

Pointing Fingers

Is the Media to blame for the
success of the AfD?

Alexander Beyer,
Denver McNeney &
Steve Weldon

Simon Fraser University

Pundits



Home > Kultur > TV > Warum die Medien eine Mitschuld tragen am Aufstieg der AfD

KOMMENTAR Bundestagswahl

Feuilleton > Medien > Der AfD-Erfolg sorgt für Verwirrung

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Feuilleton

Frankfurt am Main 8°

RUBRIKEN DEBATE BÜCHER MEDIEN BÜHNE FILM POP KUNST KUNSTMARKT FORSCHUNG UND LEHRE GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN

WAHLERFOLG DER AfD

Die Journalisten sind schuld!

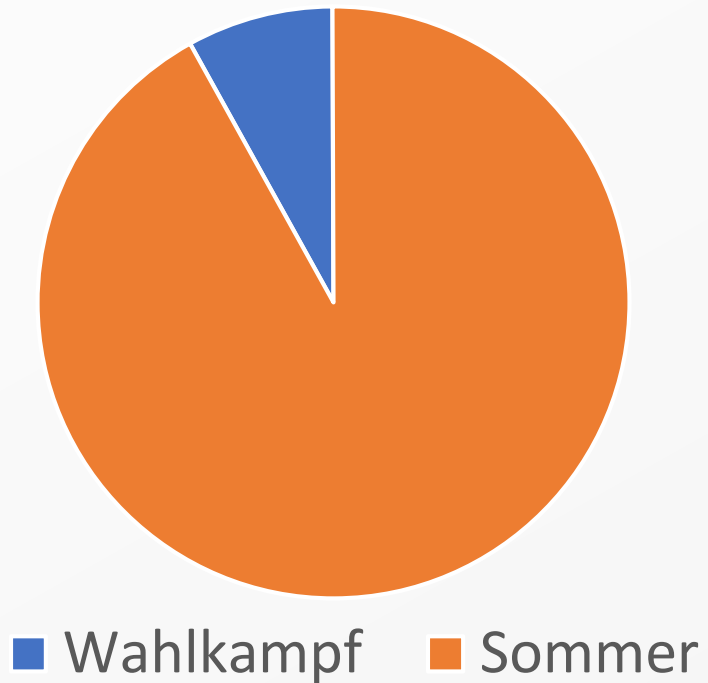
VON FRANK LÜBBERDING - AKTUALISIERT AM 28.09.2017 - 17:46



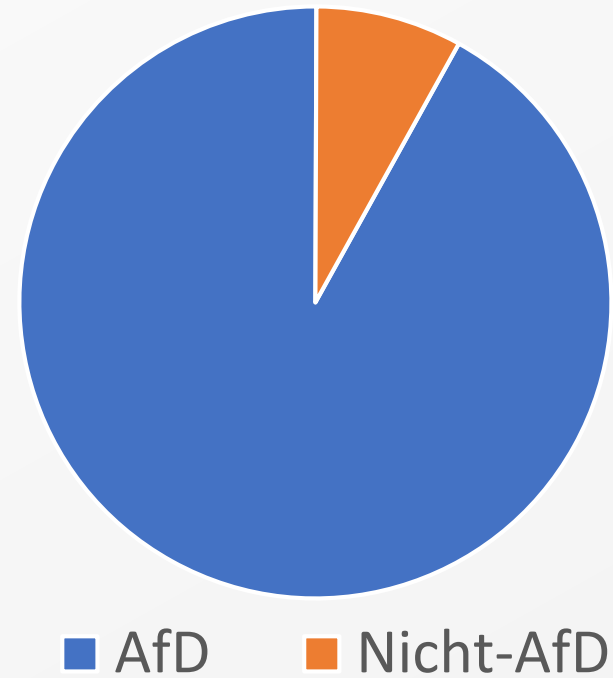
Drucken

Truthiness

Wahlkampfommer



AfD and not AfD



What we're doing today.

Why could “the Media” be at fault?

The Data.

Campaigning in the Media

Special Election &
everchanging Communications.

Two possible Mechanisms of Media Effects

~~Persuasion~~
Read and learn.

Priming

Can't tell people *what* to think, but stunningly successful in telling people what to think *about*.



