



Universität
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Department of Informatics
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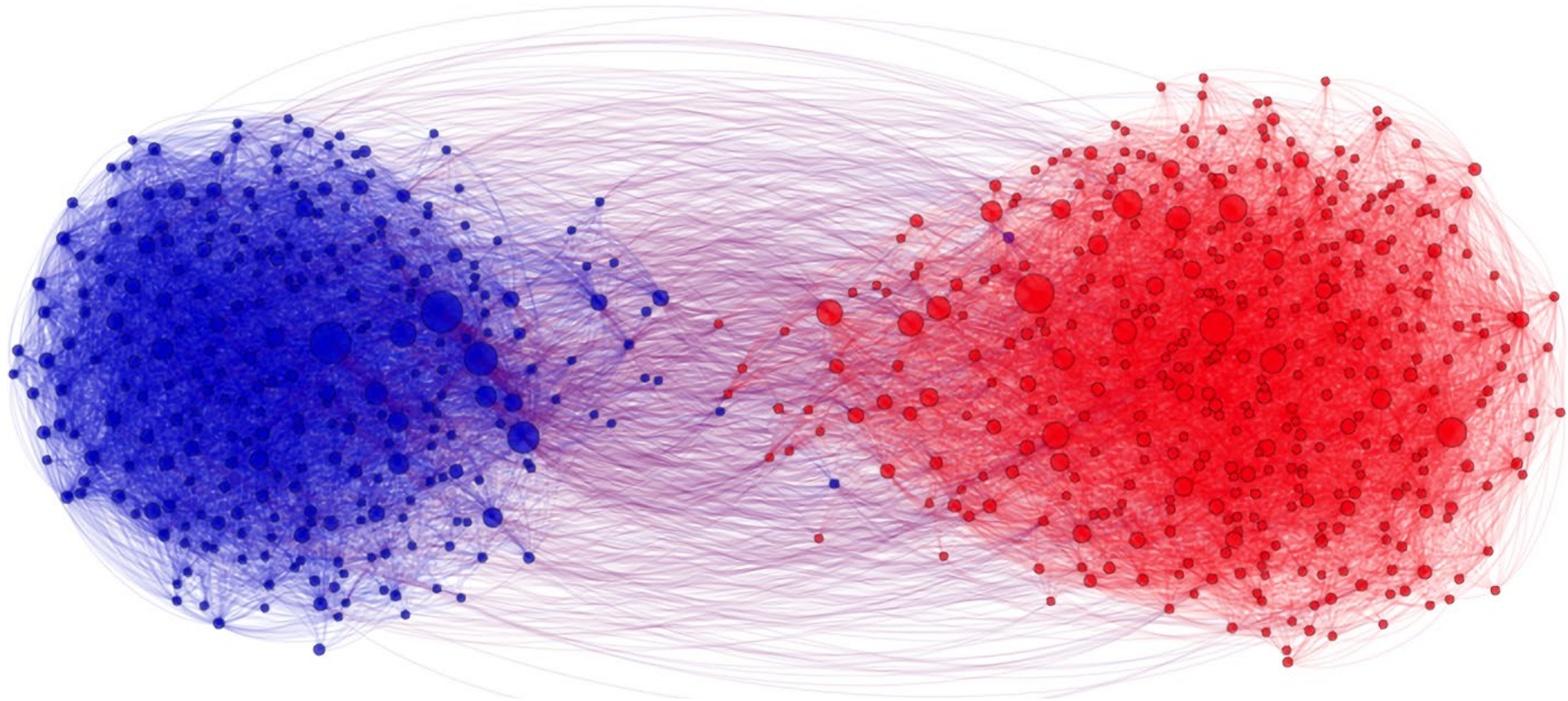
Beyond-Accuracy Objectives for AI in News Recommendations

Operationalizing Diversity for Political News Recommendations

Lucien Heitz

AMLD EPFL 2025, 11 February 2025

News Recommenders in Action



Visualizing Polarization in Political Blogs: <http://allthingsgraphed.com/2014/10/09/visualizing-political-polarization/>

The Role of News and Media

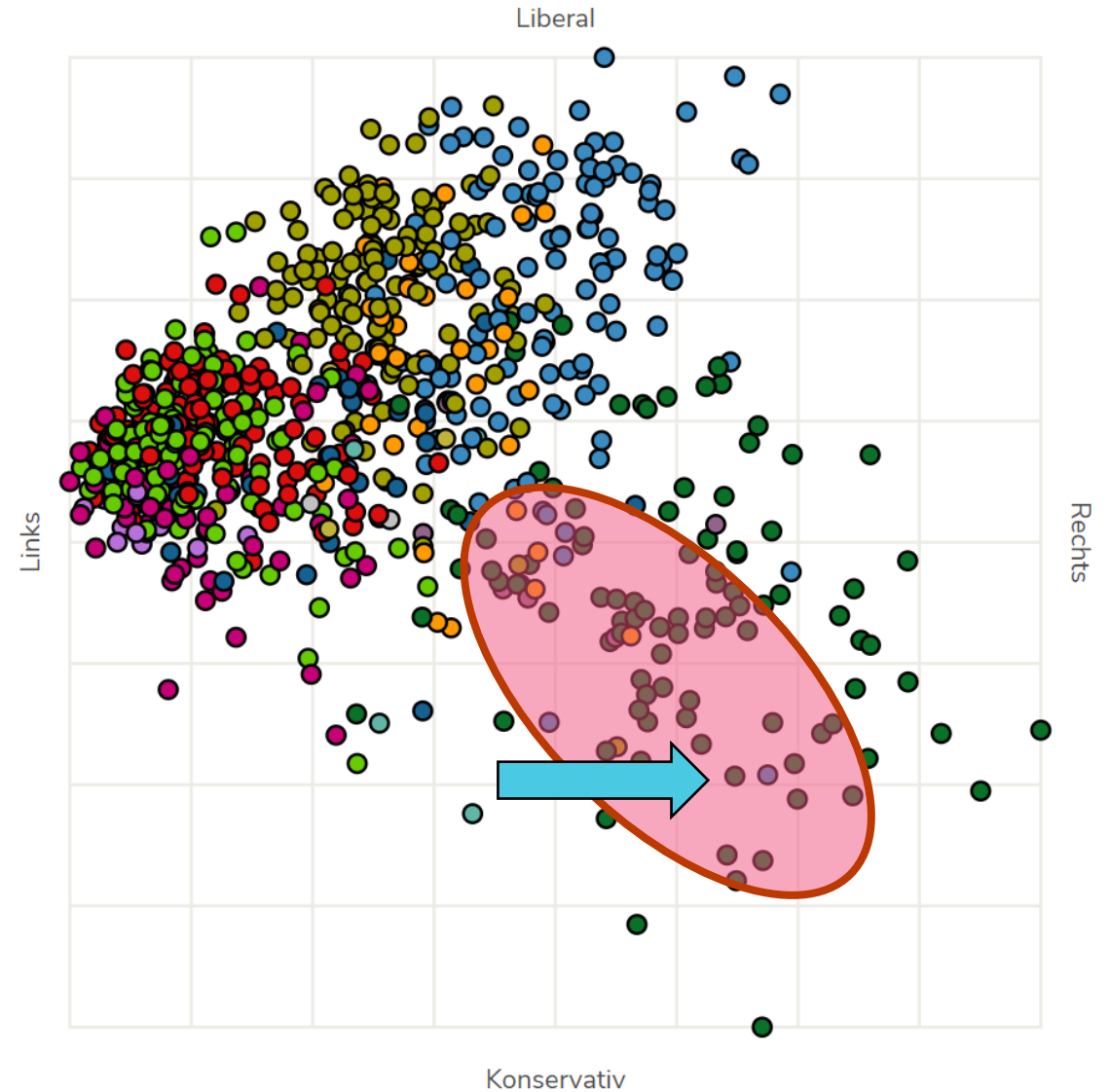
- Fourth Estate with control function
- Users, platforms, and society needs
- Create well-informed citizenry
- Interdisciplinary research field



Helberger, Natali. "On the democratic role of news recommenders." *Algorithms, automation, and news*. Routledge, 2021. 14-33.


