**Topic:** How Censorship in China influences people’s Political Expression-A Study on Zhihu’s Comments on Political Topics

**Data Source:** Web scraping from Zhihu on Comments (more is always better)

**Methods applied (not necessarily all are going to be applied):**

1. **Sentiment Analysis and Topic Modeling** (Explore the prevalence of positive, negative, or neutral sentiment in political discussions and identify the main themes and topics of conversation ()
2. **Qualitative Analysis**
3. Content Analysis (The aim is to find the use of coded language, signs of self-censorship and etc.)
4. User Behavior Analysis (if we found someone interesting)
5. **Quantitative Analysis**
6. Resampling Scheme
7. Calibration Reweighting
8. Principal Component Analysis (PCA)
9. Exploratory Factory Analysis (EFA)
10. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)
11. Percentage Correctly Predicted (PCP)
12. **Effects of Censorship on Public Opinion** (comparative analysis with X, and other social media platforms, twitter API is expensive for full archive search though)

**Ethical Consideration:**

Given the fact that this research may involve some topics considered sensitive by the Chinese government and may pose potential risks to specific online users involved, the research should respect the privacy and security of participants and adheres to ethical guidelines for studying politically sensitive topics.

**Actuality of the Research:**

1. **Impact on Public Discourse**: Examine how censorship shapes public discourse, potentially suppressing certain topics or viewpoints and impacting the diversity and quality of political dialogue.
2. **Effects on Social Mobilization:** Investigate how censorship influences patterns of social mobilization and collective action, including its impact on the ability of individuals and groups to organize, mobilize support, and advocate for change.
3. **Influence on Public Opinion Formation:** Explore how censorship affects public opinion formation and political attitudes, potentially altering perceptions and beliefs regarding political issues, government policies, and social controversies.
4. **Implications for Media and Information Policy:** Assess the broader implications of censorship for media and information policy, considering alternative approaches to regulating online speech while balancing national security and freedom of expression.
5. **Comparative Analysis:** Extend analysis beyond China to compare censorship's effects across authoritarian regimes, identifying similarities, differences, and strategies for circumventing or adapting to censorship.
6. **Implications for Digital Rights Advocacy:** Consider the implications of your findings for digital rights advocacy, identifying opportunities for policy interventions and technological innovations to mitigate the negative effects of censorship on political expression and information access.