

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Anar Ahmadov
Title of clinic:	New Approaches to the Resource Curse
Number of students:	2
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	GED
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	Statistics, Mathematics, Institutions of Governance and Development and/or Introduction to Comparative Politics

Research context

This project aims to understand whether the solutions to the ‘resource curse’ that have been advocated by scholars and practitioners (IMF, World Bank, UNDP, etc.) in the last 20 years have actually worked. Have they helped countries that paradoxically suffer from their natural resource wealth instead of benefiting from it or have they been irrelevant at best or counter-productive at worst?

Students’ tasks and activities

One part of this project involves a study of 60+ cases of developing countries that have had significant amount of natural resources, using the existing literature, and coding these cases on several variables. The tasks include researching country experiences to fill out a short questionnaire for each country case in our database – whether they’ve adopted certain types of policies and whether these have been successful. The dataset is straightforward. Most of the cases have already been covered, so there remain about 15 country cases. The second aspect of the project codes specific studies (i.e. papers, books, etc.). Here too only a fraction of studies remains uncovered. The tasks will be divided between the students.

The student(s) will get a first-hand experience of cutting-edge research in political economy of development, on a prominent topic that is of interest to academics and practitioners alike. The student(s) will be assessed on delivering the tasks outlined and on participation.