Analysis of decisionmaking processes through quantitative and qualitative discourse analysis
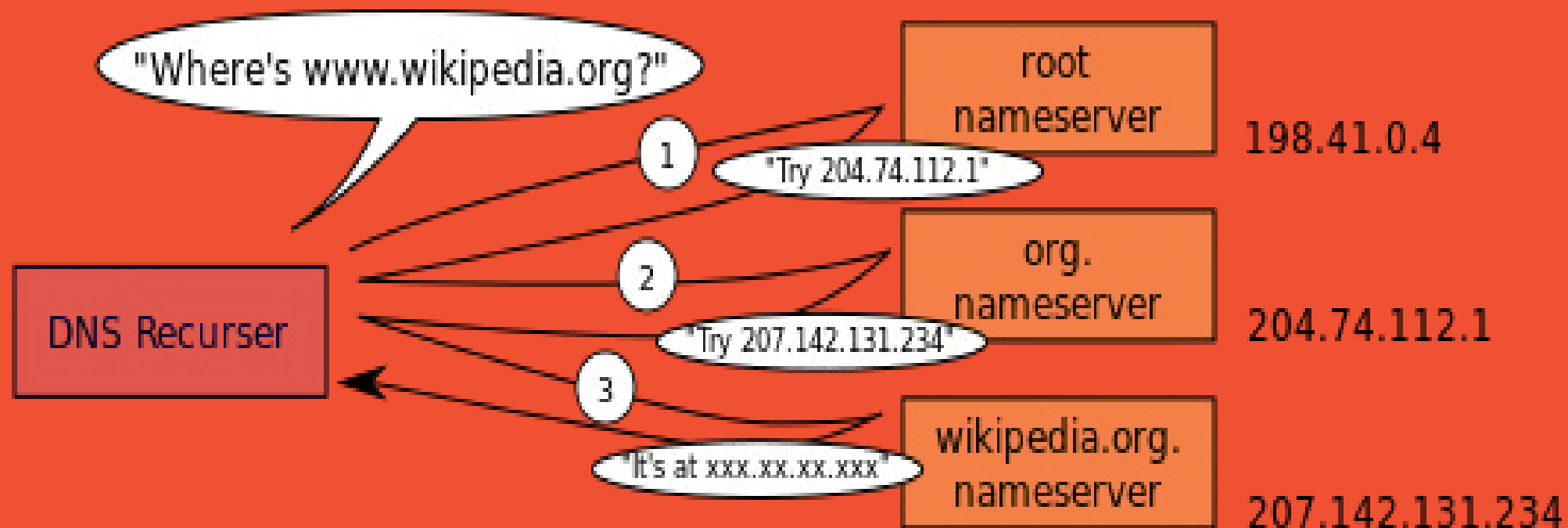
-

