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978-0-521-19265-1 - Electoral Systems and the Balance of Consumer-Producer Power

Eric C. C. Chang, Mark Andreas Kayser, Drew A. Linzer and Ronald Rogowski

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## ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AND THE BALANCE OF CONSUMER-PRODUCER POWER

This book investigates the effects of electoral systems on the relative legislative and, hence, regulatory influence of competing interests in society. Building on Ronald Rogowski and Mark Kayser's extension of the classic Stigler-Peltzman model of regulation, the authors demonstrate that majoritarian electoral arrangements should empower consumers relative to producers. Employing real price levels as a proxy for consumer power, the book rigorously establishes this proposition over time, within the OECD, and across a large sample of developing countries. Majoritarian electoral arrangements depress real prices by approximately ten percent, all else equal. The authors carefully construct and test their argument and broaden it to consider the overall welfare effects of electoral system design and the incentives of actors in the choice of electoral institutions.

**Eric C. C. Chang** is Associate Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University. He studies comparative political economy, political institutions, political corruption, and democratization in developed and developing democracies. His publications have appeared in multiple journals including the *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *European Journal of Political Research*.

**Mark Andreas Kayser** is Professor of Applied Quantitative Methods and Comparative Politics at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. His research focuses on the comparative and international political economy of elections. His work has appeared in journals including the *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, and *European Journal of Political Research*.

**Drew A. Linzer** is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Emory University. His research explores patterns of public opinion and voting behavior in democracies around the world, and their consequences for political representation and quality of governance. His work has appeared in journals including the *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Political Analysis*, and *Journal of Statistical Software*.

**Ronald Rogowski** is Professor of Political Science at UCLA. His book, *Commerce and Coalitions*, received the American Political Science Association's prize for best book in political economy. He is a former member of the National Science Foundation's Political Science Panel and currently chairs one of the European Research Council's Social Sciences Panels. He is also lead editor of the *American Political Science Review*.

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**Eric C. C. Chang**

Michigan State University

**Mark Andreas Kayser**

Hertie School of Governance, Berlin

**Drew A. Linzer**

Emory University

**Ronald Rogowski**

University of California, Los Angeles



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## Acknowledgments

Perhaps like many books, this one was long in the making. It began in 1999 as a paper by Ronald Rogowski and Mark Kayser on the effect of industrial concentration on the clout of various sectors in securing favors from the U.S. Congress. They used sectoral price deviations from a world average to measure “clout” and soon became interested in price-levels themselves. That paper was never published but the “price papers” by the authors in this book appeared three times in print before taking the form seen here.

Over the eleven years in which this book took shape, life marched on for all of us. Perhaps unlike other volumes, parts of this one were written on three continents and eight cities – Los Angeles, Oxford, Rochester, East Lansing, Berkeley, Atlanta, Taipei, and Berlin. Three of the authors got married and four children were born: Clare Rogowski, Ryan Chang, Cleo Linzer, and Milena Sophie Kayser.

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