



Deliberative democracy and political parties: functions and consequences

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Abstract

Research on intra-party deliberation focuses extensively on its normative aspects and its potential benefits for democratic quality. Little is known about how deliberation functions in practice and the consequences it has. This symposium aims to fill this gap in the literature by bringing together four examples of political parties that use deliberative practices: the Czech Pirate Party, the Danish Alternativet, the Romanian Demos, and the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party. The symposium maps the use of deliberation and identifies effects such as high quality of internal decision-making process, legitimacy of those running for public office, and electoral performance.

Keyword Consequences · Deliberation · Elections · Legitimacy · Political parties

Introduction

Traditional deliberative democratic theory has treated political parties as the least likely environment for good deliberation (Cohen 1989). Over the last three decades, this has changed to some extent, at least in the newly formed parties that do not rely on the traditional forms of organization. The development of deliberative practices has challenged the function and the internal organization of political parties. In the context of disaffection toward political elites and institutions, scholars focused on

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