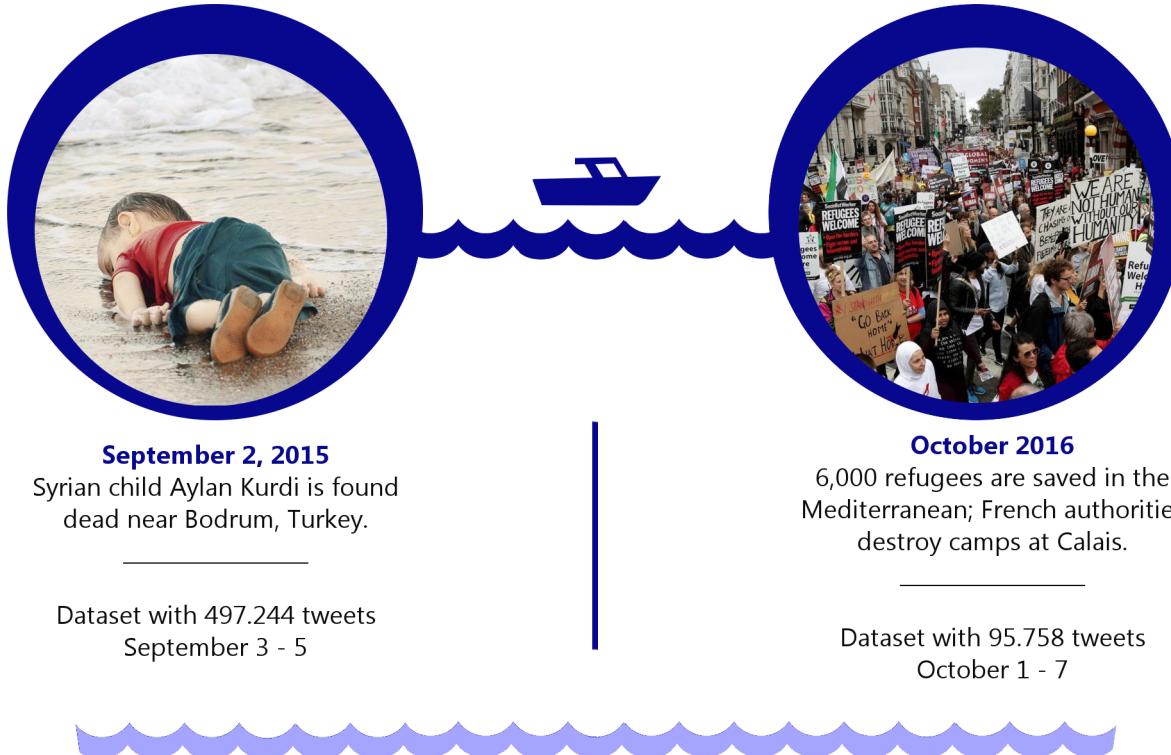


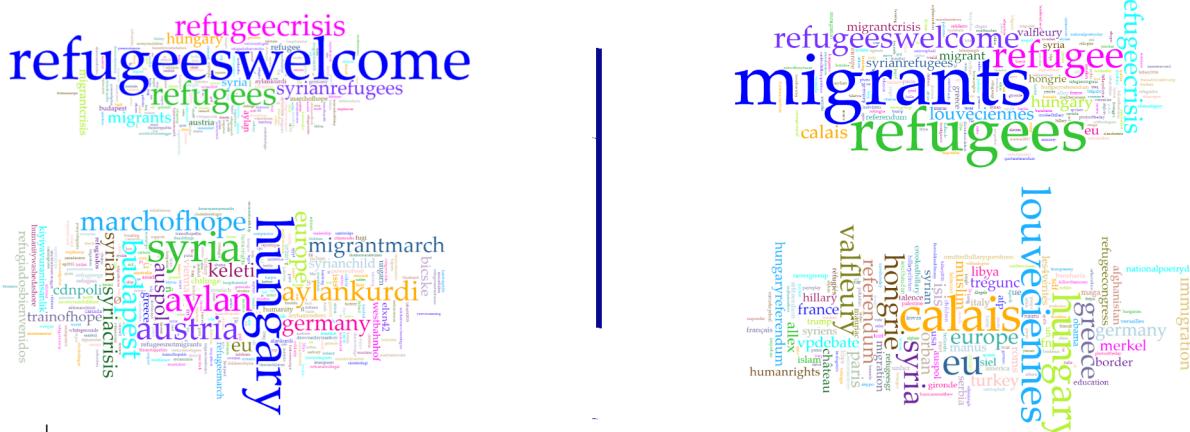
Examining Twitter's Opinion on the Refugee Crisis through Distant Reading

Analyzing half-million tweets to understand how public opinion in regards to the refugee crisis had changed from the death of Aylan Kurdi in 2015 to a year later

Angelo Zinna & Laurence Auener

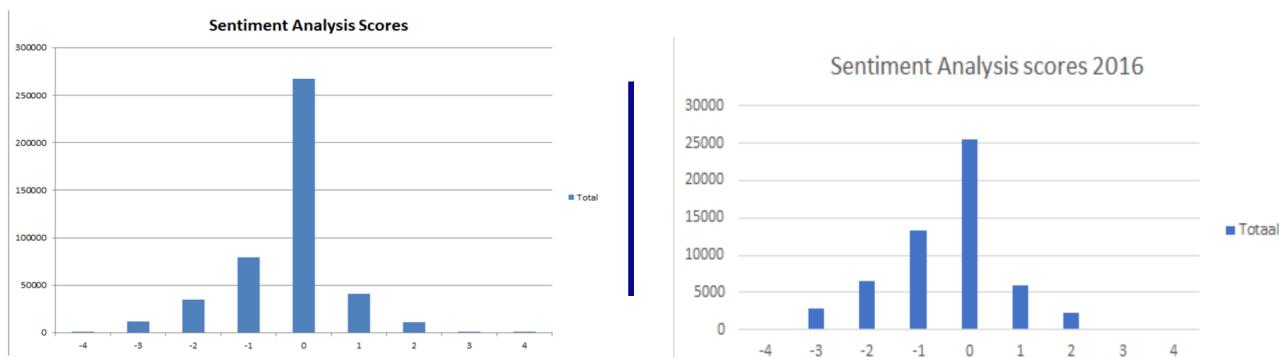


#HashtagAnalysis



The first part of our analysis involved hashtag analysis through Voyant Tools. We converted the hashtags into text files and formed word cloud and frequency lists for both 2015 and 2016. The first two word clouds included the hashtags used for extraction, while the second pair of word clouds did not account for the primary hashtags. In 2015 the hashtag "refugeeswelcome" accounted for almost 30% of the total number of hashtags (nearly one million), while it becomes less relevant in 2016. When removing the hashtags that were used to collect the tweets, the hashtags represent events and places, such as "Hungary", "Syria", "marchofhope", and "AylanKurdi" in 2015, and "Calais", "Louveciennes", and "Valfleury" in 2016.

#SentimentAnalysis



Sentiment analysis shows neutrality in opinions, tending slightly toward the negative. This result was expected, considering that the wording used by both supporters and opponents of immigration are unlikely to use positive terms in the period of time that surrounds a tragedy. These results are shown in graphs 5 and 6 below.