Data

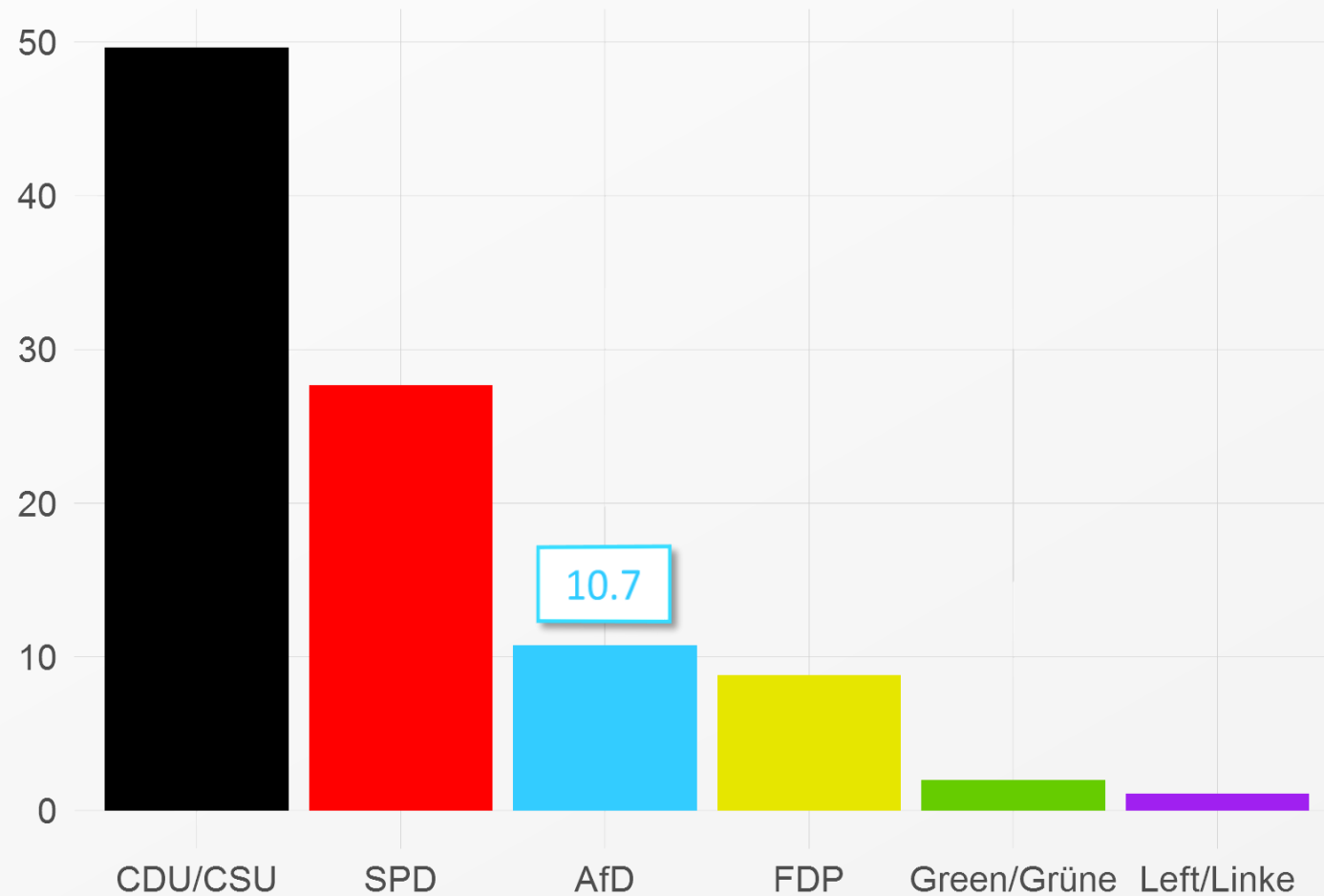
Text-as-Data with Natural Language Processing

~ 8.500 Articles through computerized methods
from [focus.de](https://www.focus.de) | [bild.de](https://www.bild.de) | [welt.de](https://www.welt.de) | [spiegel.de](https://www.spiegel.de)

 Unique dataset. 

