**PRESS RELEASE**

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| ***DEMOCRATIC-DECISION-MAKING***  ***Consensus Voting for Civic Society and Parliaments,*** 2020, (Springer, Heidelberg)  <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030528072>  (Review copies are available from Springer)  will be launched at 6 pm on Wednesday 7th October, virtually, in Queen’s University, Belfast: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/majority-voting-as-a-catalyst-of-populism-book-launch-tickets-123147317943](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/majority-voting-as-a-catalyst-of-populism-book-launch-tickets-123147317943" \t "_blank) |

1.     Covid and Climate Change tell us to co-operate. *Inter alia,* that means preferential voting, both in decision-making and in elections.

2. The USA is divided, largely mainly because both their decision-making and their electoral systems – in effect, two forms of binary voting – are divisive.

3. Binary majority rule has produced its own ultimate irony: minority rule under all-powerful and highly divisive singletons like Trump, Bolsonaro, Putin, Modi, etc., ‘elected dictators’.

4.   You can’t best identify a consensus opinion in a *comparative* binary vote: it measures the very opposite, so many ‘for’ and so many ‘against’, the degree of dissent!

5. The *greatest* good of the *greatest* number, the *superlative*, can however be identified in a multi-option, preferential vote: the option with the highest average preference.

6. And an average includes every MP/voter (not just a majority of them). Accordingly, binary votes in referendums and parliaments should be replaced by preferential ballots; and binary majority rule should give way to all-party power-sharing.

7. In a nutshell, if the problem ain’t binary, don’t take a binary vote.

8. A consensus is defined in the attached taxonomy.

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