Abstract for “Has the Attitude of U.S. Citizens towards Redistribution Changed over Time?”

Maria Grazia Pittau (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)
Roberto Zelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

Using repeated cross-sectional survey data from the GSS over the period 1978--2010, we model individual preferences in the U.S. within a chronological perspective. We fit a logistic non-nested multilevel model with three different levels of variation: individuals, time and cohort. We solve some complexities in estimation due to the 3 levels of variation and we find that driving factors in shaping redistributive preferences have changed rapidly. Personal income is always a strong predictor, with the poor-rich gap increasing over time. Large changes over time have characterized also the effects of education, ethnic bonds and self-declared party identification.