

**ECON 861**  
**Empirical MicroEconomics II**  
Winter Term 2012/13

*Assignment 5*

*Due by email - chandlev@econ.queensu.ca - by **April 29th** 2013*  
You must create and send a pdf file, making sure that it's readable.

Rules of the 'game':

- 1) you can work in groups (actually, I encourage you to do so), but you **MUST** submit your own set of answers
- 2) you **MUST** list the people you worked with in the front page
- 3) late submissions will **NOT** be accepted. If you cannot make on the day of the deadline, you can pop into my office (DH306) and submit the assignment whenever you are ready, before the 29th
- 4) I will keep the set of answers you are going to hand in, so please make copies if you think you are going to need them
- 5) you have to download the paper for the referee from the webpage of the course:  
[http://qed.econ.queensu.ca/pub/faculty/cozzi/Webpage/Cozzi\\_ECON861.htm](http://qed.econ.queensu.ca/pub/faculty/cozzi/Webpage/Cozzi_ECON861.htm)

### **Referee Report**

Write a referee report on the paper "Do Democracies Breed Rent-Seeking Behavior?" by César Calderón and Alberto Chong.

The referee should consist of two parts: in the first part you have to summarize the findings of the paper, stressing what is its main message, the improvements (if any) compared to the literature (I do **NOT** expect you to do some background readings, just trust what the authors say) and the original contributions of this piece of research. In this part you have to pretend that the referee will be read by the editor of an Academic Journal, who will have to decide on the publication also on the basis of your comments. The first part should not exceed two pages.

The second part of the referee should consist of detailed and very precise comments on the methodology used, on the quality of the dataset, pointing out if the research question is interesting and novel, if there are some inconsistencies in the findings, or (worse) errors in the procedures used. This part can be as long as you wish, but no more than 5/6 pages.

As a general suggestion, you should devote approximately three days of almost full-time work to complete this assignment (but the whole process should span roughly a week). Read the paper once, writing some initial "random" comments on the paper itself. Then leave it there for a couple of days and type your report using your first impressions as a starting point. Once you have completed your comments, leave the report there for one day. Finally, take it back again, re-read what you wrote and polish it.