

Forensic Economics and Vote Buying

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A new field of economics called forensic economics aims at uncovering evidence of hidden behaviors and to quantify their importance. Examples include violation of UN sanctions and racial biases in employment relations. This lecture will discuss how forensic economics can be used to uncover evidence of vote buying in elections to national parliaments. Vote buying involves an exchange of money or gifts for casting a vote in support of a candidate or a party. Survey data from around the world along with reports from organizations that monitor elections suggest that vote buying is common in many societies. The question addressed in this lecture is: can we find quantitative evidence of this phenomenon that can help us understand its scale and its consequences?