PANTHÉON-ASSAS UNIVERSITÉ PARIS

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LEMMA
Laboratoire d'économie mathématique et de microéconomie appliquée

SÉMINAIRE

THE GRAVITY OF VIOLENCE - THIERRY MAYER

31 March 2026
Lemma - Salle Maurice Desplas - 4 rue Blaise Desgoffe, 75006 Paris

"The Gravity of Violence"

Le mardi 31 mars à 11h, en salle Maurice Desplas, le LEMMA accueille **Thierry MAYER**. He is Professeur in Economics at Science Po Paris and elected member of the *Econometric Society*. His research interests lie in international trade, economic geography, multinational firms.

Title: *The Gravity of Violence*

Co-authors: Mathieu COUTTENIER, Julian MARCOUX, and Mathias THOENIG

Abstract: *This paper presents a framework for estimating and simulating a quantitative spatial model of trade and violent conflict. In this new theoretical and empirical setup, designed for the analysis of bilateral flows, we first model the general equilibrium interactions between the economic and fighting margins in a micro-founded setup. We then show how the structural parameters can be recovered from the data in a simple and transparent way. A central element of the procedure consists in estimating a structural gravity equation of violence. Studying continental Africa over the period 1997 to 2023, we test the key predictions of the model and uncover new facts related to spatial frictions and conflicts. Finally, the model is simulated to quantify different policy-relevant experiments in weakly institutionalized contexts where insecurity is pervasive. Positive and spatially-diffusing feedback loops between development and pacification are one of the main findings of our analysis.*