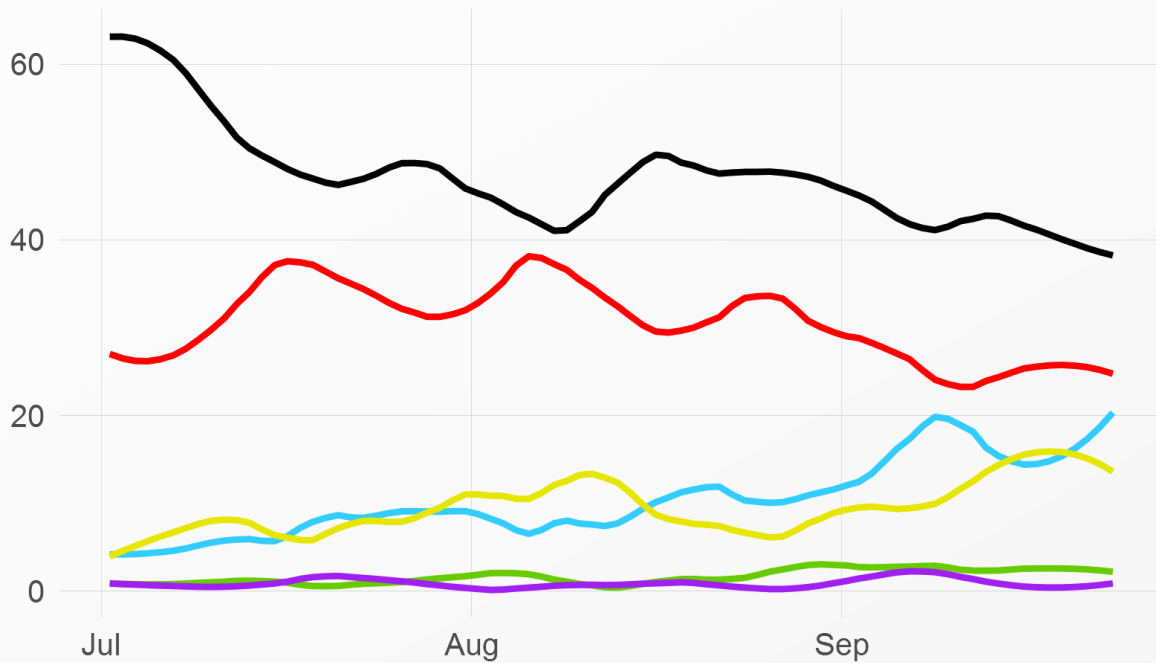
Share of Party Mentions in Online News

Average over the Course of the Campaign

