



The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies, UC San Diego

Evangelical Churches and Voting Influence in Brazil

Thursday, April 13, 2017

3-4:30 PM, Deutz Room, Copley Building,
Institute of the Americas Complex, UC San Diego

Despite the growing influence of religion on politics in most contemporary democracies, there are still few studies about the impact of religious organizations in mobilizing voters. Brazil has experienced severe changes in its religious context over the last decades as a consequence of a rapid expansion of Pentecostalism. Pentecostals are not only growing in terms of demographics: they are also increasing in number of religious candidates running and winning elections. I argue that the Pentecostal churches do play a key role in voting influence, assuming that (i) the churches are political communities, (ii) where the members interact, affecting their behavior and political preferences. Moreover, (iii) churches define candidates strategically and support them, (iv) so it would be necessary for the leaders to act as brokers. This research aims to identify whether churches can play a coordination role.



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