Autism Discourse in the U.S.

An Exploratory Analysis

Ryan Deschamps, Mario Nakazawa

The Research Question

To what degree are autonomy and treatment concerns for:

- Advocacy organizations
- Government Agencies
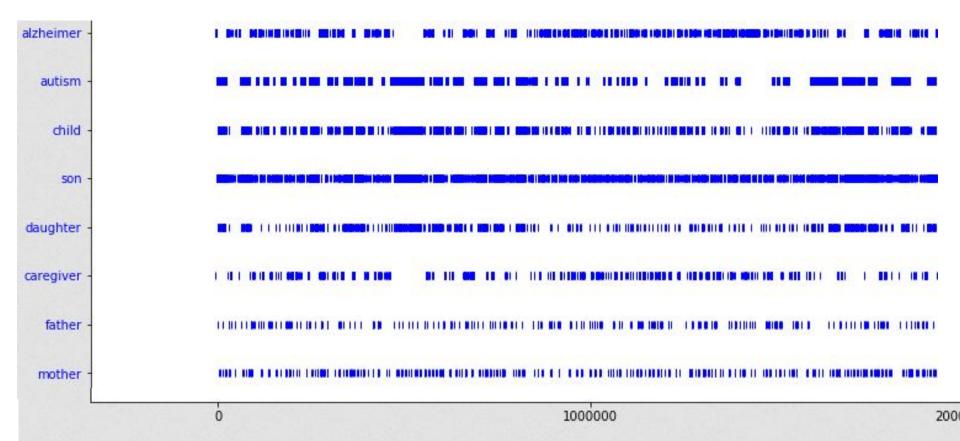- Individuals (Bloggers etc.)

More realistic

- How do autism bloggers speak about family roles?
  - There do seem to be some differences about the way family roles are expressed, in the blogs especially.

- Can we see differences in sentiment between February and March, given that April is Autism Awareness Month?
  - There seems to be little difference in sentiment from February to March 2014.
  - Organizations seem less emotive prior to autism awareness month.
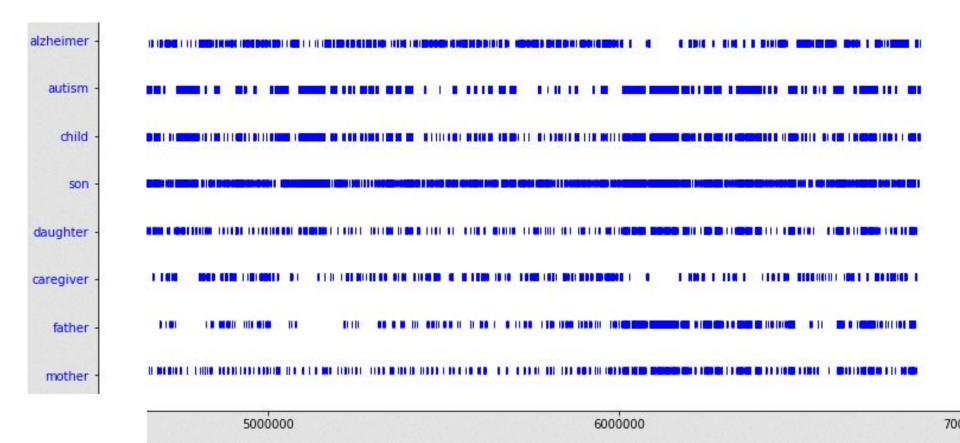 - Bloggers do not seem to change their emotive language from month to month.

Tools

- Jupyter Notebook
  - Python and NLTK
  - Dispersion: 8000 records, 7 step jump → > 1000 records
  - Sentiment: 800000 records, 100 step jump -> 8000 records
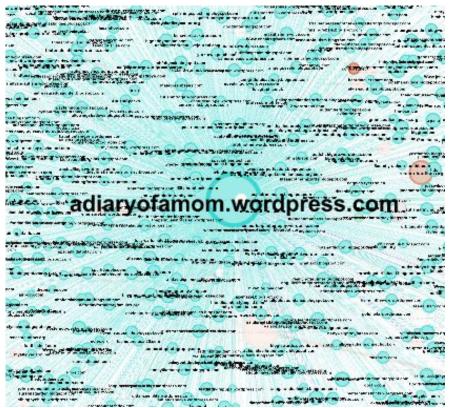- Gephi - network analysis

