

Abstract:

This diploma thesis deals with political polarization of Czech society regarding the trust in all presidents from 1990 till today. It introduces the term ‘political polarization’ and its main research areas, especially various aspects of the electorate polarization. The thesis describes theories of voters’ polarization, the specific relationship between polarization and ideological consistency, and topics of the polarizing influence of presidents, mass media and electoral process. The empirical section analyses the development of people’s polarization in terms of trusting presidents and determines whether the groups declaring strong trust and distrust show specific sociodemographic characteristics, political orientation and political engagement. Datasets from The Public Opinion Research Centre’s survey Our Society between the years 1990 and 2017 were used.