

Department of
Politics

Seminar Series



Follow our Seminar Series as we take a look at some of the most pressing intellectual and political questions of our day with guest scholars from around the globe.

The Department of Politics is internationally recognized as one of the leading sites for the study of politics informed by a diverse range of critical intellectual approaches.

Redistributing Income Through Hierarchy

Blair Fix
York University

Friday November 19th 2021

12:30-2:30pm EDT

Join via Zoom

Passcode: 233582

Although the determinants of income are complex, the outcomes are surprisingly simple. Regardless of the society in which we look, it seems that the distribution of top incomes always follows the same shape. Moreover, when the rich get richer, they do it in roughly the same way everywhere. Given that the struggle for income is inherently messy, why is the result so uniform? Blair Fix will explore the idea that the distribution (and redistribution) of top incomes is uniform because it is shaped by a ubiquitous feature of social life: *hierarchy*. Using a model first developed by Herbert Simon and Harold Lydall, he will show that hierarchy can explain the distribution of top incomes, including how income gets redistributed as the rich get richer.

Blair Fix is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Politics at York University. He researches how social hierarchy connects to income inequality and energy consumption. He blogs at [Economics from the Top Down](#).