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Second-order electoral personalization. Intra-party preference voting in Belgium and the Netherlands

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Citation

Nagtzaam, M. A. M. (2019, October 9). *Second-order electoral personalization. Intra-party preference voting in Belgium and the Netherlands*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/78476>

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Title: Second-order electoral personalization. Intra-party preference voting in Belgium and the Netherlands

Issue Date: 2019-10-09

Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

Second-order electoral personalization

Intra-party preference voting in Belgium and the Netherlands

Van Marijn A.M. Nagtzaam

1. Giving Dutch voters the option to cast a list vote would make elections more transparent and would therefore strengthen representative democracy in the Netherlands.
2. If an electoral system allows intra-party preference voting, it is better to have an open list system than to have a flexible list system.
3. Overall, the consequences of preference votes in Belgium and the Netherlands are limited.
4. Studies on voting behavior should incorporate positive as well as negative considerations for casting a vote.
5. It is crucial to distinguish between ‘personalized politics’ and the ‘personalization of politics’.
6. Katz (1985, 230) is right: “Preference voting is for PR what the direct primary is for plurality elections”.
7. Research on the personalization of politics should look beyond the party leader.
8. The debate on the pros and cons of experiments is ongoing, but when executed well experiments are an ideal method for making causal inferences.
9. The importance of the permanent education of all voters about their own electoral system is underestimated.
10. Doing your PhD in Leiden comes with a bonus: the annual Leiden International Film Festival. This festival is a perfect opportunity to take a week off to see numerous movies and come back fully motivated for another year of research.