

Arseniy Samsonov

Presentation Title

The Fragmentation of Views in a Democracy

Abstract

Biased political media are often popular and influential. To explain this, I provide a game-theoretic model in which politicians offer exclusive information to the media in exchange for positive coverage. Bias becomes stronger if more voters support the politician and if the government is less transparent. I provide Fox News in the United States, Kronen Zeitung in Austria, and Russian state TV as examples. I also compare Austria with Germany where, unlike Austria, the media give little support to the far-right. The model suggests that the reason is greater government transparency in Germany, which prevents politicians from offering exclusive information in exchange for bias.

Affiliation

Department of Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, USA