

CS-234

# Technologies for societal self-organization

Week 7

# Randomness in social process - selection by <sup>lot</sup> / <sub>sortition</sub>

- Random selection of "authority" roles - e.g. judges
  - Athenian democracy: selection of magistrates
  - Venetian "democracy": selection of Doge 1268-1797
    - why? - utilizing community wisdom - who best to rule?
    - anti-corruption, anti-factionalism - diversity, non-manipulation
- why iterative? we don't know, but...

- Trial by jury: non-manipulability, non-expert
- Public opinion polling, focus groups - diversity, representative
- Deliberative polling: explore more deeply
- Benefits: participant  $\rightarrow$  collective: better, more reasoned/diverse info
- collective  $\rightarrow$  participant: make better citizens, consensus-building
- scalability:  $O(n) \rightarrow O(\log n) \times$  many questions

Challenges: agenda-setting, moderation, experts, ...

- Correctness / honesty / integrity / bias-free randomness