Measuring Descriptive Representation

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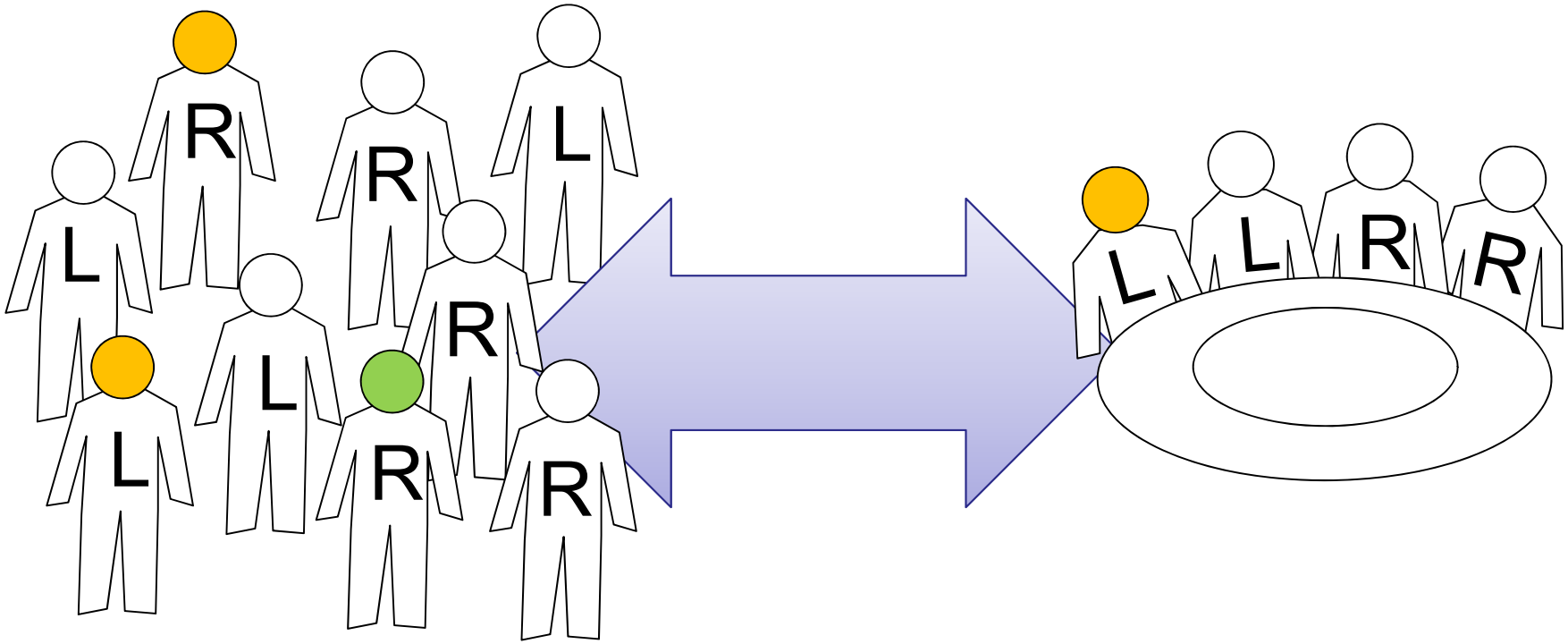
Dreiländertagung, Basel

Overview

- Concept: Political representation
- Measuring representation: criteria
- Examples
- Conclusion

Political representation

- Substantive representation
- Descriptive representation



Measuring representation

- Unordered groups
- *n* groups
- Z – citizens
- R – representatives
- RS – representation scores

1. Multiple Groups

- Gender: male/female
- Ethnic groups: just minorities?
- Class: upper middle class?
- Religion: Protestant, Catholic, neither

2. Homogeneous Population

- Poland: 99.4% Polish
  - 99.6% in parliament
  - What if 100%?
- Georgia: 84.5% Georgian
  - 93.1% in parliament
  - What if 86%?

3. Splitting Groups

- Conceptual clarity
- Data reality
- Example of absent minority groups

0.20

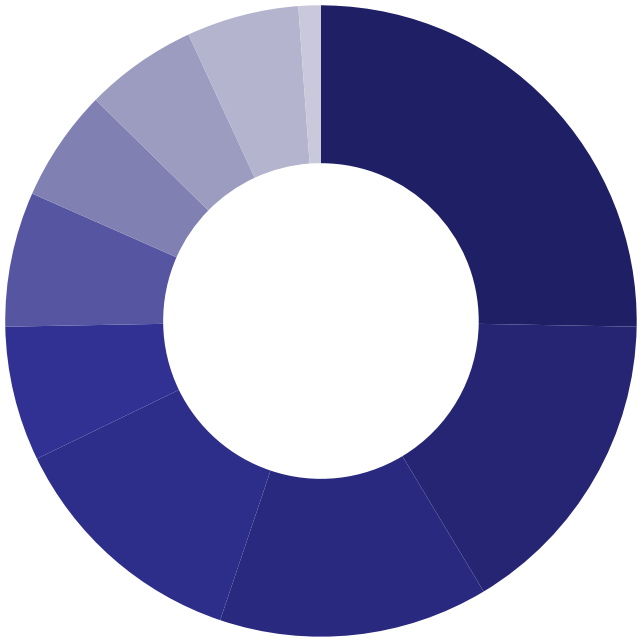
0.17

4. Outliers

- South Africa: 29.3% Whites (14%)
- Malawi: 1% Asians (0.1%)
- Denmark: 1.1% Faroe Islands, Greenland
  - 2 seats: over-representation
  - 1 seat: larger under-representation
- Slovenia: 1.1% Hungarians (0.3%)
  - Inclusion or not?

5. No Clear Minority

- Religion in Germany, Switzerland
- Ethnic groups in Kenya



6. Clear Bounds

- Interpretation
- Absence of minorities
- Perfect proportionality

- Perfect disproportionality (theoretical)

Examples

	Multiple	*Homog.*	*Splitting*	*Outlier*	*No min.*	*Mirror*	*Bounds*
Yes/no	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
R_{min}	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
R_{min}/Z_{min}	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
$1-\Sigma(R_i-Z_i)$	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
1-Gallag.	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
$\Sigma(R_i/Z_i)^2$	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
#3 * H	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
#4 * H	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

Conclusion

- Clear criteria
- Particularly useful measures:
  - $RS_7 = R_{min} / Z_{min}$
  - $RS_9 = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \sum \left| R_i - Z_i \right|$