

The Quantitative Analysis of Political Text: Tools and Applications

Workshop, University of Mannheim, MZES

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Denise Traber, University of Luzern

denise.traber@unilu.ch

Summary

The workshop introduces concepts and methods for the quantitative analysis of political text (QTA) in R. Speeches delivered by prime ministers during the Euro-Crisis (EUSpeech dataset) serve as an application for the demonstration of text preparation, visualization, scaling, topic models and sentiment analysis. After an introduction of the text corpus and a brief discussion of QTA methods, the participants have the opportunity to carry out some QTA themselves under the instructors' supervision.

Program

Part I: Paper presentation

“Errors have been made, others will be blamed: blame avoidance and blame-shifting in Prime Minister speeches during the economic crisis in Europe“
(D. Traber, M. Schoonvelde and G. Schumacher)

Part II: Workshop

1. Introduction of EUSpeech, a dataset of EU elite speeches
2. Working with corpus objects, basic functions in ‘quanteda’
3. Text pre-processing
4. Dictionary-based methods: Sentiment analysis

Exercise

5. Text scaling: Wordfish

Exercise

6. Unsupervised learning: Topic Models

Exercise

Requirements

Basic knowledge of R (functions and data management).