- Endogenous Federalism: The EU experience

Required reading:


Session 2. The Political Dimension

Topics:

- The Political Promise of Federalism
- Federalism and Democratic Accountability
- How can federalism help channel political conflicts?
- The Spanish/Catalan experience in comparative context

Required reading:

