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Laboratory Experimental Testing of Political Science Models

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Message from the Guest Editor

Laboratory experiments allow for the testing of decision making models by making it possible to observe human behavior within a controlled environment where a model's variables can be isolated and measured. This method is particularly useful to generate data for models that take an axiomatic approach since in many instances no relevant field data are available to test the parameters of the model. In economics this method to produce data testing axiomatic models has approached mainstream status as evident by the latest two Nobel laureates in economics, Elinor Ostrom and Alvin Roth, who both used laboratory experiments in their research. This special issue explores laboratory experiments that examine political science models. These articles show the importance of this methodology in providing data and useful insights for political science questions.

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Special issue