

Abstract

This thesis is concerned with the topic of opinion instability and is centred on three questions: Does opinion instability exist? How prevalent is opinion instability? What may be the cause of opinion instability? The thesis combines previous studies relevant for the topic and secondary analysis of several datasets. The conclusions of the thesis are that opinion instability is a real phenomenon, rather than an artefact of measurement. Furthermore, the prevalence of opinion instability depends for a large part on its operationalization, although it can be considered relatively common. The determinants of opinion instability are the topic proficiency and motivation, as well as the prevalence of the topic and consistency of frames.