

# Machine Learning

Justin Grimmer

Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Chicago

February 21st, 2018

# Measurement via repurposed discovery methods

- 1) Discovery categories, measure prevalence of categories
- 2) Once we fix **interpretation**, accuracy/precision/recall well defined

# LDA Revisited

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_k \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1})$$

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}_i | \boldsymbol{\alpha} \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\boldsymbol{\alpha})$$

$$\tau_{im} | \boldsymbol{\pi}_i \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)$$

$$x_{im} | \boldsymbol{\theta}_k, \tau_{imk} = 1 \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k)$$

# LDA Revisited

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{Unigram\ Model}_k &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1}) \\ \mathbf{Doc.\ Prop}_i &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{Pop.\ Proportion}) \\ \mathbf{Word\ Topic}_{im} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{Doc.\ Prop}_i) \\ \mathbf{Word}_{im} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{Unigram\ Model}_k)\end{aligned}$$

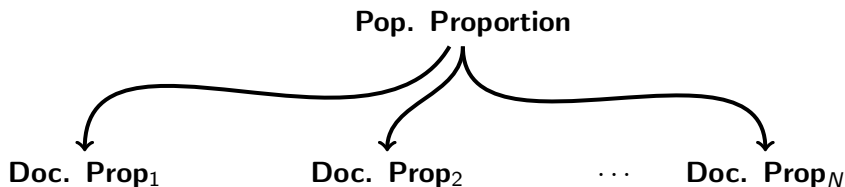
# A General Hierarchical Structure

LDA:

**Pop. Proportion**

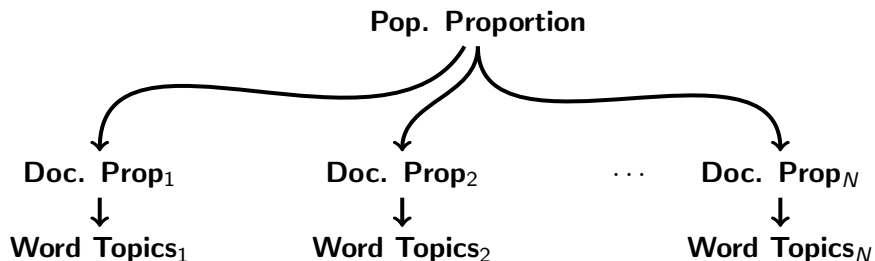
# A General Hierarchical Structure

LDA:



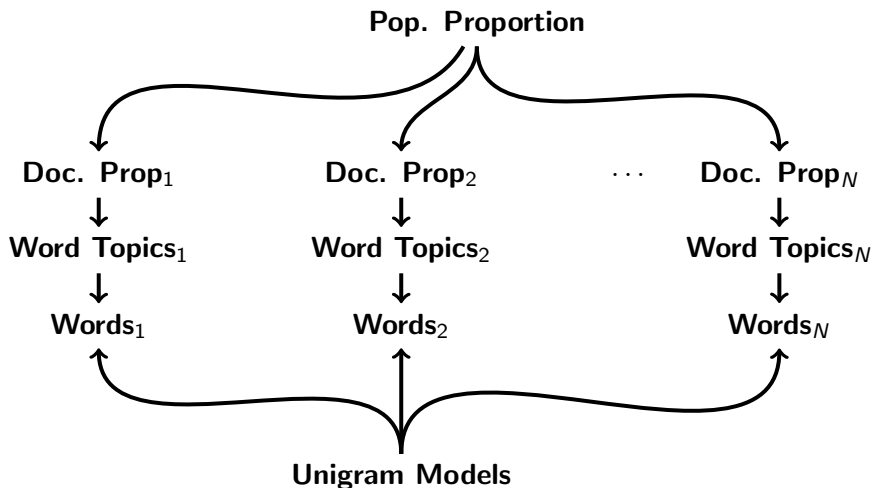
# A General Hierarchical Structure

LDA:



# A General Hierarchical Structure

LDA:





# A General Hierarchical Structure

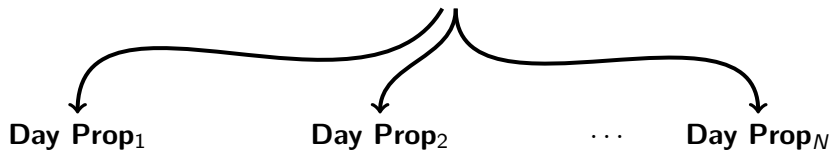
Dynamic Topic Model (Quinn et al 2010)

**Dynamic Prior Across Days**

# A General Hierarchical Structure

Dynamic Topic Model (Quinn et al 2010)

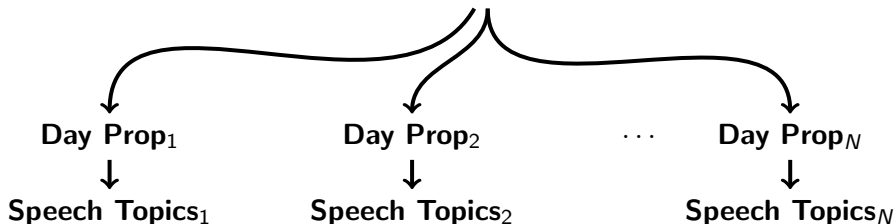
**Dynamic Prior Across Days**



# A General Hierarchical Structure

Dynamic Topic Model (Quinn et al 2010)

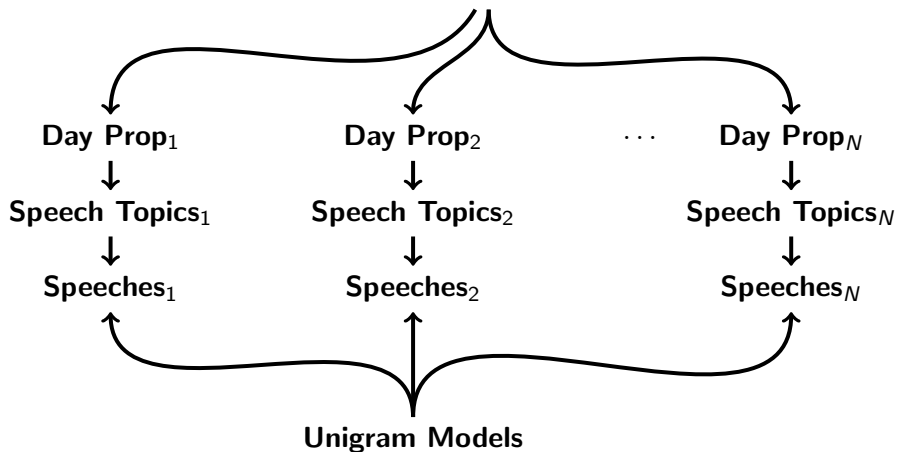
**Dynamic Prior Across Days**



# A General Hierarchical Structure

Dynamic Topic Model (Quinn et al 2010)

**Dynamic Prior Across Days**



# A General Hierarchical Structure

Expressed Agenda Model (Grimmer 2010)

**Average Attention Across Authors**

# A General Hierarchical Structure

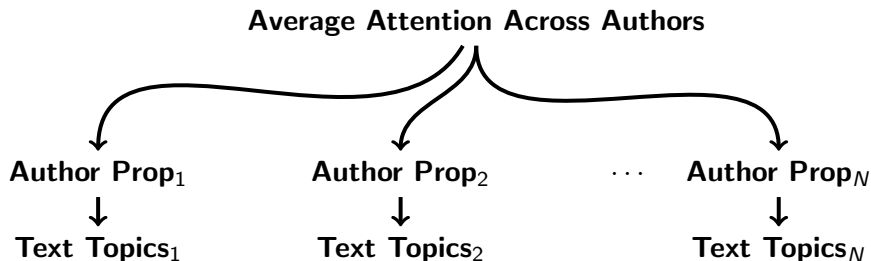
Expressed Agenda Model (Grimmer 2010)

**Average Attention Across Authors**



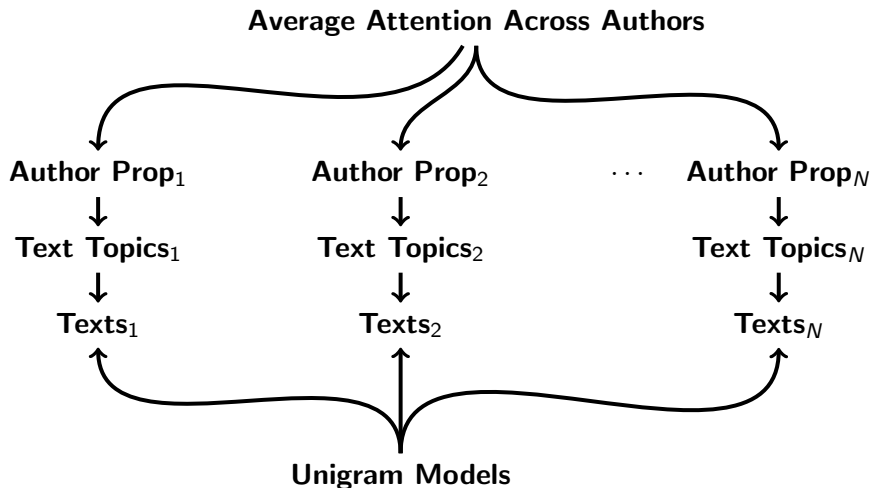
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Expressed Agenda Model (Grimmer 2010)



# A General Hierarchical Structure

Expressed Agenda Model (Grimmer 2010)





