

WORKSHOP

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**Elections in Lottocracy -
Overcoming the Participation-Deficit**

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Abstract

In elections, voters express who they want to be represented by, but they also express what issues their representatives should address. In other words, democratic citizens have agenda-setting power. According to Dahl, it is a necessary element of democracy that citizens can decide how and what issues are put on the agenda. Proponents of lottocracy and other sortition-based political systems have said little about how this requirement can be met without elections. Guerrero suggests that those who are drawn should decide for themselves what issues to address. Landemore argues for open, digital methods of agenda setting. In my talk, I begin by arguing why the agenda-setting element is important to the ideal of democratic self-government. Building on this general argument, I show the important role that agenda setting would play in light of the changing interpretations of political representation and accountability that underlie the lottocratic proposal. I then show why current proposals do not adequately address this issue. In particular, these proposals face a participation deficit for those who are not selected. To overcome this deficit, I propose an electoral agenda-setting mechanism in lottocracy. I briefly explain the design of this mechanism and defend it against the lottocratic critique of electing politicians.