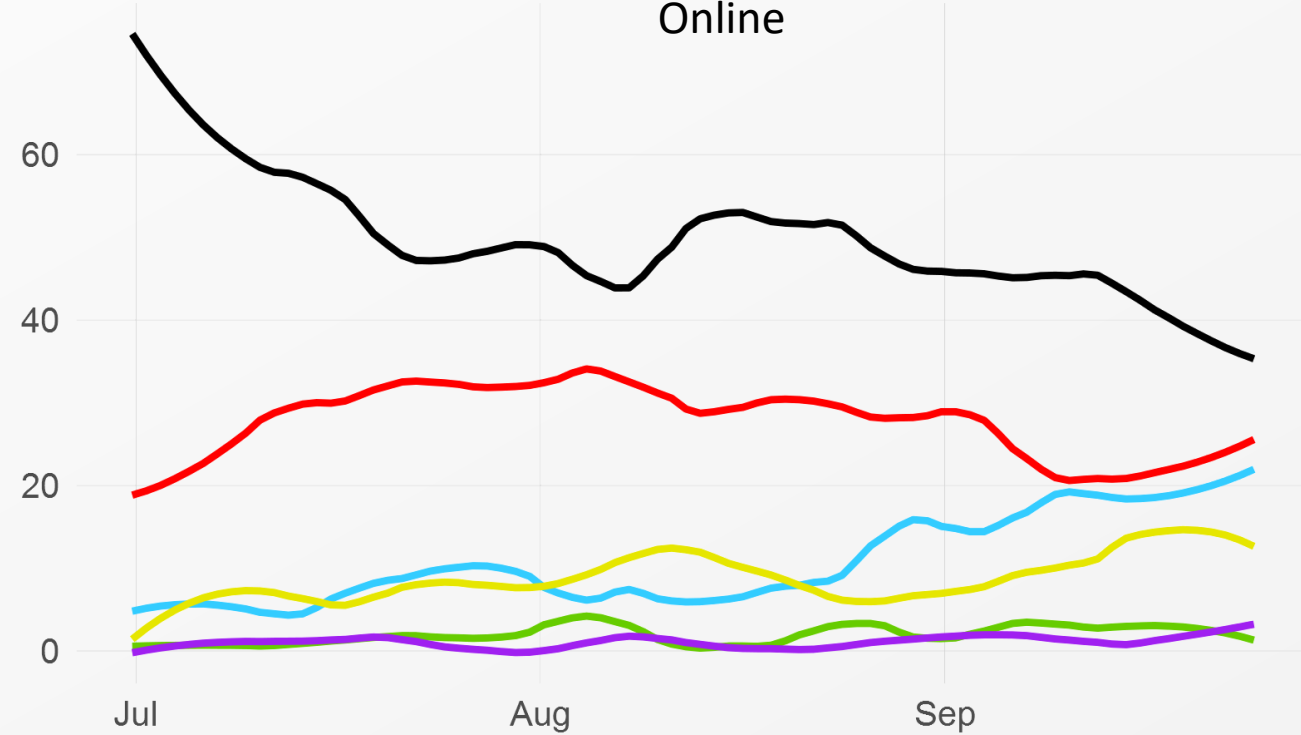


Comparing Share of Party Mentions

Print

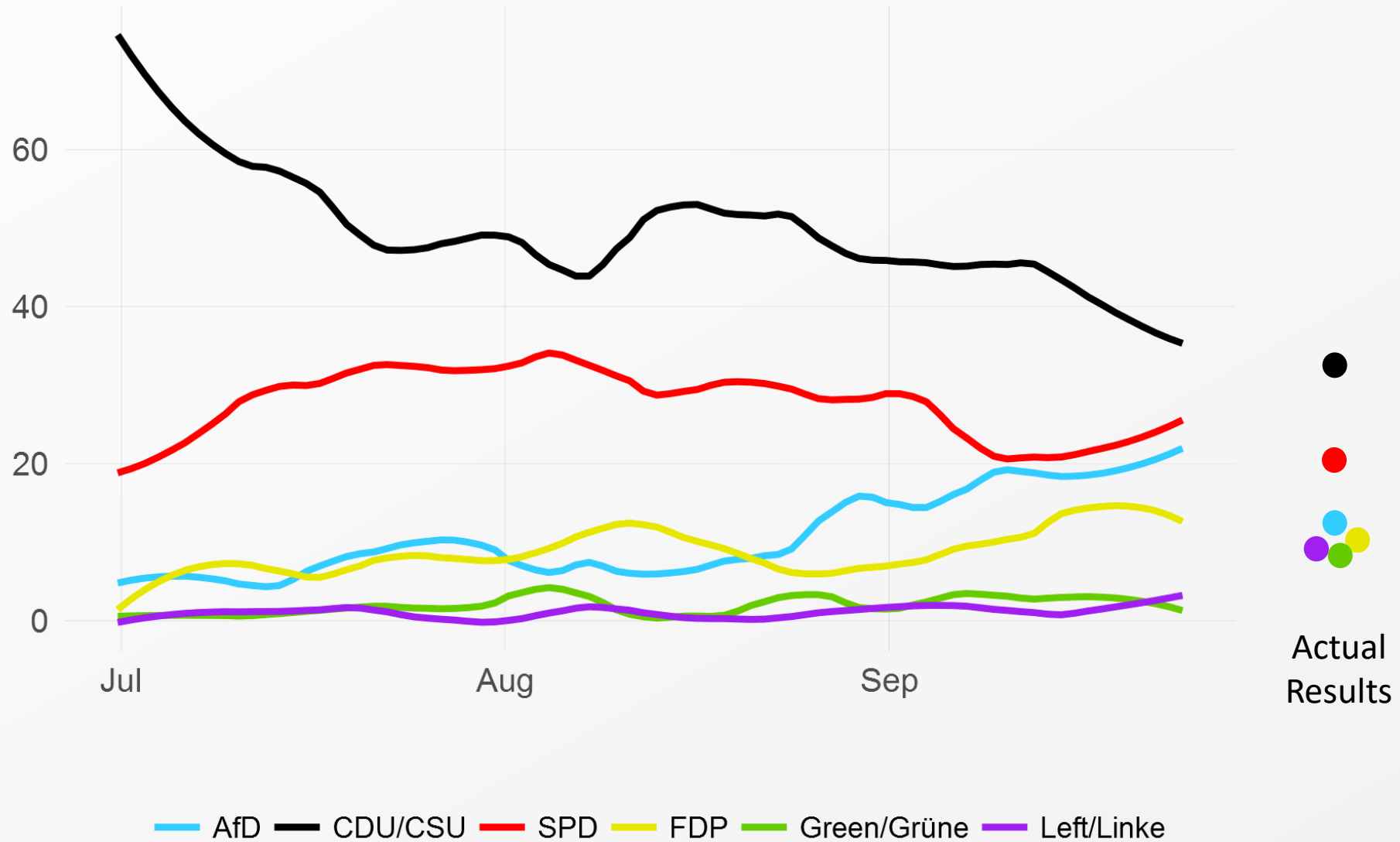


Online

