

Heuristics, Bias and Accountability

Author: Nanna Lauritz Schönhage

Promotors: prof. Benny Geys, Ph.D , prof. Zuzana Murdoch, PhD and prof. Yvette Peters, PhD

Abstract

The use of information and misinformation in the political setting has gained considerable attention and importance in the broader public sphere in recent years. Information is particularly important, because it is critical to voters' ability to monitor politicians, to hold them accountable for their choices and actions. Additionally, an informed electorate creates important incentive effects which might push politicians to work harder to retain the favour of their constituents. This dissertation aims to contribute to our understanding of the role information plays for political decision-making and the mechanism of political accountability. Specifically, I study how both voters and politicians respond to and deal with political information, and how different types of information influences their choices and actions.