

Review of: "Winner-takes-all Majoritarian System and Irregularities in Six Election Cycles in Nigeria, 1999 – 2019"

Isabelle Lebon¹

¹ Caen-Normandy University (Université de Caen Normandie)

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

As a reminder: the proposed article studies the consequences of a majority electoral system on the irregularities and even the violence that accompanied the elections in Nigeria over the period 1999-2019.

Compared to the previous version, the revised version proposed by the authors includes clarifications requested in the reports. But a real work on the form of the paper remains necessary in my opinion:

- The writing often remains allusive and therefore difficult to understand for a reader who does not know the context of Nigeria (especially at the beginning of the article). The authors should really place themselves from the point of view of an outside reader. In addition, the details provided about the political system of Nigeria are interesting but they take the path of more complicated aspects than the simple elements that the reader would need to know given the subject of the article. Indeed, when the authors denounce the effects of majority voting, the reader would be interested to know precisely how many elections, how many positions among those dealt with could have been the subject of proportional representation taking account of minorities (this which is not the case for the election of a single president or governor).
- Moreover, the denunciation of the effects of the Nigerian electoral system is done throughout the article, and therefore even before having brought tangible elements to be able to denounce it. The risk is that the reader sees in this denunciation not a research result but a starting postulate on the part of the authors of the article. The article would gain a lot from a more "scientific" presentation of the work by asking the question, then presenting the data and the methodology, before answering it (even if the authors do not have sufficient data for a true statistical treatment of the question asked). It would also avoid giving the impression of many repetitions.
- Some of the information provided is, in my opinion, insufficiently explained or commented on to be useful in establishing the result claimed by the authors. Let me give you some examples:
 - "The 2011 elections, which were heralded as among the fairest, were also among the bloodiest in Nigeria bloodiest in Nigeria." This fact, which is not commented on, is it not contradictory with what the authors intend to show?
 - Different considerations concern the involvement of the judiciary in the election outcome: "Generally, without doubt, the judiciary plays a strategic role in the adjudication of pre- and post-election disputes in Nigeria as elsewhere in the world (NCS Situation Room 2019)." and more generally the entire paragraph entitled "Winner-takes-all Majoritarian System and Election Litigation in Nigeria". But without the use of these pieces of information seeming clear to me in relation to the central theme and the result of the article.

This article on the subject is both very interesting and highly topical would greatly benefit from more rigorous writing so as not to risk of weakening the arguments that are developed by the authors.