

Institute for Social Change

DCERN

Democracy Citizens and Elections Research Network

Election Forecasting: Principles and Practice

Prof, Michael Lewis-Beck
University of Iowa

Tuesday 24th
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12 noon - 1.30pm

Committee Room A
Whitworth Building

More information
socialchange@manchester.ac.uk
0161 275 4269

Abstract

To forecast an election means to declare the outcome before it happens. While this is something we seldom do in electoral studies generally, it is the essential task of the scientific election forecaster. Scientific approaches to election forecasting include polls, political stock markets, and statistical models. Professor Michael Lewis Beck will review these approaches, with an emphasis on the use of statistical models, drawing on recent examples from France, US, Hungary and, of course, the UK where forecasting of elections has attracted increasing attention.

Michael Lewis Beck is F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Iowa and an internationally renowned scholar of electoral politics, political economy and methods of political analysis. His recent major publications include the 'The American Voter Revisited' (2008).