

The Science behind Group Decision Making



Participatory Budgeting

Suppose a municipality has a limited budget and a large number of cultural and social projects that need funding.

What would be a fair way of distributing the available budget among these projects?

Some parties are very popular with some voters and very unpopular with others, while other parties are fairly popular with most voters.

Is the party with the most votes necessarily the best party to lead the formation of the government?



Coalition Formation



Cake Cutting

Everybody knows how to divide a cake between two children: let one of them cut it, and then let the other one choose.

But what if there are three children?



School Choice

Some schools are more popular than others. Often, not every student can get a spot at their favorite school.

What is the right way of allocating students to schools?

During the recent redesign of the allocation method used for high schools in Amsterdam, there was a dispute between the school boards and some parents, that even led to a court case. Why did the new method generate unrest?



Elections

Different countries run their elections in different ways.

Why is that? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the different systems?

Are there better systems than the one we use in the Netherlands?

COMING SOON:

A website with stories about questions like these, and how science can provide insights.

Who are we?

We are the Computational Social Choice Group of the Institute for Logic, Language and Information (ILLC) at the University of Amsterdam.

In our research, we use methods from mathematics, computer science, and other areas to study questions of collective decision making.

Computer Science



Mathematics



Better understanding and improving political and everyday decision making



Economics



Political Science

For more information about Computational Social Choice:
<http://www.illc.uva.nl/COMSOC/>