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## **Parliamentary committees in a party-centred context : structure, composition, functioning**

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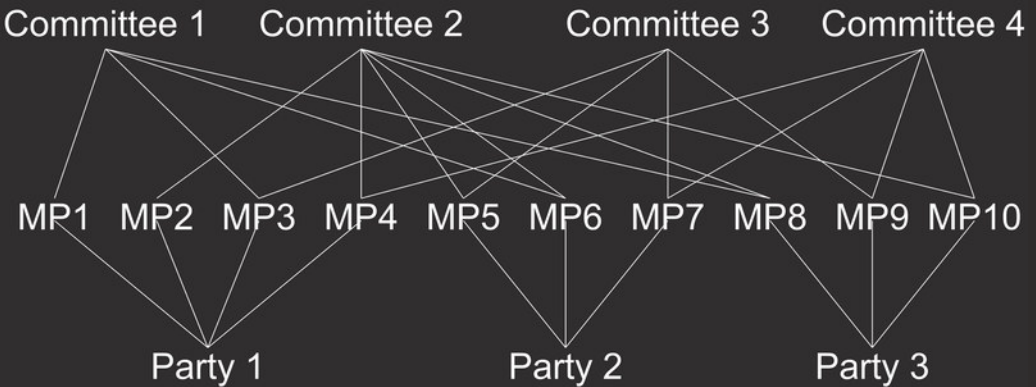
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# Parliamentary Committees in a Party-Centred Context

## Structure, Composition, Functioning



Tim Alexander Mickler

Beyond the immediately visible plenum, parliaments are highly complex institutions. They work through various venues in which decisions are prepared or even taken. The two main institutions in this regard are parliamentary party groups, which comprise legislators who are elected under the same party label, and parliamentary committees, topic-specific sub-groups of legislators across all parliamentary party groups. Both of these groups fulfil important tasks in the internal organisation of legislatures and the processing of legislation.

This dissertation analyses how parliamentary party groups organise their work in parliamentary committees. The analysis consists of three parts: The first part of this book presents an analysis of the structural features of committees. Why do some legislatures with strong parliamentary party groups establish strong committees while others do not? To answer this question, the committee systems of 30 legislatures of countries with a parliamentary system of government are analysed.

The next two empirical chapters of this book provide more insight into the restrictions of parliamentary party group organisations on individual legislators in committees. The analysis focuses specifically on the selection criteria of committee members and the room for manoeuvre of committee members after they have been assigned to a committee. The evidence for these chapters relies on in-depth analyses of the proceedings in a smaller number of legislatures: the Dutch Tweede Kamer, the German Bundestag and the Irish Dáil Éireann.