LA NORMALISATION DE L'EXTREME DROITE A L'ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE : UNE ÉTUDE COMPUTATIONNELLE DES DÉCLARATIONS DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE

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Abstract

This study examines the presence of far-right ideas in the general policy statements of French Prime Ministers since 1959 using Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques. Two primary hypotheses are investigated. The first hypothesis suggests that the metapolitical strategy, theorized by the Nouvelle Droite (New Right) since the 1970s, has facilitated the gradual infiltration of far-right ideas into French institutional discourse. The second hypothesis proposes that the political center plays a crucial role in the success of this strategy by acting as a polarizing structural force that enables the discursive integration of far-right ideology. To test these hypotheses, we develop and introduce a Far-Right Ideological Score (FRIS) that measures the proportion of far-right ideas within speeches. The results indicate a significant increase in the prevalence of far-right ideas since 2005, and more broadly since the 1970s, reaching levels comparable to those observed during the Algerian War. These findings support the hypothesis of a successful metapolitical strategy and highlight the pivotal role of centrist forces in the normalization and dissemination of far-right ideas within French political institutions.

Submission details