Optimizing for Political Diversity

- Recommendations of political news
- Map political space with Smartvote
- Place users and rate articles
- Define radius for algorithm



Smartmap from Smartvote survey: https://www.smartvote.ch/de/group/38/election/22_vd_leg/smartmap


Diversity in Action with Informfully



Today - 2 min reading time


Shrine honors cats at Japanese island where they outnumber humans

On a small island off Japan's northeastern coast, visitors make offerings at a shrine for unlikely local guardians: cats.




Today - 2 min reading time

Cyclone floods coastal villages, cuts power in Bangladesh and India




Today - 2 min reading time

Macron begins first state visit to Germany by a French president in 24 years




Today - 1 min reading time

China, South Korea, Japan revive dialogue in Seoul



Today - 2 min reading time

Military labs do the detective work to identify soldiers decades after they die



Today - 2 min reading time


Africa's cholera crisis is worse than ever

← ☆ 📌

Shrine honors cats at Japanese island where they outnumber humans

On a small island off Japan's northeastern coast, visitors make offerings at a shrine for unlikely local guardians: cats.

Today, 03:12



The 'Neko Jinja,' or Cat Shrine, mythologizes cats as guardian angels of Tashirojima, where cats outnumber humans.

Legend says the island used to be famous for sericulture and farmers would keep cats because they would chase away rats, protecting the silkworm cocoons from the rodents.

Fishermen on the island have also traditionally believed that cats bring good luck, including large hauls of fish.

Another legend says fishermen used to watch the cats' behavior for tips on the coming weather before heading to sea.

The islanders have long coexisted with the cats. One day, however, a fisherman accidentally injured a cat while working. Feeling sorry for the injury, the islanders built the shrine for cats.



Tashirojima is part of the city of Ishinomaki in Miyagi prefecture in the Tohoku region, which became well known after a tsunami devastated the area following a massive magnitude 9 earthquake on March 11, 2011.



← ☆ 📌



The spokesman said producers were arguing that legislation underpinning a compensation scheme had been 'misinterpreted' and affected farmers had not been 'properly' compensated.

Mrs Justice Hill indicated that she would deliver a ruling in the near future.


Your Feedback

I agree with the opinions expressed in the article.  0  0

I like the writing style.  0  0


I find the topic interesting.  0  0

More on the Subject




The high levels of toxic 'forever chemicals' in our fish could be harming...

Th, 12/14/2023 - 7 min reading time



World could be 7 years from gravest climate damage after 1.1% CO2 rise in 2...


Th, 12/14/2023 - 6 min reading time



Ban on cattle movement extended as more deadly bluetongue cases found in...


Th, 12/14/2023 - 3 min reading time

← Reading List




Shrine honors cats at Japanese island where they outnumber humans

Today - 2 min reading time



Macron begins first state visit to Germany by a French president in 24 years

Today - 2 min reading time



Military labs do the detective work to identify soldiers decades after they die

Today - 2 min reading time

What political party did you vote for in the last election?

Please select one answer
















Party A

Party B

Finish

Heitz, Lucien, et al. "Informfully - research platform for reproducible user studies." *Proceedings of the 18th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems*. 2024.

Results and Insights

Metric	Diversity	Accuracy	Chronological
Reading Time			
Likes and Dislikes	 	 	 
Satisfaction			
Understanding			

Heitz, Lucien, et al. "Benefits of diverse news recommendations for democracy: A user study." *Digital Journalism* 10.10 (2022): 1710-1730.

Heitz, Lucien, et al. "Deliberative Diversity for News Recommendations: Operationalization and Experimental User Study." *Proceedings of the 17th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems*. 2023.

Open Challenges

- Balancing values and needs
- Lack of quality training data
- Design and user feedback
- Reproducible research



Call for Action

- Open-source platform with algorithms & data
- Open to collaborate and share insights
- Hosted and content-agnostic option

Let's connect!

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