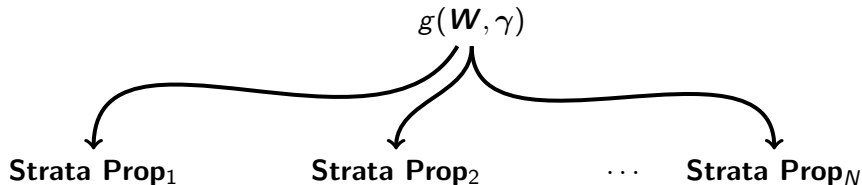
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Structural Topic Model (Roberts, Stewart, Airolidi 2014)

$$g(\mathbf{W}, \gamma)$$

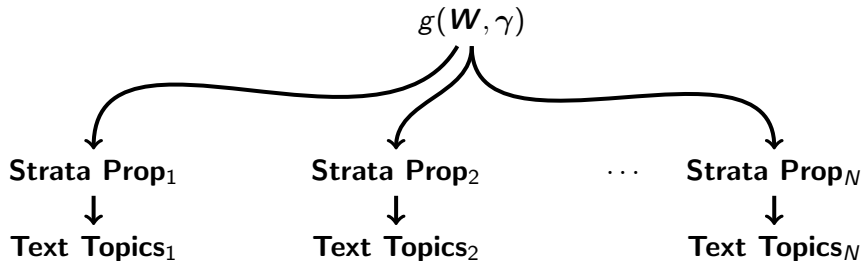
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Structural Topic Model (Roberts, Stewart, Airolidi 2014)



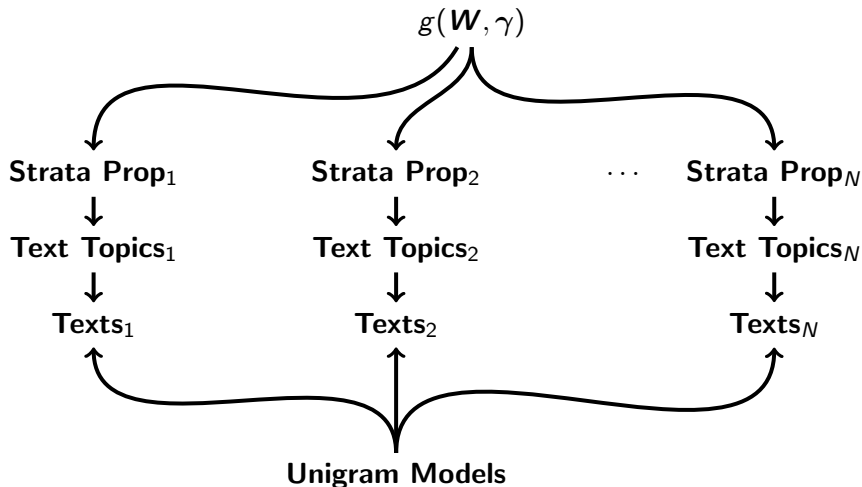
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Structural Topic Model (Roberts, Stewart, Airolidi 2014)



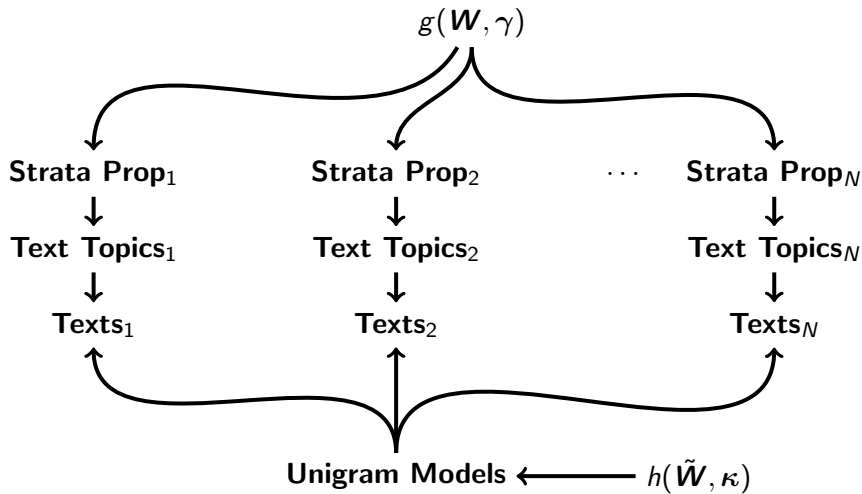
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Structural Topic Model (Roberts, Stewart, Airolidi 2014)



# A General Hierarchical Structure

Structural Topic Model (Roberts, Stewart, Airolidi 2014)



## R Code

# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates  $\rightsquigarrow$  levels of mixtures at proportions  
(Grimmer 2013; Wallach 2008)

## Mixture of Top. Attn. Models

# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates  $\rightsquigarrow$  levels of mixtures at proportions  
(Grimmer 2013; Wallach 2008)

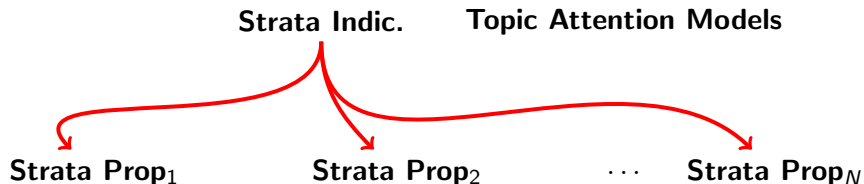
**Strata Indic.**

**Topic Attention Models**



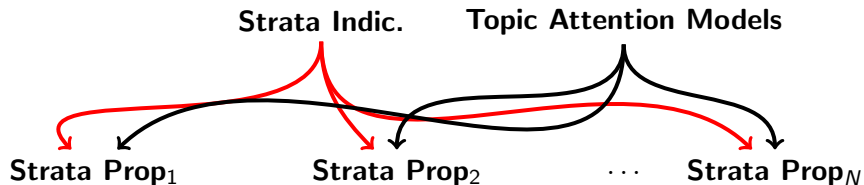
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates  $\rightsquigarrow$  levels of mixtures at proportions  
(Grimmer 2013; Wallach 2008)



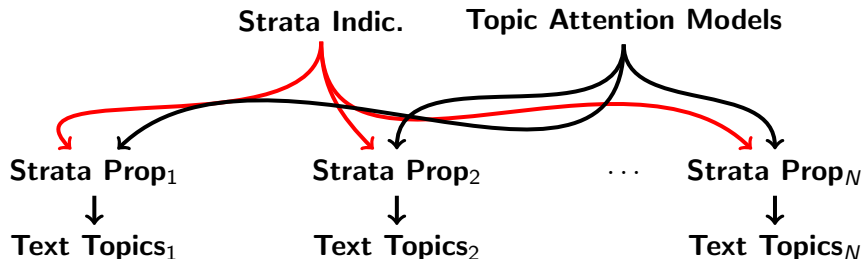
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates  $\rightsquigarrow$  levels of mixtures at proportions  
(Grimmer 2013; Wallach 2008)



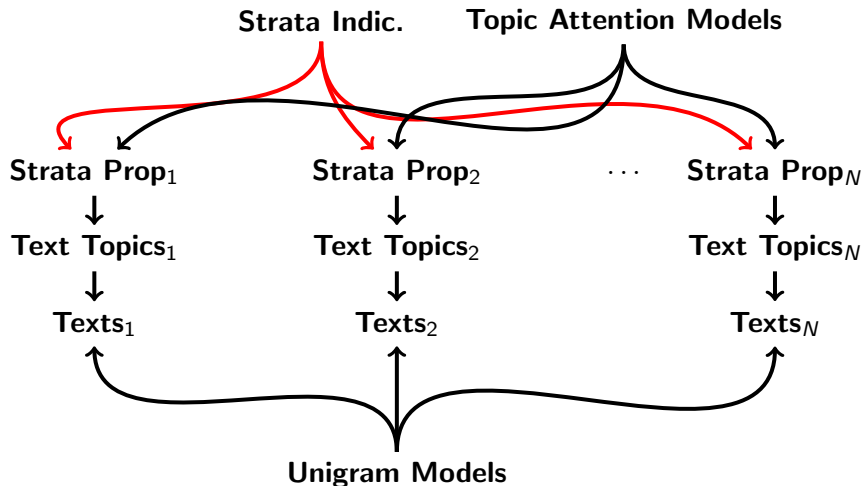
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates  $\rightsquigarrow$  levels of mixtures at proportions  
(Grimmer 2013; Wallach 2008)



# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates  $\rightsquigarrow$  levels of mixtures at proportions  
(Grimmer 2013; Wallach 2008)



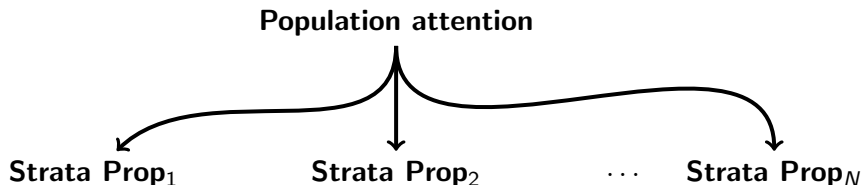
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates for Topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  hierarchy of topics (Li and McCallum 2006; Blaydes, Grimmer, and McQueen 2017)

**Population attention**

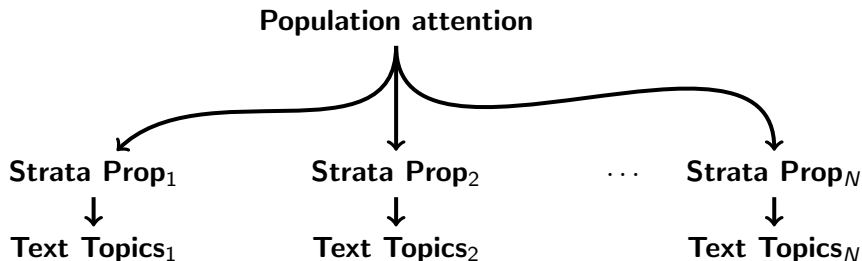
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates for Topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  hierarchy of topics (Li and McCallum 2006; Blaydes, Grimmer, and McQueen 2017)



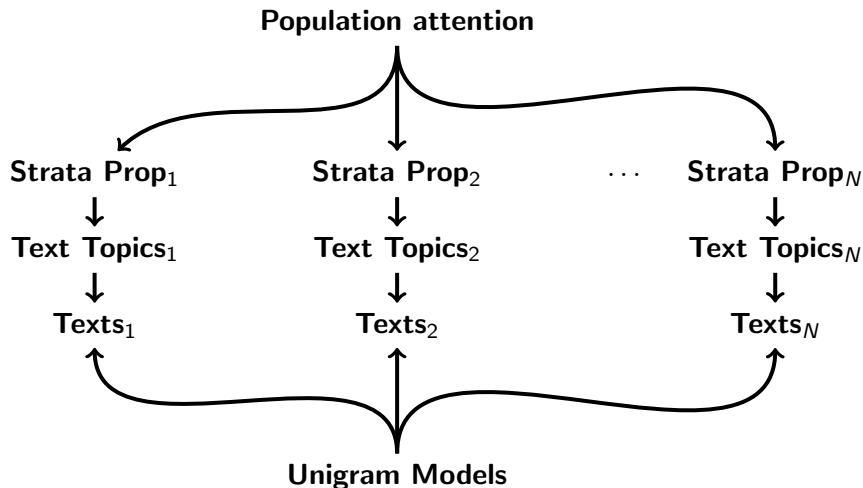
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates for Topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  hierarchy of topics (Li and McCallum 2006; Blaydes, Grimmer, and McQueen 2017)



# A General Hierarchical Structure

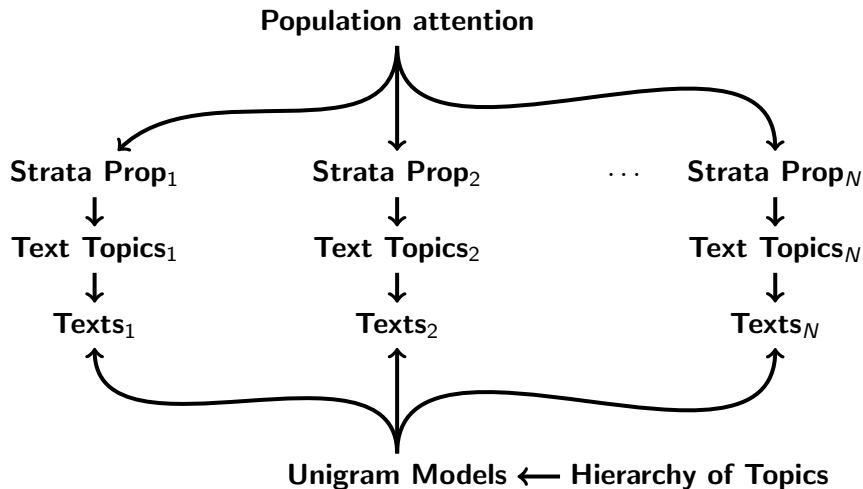
Conditioning on Unknown Covariates for Topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  hierarchy of topics (Li and McCallum 2006; Blaydes, Grimmer, and McQueen 2017)





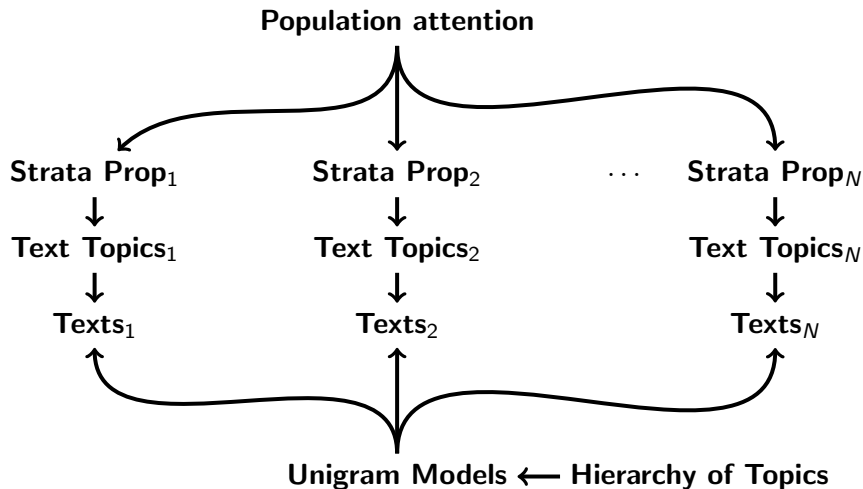
# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates for Topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  hierarchy of topics (Li and McCallum 2006; Blaydes, Grimmer, and McQueen 2017)



# A General Hierarchical Structure

Conditioning on Unknown Covariates for Topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  hierarchy of topics (Li and McCallum 2006; Blaydes, Grimmer, and McQueen 2017)



# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons

# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons
  - Additional structure corresponds to substantively interesting content

# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons
  - Additional structure corresponds to substantively interesting content
  - Avoids potential ad-hoc secondary analysis

# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons
  - Additional structure corresponds to substantively interesting content
  - Avoids potential ad-hoc secondary analysis
  - Clear data generating process

# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons
  - Additional structure corresponds to substantively interesting content
  - Avoids potential ad-hoc secondary analysis
  - Clear data generating process
- Statistical reasons



# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons
  - Additional structure corresponds to substantively interesting content
  - Avoids potential ad-hoc secondary analysis
  - Clear data generating process
- Statistical reasons
  - **Smoothing**  $\rightsquigarrow$  borrow information across groups intelligently

# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons
  - Additional structure corresponds to substantively interesting content
  - Avoids potential ad-hoc secondary analysis
  - Clear data generating process
- Statistical reasons
  - **Smoothing**  $\rightsquigarrow$  borrow information across groups intelligently
  - **Uncertainty**  $\rightsquigarrow$  potential for better uncertainty estimates

# Why Encode Structure in Extensions of LDA?

- Substantive reasons
  - Additional structure corresponds to substantively interesting content
  - Avoids potential ad-hoc secondary analysis
  - Clear data generating process
- Statistical reasons
  - **Smoothing**  $\rightsquigarrow$  borrow information across groups intelligently
  - **Uncertainty**  $\rightsquigarrow$  potential for better uncertainty estimates
  - **Improved topics**  $\rightsquigarrow$  small word conditions, structure could help

# Plan for the Class

- 1) Discuss model with unknown covariates for strata proportions  $\rightsquigarrow$  presentational style
- 2) Discuss model with hierarchy of topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  mirrors genre

# Unknown Covariates for Issue Attention: Measuring Attention in Senate Press Releases

Substantive problem:

# Unknown Covariates for Issue Attention: Measuring Attention in Senate Press Releases

Substantive problem:

Senators (representatives) regularly engage the public → presentational style

But we know little about this engagement

# Unknown Covariates for Issue Attention: Measuring Attention in Senate Press Releases

Substantive problem:

Senators (representatives) regularly engage the public → presentational style

But we know little about this engagement

Why? **Hard to Measure**

# Unknown Covariates for Issue Attention: Measuring Attention in Senate Press Releases

Substantive problem:

Senators (representatives) regularly engage the public → presentational style

But we know little about this engagement

Why? **Hard to Measure**

Describe model that facilitates estimation of **presentational styles** in Senate press releases



# Unknown Covariates for Issue Attention: Measuring Attention in Senate Press Releases

Substantive problem:

Senators (representatives) regularly engage the public → presentational style

But we know little about this engagement

Why? **Hard to Measure**

Describe model that facilitates estimation of **presentational styles** in Senate press releases

- Characterize representation provided to constituents

# Unknown Covariates for Issue Attention: Measuring Attention in Senate Press Releases

Substantive problem:

Senators (representatives) regularly engage the public → presentational style

But we know little about this engagement

Why? **Hard to Measure**

Describe model that facilitates estimation of **presentational styles** in Senate press releases

- Characterize representation provided to constituents
- Divide attention over a set of topics

# Unknown Covariates for Issue Attention: Measuring Attention in Senate Press Releases

Substantive problem:

Senators (representatives) regularly engage the public → presentational style

But we know little about this engagement

Why? **Hard to Measure**

Describe model that facilitates estimation of **presentational styles** in Senate press releases

- Characterize representation provided to constituents
- Divide attention over a set of topics
- Given attention to topics, write press releases

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Attention senator  $i$  allocates to issue  $k$  in year  $t$
- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Probability press release is about issue  $k$
- $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{it} = (\pi_{it1}, \dots, \pi_{it44})$

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Attention senator  $i$  allocates to issue  $k$  in year  $t$
- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Probability press release is about issue  $k$
- $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{it} = (\pi_{it1}, \dots, \pi_{it44})$

Press release-level parameters (press release  $j$  from senator  $i$  in year  $t$ )

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Attention senator  $i$  allocates to issue  $k$  in year  $t$
- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Probability press release is about issue  $k$
- $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{it} = (\pi_{it1}, \dots, \pi_{it44})$

Press release-level parameters (press release  $j$  from senator  $i$  in year  $t$ )

- **Assume**: Each press release  $j$  assigned to one topic.
- Let  $\tau_{ijt}$  indicate press release  $j$ 's topic.

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Attention senator  $i$  allocates to issue  $k$  in year  $t$
- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Probability press release is about issue  $k$
- $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{it} = (\pi_{it1}, \dots, \pi_{it44})$

Press release-level parameters (press release  $j$  from senator  $i$  in year  $t$ )

- **Assume**: Each press release  $j$  assigned to one topic.
- Let  $\tau_{ijt}$  indicate press release  $j$ 's topic.

$$\tau_{ijt} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{it})$$

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Attention senator  $i$  allocates to issue  $k$  in year  $t$
- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Probability press release is about issue  $k$
- $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{it} = (\pi_{it1}, \dots, \pi_{it44})$

Press release-level parameters (press release  $j$  from senator  $i$  in year  $t$ )

- **Assume**: Each press release  $j$  assigned to one topic.
- Let  $\boldsymbol{\tau}_{ijt}$  indicate press release  $j$ 's topic.

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}_{ijt} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{it})$$

- Conditional on topic, draw document's content.



# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Attention senator  $i$  allocates to issue  $k$  in year  $t$
- $\pi_{itk} \equiv$  Probability press release is about issue  $k$
- $\boldsymbol{\pi}_{it} = (\pi_{it1}, \dots, \pi_{it44})$

Press release-level parameters (press release  $j$  from senator  $i$  in year  $t$ )

- **Assume**: Each press release  $j$  assigned to one topic.
- Let  $\tau_{ijt}$  indicate press release  $j$ 's topic.

$$\tau_{ijt} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \boldsymbol{\pi}_{it})$$

- Conditional on topic, draw document's content.
- If  $\tau_{ijtk} = 1$  then

$$\mathbf{x}_{ijt} \sim \text{Multinomial}(n_{ijt}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_k).$$

# Priors

Each  $\pi_{it}$  is a draw from one-of- $S$  styles  $\rightsquigarrow$  mixture of Dirichlet distributions .

# Priors

Each  $\pi_{it}$  is a draw from one-of- $S$  styles  $\rightsquigarrow$  mixture of Dirichlet distributions .

$$\sigma_{it} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta).$$

# Priors

Each  $\pi_{it}$  is a draw from one-of- $S$  styles  $\rightsquigarrow$  mixture of Dirichlet distributions .

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta). \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s)\end{aligned}$$

# Priors

Each  $\pi_{it}$  is a draw from one-of- $S$  styles  $\rightsquigarrow$  mixture of Dirichlet distributions .

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta). \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1)\end{aligned}$$

# Priors

Each  $\pi_{it}$  is a draw from one-of- $S$  styles  $\rightsquigarrow$  mixture of Dirichlet distributions .

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta). \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1)\end{aligned}$$

Other priors:

# Priors

Each  $\pi_{it}$  is a draw from one-of- $S$  styles  $\rightsquigarrow$  mixture of Dirichlet distributions .

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta). \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1)\end{aligned}$$

Other priors:

$$\theta_k \sim \text{Multinomial}(\lambda)$$

# Priors

Each  $\pi_{it}$  is a draw from one-of- $S$  styles  $\rightsquigarrow$  mixture of Dirichlet distributions .

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta). \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1)\end{aligned}$$

Other priors:

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_k &\sim \text{Multinomial}(\lambda) \\ \beta &\sim \text{Multinomial}(\mathbf{1})\end{aligned}$$



# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

# Presentation Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

$$\begin{aligned}\beta &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1}) \\ \theta_k &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1)\end{aligned}$$

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

$$\begin{aligned}\beta &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1}) \\ \theta_k &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\lambda) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1) \\ \sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta)\end{aligned}$$

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

$$\begin{aligned}\beta &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1}) \\ \theta_k &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\lambda) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1) \\ \sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta) \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s)\end{aligned}$$

# Presentation Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

$$\begin{aligned}\beta &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1}) \\ \theta_k &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\lambda) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1) \\ \sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta) \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s) \\ \tau_{ijt} | \pi_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \pi_{it})\end{aligned}$$

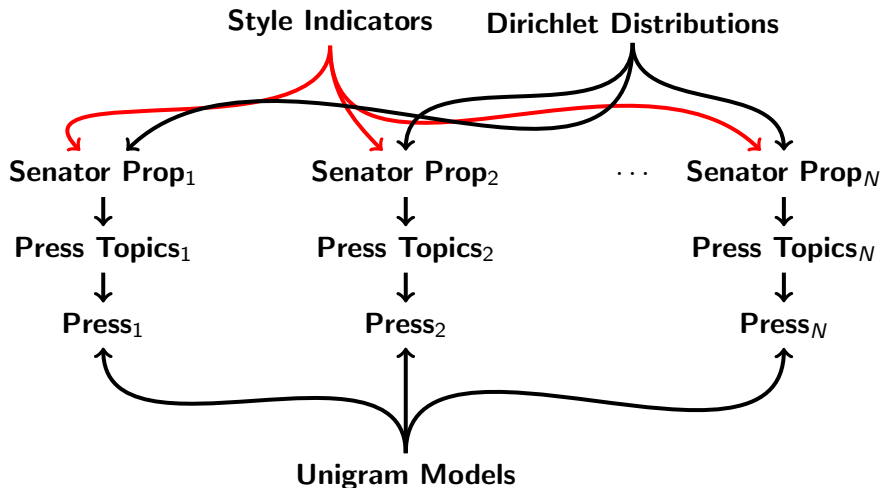
# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

$$\begin{aligned}\beta &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1}) \\ \theta_k &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\lambda) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1) \\ \sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta) \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s) \\ \tau_{ijt} | \pi_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \pi_{it}) \\ \mathbf{x}_{ijt} | \tau_{ijtk} = 1, \theta_k &\sim \text{Multinomial}(n_{ijt}, \theta_k)\end{aligned}$$

# Presentational Styles $\rightsquigarrow$ Objective Function

$$\begin{aligned}\beta &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\mathbf{1}) \\ \theta_k &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\lambda) \\ \alpha_{ks} &\sim \text{Gamma}(0.25, 1) \\ \sigma_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \beta) \\ \pi_{it} | \sigma_{its} = 1, \alpha_s &\sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_s) \\ \tau_{ijt} | \pi_{it} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \pi_{it}) \\ \mathbf{x}_{ijt} | \tau_{ijtk} = 1, \theta_k &\sim \text{Multinomial}(n_{ijt}, \theta_k)\end{aligned}$$

# Mixture of Styles, Mixture of Topics





## Posterior:

$$p(\alpha, \beta, \theta, \sigma, \pi, \tau | \mathbf{X}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{s=1}^S \frac{\exp(-\frac{\alpha_{ks}}{1/4})}{1/4} \times \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{w=1}^W \lambda_w)}{\prod_{w=1}^W \Gamma(\lambda_w)} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{k,w}^{\lambda_w-1} \times$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{t=2005}^{2007} \prod_{s=1}^S \left[ \beta_s \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{ks})}{\prod_{k=1}^K \Gamma(\alpha_{ks})} \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_{itk}^{\alpha_{ks}-1} \prod_{j=1}^{D_{it}} \prod_{k=1}^K \left[ \pi_{itk} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{kw}^{x_{ijtw}} \right]^{\tau_{ijtk}} \right]^{\sigma_{its}}$$

Posterior:

$$p(\alpha, \beta, \theta, \sigma, \pi, \tau | \mathbf{X}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{s=1}^S \frac{\exp(-\frac{\alpha_{ks}}{1/4})}{1/4} \times \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{w=1}^W \lambda_w)}{\prod_{w=1}^W \Gamma(\lambda_w)} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{k,w}^{\lambda_w-1} \times$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{t=2005}^{2007} \prod_{s=1}^S \left[ \beta_s \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{ks})}{\prod_{k=1}^K \Gamma(\alpha_{ks})} \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_{itk}^{\alpha_{ks}-1} \prod_{j=1}^{D_{it}} \prod_{k=1}^K \left[ \pi_{itk} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{kw}^{x_{ijtw}} \right]^{\tau_{ijtk}} \right]^{\sigma_{its}}$$

## 1) Estimate with Variational Approximation

Posterior:

$$p(\alpha, \beta, \theta, \sigma, \pi, \tau | \mathbf{X}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{s=1}^S \frac{\exp(-\frac{\alpha_{ks}}{1/4})}{1/4} \times \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{w=1}^W \lambda_w)}{\prod_{w=1}^W \Gamma(\lambda_w)} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{k,w}^{\lambda_w-1} \times$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{t=2005}^{2007} \prod_{s=1}^S \left[ \beta_s \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{ks})}{\prod_{k=1}^K \Gamma(\alpha_{ks})} \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_{itk}^{\alpha_{ks}-1} \prod_{j=1}^{D_{it}} \prod_{k=1}^K \left[ \pi_{itk} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{kw}^{x_{ijtw}} \right]^{\tau_{ijtk}} \right]^{\sigma_{its}}$$

- 1) Estimate with Variational Approximation
- 2) Determining number of clusters at top? (Grimmer, Shorey, Wallach, and Zlotnick, In Progress)

Posterior:

$$p(\alpha, \beta, \theta, \sigma, \pi, \tau | \mathbf{X}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{s=1}^S \frac{\exp(-\frac{\alpha_{ks}}{1/4})}{1/4} \times \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{w=1}^W \lambda_w)}{\prod_{w=1}^W \Gamma(\lambda_w)} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{k,w}^{\lambda_w-1} \times$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{t=2005}^{2007} \prod_{s=1}^S \left[ \beta_s \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{ks})}{\prod_{k=1}^K \Gamma(\alpha_{ks})} \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_{itk}^{\alpha_{ks}-1} \prod_{j=1}^{D_{it}} \prod_{k=1}^K \left[ \pi_{itk} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{kw}^{x_{ijtw}} \right]^{\tau_{ijtk}} \right]^{\sigma_{its}}$$

- 1) Estimate with Variational Approximation
- 2) Determining number of clusters at top? (Grimmer, Shorey, Wallach, and Zlotnick, In Progress)
  - Non-parametric model  $\rightsquigarrow$  statistical selection

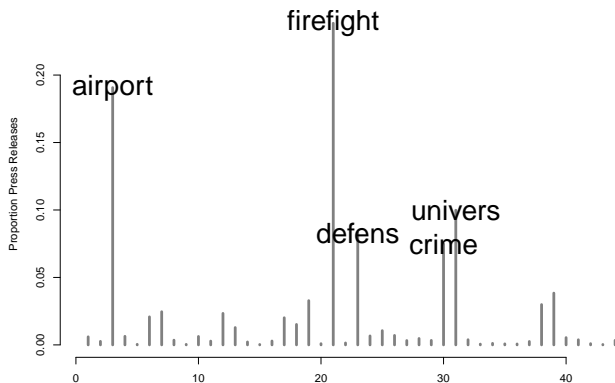
Posterior:

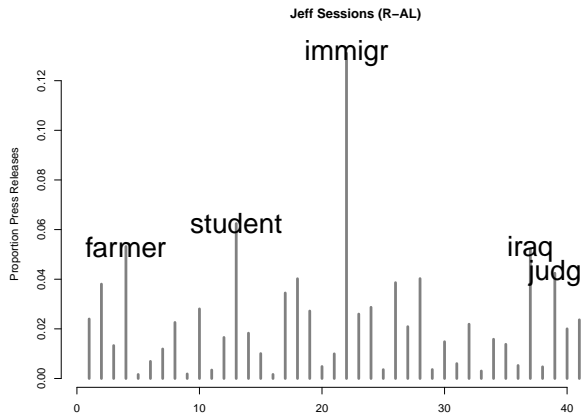
$$p(\alpha, \beta, \theta, \sigma, \pi, \tau | \mathbf{X}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{s=1}^S \frac{\exp(-\frac{\alpha_{ks}}{1/4})}{1/4} \times \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{w=1}^W \lambda_w)}{\prod_{w=1}^W \Gamma(\lambda_w)} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{k,w}^{\lambda_w-1} \times$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{t=2005}^{2007} \prod_{s=1}^S \left[ \beta_s \frac{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_{ks})}{\prod_{k=1}^K \Gamma(\alpha_{ks})} \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_{itk}^{\alpha_{ks}-1} \prod_{j=1}^{D_{it}} \prod_{k=1}^K \left[ \pi_{itk} \prod_{w=1}^W \theta_{kw}^{x_{ijtw}} \right]^{\tau_{ijtk}} \right]^{\sigma_{its}}$$

- 1) Estimate with Variational Approximation
- 2) Determining number of clusters at top? (Grimmer, Shorey, Wallach, and Zlotnick, In Progress)
  - Non-parametric model  $\rightsquigarrow$  statistical selection
  - Experiments/Coding Exercises to assess

Richard Shelby (R-AL)





# Notions of validity: From Quinn, Monroe, et al (2010)

- **Semantic Validity:** All categories are coherent and meaningful
- **Convergent Construct Validity:** Measures concur with existing measures in critical details.
- **Discriminant Construct Validity:** Measures differ from existing measures in productive ways.
- **Predictive Measure:** Measures from the model corresponds to external events in expected ways.
- **Hypothesis Validity:** Measures generated from the model can be used to test substantive hypotheses.

To establish utility of new measures, demonstrate variety of **validations**

**None of these validations are performed using a canned statistic**

**All:** require substantive knowledge on areas (and what we expect!) [



# Home Style Measures, Semantic Validity

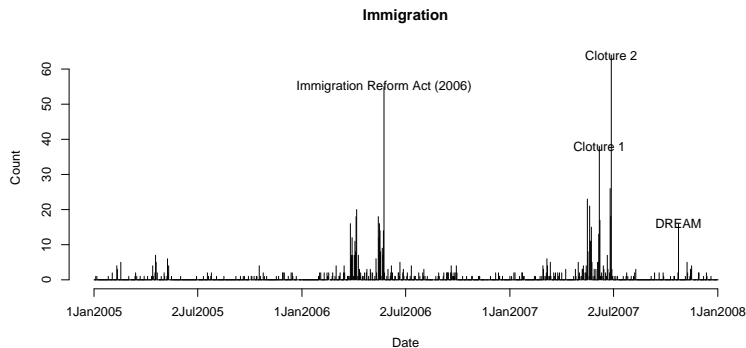
**Must:** Demonstrate to reader that topics are coherent and semantically meaningful

Description	Stems	%
Honorary	honor,prayer,rememb,fund,tribut	5.0
Transp. Grants	airport,transport,announc,urban,hud	4.8
Iraq	iraq,iraqi,troop,war,sectarian	4.7
DHS Policy	homeland,port,terrorist,dh,fema	4.1
Judicial Nom.	judg,court,suprem,nomin,nomine	3.8
Fire Dept. Grant	firefight,homeland,afgp,award,equip	3.7

How: **examples** in text are also useful.

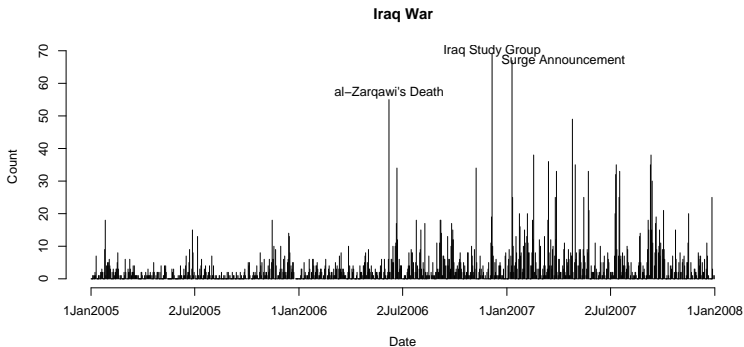
# Home Style Measures, Convergent Validity

## Over time variation



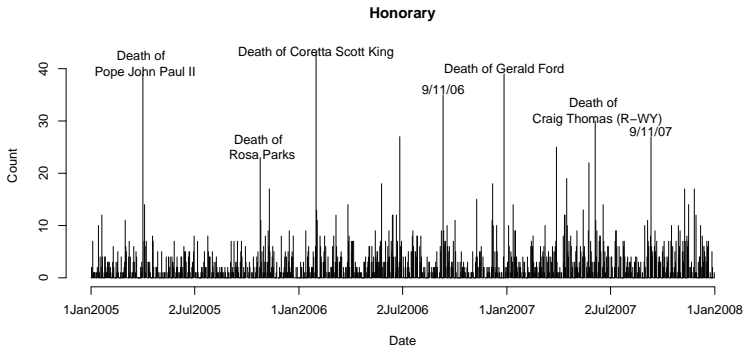
# Home Style Measures, Convergent Validity

## Over time variation



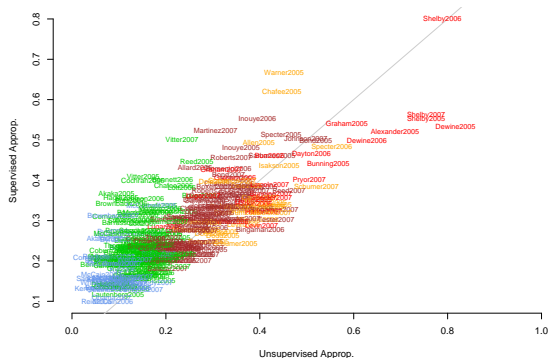
# Home Style Measures, Convergent Validity

## Over time variation

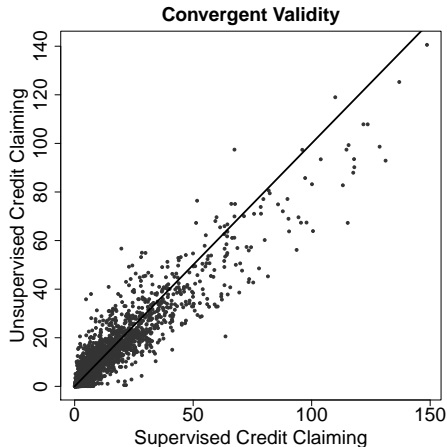


# Home Style Measures, Convergent Validity

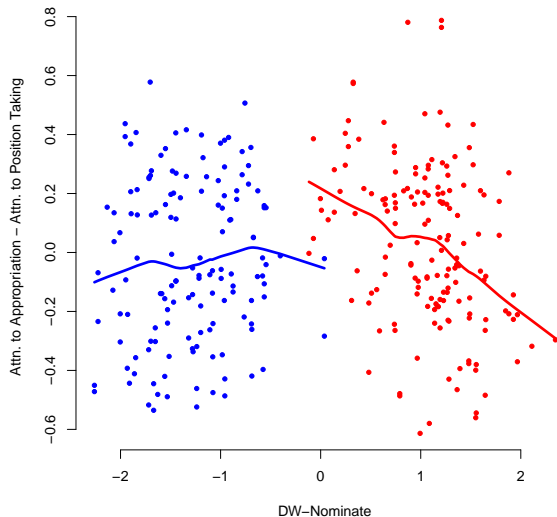
## Supervised/Unsupervised Convergence



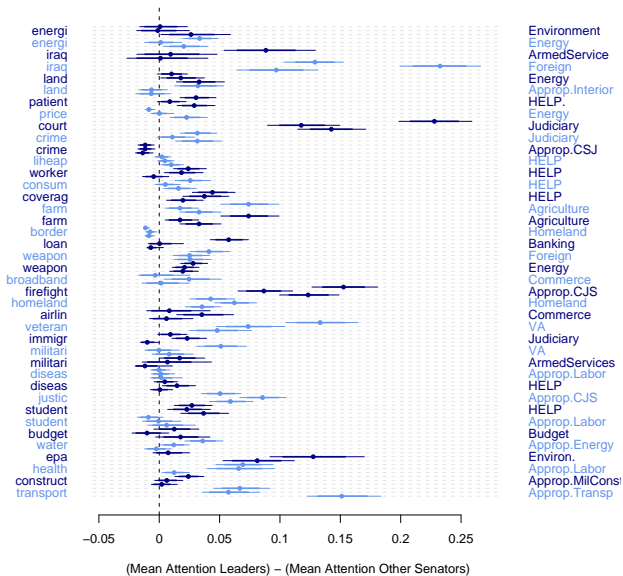
# Home Style Measures, Convergent Validity



# Discriminant Construct Validity

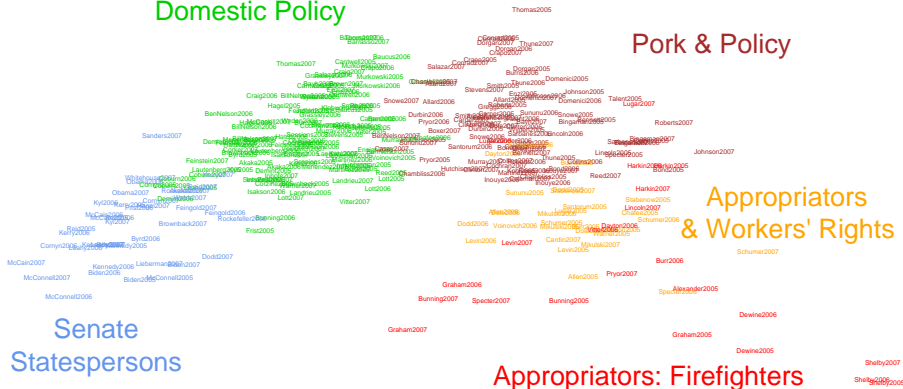


# Predictive Validity





## Domestic Policy



# Hypothesis Validity

## Domestic Policy

## Pork & Policy

## Appropriators & Workers' Rights

## Appropriators: Firefighters

## Senate Statespersons

## Senate Statesperson

- Iraq War
- Intelligence
- Intl.  
Relations

## Relations

Appropriators: Firefighters

## Senate Interpersons

## Domestic Policy

- Environment
- Gas prices
- DHS
- Consumer

- Iraq War
- Intelligence
- Intl. Relations

# Hypothesis Validity

## Domestic Policy

## Pork & Policy

## Appropriators & Workers' Rights

## Appropriators: Firefighters

## Senate Statespersons

## Domestic Policy

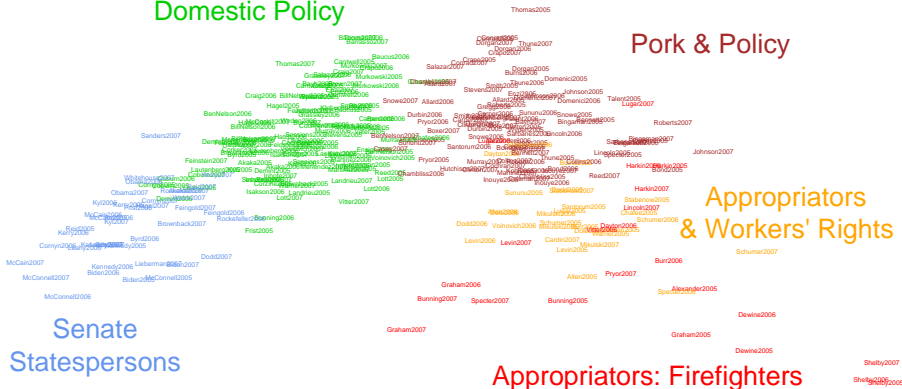
## Pork & Policy

- Iraq War
- Intelligence
- Intl. Relations

- Environment
- Gas prices
- DHS
- Consumer

- WRDA grants
- Farming
- Health Care
- Education

## Domestic Policy



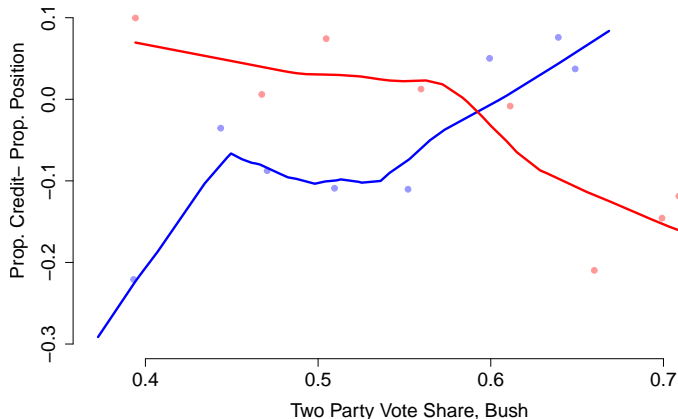
Appropriators: Firefighters

Senate Statesperson	Domestic Policy	Pork & Policy	Appropriators
- Iraq War	- Environment	- WRDA grants	- Fire Grants
- Intelligence	- Gas prices	- Farming	- Airport Grants
- Intl. Relations	- DHS	- Health Care	- University
	- Consumer	- Education	- Money

# Hypothesis Validity

Why do senators adopt different styles?

District Fit



# What are the right number of topics?

# What are the right number of topics?

- Number of topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  depends on task at hand



# What are the right number of topics?

- Number of topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  depends on task at hand
- Coarse  $\rightsquigarrow$  broad comparisons, lose distinctions

# What are the right number of topics?

- Number of topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  depends on task at hand
- Coarse  $\rightsquigarrow$  broad comparisons, lose distinctions
- Granular  $\rightsquigarrow$  specific insights, lose broader picture

# What are the right number of topics?

- Number of topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  depends on task at hand
- Coarse  $\rightsquigarrow$  broad comparisons, lose distinctions
- Granular  $\rightsquigarrow$  specific insights, lose broader picture
- **Hierarchy of topics**  $\rightsquigarrow$  Pachinko Allocation, Hierarchies of von-Mises Fisher Distributions

# What are the right number of topics?

- Number of topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  depends on task at hand
- Coarse  $\rightsquigarrow$  broad comparisons, lose distinctions
- Granular  $\rightsquigarrow$  specific insights, lose broader picture
- **Hierarchy of topics**  $\rightsquigarrow$  Pachinko Allocation, Hierarchies of von-Mises Fisher Distributions

Blaydes, Grimmer, and McQueen 2018  $\rightsquigarrow$  estimate nested topics to explore the **Mirrors for Princes**

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

26 Christian mirrors

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)



# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

- Advice on the Art of Governance (1612 CE)

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

- Advice on the Art of Governance (1612 CE)
- Kalila wa Dimna (748 CE)

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

- Advice on the Art of Governance (1612 CE)
- Kalila wa Dimna (748 CE)
- The Sultan's Register of Laws (1632-1633 CE)

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

- Advice on the Art of Governance (1612 CE)
- Kalila wa Dimna (748 CE)
- The Sultan's Register of Laws (1632-1633 CE)

Work with translations

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

- Advice on the Art of Governance (1612 CE)
- Kalila wa Dimna (748 CE)
- The Sultan's Register of Laws (1632-1633 CE)

Work with translations~> little evidence of selection

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

- Advice on the Art of Governance (1612 CE)
- Kalila wa Dimna (748 CE)
- The Sultan's Register of Laws (1632-1633 CE)

Work with translations~> little evidence of selection

- Collect data on collection of 98 (51 Christian, 47 Islamic, some not translated)

# The Mirrors Genre (BGM 2017)

## 26 Christian mirrors

- The Prince (1513 CE)
- Advice to Justinian (527 CE)
- The Adventures of Telemachus (1699 CE)

## 21 Islamic texts

- Advice on the Art of Governance (1612 CE)
- Kalila wa Dimna (748 CE)
- The Sultan's Register of Laws (1632-1633 CE)

Work with translations ~> little evidence of selection

- Collect data on collection of 98 (51 Christian, 47 Islamic, some not translated)
- No difference on Year/Region



# Preprocessing Texts

47 books

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms
  - almighty, god

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms
  - almighty, god
  - monarch, prince, king, ruler



# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms
  - almighty, god
  - monarch, prince, king, ruler
  - Lord  $\neq$  lord

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms
  - almighty, god
  - monarch, prince, king, ruler
  - Lord  $\neq$  lord

Result: short segment  $j$  in book  $i$  is a count vector

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms
  - almighty, god
  - monarch, prince, king, ruler
  - Lord  $\neq$  lord

Result: short segment  $j$  in book  $i$  is a count vector

$$\mathbf{x}_{ij} = (x_{ij1}, x_{ij2}, \dots, x_{ij2124})$$

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms
  - almighty, god
  - monarch, prince, king, ruler
  - Lord  $\neq$  lord

