
The Third Vote Experiment and Video

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Abstract

An alternative election method has been tested in two experiments during the election of the Student Parliament of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. Under this method, the participants cast no votes but are asked about their preferences on the policy issues which are declared in the party manifestos (like in voting advice applications, e.g. German *Wahl-O-Mat*). Then the degree to which the parties match with the electorate's policy profile is expressed by the parties' indices of popularity (the average percentage of the voters represented on all the issues) and universality (frequency in representing a majority), and the parliament seats are distributed among the parties in proportion to their indices. This way the voters are not swayed by politicians' charisma and communication skills but are directed to subject matters behind personal images, ideological symbols and populist declarations. It is supposed that a method that focuses on properties of decisions proposed (e.g., political and economic implications of Brexit) can make vote more profound and responsible. The experiments proved that the method can significantly improve the representativeness of a parliament. A professional quality video documentary on the election method and experiments shot by the university Media Center is uploaded to the Youtube. It is to be demonstrated within the presentation.

Keywords: Alternative election method, voting advice application, student parliament, electoral experiment

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