

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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“More Federal Legislators Lead to More Resources for their Constituencies: Evidence from Exogenous Differences in Seat Allocations”

Monday, September 23, 2019

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

Electoral district magnitude varies across German electoral constituencies and over legislative periods due to Germany’s mixed-member electoral system. The allocation of legislative seats to constituencies from party lists is effectively random. This setting permits us to investigate exogenous variations in district magnitude on federal resource allocation. We analyze the effect of having more than one federal representative per constituency on federal government resources by exploiting information from 1,375 German constituencies from 1998 to 2017. More legislators per district lead to statistically significantly more employment of federal civil servants in the respective constituencies that profit from additional legislative representation. The size of the effect corresponds to about 34 federal civil servants once a constituency is represented by additional legislators from party lists. A battery of robustness tests supports our results. Further evidence points to some heterogeneity of the effect and particularly constituencies represented by additional legislators who are experienced and from larger, competing parties obtain more federal resources.



David Stadelmann studied Economics (MA/BA) and Mathematics (MSc/BSc) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). He received his PhD in Economics in 2010 and became a professor at the University of Bayreuth (Germany) in 2013. He has authored over 40 publications in peer-reviewed journals and more than 20 other scientific contributions. He serves as an editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Kyklos*, received numerous research prizes (including the “Reinhard-Selten-Preis”, German Economic Association and the “Ludwig-Erhard-Preis”, Ludwig Erhard Foundation), and is a fellow at diverse research organizations in Europe.

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).