RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Anar Ahmadov
Title of clinic:	Understanding the Impact of Western-Educated Technocrats on Governance in Developing Countries
Number of students:	1-3
Major *(if applicable and approved by the Major Convener)*:	
(Pre)requisites *(if applicable)*:	A 200-level research design course, such as GED, WP or HD courses; substantive interest in the topic demonstrated by previous coursework

Research context

The travel of economic ideas has been an increasingly critical feature of globalization and policy diffusion across societies (Fourcade 2006; Peck 2004). Economic policy models coined in North America and Western Europe have been especially powerful, spreading to developing countries through various channels and considerably influencing their development trajectories (Kurz et al. 2011). Education in Western countries has been one such channel. By now, a flourishing literature provides fascinating accounts of the impact of Western-educated "technocrats" in their developing countries, regarding them as agents in this diffusion of ideas (Galjart and Silva 1995). But are they merely agents or autonomous actors who re-shape economic and political governance ideas, norms, and practices? How do the policy ideas, attitudes and identities of these elites differ from those of their peers – economic policy-makers without Western degrees, and do these differences translate into dissimilar impacts? What historical, institutional, and social factors simultaneously affect their agency and modify original economic ideas in creating new syntheses?

Students' tasks and activities

Tasks and activities:
1. Provide assistance on **synthesizing the latest substantive literature** on the topic.
2. Provide assistance on **synthesizing the latest methodological literature** on the topic.
3. Provide assistance with **organizing two expert workshops**.

Learning aims:
1. To understand the impact of Western-educated technocrats on economic governance and democracy in developing countries.
2. To hone methodological skills needed to research this topic.
3. To develop organizational and networking skills in social research.

Assessment and deliverables:
1. Systematic literature review on substantive/ methodological literature.
2. Contribution to organizing two expert workshops.