

The Effectiveness of Different Forms of Political Participation

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Abstract

In an era marked by concerns about democratic legitimacy, the question of whether citizens' political actions are effective in achieving intended outcomes is of utmost importance. Although a core idea in democratic theory is that democratic governance should be responsive to the will of the people, most empirical research on this topic has focused on the *opinion*-representation connection, with less focus on the *participation*-representation connection. This chapter reviews three key areas of research that inform this topic, namely the categorizations used to distinguish between different *forms of participation*; recent empirical studies that investigate the *participation-representation* connection; and the main attitudinal measure related to effectiveness of *political efficacy*. The concluding section includes a brief analysis of cross-national data on these topics from the European Social Survey with a focus on providing insights into the challenges and opportunities for advancing future research.

Keywords: effectiveness; political participation; political efficacy; institutionalized participation; non-institutionalized participation; representation

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