



WORKSHOP
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The Patterns of Political Access: Candidacy, Placement, and Success of Visible Minorities in Germany

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Abstract

Visible minorities are significantly underrepresented in German politics. The 21st Bundestag includes only 73 MPs with a migration background (11.6 per cent), whereas this group constitutes nearly 30 percent of the overall population. These numbers are expected to rise in the near future, following recent reforms making citizenship more accessible to immigrants. While the descriptive deficit is well-documented, the mechanisms, patterns and strategic considerations that produce these outcomes remain underexamined, particularly within the mixed-member proportional (MMP) system. Hence, this project addresses the central puzzle: “When and why do political parties nominate minority candidates in district-level races?”