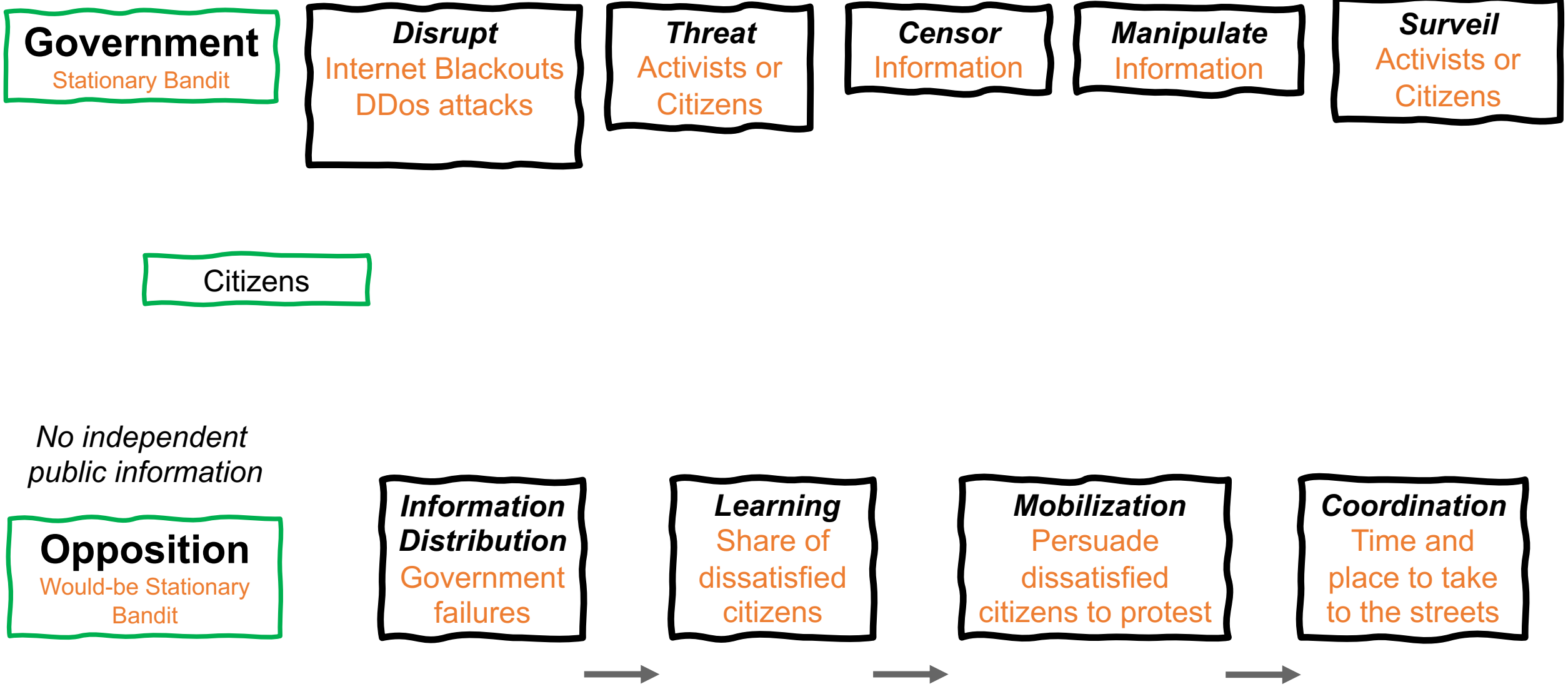# Conflict in Cyberspace

Graduate Seminar, Fall 2023

Instructor: Anton Sobolev

Week 10
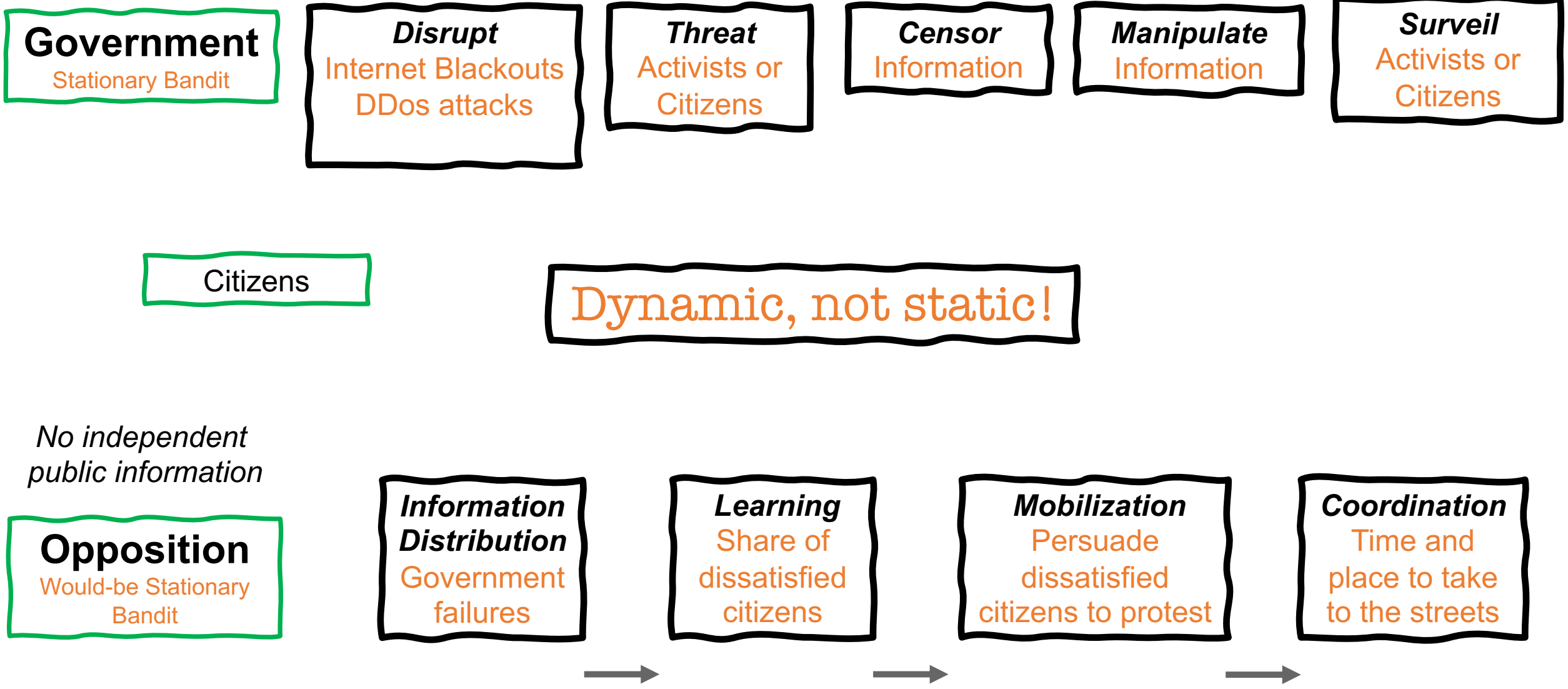**Seminar:** *Cyber Reshapes Domestic Conflict*
Lecture: *Content Moderation & Influence Operations*

Chess-Game Metaphor

Government
Stationary Bandit

Disrupt
Internet Blackouts
DDos attacks

Threat
Activists or
Citizens

Censor
Information

Manipulate
Information

Surveil
Activists or
Citizens

Citizens

*No independent
public information*

Opposition
Would-be Stationary
Bandit

*Information
Distribution*
Government
failures

Learning
Share of
dissatisfied
citizens

Mobilization
Persuade
dissatisfied
citizens to protest

Coordination
Time and
place to take
to the streets

Chess-Game Metaphor

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Activists or
Citizens

Citizens

Dynamic, not static!

No independent public information

Opposition
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Bandit

Information Distribution
Government
failures

Learning
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dissatisfied
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Persuade
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Coordination
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This week readings *logic?*

Enikolopov (2021)
☐ Political Effects of Internet and social media

Frantz (2020)
☐ Digital Repression in Autocracies

Albrecht (2021)
☐ Information Security & Protest

Underlying dynamics

Let's discuss readings!

