

Electoral design and democratization processes

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One of the key moments during processes of transition to democracy have to do with the design of the electoral systems in order to choose political representatives. The role of those rules of the game are crucial since their combination in one or another manner implies visible impacts on the configuration of political outputs. Any strategy for building sustainable democracy in potentially divided societies must deliver the discussion about the different electoral options to assure a reasonable and tailored electoral system.

The main goal of this proposal is to deal with those multifaceted and complex decisions, underlying not only the connection of technical and institutional dimensions but also the political involvements.

The sessions will approach the different elements of electoral systems, the possible combinations of these dimensions, and the political consequences of technical decisions. The last part of the course will be focused on a more practical point of view.

Readings:

Nobbe, P. (2013). "Electoral System Choice in Transition Countries. The Importance of Driving Forces". *Revista Española De Ciencia Política*, (31), 41-62.

Benoit, K. (2004). "Models of Electoral System Change", *Electoral Studies*, 23 (3), 363-389.