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Toward A General Theory Of Hierarchy: Books, Bureaucrats, Basketball Tournaments, And The Administrative Structure Of The Nation-State

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Abstract

Information processing and policymaking, in any kind of institution, involve the making of comparisons. For information processing, the comparisons are among bits of data. For policymaking, the comparisons are among alternative options. Many of our institutions are hierarchies, and this essay examines, for a wide range of institutions, how hierarchies structure the making of the comparisons.

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