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Achieving party unity : a sequential approach to why MPs act in concert

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Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift 'Achieving Party Unity: A Sequential Approach to Why MPs Act in Concert' van Cynthia M.C. van Vonn

1. Claiming that party groups that vote in unity are 'cohesive', 'homogeneous', 'loyal', 'disciplined' or 'whipped', incorrectly assumes that we know which (combinations of) pathways to party group unity are at work (this dissertation).
2. In determining whether or not to vote according to the party group line, MPs apply decision-making mechanisms in a sequential order (this dissertation).
3. In contributing to party group unity, MPs' voluntarism is most important (this dissertation).
4. An individual MP's freedom and party group unity are not mutually exclusive (this dissertation).
5. Legislative studies' tendency to neglect representative bodies at the subnational level of government needs to be reconsidered.
6. In the field of legislative studies, US scholars are criticized for ignoring the party, but those outside the US can be criticized for ignoring the individual MP.
7. Institutions do not affect behavior directly; they influence individuals' decision making about behavior.
8. International Relations and Comparative Politics are not all that different; the *who*, *what*, *why*, *where*, *when* and *how* of both research and teaching are very much the same.
9. The importance of writing for academics is epitomized by the words of 'that old lady' in E.M. Forster's *Aspects of the Novel*: "How do I know what I think until I see what I say?" (1927, p. 71).
10. A PhD is not only an academic degree; it a degree in personal grit.