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**CULTURAL VOTING
THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST**

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Abstract

We analyze the voting behavior and ratings of judges in a popular song contest held every year in Europe. The dataset makes it possible to analyze the determinants of success, and gives a rare opportunity to run a direct test of vote trading, or logrolling. Though the votes cast may appear as resulting from logrolling, we show that they are rather driven by linguistic and cultural proximities between singers and voting countries.

Keywords: logrolling, voting behavior, popular music, contests.

JEL Classification: D72, Z10.

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