



Universität Stuttgart

Institut für Sozialwissenschaften

Abteilung SOWI II Prof. Dr. André Baechtiger

Politische Theorie und Empirische Demokratieforschung

An Experimental Approach to Two Mechanisms of Accountability

Accountability is often conceptualized in terms of possibilities to sanction public decision-makers. However, accountability can also be understood as an obligation of decision-makers to justify their decisions. We compare these two forms of accountability in a decision-making experiment with student subjects.

The experiment follows a 2 (opportunity to punish) \times 2 (requirement of justification) factorial design. Experimental subjects engage in a three-player trust game where two players act as first movers and the third player is a responder. According to our expectations, we see the smallest amounts returned in the baseline treatment and highest in the treatment combining punishment and justification, while the other two treatments fall in between. There is a significant difference in the points returned in justification only and justification and punishment treatments. This mutually reinforcing effect of the two forms of accountability is also reflected in differences in justifications provided by responders.

Montag, 22. Mai 2017,

17:30 - 19:00 Uhr; M 2.31

Alle sind herzlich eingeladen!

**Prof.
Maija Setälä**

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