

Legislative Bargaining with Subjective Claims

Christoph VANBERG

(University of Heidelberg)

(with Anna Merkel)

We conduct 3-person bargaining experiments in which participants must agree on the division of a monetary amount. Unlike in most prior experiments, the available surplus is first "produced" in a real-effort (quiz) task. Prior evidence on similar tasks suggests that this procedure induces subjective "claims" (feelings of entitlement) reflecting relative contributions. Using a Baron-Ferejohn framework, we experimentally investigate whether and how such claims affect bargaining behavior and outcomes under unanimity and majority rule.