present a seminar on

ELITE-DRIVEN INDUSTRIALIZATION: EVIDENCE FROM PHILIPPINE SUGAR EXPORTS IN THE EARLY 1900S.

by

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ABSTRACT
This paper presents a theory of elite-driven technological change in developing countries. Relative economic backwardness implies that new technology need not be created; it only needs to be adopted to the local context. Surprisingly, existing political economy models are not well-suited to describe the process of technology transfer. My paper presents a theory that attempts to remedy this deficiency. Incumbent elites drive technological change (adoption) for (1) only elites have the resources to invest in expensive technologies, and (2) elites maintain sufficient political power in the process of technological upgrading. Using the case of Philippine sugar exports in the early 1900s, I show that the export boom after the opening of the U.S. market was driven by incumbent elites and that the relevant causal mechanism was technological change. Furthermore, I show that elites invest if conditions (1) and (2) above hold.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dean Dulay is a third-year PhD student at Duke University with a primary focus on the political economy of development. His current interests are on political dynasties in the Philippines and the relationship between business and politics in developing countries.