

3/31/2006

The Private Provision of Public Goods

A Conference at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York State

May 6-7, 2006

The model of Private Provision of (or Voluntary Contributions to) Public Goods is now well established in the public economics literature. It has had applications in a wide variety of settings--including conventional public good provision issues, analysis of intrahousehold resource allocation, and conceptualizations of community. It has led not only to a considerable theoretical work, but has also motivated a significant empirical and experimental literature.

In particular, 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the important paper by Bergstrom, Blume and Varian, "On the Private Provision of Public Goods", one of the most heavily cited papers published in the Journal of Public Economics. We believe that this anniversary is an opportune time to take stock of this literature, assess what it has achieved, and look ahead to new issues and new problems that can be addressed using the framework, modified as necessary.

The conference organizers are James Andreoni, University of California, San Diego, and Ravi Kanbur, Cornell University. The conference papers will present original work covering theory, empirics or policy issues. We wish to cast a wide net. Although the conference is occasioned by the 20th anniversary of the Bergstrom-Blume-Varian paper, the papers at the conference will be contributions to this literature broadly construed.

It is our intention that the papers presented at the conference in turn be considered for a special issue of a leading journal, after being refereed according the standard processes of that journal. A decision on the specific journal will be made after the conference.

DRAFT Program

May 5

Outside participants arrive

May 6

8.15 Bus Leaves Hotel for Warren Hall

8.30-9.00 Continental Breakfast in 401 Warren Hall

9.00—9.15 Opening (Jim Andreoni and Ravi Kanbur)

9.15—10.30 Session I

Chair: Larry Blume

Ted Bergstrom. “One Chance in a Million: An Equilibrium Analysis of Bone Marrow Donations”

Hal Varian, “System Reliability and Free Riding.”

10.30—11.00 Break

11.00—1.00 Session II

Chair: Rich Romano

Abigail Payne, “The Status of Empirical Research on the Private Provision of Public Goods.”

Lise Vesterlund (with Mark Wilhelm and Huan Xie), “Experimental Test of the Impure Altruism Theory of Charitable Giving.”

William Schulze (with Kent Messer, Homa Zarghamee, Harry Kaiser), “New Hope for the VCM: Context as a Design Tool for Voluntary Contributions.”

1.00—2.30 Lunch

2.30—3.45 Session III

Chair: Uri Possen

Todd Sandler (with Kevin Siqueira), “Terrorist Backlash, Terrorism Prevention, and Policy Delegation.”

Robin Boadway (with Michael Keen and Jean-Francois Tremblay), “Enhancing Contributions to International Public Goods.”

3.45—4.15 Break

4.15—5.30 Session IV

Chair: Steve Coate

Timothy Besley (with Maitreesh Ghatak), “Retailing Public Goods: The Economics of Corporate Social Responsibility.”

John List (with Andreas Lange and Michael K. Price), “Using Tontines to Finance Public Goods: Back to the Future?”

6.00 pm Bus Leaves Warren Hall for Conference Dinner (by invitation)

May 7

8.15 Bus Leaves Hotel for Warren Hall

8.30-9.00 Continental Breakfast in 401 Warren Hall

9.00—10.15 Session V

Chair: Toshihiro Ihuri

Maitreesh Ghatak (with Pranab Bardhan and Alexander Karaivanov),
“Wealth Inequality and Collective Action.”

Ravi Kanbur (with Indraneel Dasgupta), “Community and Class
Antagonism.”

10.15—10.45 Break

10.45—12.00 Session VI

Chair: John Ledyard

Richard Cornes (with Roger Hartley), “Weak Links, Good Shots and
Other Public Good Games: Building on BBV”

Gareth Myles (with Nigar Hashimzade), “Announcement or Contribution?
The Relative Efficiency of Manipulated Lindahl Mechanisms”

12.00—12.15 Closing (Jim Andreoni and Ravi Kanbur)

12.15 Lunch

12.45 Bus returns to Hotel

