**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE – 20.10.2020**

**POWER-SHARING**

**COVID We follow the science. Epidemiology**

**CLIMATE CHANGE We’re learning the science. Climatology**

**VOTING THEORY We should study the science. Social Choice**

If other politicians will “work with us”[[1]](#footnote-1) (Dominic Raab) “across party lines,”[[2]](#footnote-2) (Matt Hancock), “if we work together,”[[3]](#footnote-3) (Boris Johnston), i.e., power-sharing, a national government.

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| Electoral systems: North Korea. “Candidate ***X***, yes-or-no?” Terrible, definitely.Decision-making: The Commons “Option ***X***, yes-or-no?” Terrible? Yes. |

Doctors and climatologists don’t use *binary* thermometers.  Politicians should also use precision instruments, voting mechanisms with more than two calibrations, i.e., preference voting.  {A majority opinion is best identified in a multi-option vote.  And in a five-option ballot, there are 120 different ways of casting a full set of five preferences; so each MP (or every voter in a referendum) may express *degrees* of support for each option.}

Covid, and Climate Change, means we must consume less, care more, and co-operate. That means sharing power:

In governance: we share power as in Switzerland (and not so much as in Northern Ireland).

In decision-making: we allow everything to be on the table, ***and*** a (short list of) everything

 on the ballot paper.

Preference voting is the key.  If the subject matter is contentious, then, in a *plural* democracy, the dispute is not binary.  So don’t take binary votes, at all: not even on amendments let alone on motions.  If there’s a problem, someone may move a motion, option ***A***; someone else proposes a 1st amendment, others a 2nd, which could be options ***B*** and ***C***.  And there’s the*status quo ante,* option ***D***.  So take just one, four-option preference vote, on options ***A, B, C*** and ***D***.

The outcome is the option with the highest average preference. An average means *every* MP, not just 50% +. *Every* MP means power-sharing. The Modified Borda Count MBC is all-inclusive.

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1. BBC Radio 4, Today, (16th October). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. BBB Radio 4, The World Tonight, (19th October). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. BBC Radio 4, The World Tonight, (16th October). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)