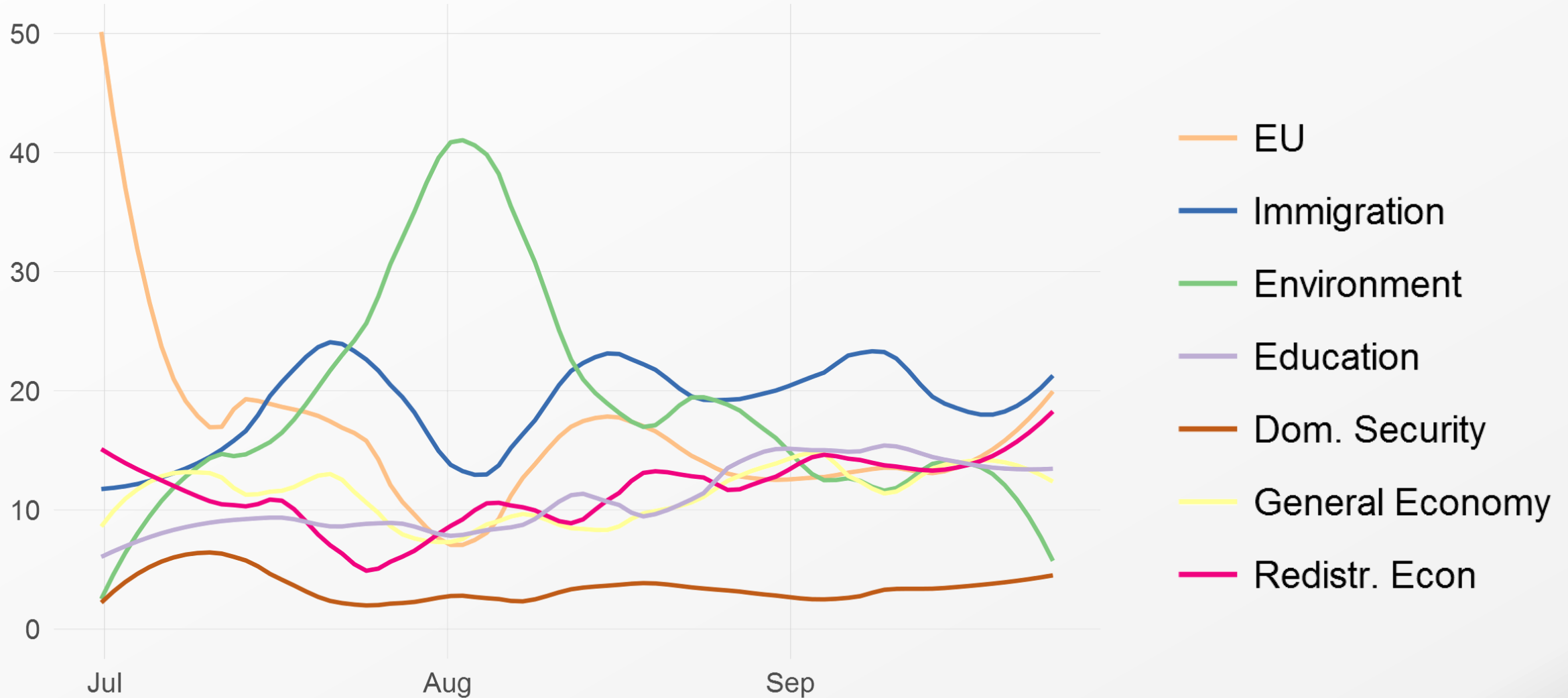


AfD CDU/CSU SPD FDP Green/Grüne Left/Linke

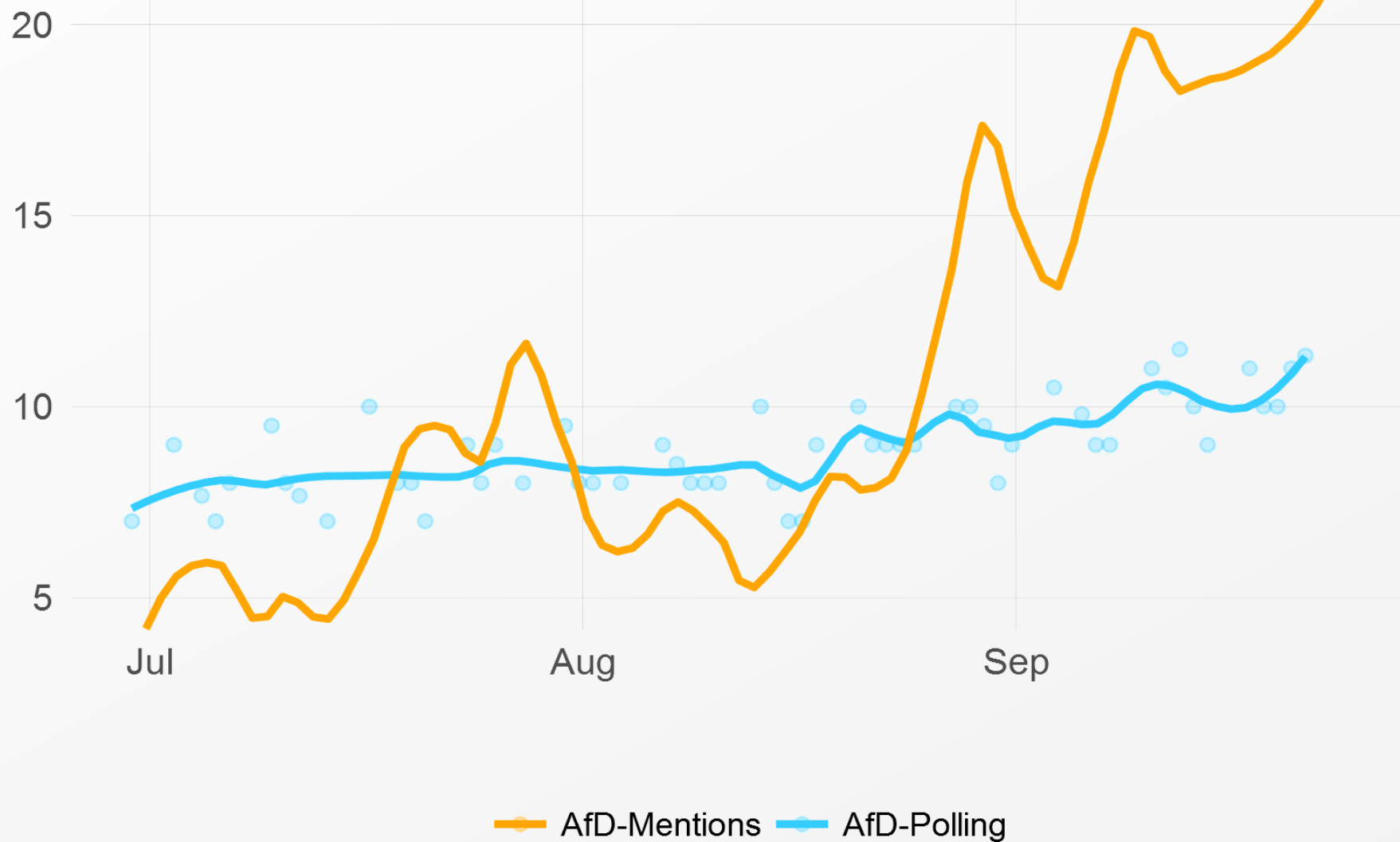
