

# SCOPE Thesis

## Controlled Trials to Develop a Comparative Accuracy Metric Between Human and Machine-Automated Event Parsing

### Description:

In the past, geoParsing has employed a methodology of event parsing hosted in Google Sheets, which has at times been messy and unscientific. Event parsing is a time-intensive process. It requires reading hundreds-thousands of documents and identifying only relevant information to then log into specified fields. The goal of SCOPE is to create a more suitable environment for event parsing which allows for the integration of human and artificial intelligence, while also providing flexibility and effectiveness in project design. For geoParsing, we could use the SCOPE framework for BRIGHT and TRACAR's data collection. Over years, as we manually parse events, we are also creating the training data for machines to replicate the same process in the future through deep learning. SCOPE could also be applied outside of geoParsing's work to other fields/domains which require the ability to parse through massive amounts of text-based data.

The purpose of this set of trials is to develop a reasonable standard to compare the machine against. Humans are not 100% correct all the time when event parsing, so we should not expect machines to be either.

Over the course of four weeks (and two weeks of light onboarding beforehand), 15 participants from the geoParsing Team will extract and parse events from 240 unique sources. These sources will be assigned based on whether the participant is a member of BRIGHT or TRACAR. Each week, each participant will go through 4 sources for 8 minutes each; 5 minutes on extracting, and 3 minutes on parsing. Each session will be preceded by a brief introduction, making the total session last 35 minutes.

The sources will be from a mix of news outlets, with 112 on topics related to China and 128 on topics related to Russia. Each participant should parse events based on the work which is relevant to their team. Some of these sources will *not* be relevant to the participants' work, and it is their responsibility to assess whether sources have events to extract/parse, or whether they have none.

At the end of the trials, the results will be graded on accuracy.

***For Week 1, there are special rules. If an event belongs to multiple "activity codes" or "activity subcodes," only select the one which comes first alphabetically. If an event has multiple actors, only select the one which appears first in the extract. If an event has a long date range, opt for the start date.***

### Notes:

- Remember to log into your GitHub account before starting.
- Always make sure you do not already have a job checked out before you attempt to start another.

- In the Extracting (M) module, limit your use of the delete function. Instead, just copy/paste your extracts such that there are leftover empty boxes at the bottom of the list if you had to get rid of some.
- If you get an error message, immediately call Matt over to diagnose it. Most errors can be easily avoided.
- If you are uncertain about how to parse something, there are options for “Vague” and “Does not fit the current coding scheme.” Pick the one which best fits the situation.
- If you have suggestions for improvements to any part of the SCOPE site, let Matt know.

**Assignments:**

	Week 1			
Caroline	6-9			
Remy	10-13			
William	14-17			
Sophie	18-21			
Wendy	22-25			
Asha	26-29			
Kaitlyn	30-33			