

The Effects of Direct Democracy

Panel Chairs:

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Abstract:

An ever-growing number of countries practice referendums and other forms of direct citizen participation at the local, regional, and national levels. Nevertheless, direct democracy remains controversial. Proponents contend that direct democracy benefits society by increasing democratic legitimacy and vertical accountability, but also by acting as a 'school of democracy'. Meanwhile, skeptics argue that direct democracy leads to bad political decisions, demagoguery, majoritarian tyranny, and voter apathy. In recent years, an increasingly methodologically sophisticated literature has started to evaluate the implications of direct democracy empirically. Still, many questions remain unresolved. This panel welcomes contributions addressing the effects of direct democracy on both attitudinal and behavioral outcomes, including, but not limited to, direct democracy's effects on perceptions of fair decision-making, trust in government, democratic satisfaction, and government responsiveness, but also the implications of direct democracy for minority rights, public goods contributions, as well as citizens' political sophistication, interest, and participation. As much of the extant literature is focused on the Swiss and US experiences, the panel especially welcomes work looking at other, less researched contexts, as well as cross-national studies.

If you have a Paper you think might fit in this Panel, please contact the Panel Chair micha.germann@outlook.com before 8 February with the following information:

- Title of the paper (no more than 20 words)
- Abstract of the paper (no more than 250 words)
- Author's (and if applicable co-author's) email address as registered in their MyECPR account
- 3 – 5 keywords