



# COVID-19 Briefings Across Time and Cultures



Anna Bradley-Webb



# Scope and Timeline

---



US President Trump and Italian Prime Minister Conte, official remarks, March 1-April 30, 2020

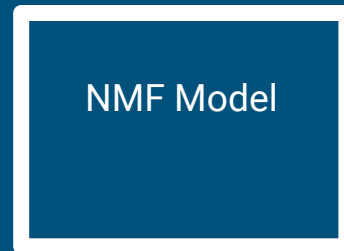
# Methodology and Model



Transcripts of remarks



MongoDB and PyMongo



Cleaning and Topic Modeling

# Topics Identified: Conte's Remarks

---

## ***Lockdown, phases and reopening***

activity, government, phases, reopening, time

## ***Economy***

response, emergency, credit, line, financing

## ***Emergency orders***

decree, government, emergency, protection, state

## ***National security***

security, national, relations, interests, system

# Topics Identified: Trump's Remarks

---

## *New York, ventilator supply*

ventilator, number, york,  
hospital, fauci

## *Testing*

test, number, lab, capacity,  
testing

## *International relations*

secretary, pompeo, border,  
world, travel

## *Economy*

business, supply, money,  
order, job, mnuchin

## *Medical supplies*

mask, hospital, supply, fema,  
drug

## *China, global rates*

number, year, world, week,  
china

## *Health, cases*

coronavirus, dr, health, virus,  
birtx

## *People, stories*

whitsett, campbell, story, doctor,  
goldman, disease, hospital, kind,  
patel, year, right, wife, representative,  
virus, guy

# Overlap: Economy

---

## **Italy**

response, emergency, credit, line, financing

## **USA**

business, supply, money, order, job, mnuchin

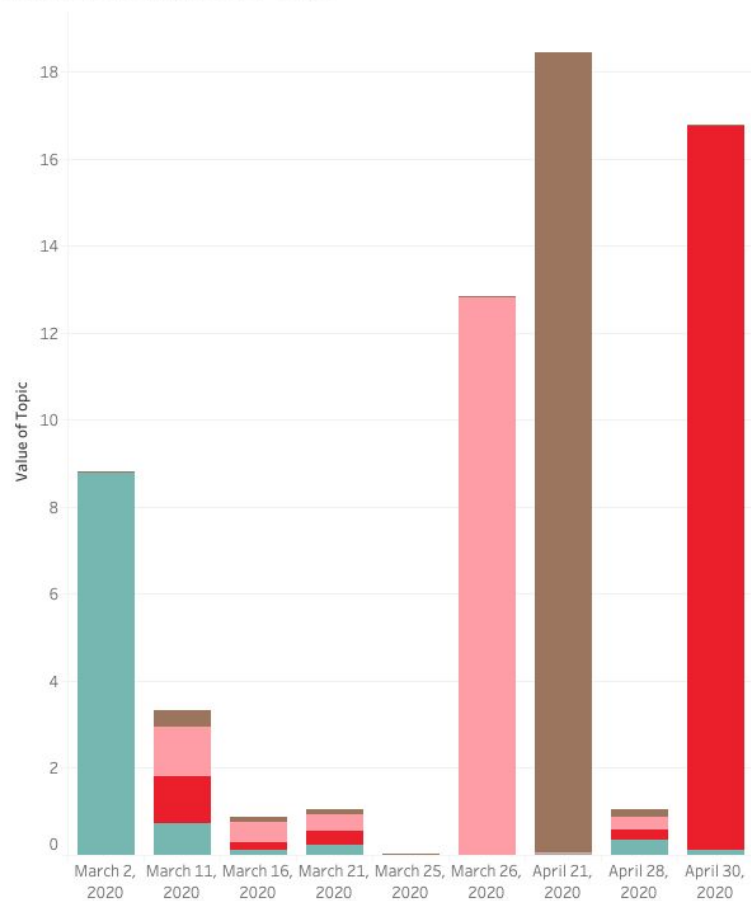
*“[The proposed plan] helps prevent credit interruptions and and the payment circuit, which risks compromising the continuity of economic activities.”*

Conte speaking to the Senate, 4/31

*“Hopefully we’re going to be back in business very soon. We’re going to be open very soon. This country wasn’t built to be closed.”*