the case of ICANN and human rights
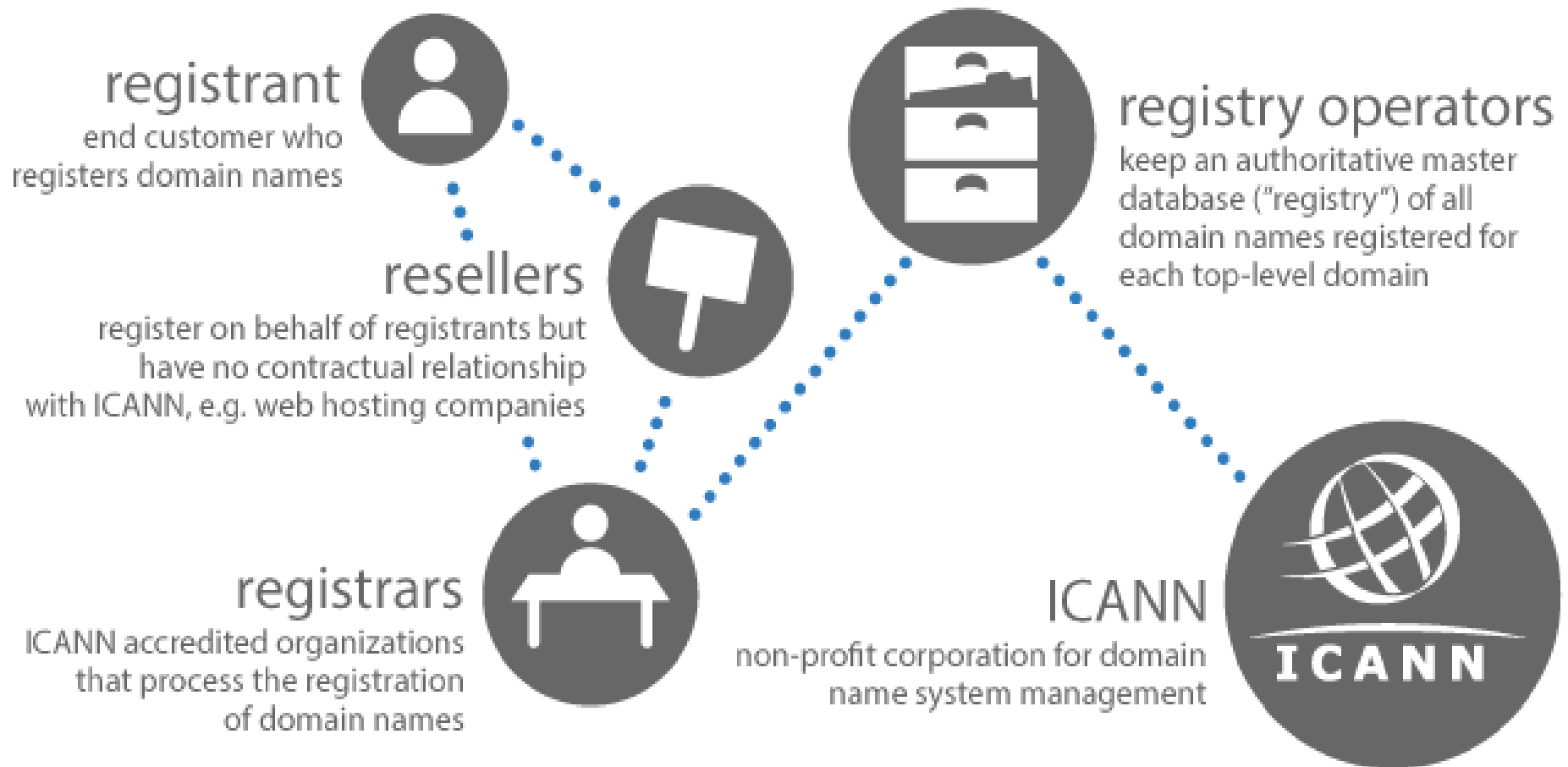
Why are we doing this?