Result: short segment  $j$  in book  $i$  is a count vector

$$\mathbf{x}_{ij} = (x_{ij1}, x_{ij2}, \dots, x_{ij2124})$$

We work with a normalized version of the documents,

# Preprocessing Texts

47 books  $\rightsquigarrow$  Each divided into paragraphs

Create feature space

- Bag of words, stem, discard punctuation, stop words
- Translate words left in Arabic (allah) and discard proper nouns
- Identified synonyms
  - almighty, god
  - monarch, prince, king, ruler
  - Lord  $\neq$  lord

Result: short segment  $j$  in book  $i$  is a count vector

$$\mathbf{x}_{ij} = (x_{ij1}, x_{ij2}, \dots, x_{ij2124})$$

We work with a normalized version of the documents,

$$\mathbf{x}_{ij}^* = \frac{\mathbf{x}_{ij}}{\sqrt{\mathbf{x}_{ij}' \mathbf{x}_{ij}}}$$

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Model built around two hierarchies:

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Model built around two hierarchies:

- 1) Books  $\rightsquigarrow$  paragraphs (Blei, Ng, Jordan 2003; Wallach, 2008; Quinn et al 2010; Grimmer 2010; Roberts et al 2014)

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Model built around two hierarchies:

- 1) Books  $\rightsquigarrow$  paragraphs (Blei, Ng, Jordan 2003; Wallach, 2008; Quinn et al 2010; Grimmer 2010; Roberts et al 2014)
- 2) Coarse topics  $\rightsquigarrow$  granular topics (Li and McCallum 2006; Gopal and Yang 2014)



# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Estimate **four** quantities of interest

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Estimate **four** quantities of interest

- 1) Granular topics (60)

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Estimate **four** quantities of interest

- 1) Granular topics (60)
- 2) Coarse (broad) topics (3)

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Estimate **four** quantities of interest

- 1) Granular topics (60)
- 2) Coarse (broad) topics (3)
  - Each granular topic classified into one coarse topic

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Estimate **four** quantities of interest

- 1) Granular topics (60)
- 2) Coarse (broad) topics (3)
  - Each granular topic classified into one coarse topic
- 3) Each book  $i$ 's **themes** <sub>$i$</sub>

$$\mathbf{themes}_i = (\text{theme}_{i1}, \text{theme}_{i2}, \dots, \text{theme}_{i60})$$

# Measuring Themes in the Mirrors

Estimate **four** quantities of interest

- 1) Granular topics (60)
- 2) Coarse (broad) topics (3)
  - Each granular topic classified into one coarse topic
- 3) Each book *i*'s **themes**;
- 4) Each short segment's granular (and coarse) topic

# A Hierarchy of Topics

**themes;**

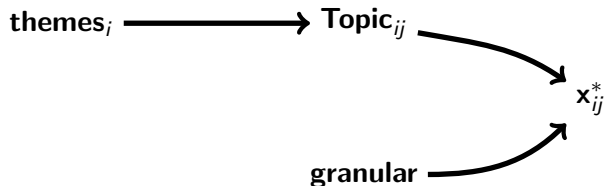
# A Hierarchy of Topics

**themes<sub>*i*</sub>  $\longrightarrow$  Topic<sub>*ij*</sub>**

$$\mathbf{Topic}_{ij} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{themes}_i)$$

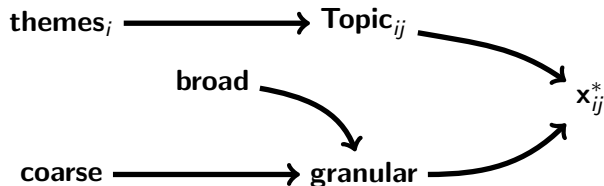


# A Hierarchy of Topics



$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{Topic}_{ij} &\sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{themes}_i) \\ \mathbf{x}_{ij}^* | \mathbf{Topic}_{ijk} = 1 &\sim \text{vMF}(\kappa, \mathbf{granular}_k)\end{aligned}$$

# A Hierarchy of Topics



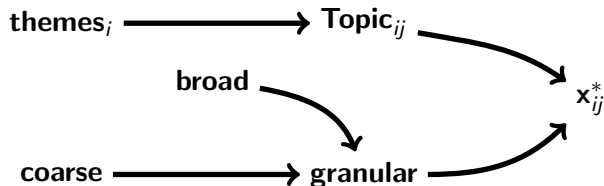
$$\mathbf{Topic}_{ij} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{themes}_i)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{ij}^* | \mathbf{Topic}_{ijk} = 1 \sim \text{vMF}(\kappa, \mathbf{granular}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{broad}_k \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{Broad Theme Prior})$$

$$\mathbf{granular}_k | \mathbf{broad}_{km} = 1 \sim \text{vMF}(\kappa, \mathbf{coarse}_m)$$

# A Hierarchy of Topics



$$\mathbf{Topic}_{ij} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{themes}_i)$$

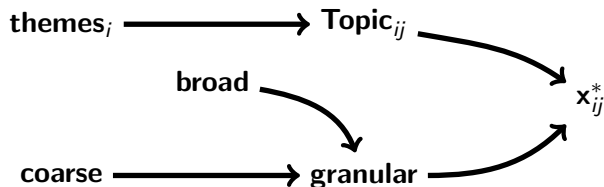
$$\mathbf{x}_{ij}^* | \mathbf{Topic}_{ijk} = 1 \sim \text{vMF}(\kappa, \mathbf{granular}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{broad}_k \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{Broad Theme Prior})$$

$$\mathbf{granular}_k | \mathbf{broad}_{km} = 1 \sim \text{vMF}(\kappa, \mathbf{coarse}_m)$$

Estimate model with Variational Approximation

# A Hierarchy of Topics



$$\mathbf{Topic}_{ij} \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{themes}_i)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{ij}^* | \mathbf{Topic}_{ijk} = 1 \sim \text{vMF}(\kappa, \mathbf{granular}_k)$$

$$\mathbf{broad}_k \sim \text{Multinomial}(1, \mathbf{Broad Theme Prior})$$

$$\mathbf{granular}_k | \mathbf{broad}_{km} = 1 \sim \text{vMF}(\kappa, \mathbf{coarse}_m)$$

Estimate model with Variational Approximation

Model selection: automatic model fit, qualitative evaluation

# Interpreting Unsupervised Models

Two approaches to labeling output

# Interpreting Unsupervised Models

Two approaches to labeling output

- 1) **Computational**: identify discriminating words

# Interpreting Unsupervised Models

Two approaches to labeling output

- 1) **Computational**: identify discriminating words
- 2) **Manual**: Segments classified to coarse, granular topics. Read, discuss, and label

# Interpreting Unsupervised Models

Two approaches to labeling output

- 1) **Computational**: identify discriminating words
- 2) **Manual**: Segments classified to coarse, granular topics. Read, discuss, and label

Unsupervised models **structure** and **guide** our reading



# Art of Rulership

Practices and ideals of political rule

# Art of Rulership

Practices and ideals of political rule

king

# Art of Rulership

Practices and ideals of political rule

king, princ

# Art of Rulership

Practices and ideals of political rule

king, princ, citi

# Art of Rulership

Practices and ideals of political rule

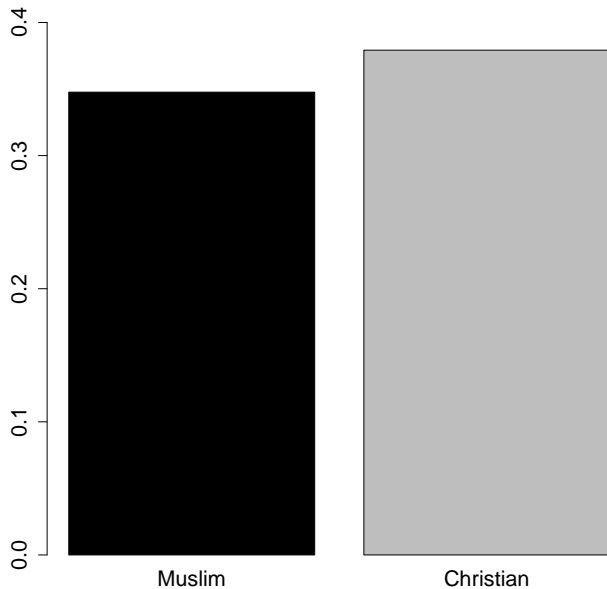
king, princ, citi, great, place, work, emperor, enemi, armi, letter

