**The Politics of Redistribution: The Case of 2018**

**FIFA World Cup Russia**

*Abstract*

The present paper contributes to the literature on political transfers. It studies the case of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia as large-scale events tend to give rise to political transfers. The paper investigates why some Russian regions have been selected as a championship venue while others have not. It evaluates the “loyalty” hypothesis and the “political connections” hypothesis by examining an interplay of such factors as the ability of regional elites to deliver high voting results and to keep stability in the regions, administrative capacity of the regions, and lobbying skills of the governors. The study employs fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) to detect necessary and sufficient conditions leading to the outcome – being selected as a World Cup venue. The analysis demonstrates that none of the four factors has been necessary. In addition, it reveals two sufficient factors that are having administrative capacity and having a lobbyist governor. These results are in line with the “political connections” hypothesis.

*Keywords: Russia, political transfers, FIFA World Cup, QCA*