**PRESS RELEASE**

**Immediate 20.10.2022**

Given the recent 'referendums' in Ukraine, this book is a timely reminder of the need to

question binary voting in decision-making.

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| *“***...** *and no doubt the time will come when society will find that Emerson was right***.”**  *Books Ireland,* reviewing *From Belfast to the Balkans,* 2000**.**  *“Never before have I so strongly agreed with your position about multi-option ballots.”*  Evan Davies, BBC, in response to a press release of mine in 2016**.** |

Speedometers, ‘fast’ or ‘slow’? Temperatures ‘high’ or ‘low’? Most of today’s instruments are not binary... except in politics, where decisions are ‘yes’ or ‘no’, ‘for’ or ‘against’, binary. Precision voting based on preferences could be more accurate, would be more cohesive, and could spell the end of majoritarianism, (the Russian word for which is ‘bolshevism’ ‘большевизм’).

***THE PUNTERS’ GUIDE TO DEMOCRACY***

**by**

**Peter Emerson**

https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-06987-1

**Book Launch: Wed 26th October, Linen Hall Library, Belfast, 17.30 – 19.00 pm**

with

Professor Katy Hayward

Rt Hon, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Christina Black

David Ford, former Alliance Party leader

Roy Garland, Alban Maginness, SDLP

Cllr. Mal O'Hara, Green Party

and

Wes Holmes, New Ireland Group.

*“I love [this] book!”*

**.** Katy Hayward, Queen’s, Belfast**.**

*“This book is brilliant: political controversies should rarely if ever be 'resolved' by majority vote.”*

**.** Arend Lijphart, California**.**

*“Peter’s challenge to the binary “win-lose” approach is urgently necessary...”*

**.** Valery Perry, Sarajevo**.**

*“A particularly strong plea in favour of voting procedures… which go far beyond the usual 'yes or no' ballots.”*

**.** Maurice Salles, Université de Caen**.**

In North Korea, the Party in power chooses the candidate, Mr ***X***, and the people then vote, “Candidate ***X***, yes or no?” (or maybe it’s ‘yes or yes?’). In Westminster and the *Dáil*, the Party/ies in power may choose the option, and the MPs/TDs then vote, “Option ***X***, yes or no?” (or maybe it’s a whipped ‘yes or yes?’ for some, and a ‘no or no?’ for the opposition).

Democratic elections are sometimes OK. Ireland’s PR-STV and Switzerland’s PR-list, are both good. But binary decision-making, at worst in referendums in Ukraine, but also in border polls in the North or votes in the *House of Commons,* the *Dáil* and Stormont (where consociational voting is still binary), is divisive and sometimes hopelessly inaccurate.

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