February 2, 2022

*Manuscript: How Twitter divides the Dutch parliament: Segregation along party lines and social dimensions in the following, @-mentions and retweets Twitter Networks of Dutch MPs*

Dear editor,

Please find enclosed a submission to *Social Networks* titled, ‘How Twitter divides the Dutch parliament: Segregation along party lines and social dimensions in the following, @-mentions and retweets Twitter Networks of Dutch MPs’.

Despite its relevance, research into the Twitter networks of MPs is rare. Our study is a quantitative study on segregation in Twitter networks of MPs. We bring together the online network literature with that on the political consequences of the digital architecture of social media platforms and their political use. To test our hypotheses, we use a combination of descriptive statistics and longitudinal Social Network Analysis with RSiena. We find that Twitter relations with MPs of the same political party are substantially more common than with MPs of other parties. These segregation patterns are strongest within the retweet-layer and weakest in the @-mention layer, in line with the architectural reasoning that retweets are generally political endorsements whereas @-mentions are more a way to hold micro discussions. Segregation patterns within the three network layers are interrelated and reinforce each other. Party-based segregation is not the by-product of social inbreeding homophily.

We have chosen to submit our manuscript to *Social Networks* because we believe the topic of our research, segregation in Twitter networks among MPs along party membership lines and social dimensions, contributes to the understanding of segregation dynamics in (online) social networks more generally, and hence may be of interest to the readers of the journal.

In the manuscript, at different points, we refer readers to our GitHub replication website, accompanying this manuscript (<https://jochemtolsma.github.io/Twitter/>). We have have anonymized the link in the manuscript.

I will serve as the corresponding author for this manuscript. I have assumed responsibility for keeping my co-authors informed of our progress through the editorial review process, the content of the review, and any revisions made.

Sincerely,



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