Social Media and Political Participation

Lab 5

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[1] Adapted from Pablo Barberá and Drew Dimmery

Today

- Writing assignments: logistics
- Social media data for projects
- Advanced examples of Twitter data analysis
- Advanced examples of Facebook data analysis
- In-class exercise: descriptive analysis of social media data for your Member of Congress

Writing assignments

Writing assignments

Two writing assignments:

1. Descriptive analysis of social media data for an assigned Member of Congress
   - 5–7 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1-inch margins
   - Due Thursday January 12th, at 8pm
   - 20% of grade
2. Quantitative analysis of social media data for an assigned Member of Congress
   - 5–7 pages (including graphics), double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1-inch margins
   - Due Wednesday January 18th, at 10pm
   - 20% of grade

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Data for writing assignments

Look for the folder titled "Politician Data" on NYU Classes in the Labs Section. There should be a folder with your NetID inside, containing:

- 200 random tweets from your politician's account
- 200 random Facebook posts from your politician's account

This is the data you need to use for your first writing assignment. You have already received an email about it. We will collect the data needed for the second writing assignment today.

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Advanced Twitter analysis

Advanced Examples of Twitter Data Analysis

The R script `lab5_twitter.R` shows how to:

- Create the "full" collection of tweets from your politician's account
- Do a preliminary descriptive analysis of the data
- Find the most common hashtags
- Visualize most common hashtags and words using a word cloud
- Count the number of tweets over time and visualize it using a graphic
- Find most retweeted and favorited tweets

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Advanced Facebook analysis

Advanced Examples of Facebook Data Analysis

The R script `lab5_facebook.R` shows how to:

- Create the "full" collection of posts from your politician's account
- Do a preliminary descriptive analysis of the data
- Find frequency of use of specific words
- Visualize most common words using a word cloud
- Count the number of likes over time and visualize it using a graphic
- Subset posts from a given period of time

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In-class exercise

In-class exercise: collecting and analyzing Facebook data

Create your own R script (with comments) that:

1. Reads the tweets sent by your assigned Member of Congress into R
2. Creates a plot showing the number of tweets sent by month
3. Generates a word cloud of the most common words in these tweets
4. Opens the Facebook posts published by your assigned Member of Congress into R
5. Finds the most shared, liked, and commented Facebook posts
6. Picks a recent Facebook post, download the list of likes, and examines the most common first names.

And send it to me via email (`sk5350@nyu.edu`)

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