Share of Party Mentions in Online News



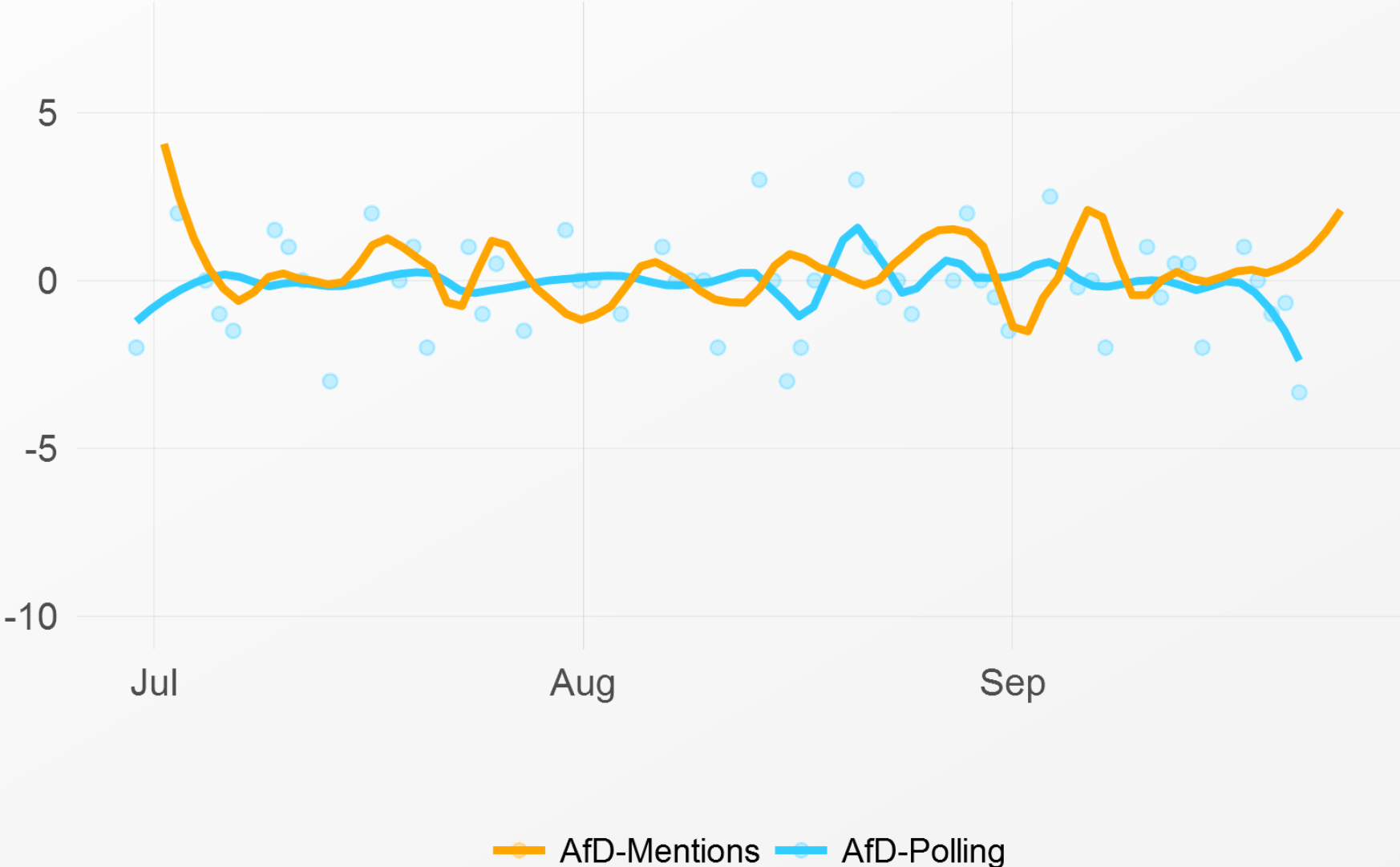
Share of Topics mentioned in Online News