Trump meeting with energy industry CEOs, 4/3

## Topics in Prime Minister Conte's Briefings Over Time



### Measure Names

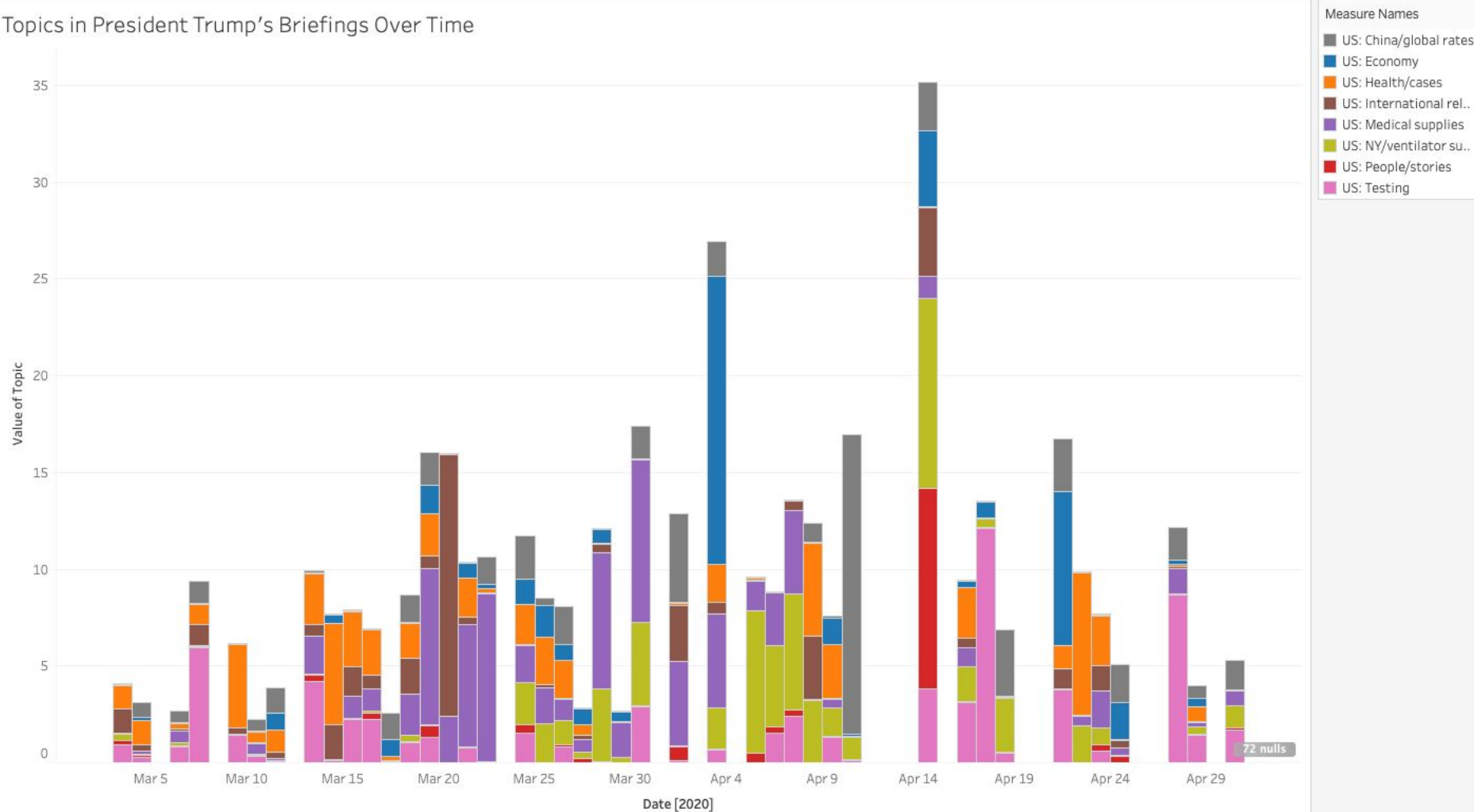
- It: Economy
- It: Emergency Orders
- It: Lockdown/Reopening
- It: National Security

Topics over time: Italy

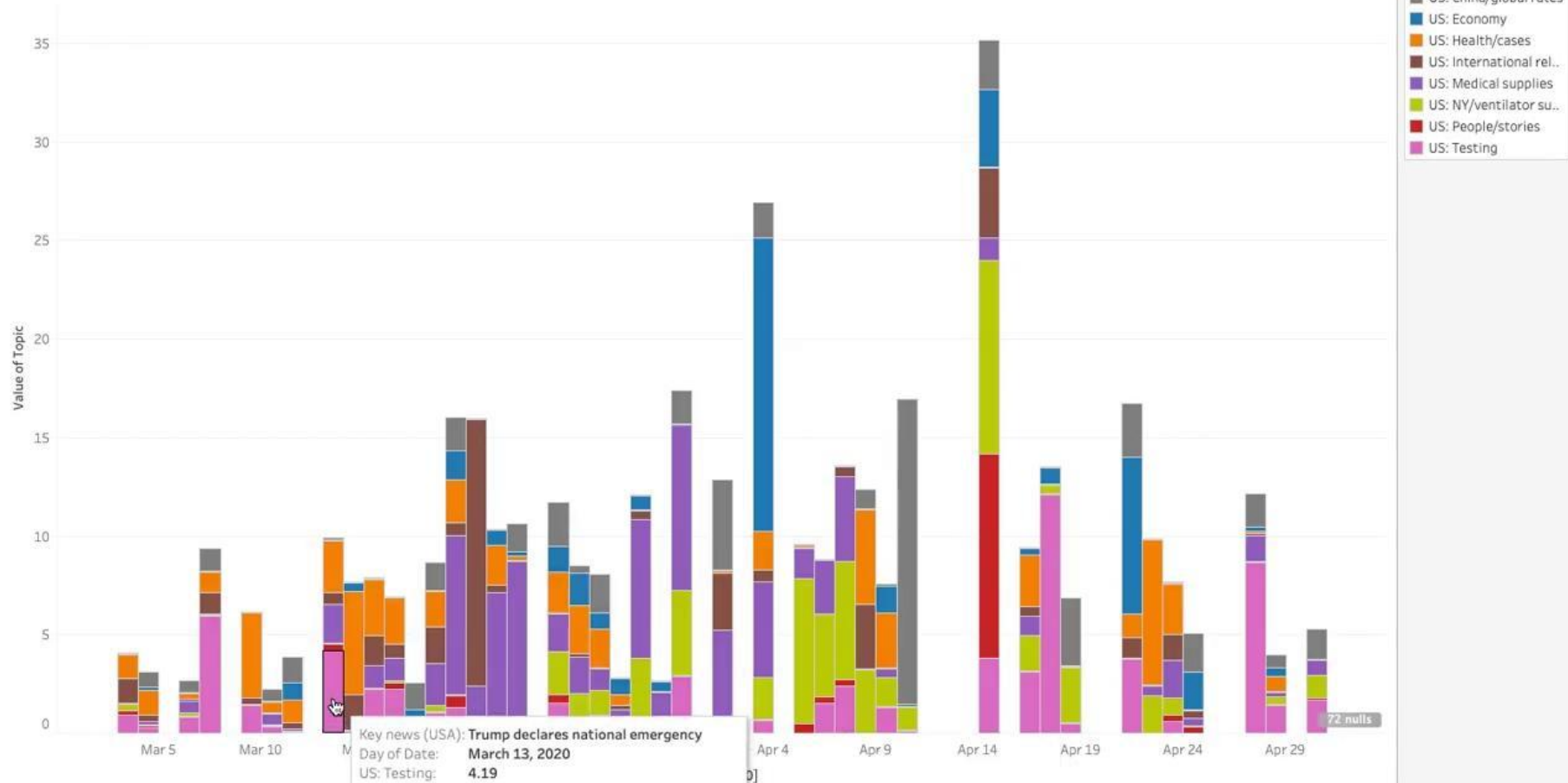
Topics over time: Italy



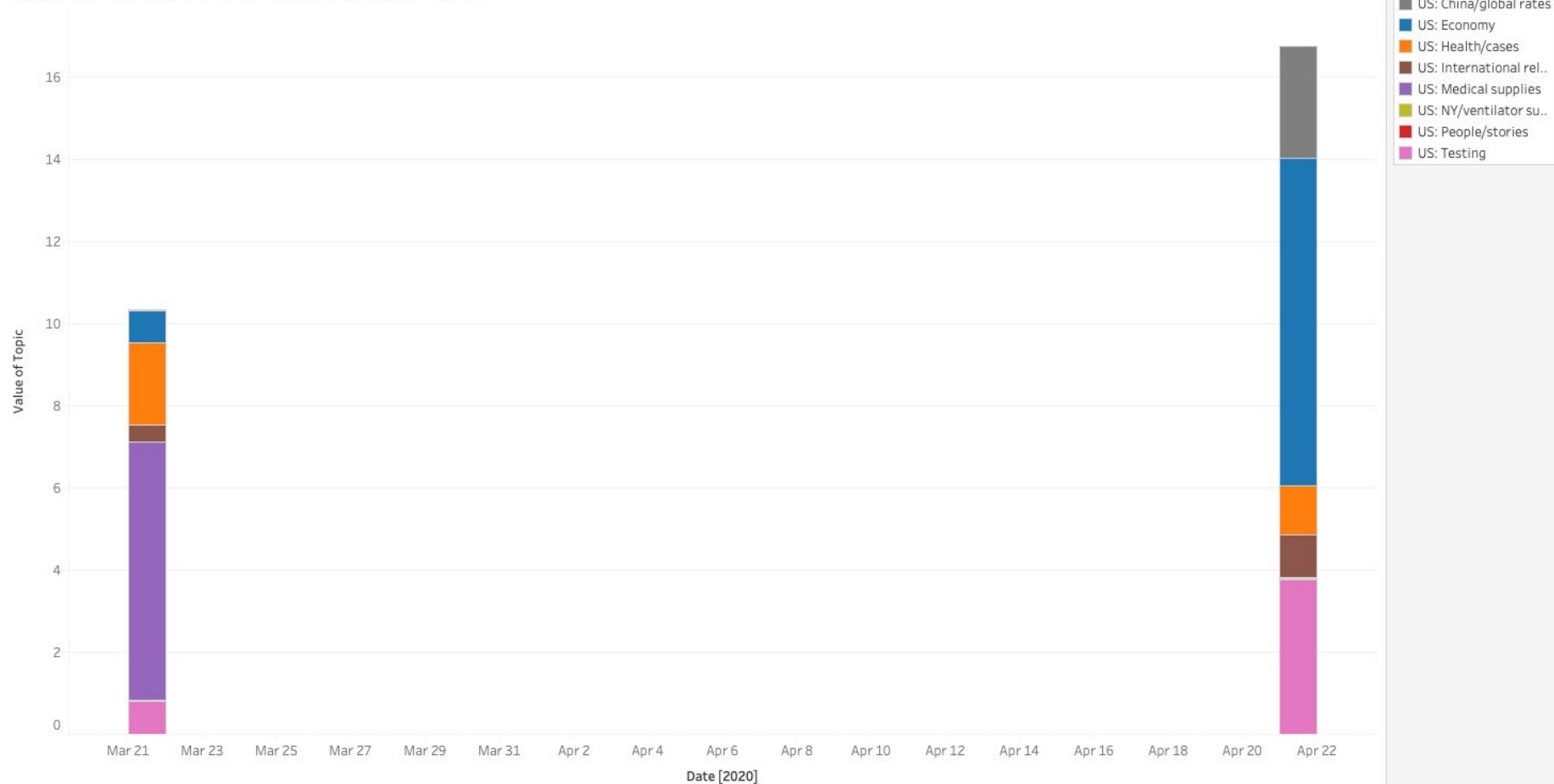
Topics in President Trump’s Briefings Over Time



## Topics in President Trump's Briefings Over Time



## Topics in President Trump's Briefings Over Time



# Overlap and Differences

---

- **Content differences:** in Italy, the lockdown has been managed at the national level. In the US, it has been state-by-state. No US equivalent of the “lockdown” or “emergency orders” topics.
- **Homogeneity of topics:** Trump almost always takes questions from reporters or audience. Conte speaks without interruption to the Senate or to the public.
- **Audience:** Trump’s remarks are to reporters or key groups of supporters. Conte’s are more diverse, and sometimes to lawmakers.