

## **CSLS SPEAKER SERIES**

**Monday, November 15, 2021**

### **CECILIA HYUNJUNG MO**

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## **Does Relative Deprivation Condition the Effects of Social Protection Programs on Political Support? Experimental Evidence from Pakistan**

Could perceived economic standing relative to others affect citizens' support for and confidence in government leaders and institutions? We explore this question by examining Pakistan's national unconditional cash transfer program, the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). The BISP is one of the largest unconditional cash transfer programs in the world, and employs a selection model that allows for causal inference. Leveraging a regression discontinuity approach using BISP's administrative data and an original survey experiment, we find that perceptions of relative deprivation color citizen reactions to social protection. When relative deprivation is not salient, receiving cash transfers has little effect on individuals' reported level of support for government and its leaders. However, when relative deprivation is salient, those receiving cash transfers experience increases in support for government, while those denied transfers simultaneously become more politically disgruntled. This has important implications for our understanding of the political ramifications of rising perceived inequality.

PLACE Zoom - [Register here for the zoom link.](#)  
TIME 12:45 - 2:00pm.  
INFO <https://www.csls.berkeley.edu>

**If you require an accommodation for effective communication** (ASL interpreting/CART captioning, alternative media formats, etc.) to fully participate in this event, please contact [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu) with as much advance notice as possible and at least 7-10 days in advance of the event.