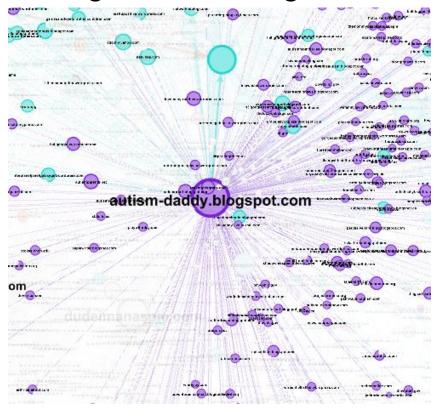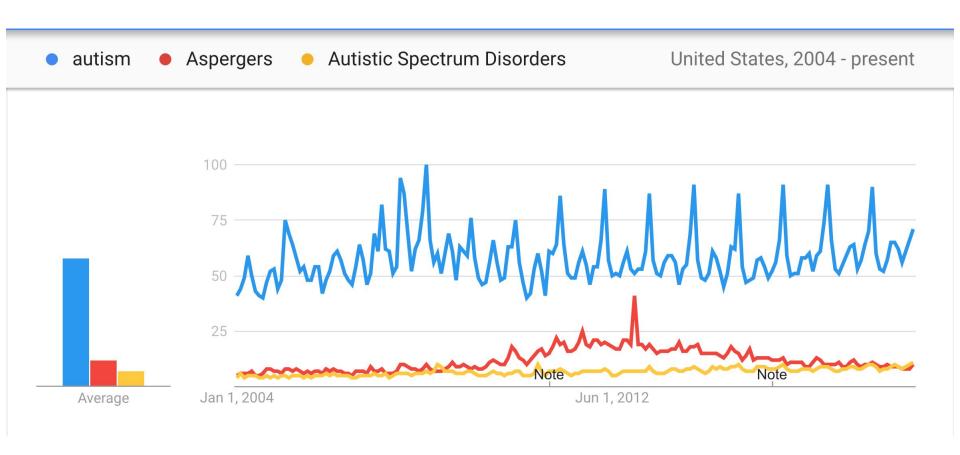# Gender and Autism (?)

Gender and Autism (?)

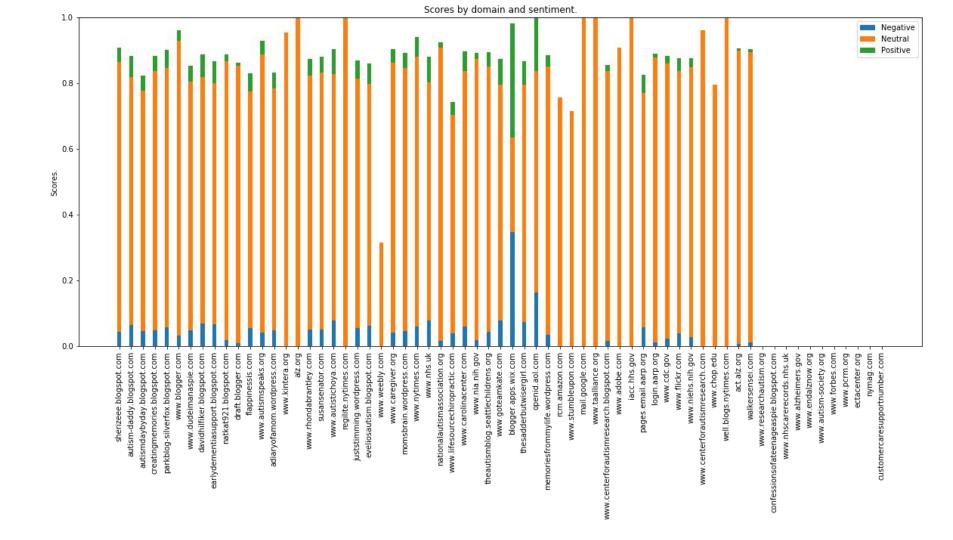# Network Analysis - Degree of Mom versus Dad

Indegree: 6 Outdegree:2178   Indegree: 7 Outdegree: 315

Online Searches for "Autism"

autism • Aspergers • Autistic Spectrum Disorders — United States, 2004 - present

Scores by domain and sentiment.

