

Cooperation Hidden Frontiers: The Behavioral Foundations of the Italian North-South Divide Seminario di Marco Casari (Università di Bologna), nell'ambito del ciclo di seminari Concorrenza e Regolamentazione

Martedì 8 aprile 2014, ore 12.00, Aula della Scuola di Dottorato, Palazzo Cà Borin, Via del Santo 22

## Abstract

In an experiment with a representative sample of the population, we study a classic case of withincountry socio-economic disparities: the divide between Northern and Southern Italy. We find that levels of contributions for collective projects and trust toward strangers move together, and diminish going from North to South, independently of both risk and other-regarding preferences. This suggests that the behavioral gap is driven by emergent social norms. We investigate the distant origin of these norms using a millennium-long data set that measures the frequency of wars and quality of past political institutions.