AfD's mentions and support in polls

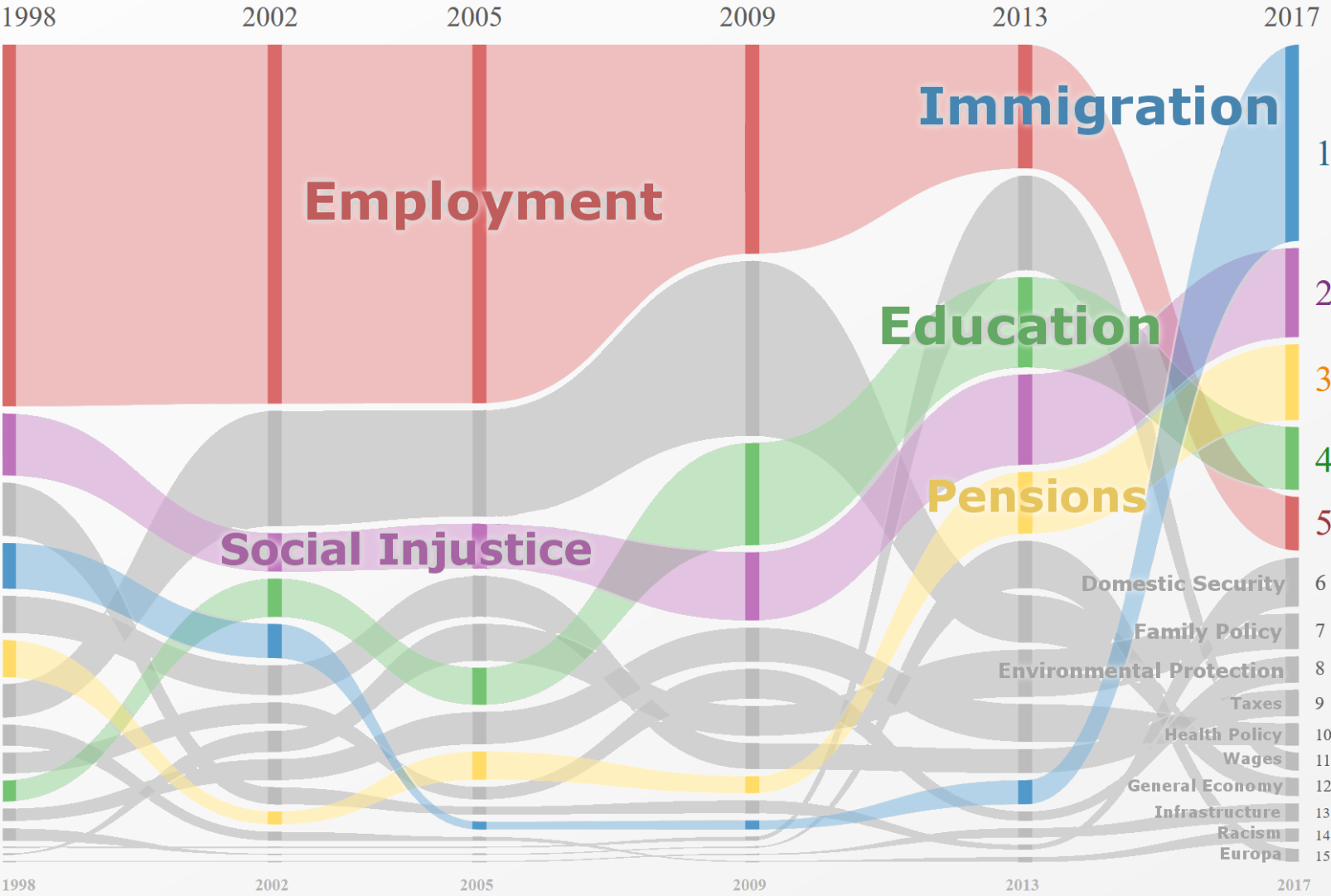


Change of mentions and support in polls



Did the media just give
the people what they
wanted?

