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Presentation Title

Signaling Competence for Re-election

(with Christian Bruns)

Abstract

We study the incentives of an incumbent politician to improve her performance in order to signal her competence to the electorate and to be re-elected. We show that a higher effort of the incumbent does not have to be good news for the electorate since it decreases the probability of electing the more competent candidate in the case of incumbency advantage. We also find that uncertainty about exogenous events affects incentives negatively in the case of simple tasks, but positively in the case of complex tasks.

Keywords

Signaling, competence, electoral accountability, selection

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