

Abstract

The thesis deals with the historical perspective of the sortition in the period of the Athenian democracy and the Italian city republics of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The thesis tries to reveal the potential of the sortition and the reasons why the sortition was used as a primary tool for choosing citizens for public offices. The objective of the thesis is to find the potential of the sortition for contemporary liberal democracy. The thesis follows two historical cases in which the sortition was viewed as a democratic (or civil) instrument that breaks personal relations and limits the power of elite groups in the society. In this sense, the sortition should help to widen the civic participation in public affairs, to provide equal and fair distribution of public offices within the society, and to prevent corruption and factionalism.