- Following Susan Leigh Star's (1999) "call to study boring things",

- Internet is governed more than people think

- This happens in multistakeholder fashion

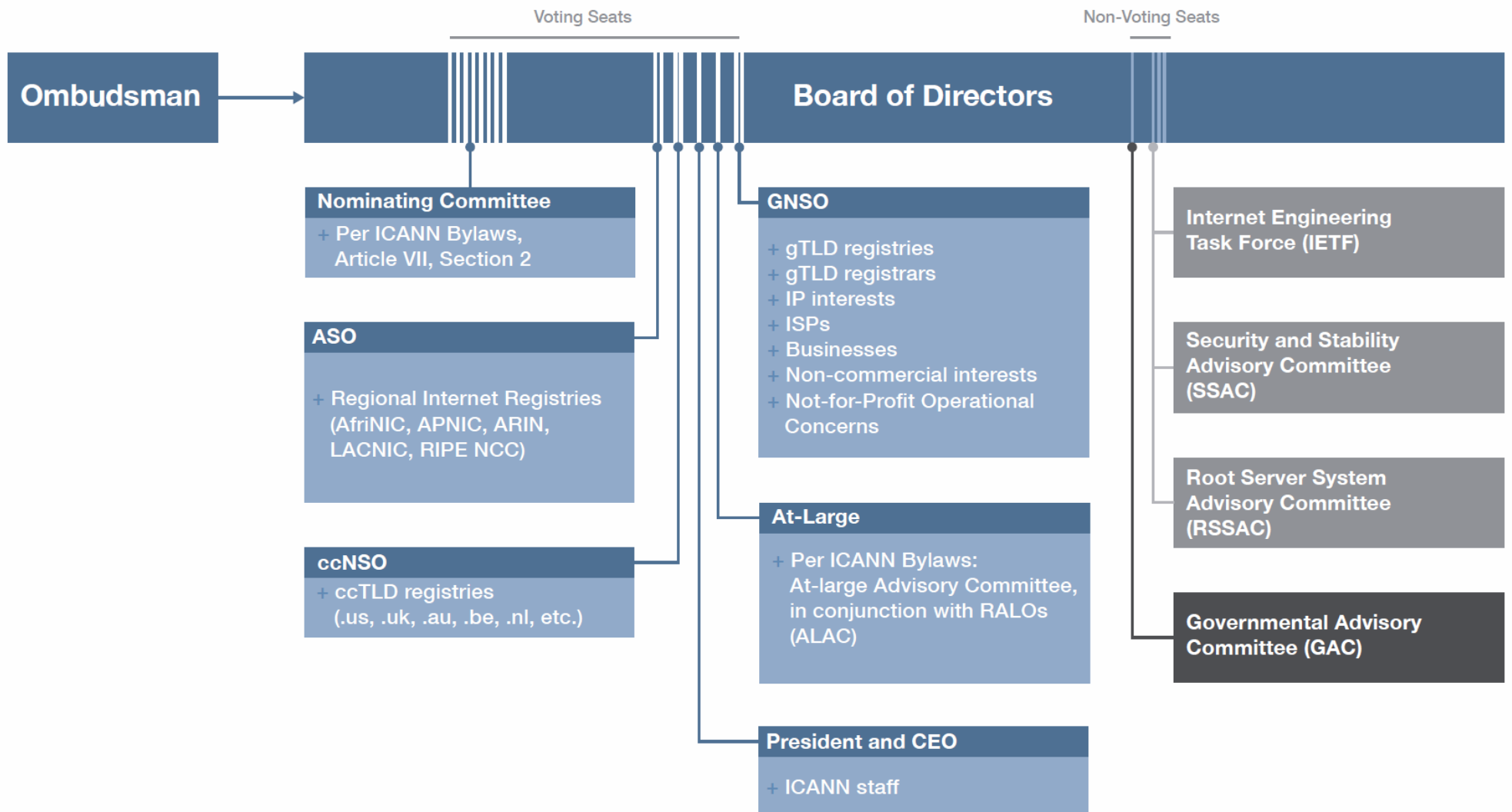- Decisions are made on mailinglists
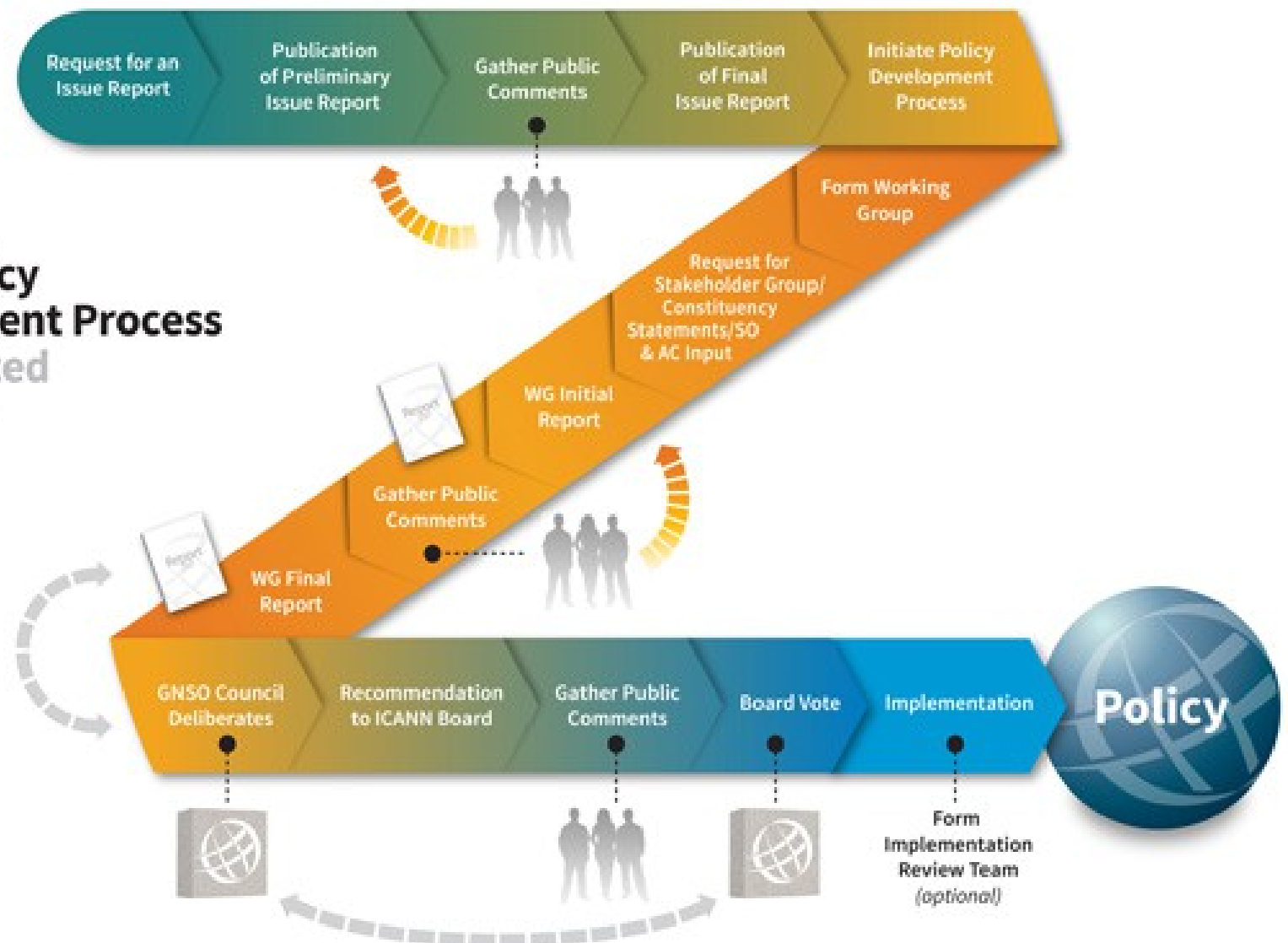
- Let's analyse!

