

WORKSHOP 26

26. Institutional Design of Parliamentary Rules and Party Politics

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Parliament is the central political institution in modern democracies in the sense that major political decisions require parliamentary approval or, at least, the toleration by a majority of the assembly. As parliamentary rules of procedure are not protected by the constitution in most European countries, there is considerable potential for manipulation by parliamentary majorities. Unlike reforms of the United States Congress, that have motivated a substantial body of research, changes of European parliamentary institutions have received scant attention. This workshop will seek to bring together current research on how parliamentary institutions work and evolve over time. Specifically, it will discuss *how* parliamentary institutions affect parties' abilities to achieve their goals and to what extent institutional reform was motivated by *partisan* goals. Five kinds of papers are welcome in particular. First, the workshop seeks theoretical papers that explore the issues of institutional design in a parliamentary context. Second, the workshop will allow for papers that deal with one particular parliamentary institution (e.g., a specific voting rule, a specific instrument of parliamentary control) and its change over time. Third, more general reviews of changes in parliamentary rules in single countries are welcome. Fourth, the workshop is interested in papers that research the relationship between change in parliamentary rules and the parties' capacities to discipline their MPs. Finally, the workshop welcomes comparative empirical papers on parliamentary institutions, the conditions under which they are designed, and their implications for party performance and democratic governance.