Scores by domain and sentiment.

February

autism-daddy.blogspot.com

autismdaybyday.blogspot.com

www.autismspeaks.org

adiaryofamom.wordpress.com

www.kintera.org

www.cdc.gov

March

autism-daddy.blogspot.com

autismdaybyday.blogspot.com

www.autismspeaks.org

adiaryofamom.wordpress.com

www.cdc.gov

www.autism-society.org
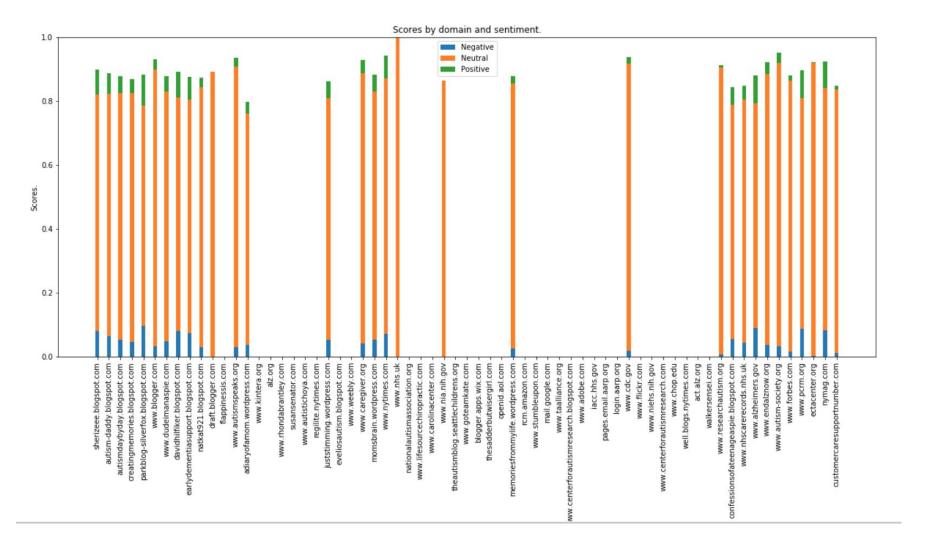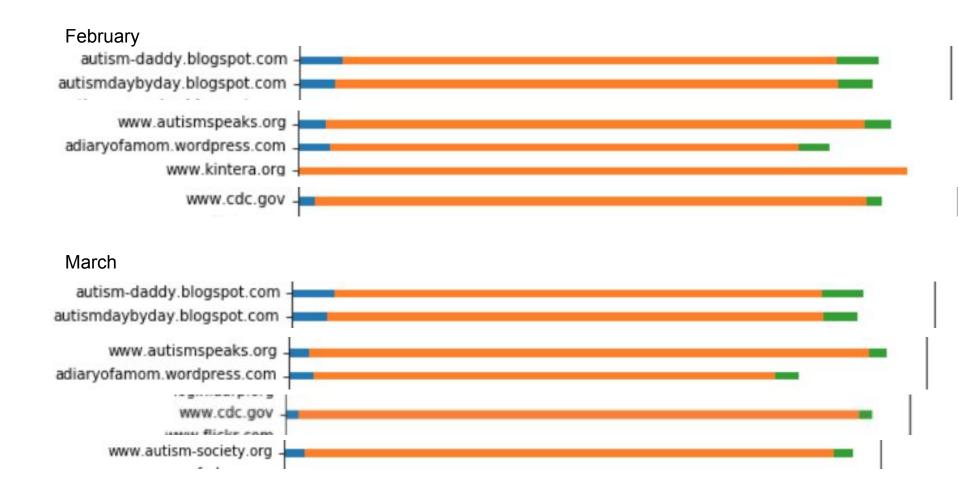
Further Questions

- What is the research question?
  - Research question applied to corpus, corpus inform research question, research question applied to corpus
- How to incorporate context?
- How does corpus change over time?
- Can we look more closely at organizational vs individual relationship?