Where?

registrant
end customer who registers domain names

resellers
register on behalf of registrants but have no contractual relationship with ICANN, e.g. web hosting companies

registrars
ICANN accredited organizations that process the registration of domain names

registry operators
keep an authoritative master database ("registry") of all domain names registered for each top-level domain

ICANN
non-profit corporation for domain name system management

domain registry process

Ombudsman

Board of Directors

Nominating Committee
+ Per ICANN Bylaws,
  Article VII, Section 2

ASO
+ Regional Internet Registries
  (AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN,
  LACNIC, RIPE NCC)

ccNSO
+ ccTLD registries
  (.us, .uk, .au, .be, .nl, etc.)

GNSO
+ gTLD registries
+ gTLD registrars
+ IP interests
+ ISPs
+ Businesses
+ Non-commercial interests
+ Not-for-Profit Operational
  Concerns

At-Large
+ Per ICANN Bylaws:
  At-large Advisory Committee,
  in conjunction with RALOs
  (ALAC)

President and CEO
+ ICANN staff

**Internet Engineering
Task Force (IETF)**

**Security and Stability
Advisory Committee
(SSAC)**

**Root Server System
Advisory Committee
(RSSAC)**

**Governmental Advisory
Committee (GAC)**

GNSO Policy Development Process

Summarized

Some steps omitted, for brevity.

Request for an Issue Report

Publication of Preliminary Issue Report

Gather Public Comments

Publication of Final Issue Report

Initiate Policy Development Process

Form Working Group

Request for Stakeholder Group/ Constituency Statements/SO & AC Input

WG Initial Report

Gather Public Comments

WG Final Report

GNSO Council Deliberates

Recommendation to ICANN Board

Gather Public Comments

Board Vote

Implementation

Form Implementation Review Team *(optional)*

Policy

Phase 1
Community Proposal

Phase 2
NTIA Review & Evaluation

Phase 3
Transfer of Stewardship

Multistakeholder Community Delivers

ICG Proposal

4-5 Months

Final Sign Off

CCWG-Accountability Proposal

60-90 days

30 L-days*

NTIA Review Process

Congressional Review

Finalize Implementation

ICG Proposal and CCWG-Accountability WS1 Operationalization

Bylaw Changes Drafted / Bylaw Changes Adopted

Accountability WS2 Proposal Process

ICANN 54

*L-days: Legislative Days

ICANN 56

Why?

"ICANN is bound to operate "for the benefit of the internet community as a whole, carrying out its activities in conformity with relevant principles of international law and applicable international conventions and local law"

- Article 4 of ICANN's Articles of Incorporation

ICANN's policies and operations have
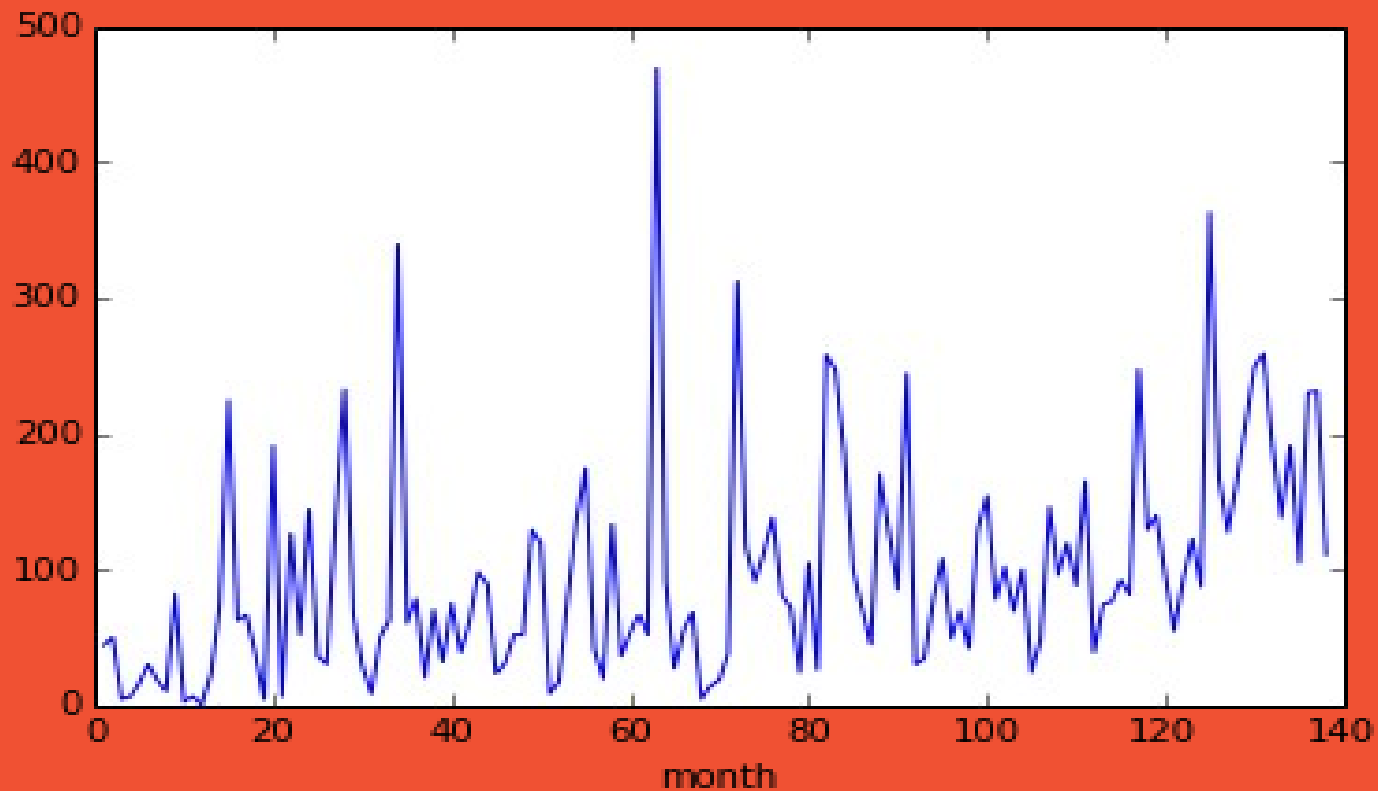the potential to impact human rights

How?

