ABSTRACT
We develop a new measure of the degree to which governments make information about their actions and the resulting economic outcomes available to the general public. We explore the variation in transparency across countries and time and its effect on political variables such as protests, revolutions and coups, democratic survival and autocratic collapse. We also explore the effects of transparency on economic variables, such as investment. In this talk we will explore the effects of transparency on domestic and international investment measured at a balance of payments level, and we examine how the association between transparency and FDI varies across industrial sectors across asset classes. We find that transparency is most strongly associated with FDI in competitive sectors, typically with low levels of fixed-assets, which are highly dependent on public goods as inputs to production. Transparency is most strongly associated with portfolio investment in relatively risky assets (long term debt and equities) and negatively associated with less risky short term lending. We argue that this evidence is consistent with investors interpreting increased transparency as a costly signal of a government’s intention to provide public goods into the future.

BIO
B. Peter Rosendorff is Professor of Politics at New York University. Previously, he was Director of the Center for International Studies and Associate Professor of International Relations and Economics at the University of Southern California. His research has been published in American Political Science Review, American Economics Review, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, American Journal of Political Science and International Organization, among others. His latest book, Information, Democracy and Autocracy: Economic Transparency and Political (In)Stability was published in 2018 by Cambridge University Press.
He is editor of the interdisciplinary journal, Economics and Politics, and on the editorial boards of International Organization, American Journal of Political Science and Review of International Organizations. He has also served on the editorial boards of International Interactions and Journal of Politics. His research examines the linkages between domestic politics and international economic policy, cooperation and law, with applications to human rights, terrorism, international trade and investment, and democratization.