Digital, but not Advanced Censorship

☐ **Wikipedia Ban in China**

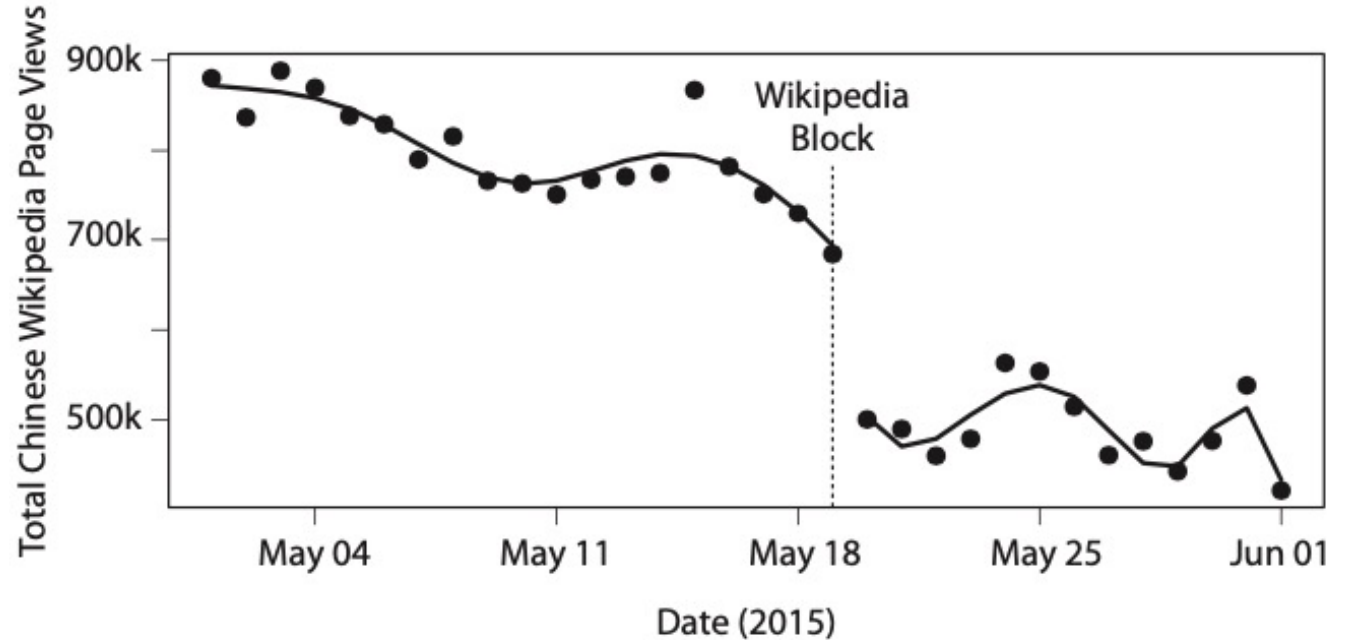☐ **Instagram Ban**
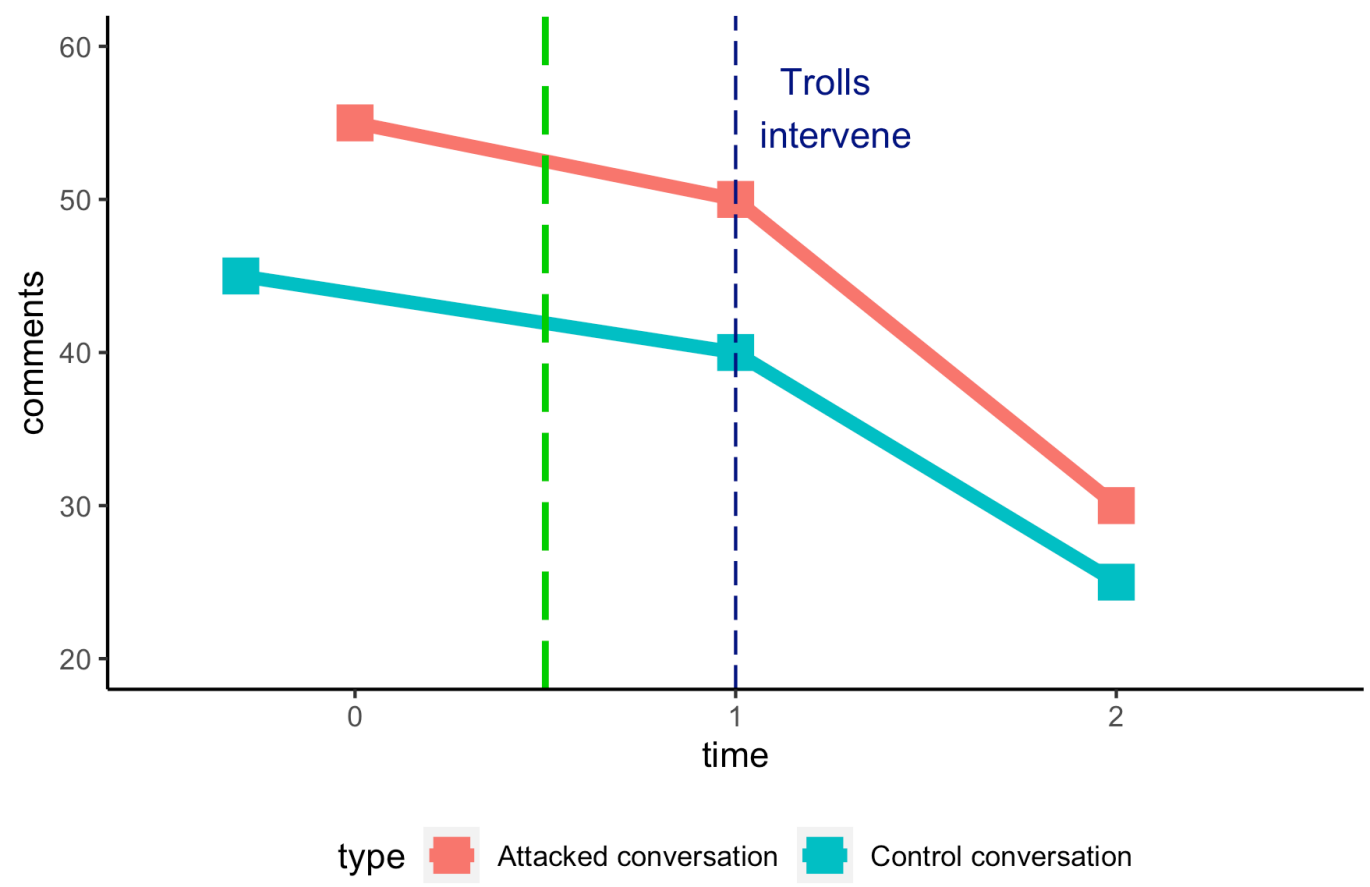   ☐ what will happen next?

