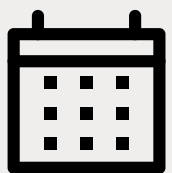


"ON THE MEASUREMENT OF ELECTORAL VOLATILITY"



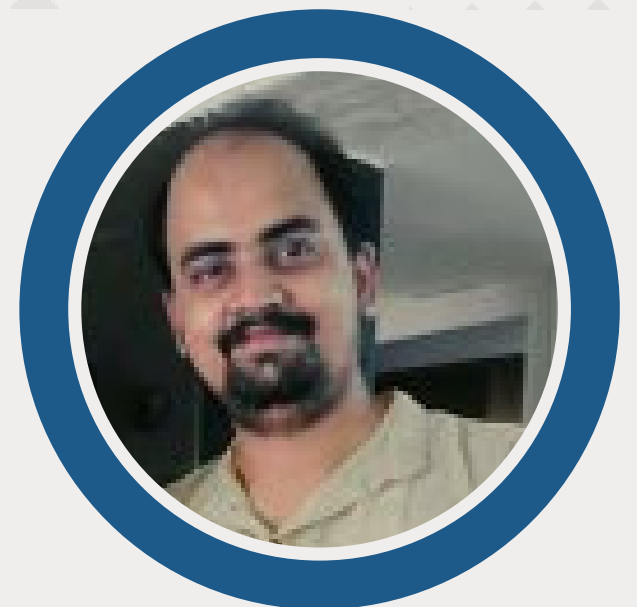
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Electoral volatility measures the degree of vote switching between political parties in two consecutive elections. Political scientists use this as an indicator of party system (in)stability. Pedersen (1979) states that electoral volatility should increase when the number of parties changes and/or relevant parties experience vote transfer between elections. However, his proposed functional form of measuring volatility does not always respond to these changes. In this paper, we introduce a class of increasing, strictly concave, and additively separable electoral volatility indices that address the limitations of Pedersen's index. We present a set of axioms that are both necessary and sufficient to characterize the proposed class of indices, making the structure of the indices more transparent. The paper also discusses two partial orders of electoral volatility which allows comparing different volatility indices. Finally, applications of the proposed class of indices and the partial orders are provided using data from Indian state elections.



25 AUGUST 2023, 4:00 PM

GRAVITY BUILDING : ROOM NO - A1



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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES