Annotation Codebook

Alt-Right

Process

- "Carefully inspect each one of the channels in this table, taking a look at the most popular videos, and watching, altogether, at least 5 minutes of content from that channel." – Ribeiro et al. (2020)
- Search around for former connections to Alt-Right, e.g., Google them and then cross-reference with Marantz (2017).
- Can also check existing lists of alt-right channels (Chen et al. 2022; Ribeiro et al. 2020) and online forum.[1]

Distinguishing the Alt-Right from within the Alternative Influence Network (AIN)

- Read ADL (2019) and Marantz (2017), and (Weiss and Winter 2018).
- The Alt-Right is the most extreme of three groups of the AIN (Lewis 2018). The other two groups are the Alt-Lite (less extreme) and Intellectual Dark Web (least extreme).
- To distinguish between the Alt-Right and Alt-Lite, note that they are similar in their hatred of feminists, immigrants, social justice warriors, Jewish people, and others, but at the same time the Alt-Lite purport to reject white supremacist thinking that the Alt-Right espouses (Marantz 2017).

Antitheism

Process

- Watch intro video (if exists) and several other videos
- Look for anti-religion videos that could indicate potential antitheism
- Look for discussion of the channel/personality's own ideology – do they talk about being atheist?

Definition

- "The (a) self-identified atheist who is also (b) actively critical of religion. Also called New Atheists or Street Epistemologists." – Ledwich and Zaitsev (2020)
- The keyword here is "self-identified". They should state their own religious beliefs somewhere in their videos. You can do some web searching to confirm.
- Some channels are scientific explanations of phenomena that may be traditionally explained by religion (for instance, explaining ancient floods with scientific reasoning). These videos should not be evidence for antitheism.
- Some channels are anti-religion, but only for certain religions (e.g., ex-Jehova's Witness members). However, if they do not talk about their own religious beliefs as being atheist, then it should not count as antitheism.

Politics

There are two types of requirements to satisfy here: (1) the format of the content and (2) the content itself. This codebook applies to both the politics-left and right topics.

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[1] https://www.reddit.com/r/Fuckthealtright/

Decide whether the channel is "political"

- Must cover US news and/or some sort of current events
- Must be in English
- Channels reposting clips of others can count as political
- Can be satire as long as the target's political identity is clear and consistent
- If a channel only talks about religious or biblical content, then it is not political

If the channel is political, then decide its political leaning

- Use the MBFC definition of left and right-leaning[2]
- Can check both MBFC and All-Sides for leaning labels

Special case - local news outlets

- First, check MBFC and All-Sides for label
- If that station does not have a label, then use that of the parent company

Special case - late night shows

- If a show primarily makes fun of politicians, regardless of their affiliated political parties, then it is not political
- If a show consistently demotes politicians from one side, or consistently promotes issues fitted into one side's agenda, it may be political-left or political-right

References

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[2] https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/left-vs-right-bias-how-we-rate-the-bias-of-media-sources/