

Alternative Voting Methods – A Remedy for Reviving Active Citizenship Against Political Apathy

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Abstract

Does a voting system impact citizenship related to citizens' identity and political participation? In recent years alternative voting methods have attracted growing attention as possible remedies for rising political polarization, low voter turnout, and political disengagement. These negative factors have been attributed to voting systems prohibiting voters from expressing any nuanced preferences other than for a single option, presumed to reflect their "choice" (Nurmi 1998). Such limitations of one-vote ballots under majority or plurality rules are seen as denying citizens political choices reflecting their multidimensional issue space, hence contributing to the polarization of the electorate; the rise of political extremism (Bordignon et al 2017, Osborne, M., & Slivinski, A. 1996); and ideological disconnect between a public and its political elites (Fiorina, 2009).

The proposed panel will assemble papers meant to further understanding of the impact of alternative voting methods on remediation of these paradoxes; on citizens' attitudes toward elections; and overall active citizenship. The panel aims to invite scholars to analyze the compatibility of various alternative methods with the political and legislative environment, and the public readiness for and acceptance of new voting systems. This panel examines the correlation between voting systems and active citizenship in light of technological progress propelling international development and democratic innovation. It will also invite discussion of related issues of voter turnout, sincerity, satisfaction, utility, strategic voting, and consensus.

To submit a paper proposal, you need to create a MyECPR account and send the following information to Tanya Gibbs by 16 February:

- your name, academic affiliation and email address
- a title for your paper
- an abstract of up to 500 words.

For further information or to submit a proposal, please contact tanya.gibbs@ifd21.org