Local politics and electoral performance in Brazil: The role of mayors in the national elections (2000-2010)

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Decentralization in Latin American democracies has increased the importance of local governments and elections in political parties’ activities. However, our understanding of how parties operate at the local level and their impact on national politics is still limited. In Brazil, one of the largest federations in the world, municipal governments play an important role in providing public services, collecting taxes and connecting citizens to state and national governments. As a result, Brazilian mayors are important political players in state and national elections and should be capable of transferring votes to their co-partisans. This talk presents preliminary results on the political impact of intra-party linkages in Brazilian elections and their implications for party politics in other Latin American democracies.

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