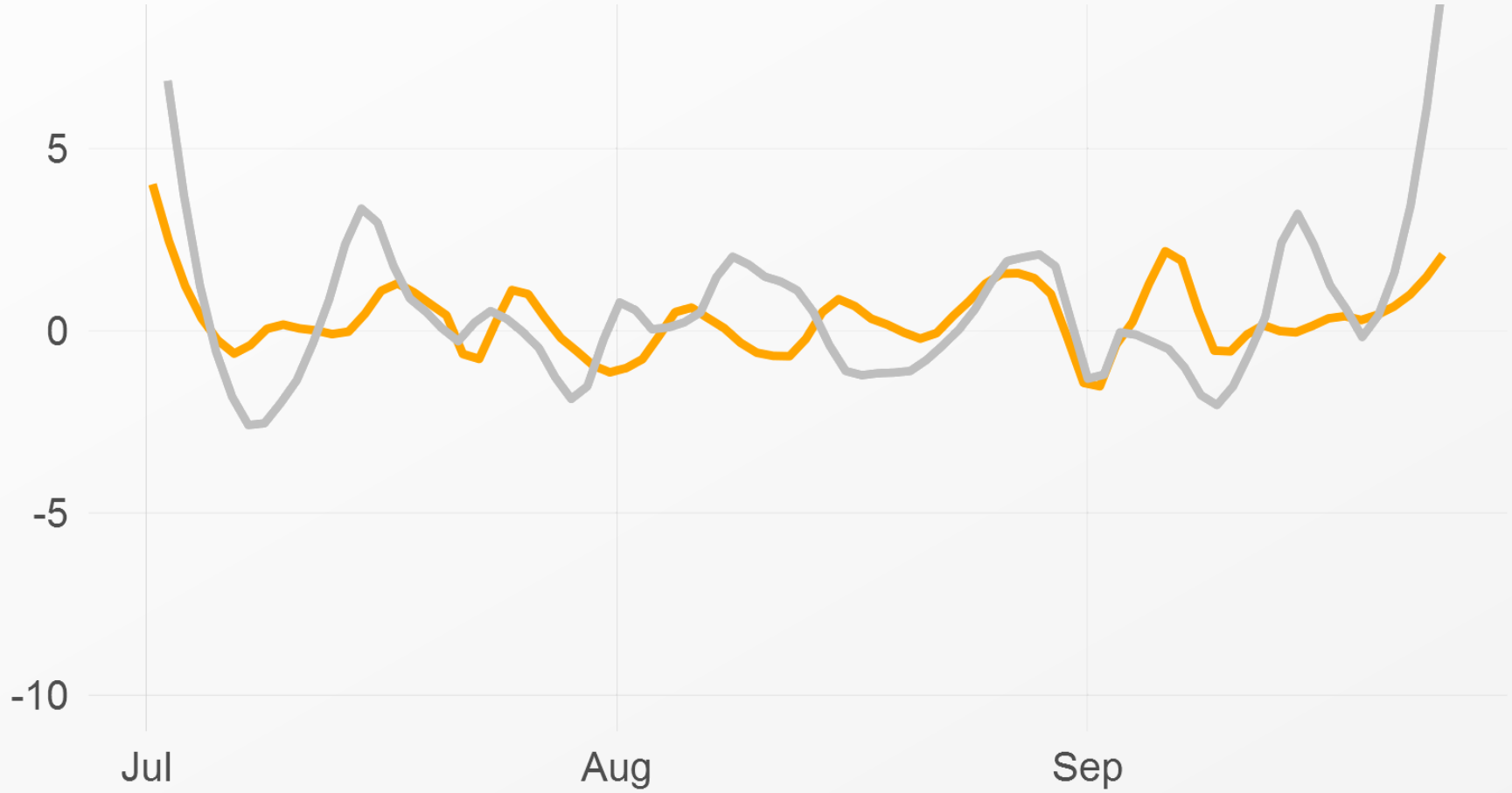
BuTaWa 2017 – A special Case



Adapted from: Berliner Morgenpost

Infratest Dimap

The Demand Side



— AfD-Mentions — Google Searches 'Refugees'

Media – public good vs. business

Business with measurable outcome.

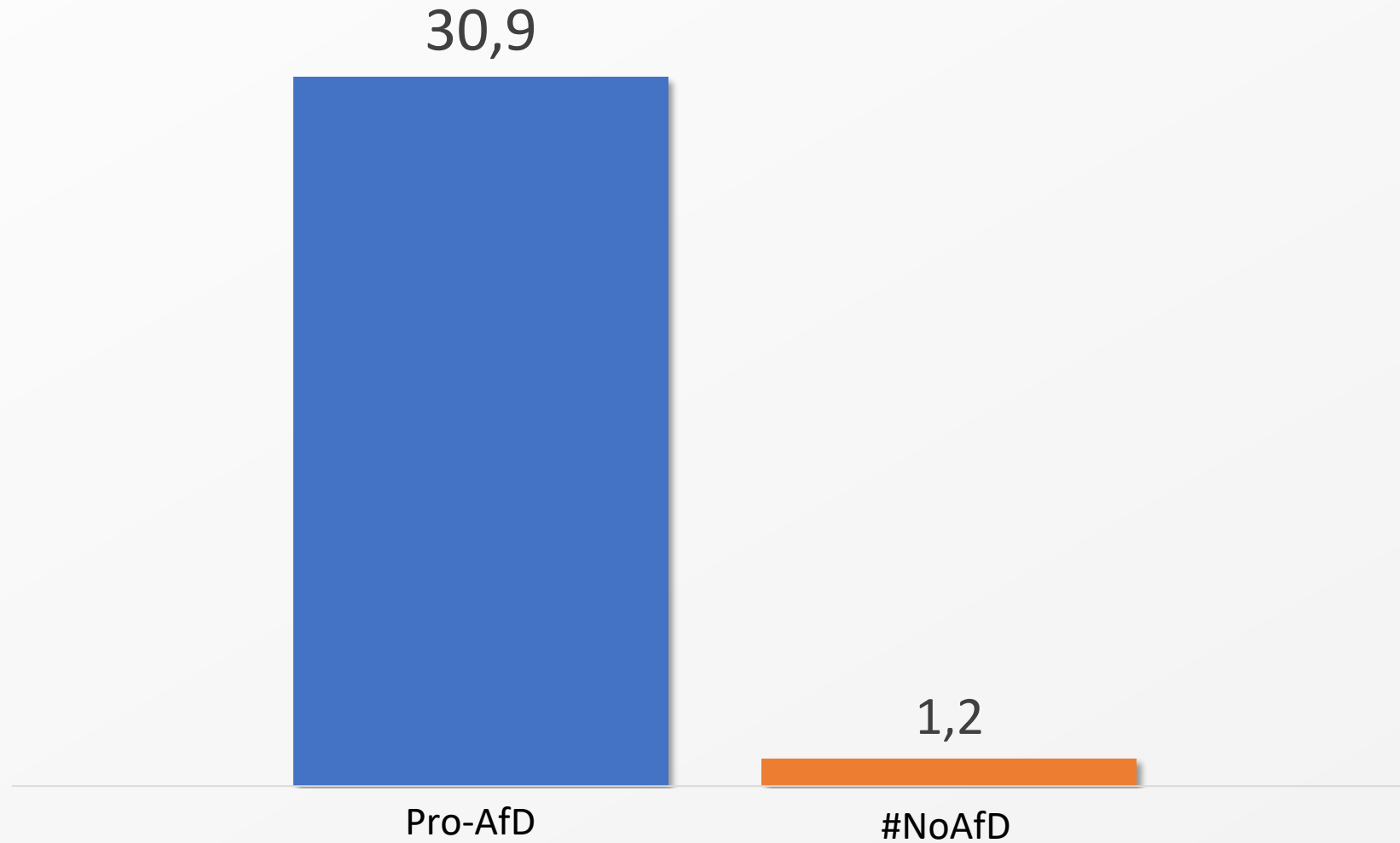
Consumer?

→ Demand-Side

Twitter

4.5 m Tweets

Of all Tweets containing one of the Top 200 #Hashtags...



Campaign Season on Twitter



Conclusion

Special Election

What does “it’s the journalists fault!” really mean?

Thank you!

abeyer@sfu.ca