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## **Members, Leaders, Voters and Incumbent Re-Election in Democratic National Assemblies**

**Kaare Strom, Prof.**

Monday, **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, 1:15 p.m.

**Hörsaal 10**, Rathausstraße 19, 1010 Vienna

### *Abstract:*

This talk will present materials from Shane Martin and Kaare W. Strom, *Legislative Assemblies* (Oxford University Press, 2023). National assemblies in democratic societies face the dual challenges of capacity and accountability. The structures, powers, and procedures through which national legislatures meet (or do not meet) these challenges are shaped by and serve the critical actors in these assemblies: members, (party) leaders, and voters. We develop a conceptual framework through which we identify the challenges of capacity and accountability and develop three ideal types of national assemblies: the members' assembly, the leaders' assembly, and the voters' assembly. Analyzing data from the 68 largest democracies globally as of 2015-16, we score each assembly (or its lower chamber) on each of these indices. We then examine the effects of these institutional variations, as well as proxies for voter sentiment, on incumbent re-election rates 2000-18.

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*Kaare Strom is a Distinguished Professor at the University of California San Diego. His fields of expertise are public opinion and political methodology. His fields of interest include political parties, coalition theory, European politics, and the institutions of parliamentary democracy.*

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