Analyse senders
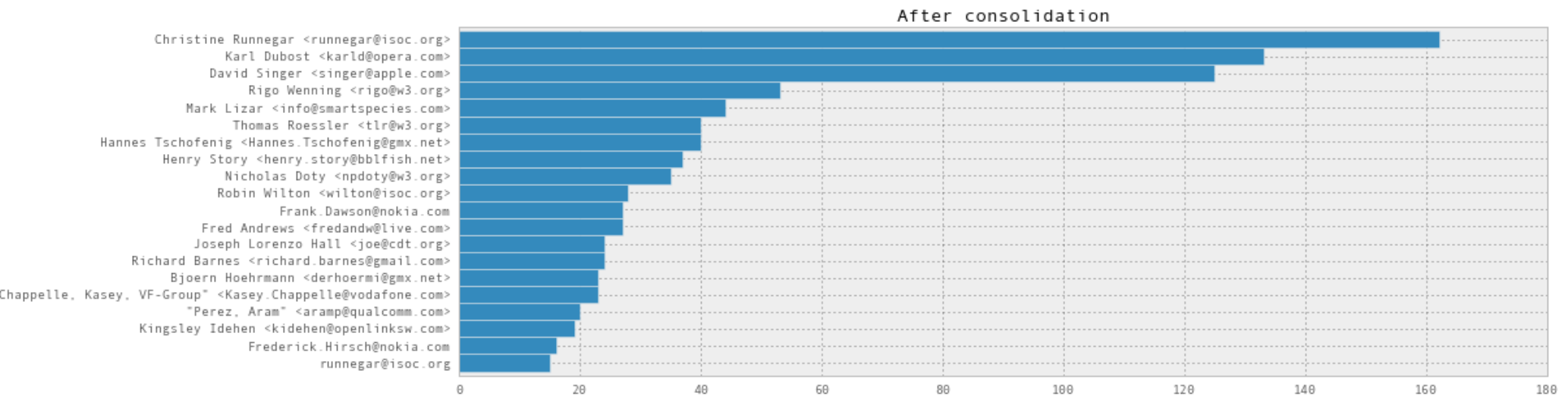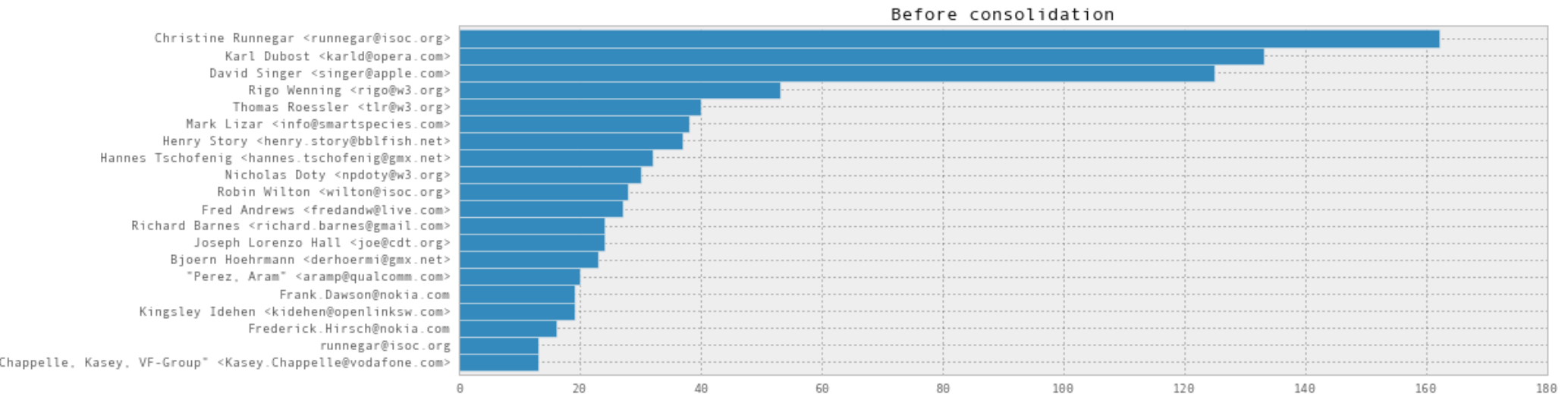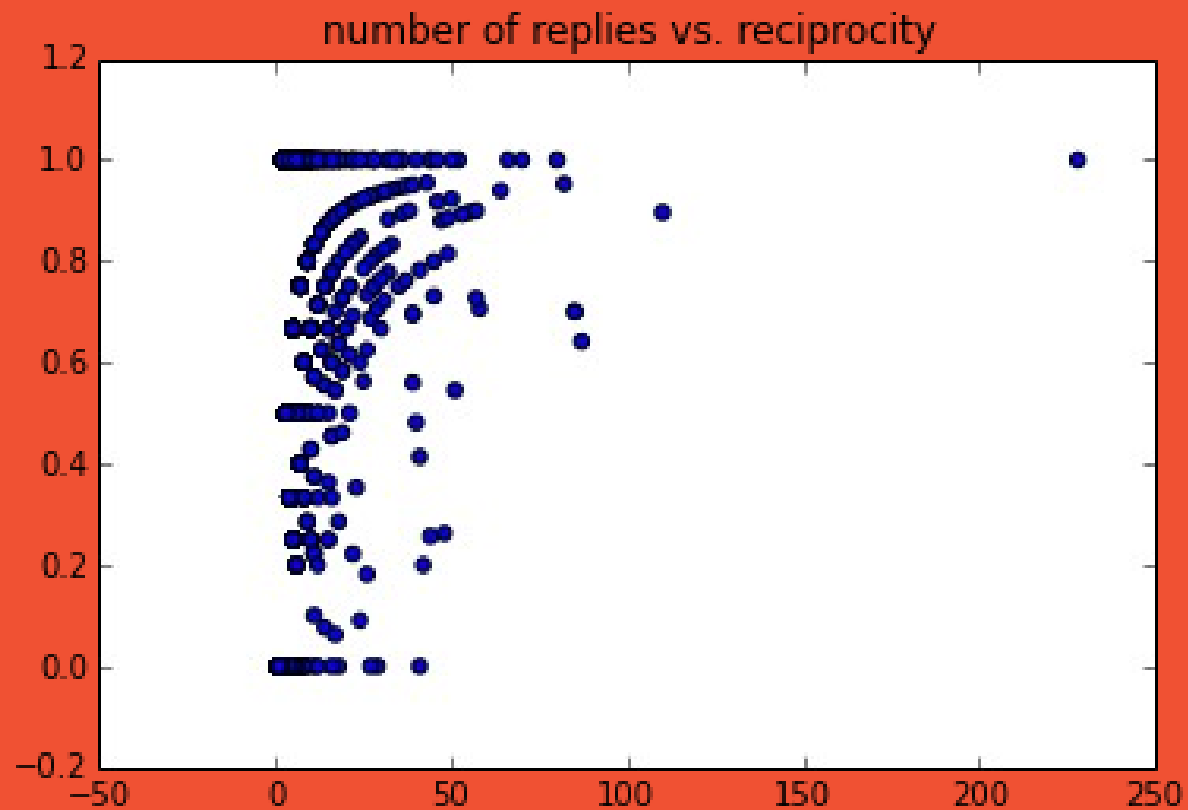