



IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

10 October 2014, 2pm
Room Fred Halliday 24.133 – IBEI (1st Floor)

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Why Ethnic Parties Deter Violence

This paper argues that, and shows why, ethnic parties can under certain conditions deter armed violence. The argument is based on the observation that, in order to explain armed violence, we must theorize not only about what armed organizations offer to potential recruits but also about why institutionalized channels do not function as effective non-violent alternatives. Ethnic parties often serve as such alternatives. The article introduces a new, party-based explanation for civil war. It also adds to an emerging literature that suggests that the institutionalized mobilization of ethnic identity can have a moderating effect on violence in democratic systems.

Prof. Kanchan Chandra

Kanchan Chandra is professor in the Department of Politics at the New York University. Previously, she was Assistant Professor at the same Department and member of the Department of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She earned a PhD in Government in Harvard University (2000). Her research fields are Comparative Ethnic Politics, Democratic Theory, Political Parties and Elections, Violence, and Comparative Research Methods. Her first book, *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed: Patronage and Ethnic Headcounts in India* (Cambridge UP, 2004), was hailed as a landmark study, combining theory and empirical analysis to examine why people choose to vote on the basis of one ethnic identity when alternatives are available, and the effects of that choice. Her recent publication is *Constructivist Theories of Ethnic Politics* (Forthcoming, Oxford University Press). She has published articles in reviews such as *Party Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Comparative Political Studies*, among other.

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