

THE ELECTORAL LINK IN THE EU: PARTISAN OR PERSONAL FOCUS OF CANDIDATES TO THE EP?

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Representative democracy is not direct democracy. This implies that voters give a mandate to representatives. In European democracies and in the EU as well, the vote is a mandate for a party not a person. However, in the last decades, there is a growing debate about the personalization of politics. If there is personalization of campaigning and mandating is for parties then there is a tension between supply and choice. The degree to which this seemingly contradiction exists, will be explored by looking to the focus of the campaigns of candidates to the European Parliament. Using the European Election Candidate Study 2009, the degree too which candidates go for a personalized or partisan campaigning and possible macro-theoretical and micro-theoretical explanations will be explored.

The lecture takes place on Thursday, **11 November, 16.00-17.15**, in the VIP room in the Ravelijn building at the **University of Twente**. The talk and subsequent discussion will in English.