

---

# Teachers, Electoral Cycles and Learning in India

Fagernäs Sonja\*<sup>1</sup> and Panu Pelkonen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Sussex, Department of Economics – United Kingdom

## Abstract

Teachers are central for learning, but if they are civil servants, their management and hiring can be affected by the political cycle. Using an administrative school-level panel data set across India, we show that teacher transfers and the hiring of new teachers increase significantly after State Assembly elections. The identification relies on the staggered and pre-determined timing of elections across states. The restructuring can be harmful; test scores are up to 0.15 standard deviations lower for children whose schooling coincides with the post-election phase. We conduct various checks to establish the link between the two findings.

**Keywords:** empirics

---

\*Speaker