# Art of Rulership

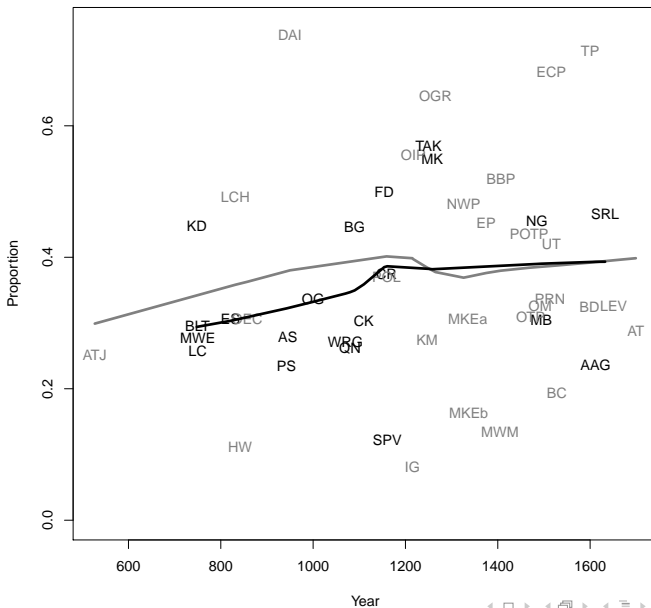
Practices and ideals of political rule

king, princ, citi, great, place, work, emperor, enemi, armi, letter

36.5% of paragraphs



## Coarse Topic 1





# Religion and Virtue

Connection between religion, virtue, justice and political rule

# Religion and Virtue

Connection between religion, virtue, justice and political rule

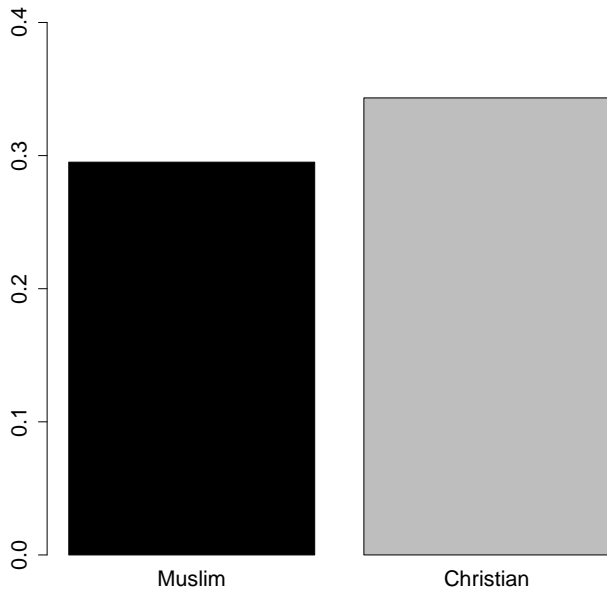
almighti,good,virtu,power,ruler,justic,prayer,rule,prophet,mena

# Religion and Virtue

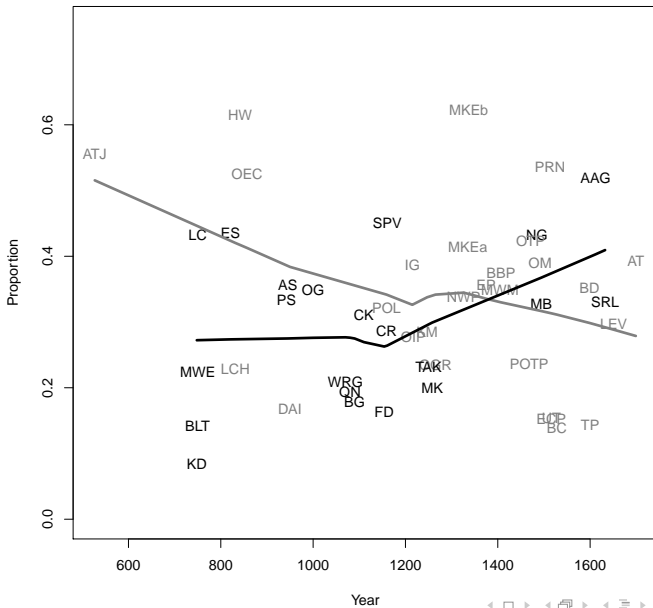
Connection between religion, virtue, justice and political rule

almighti,good,virtu,power,ruler,justic,prayer,rule,prophet,mena

32.2% of paragraphs



## Coarse Topic 2



# Inner Life of the Ruler

Personal relationships, care for and practices of the self, and ultimate fate of the soul

# Inner Life of the Ruler

Personal relationships, care for and practices of the self, and ultimate fate of the soul

man,land,woman,know,bodi,eye,ladi,love,faculti,old

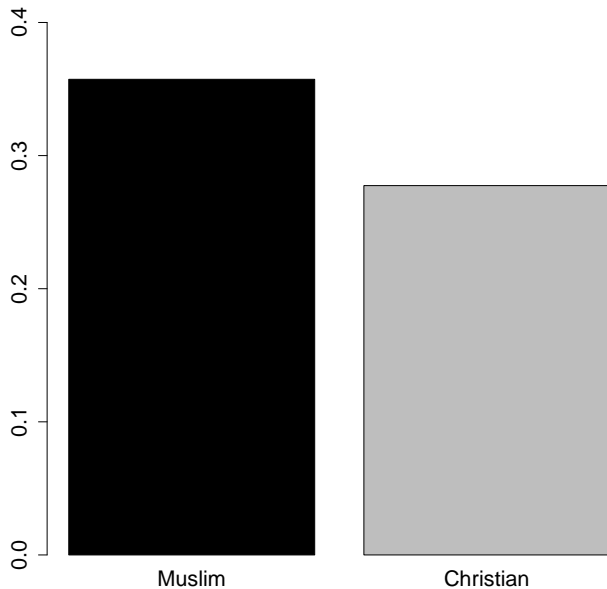
# Inner Life of the Ruler

Personal relationships, care for and practices of the self, and ultimate fate of the soul

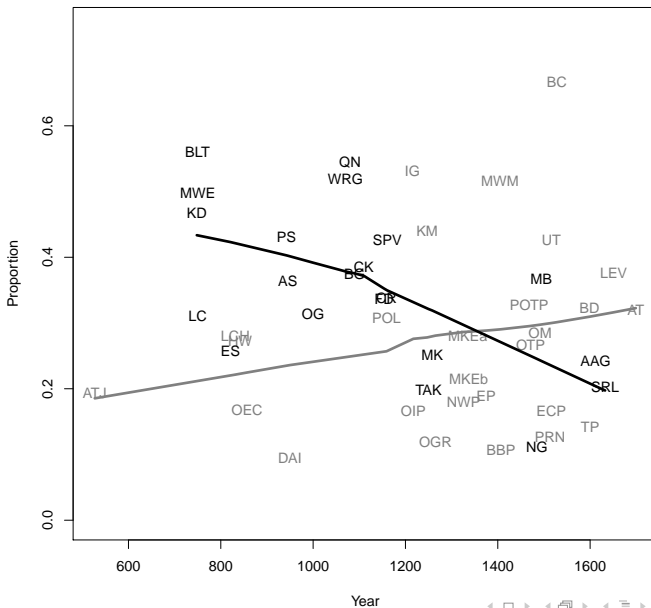
man,land,woman,know,bodi,eye,ladi,love,faculti,old

31.2% of paragraphs





### Coarse Topic 3



# Granular: Best Practices for Ruling

---

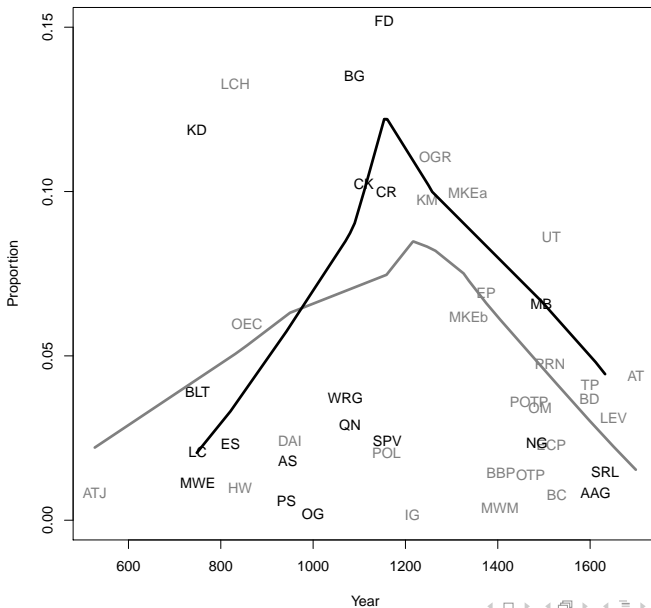
king, princ, citi, great, place, work, emperor, enemi, armi, letter

---

king, kingdom, royal, minist, reign, father, court, majesti, presenc, war

6.2% of paragraphs

# Coarse Topic 1 Granular Topic 1



# Granular: Characteristics that distinguish Just Ruler from Tyrant

---

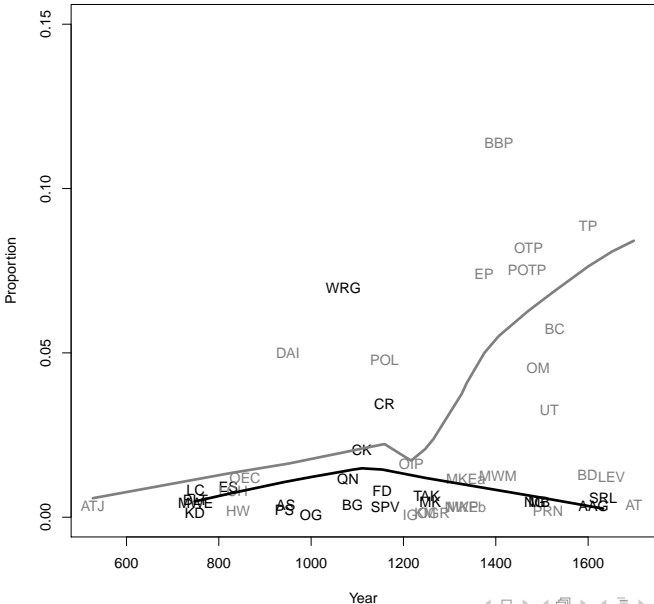
king, princ, citi, great, place, work, emperor, enemi, armi, letter

---

king, kingdom, royal, minist, reign, father, court, majesti, presenc, war  
princ, good, peopl, christian, tyranni, war, mind, ought, state, public

3.1% of paragraphs

## Coarse Topic 1 Granular Topic 2



# Granular: Religious Virtues and Political Ideals

---

almighti,good,virtu,power,ruler,justic,prayer,rule,prophet,mena

---

almighti,bless,grant,peac,messeng,prophet,merci,holi,command,grace

6.9% of paragraphs

## Coarse Topic 2 Granular Topic 1