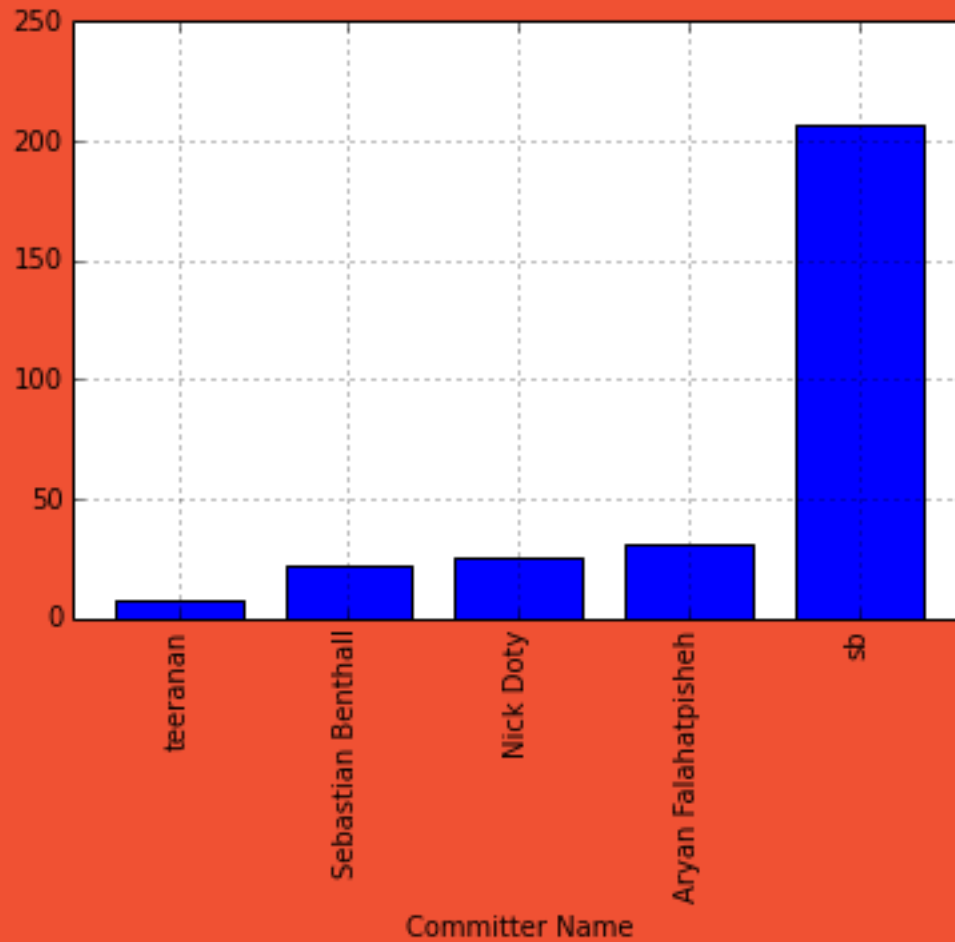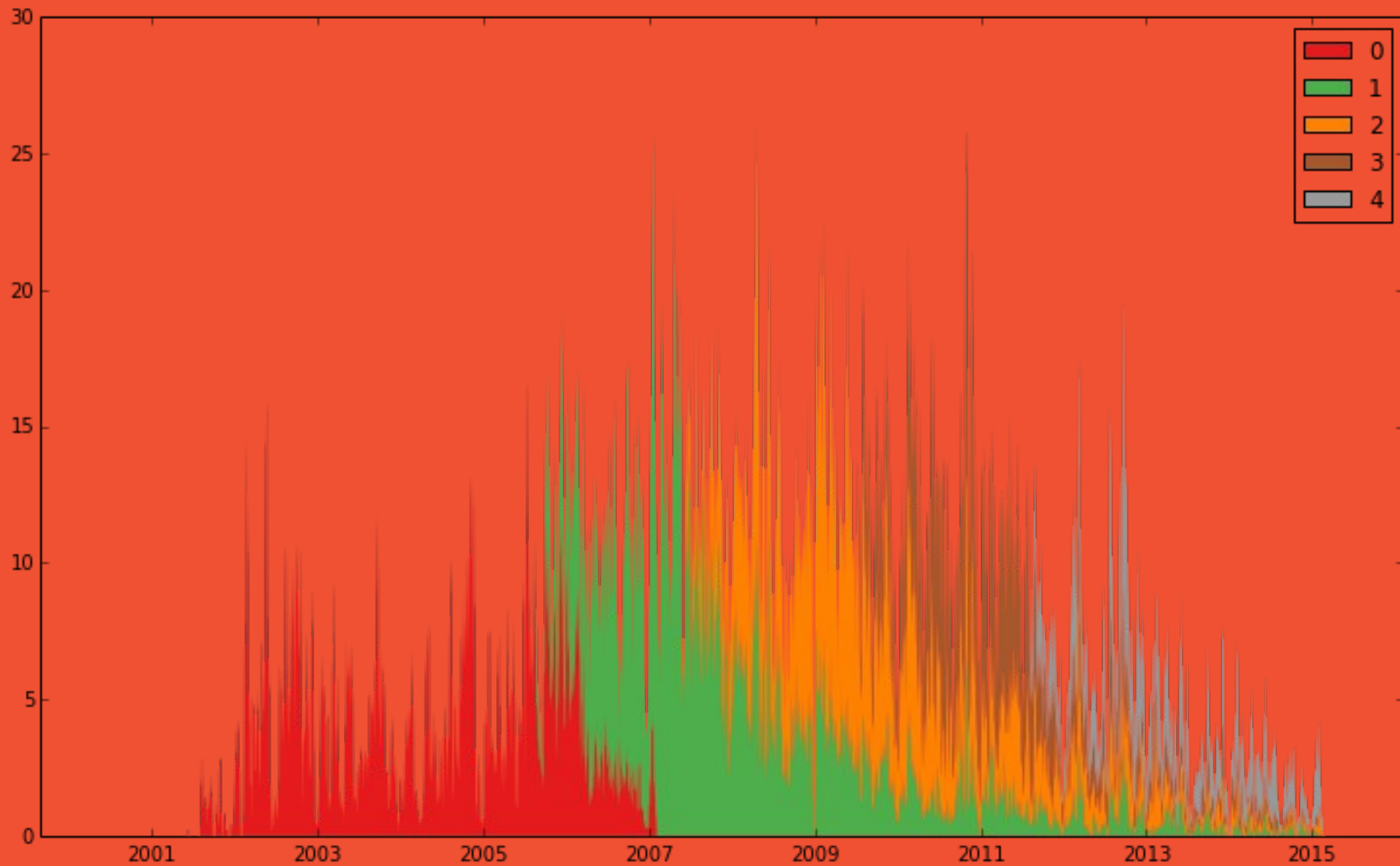
Single word trends

