

1128-91-102

**Ethan Spangler\*** (ethan.spangler@wsu.edu), 1508 NW Leland Apt 301, Pullman, WA 99163, and **Ben Smith** (bosmith@unomaha.edu). *Let Them Tweet Cake: Estimating Political Stability Using Twitter Data.*

Traditional methods of estimating political stability have been shown to be unreliable, unable to adapt quickly to the realities on the ground. Thus it is the goal of this paper to create a new measure of political stability, one with a firm theoretical foundation and utilizes advances in social media technology. Twitter is a micro-blogging website that allows users to post short messages (tweets) that can be viewed and shared by other users, creating a vast network of freely and easily observable information. Tweets containing specified words or phrases voicing dissatisfaction with their government are collected, scored, and aggregated; forming the basis for the measure. Combining these estimates of aggregated dissent with macroeconomic data of the country within the previously established theoretical framework and we obtain an overall estimation of a country's political stability. A case study focusing on Canada and Kenya, has provided proof of concept. (Received February 16, 2017)