41026: Representation in Contemporary Democracies
Professor Lanny Martin

Overview. This is a PhD seminar on the politics of representation in contemporary democracies. We begin the course with a discussion of different forms, and contending models, of political representation. In the remainder of the course, we examine how electoral, legislative, and executive institutions affect the quality of representation, specifically in terms of how well they fulfill two objectives: (1) producing representatives who act in accordance with the preferences and interests of the citizens who elected them, and (2) providing mechanisms for citizens to sanction representatives who fail them. Focusing on the first objective, we examine theoretical and empirical research on electoral rules, party competition, descriptive representation, citizen-representative congruence, and policy responsiveness. Focusing on the second objective, we examine research on government/legislative performance and electoral accountability.

Evaluation. The course grade will be awarded based on completion of either a research project *or* an extensive literature review on an assigned question relating to representation (50%) and class participation (50%). To engage effectively in class participation, students are expected each week to bring a set of questions pertaining to the assigned readings, which we will address in our discussion. These questions should be uploaded to Blackboard the evening before class convenes.

The Honor Code. Università Bocconi conceives of education as an ongoing process that stretches across a person's entire professional life. The University hopes that the entire Bocconi community will respect the values of fairness and correctness associated with it, values which inspire and guide the conduct of all community members as they pursue common objectives and a shared mission. The Università Bocconi Honor Code is published at http://www.unibocconi.eu/honorcode. We encourage all students to read it.

Schedule.

Meetings 1–2 **Concepts of Representation**

Dahl (1972, Chs. 1–2)
Strøm (2000)

Meetings 3–4 **Electoral Systems and Representation**

Riker (1982)
Cox (1990)
Huber and Powell (1994)
Powell (2000, Chs. 1–6)

Meetings 5–6 **Descriptive Representation**

Mansbridge (1999)
Gay (2002)
Reingold and Harrell (2010)
Krook and O'Brien (2010)
Lowande, Ritchie and Lauterbach (2019)
Gerring, Jerzak and Öncel (2023)

Meetings 7–8 **Voter Knowledge & the Attribution of Responsibility**

Luskin (1987)
Fortunato and Stevenson (2013)
Fortunato, Stevenson and Vonnahme (2016)
Fortunato et al. (2021)

Meetings 9–10 **Congruence and Responsiveness**

Powell (2000, Chs. 7–9)
Golder and Stramski (2010)
Lax and Phillips (2009)
Martin and Vanberg (N.d., Chs. 1-5)

Meetings 11-12 **Presentations**

LIST OF READINGS

Cox, Gary W. 1990. "Centripetal and Centrifugal Incentives in Electoral Systems." *American Journal of Political Science* 34(4):903–35.

Dahl, Robert. 1972. *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition.* New Haven: Yale University Press.

Fortunato, David, Nick C. N. Lin, Randolph T. Stevenson and Mathias Wessel Tromborg. 2021. "Attributing Policy Influence under Coalition Governance." *American Political Science Review* 115(1):252–68.

Fortunato, David and Randolph T. Stevenson. 2013. "Perceptions of Partisan Ideologies: The Effect of Coalition Participation." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(2):459–77.

Fortunato, David, Randolph T. Stevenson and Greg Vonnahme. 2016. "Context and Political Knowledge: Explaining Cross-National Variation in Partisan Left-Right Knowledge." *Journal of Politics* 78(4):1211–1228.

Gay, Claudine. 2002. "Spirals of Trust? The Effect of Descriptive Representation on the Relationship between Citizens and Their Government." *American Journal of Political Science* 46(4):717–33.

Gerring, John, Connor T. Jerzak and Erzen Öncel. 2023. "The Composition of Descriptive Representation." *American Political Science Review* .
 URL: *doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000680*

Golder, Matt and Jacek Stramski. 2010. "Ideological Congruence and Electoral Institutions." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(1):90–106.

Huber, John D. and G. Bingham Powell. 1994. "Congruence Between Citizens and Policymakers in Two Visions of Liberal Democracy." *World Politics* 46(3):291–326.

Krook, Mona Lee and Diana Z. O'Brien. 2010. "The Politics of Group Representation: Quotas for Women and Minorities Worldwide." *Comparative Politics* 42(3):253–72.

Lax, Jeffrey R. and Justin H. Phillips. 2009. "Gay Rights in the States: Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness." *American Political Science Review* 103(3):367–86.

Lowande, Kenneth, Melinda Ritchie and Erinn Lauterbach. 2019. "Descriptive and Substantive Representation in Congress: Evidence from 80,000 Congressional Inquiries." *American Journal of Political Science* 63(3):644–59.

Luskin, Robert C. 1987. "Measuring Political Sophistication." *American Journal of Political Science* 31(4):856–99.

Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'." *Journal of Politics* 61(3):628–57.

Martin, Lanny W. and Georg Vanberg. N.d. "Voters and Coalitions: Awareness, Responsiveness, and Government Formation in Multiparty Democracies." Working Monograph, Bocconi University.

Powell, Jr., G. Bingham. 2000. *Elections as Instruments of Democracy: Majoritarian and Proportional Visions.* New Haven: Yale University Press.

Reingold, Beth and Jessica Harrell. 2010. "The Impact of Descriptive Representation on Women's Political Engagement: Does Party Matter?" *Political Research Quarterly* 63(2):280–94.

Riker, William. 1982. *Liberalism against Populism.* W.H. Freeman.

Strøm, Kaare. 2000. "Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* 37:261–89.