**Research pitch: Understanding Weaponization of Disgust in Colombian Congress Sessions**

Previous research into emotional language in political communication have shown that disgust related language has been weaponize to reduce the acceptance of policies benefiting oppressed populations that have been historically and stereotypically associated with dirtiness of illness. This phenomenon has been studied solely in the context of one-way communication, were the target of the weaponization has limited political power. Questions about how disgust language is used by political elites against each other remain unanswered. In this context, this research project aims to gain a deeper understanding into which types of congress members are most likely to be the targets of disgust related language.

The text data for this project will be gathered from the official transcripts of the congressional session from 2018 to 2022, the last complete legislative period. From these transcripts, a corpus of senate sessions speeches will be created and analyzed for instances of uses of emotional language related to disgust based a previously validated dictionary method. In parallel, a database of all congress members, their party affiliation, official position towards the government, ethnic identity, age, and gender will be compiled from their profile in the congress’ webpage.

The three methods from the class that are going to be used in the project are scrapping, word embeddings and machine learning. Scrapping will be used in the initial stages of the project to download the congress member information and the session transcripts. With these in hand, word embeddings will be used to create a “disgust” dimension in the corpus using occurrences of disgust related words and projecting the vectors for the name of all congress members into it. The resulting score in this dimension will be added to the congress member database and used as the dependent variable in a machine learning prediction task. The insights gained from the resulting model will then elucidate which individual characteristics significantly increase the chances of a congress member being associated with disgust. According to the findings of previous literature, being part of an ethnic minority should predict the most variance in the disgust score. Alternative findings may suggest a difference in how disgust related political language works in communication between political elites.