Collaboration Strength

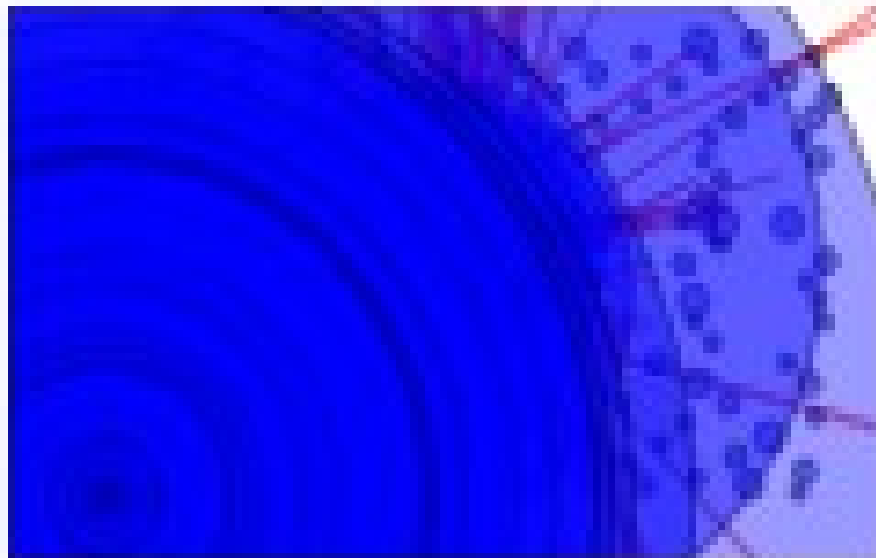number of replies vs. reciprocity

Committer dominance

Cohorts

Assortativity

When?

- Early 2000s up to now

- Coming week

What will you get from this?

- Understanding about ICANN
- Working with Python Notebooks
- Understanding of GIthub
- Become part of BigBang development community

Who?

- Sociologists
- Computer scientists
- Designers
- Political scientists
- Happy campers

Research Question

- How the commitment to human rights made it into ICANNs bylaws?

Hypothesis

- Debates on Human Rights were always present in ICANN, predominantly in the civil society / non-commercial constituency. But it did not get much response, so the rights agenda was pushed via single human rights such a the right to freedom of expression and the right to privacy, and later via social and economic rights. This paved the way for human rights in ICANN (which is now flourishing with a commitment to human rights in ICANNs bylaws.

References

ICANN Diagrams are produced by ICANN

www.icann.org