

**Speaker:** Stefan Napel (University of Bayreuth)

**“The egalitarian weights of nations”**

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**Abstract:**

Delegates to assemblies often have unequal voting weights in order to equalize individual influence on collective decisions. A Monte-Carlo study demonstrated that weights proportional to the square root of population sizes approximate equal representation in a unidimensional spatial voting framework under simple majority rule. This paper provides an analytic explanation. Second, it investigates more sophisticated weight allocation rules, based on power indices, and shows that even these fail to extend to supermajority rules. Third, if voters are subject to constituency-specific shocks, a linear rule based on the Shapley-Shubik index outperforms square root rules for arbitrary majority thresholds.