

Simulating party competition and vote decision under mixed member electoral systems

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Abstract:

To explain an empirical puzzle that the party system in West German plurality tier is closer to bipartism than under the British plurality system, this paper proposes an interactive mechanism between both tiers of mixed-member electoral systems. The distinctive feature of the model lies in interactive effects in terms of expectation formation. That is, voters under mixed systems are assumed to utilize national-level PR results to form expectations which, in turn, are used to vote strategically in plurality tier. To sort out the independent effect of this kind of interactions, this paper develops a computational model and examines its simulation results.