Costs VS Benefits

Figure 5.10: Chinese language Wikipedia page views, May 2015. All Wikipedia pages were blocked from mainland China beginning on May 19, 2015.

Underlying dynamics

Flooding

Fake actors disrupting conversation

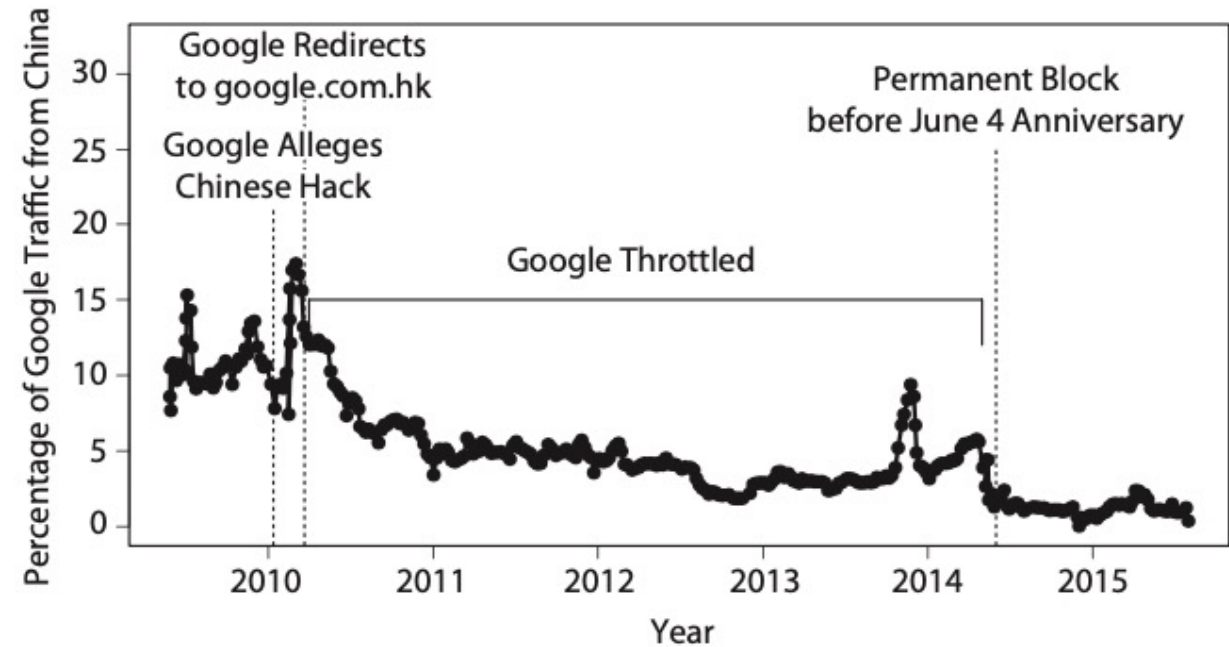What do we need to to estimate the effect of flooding?

Costs VS Benefits

Friction Seamless tactics

Friction tactics:
☐ Throttle the search engine

Costs VS Benefits

Underlying dynamics

Conclusions so far?