‘The Representation of Gender-Related Issues in Politicians’ Discourse Over Social Media’

Yael Rivka Kaplan

* Paper summary
  + Do party candidate selection methods influence the amount of discourse party members dedicate to womens’ issues?
* Contribution
  + Original data set on Israeli candidate social media campaigning
  + Candidate as well as elected politicians
  + Builds on existing work on descriptive representation
* What has been done well
  + Overview of candidate selection methods, descriptive and substantive reperesentaion
* What could move the research forward
  + More discussion about the specifics of the Israeli case
    - Variation in candidate selection well justified
    - 4 election in 2 years
    - Instability in domestic politics
    - Interesting implications: trade off in selection methods between descriptive and substantive representation?
* Constructive critique as questions
  + Theory discussed motivation by having to appeal to wider electorate, but none of the Israeli parties have open primaries.
  + Is there any data on salience of womens issue within the general public in Israel?
    - If candidate selection methods motivate candidates to focus on mirroring either:
    - Party or public issue importance of womens issues
    - Would we not expect the public to also be most concerned with economic etc issues
  + What sources where used for the training dataset? Which news articles and posts?
  + Where did the definition of womens issues come from?
  + Figure 3 missing?
  + Can include candidate selection as categorical variable, to see differences across groups
  + % of female candidates on list is post-treatment
    - Measured after substantive rep, so unclear how mediating this effect

The contagion effect of feminist parties’ social media campaigns during the 2019 European Parliament election.’

‘The contagion effect of feminist parties’ social media campaigns during the 2019 EP elections’

Louise Luxton

* Paper summary
  + Does the presence of feminist parties in an election increase the salience of women’s issues in main parties social media campaigns?
* Contribution
  + Feminist parties underexplored in comparison to other nice parties (far-right, greens)
  + Focus on social media campaigning, while previous literature primarily based on manifestos
* What has been done well
  + Excellent justification for the focus on feminist parties, and social media
  + Really nice overview of the party competition literature, hypotheses follow on from theory clearly
* What could move the research forward
  + So current training data is all feminist party tweets
    - Will use this to develop classifier, and predict out of sample on all 2019 party tweets?
* Constructive critique as questions
  + Flowchart diagram for the coding process might be useful
  + Would suggest bringing some of the feminist party/social media sections into the intro to highlight topic relevance
  + Multiple issues is really interesting, where there any clear patterns in which types of issues were co-mentioned with feminist issues?
  + Issue frequency plot, is X axis: % of all tweets, or % of all issue mentions?
  + How was the split between feminist and other issues developed in the codebook?
  + For the modelling having you considered aggregating the measures?
    - Hypotheses at the party and country level, DV = % of issue tweets mentioning feminist issues
* Suggestions
  + Figure 2, could plot net difference between candidates/parties on each issue
  + Would be nice to see plot comparing issues breakdown between countries, especially since the analysis with be cross-national

‘Personalization and Twitter: How do content recommendations respond to ideological behavior?’

Benjamin Guinaudeau

* Paper summary
  + What degree of ideological bias is introduced by algorithmic recommender systems?
  + What role is played by explicit and implicit cues
* Contribution
  + Developed beyond echo-chamber literature, with new insights on filter bubble
* What has been done well
  + Such a clever, well thought out and executed research design
  + Overview of the substantive issue is extremely clearly written and well structured
    - Clear conceptualisation of key terms of echo chambers and filter bubbles
  + Really interesting findings – implicit cues more powerful
  + Figure 3 is really nic with the experimental design, as well as the example tweets in figure 4
  + Clearly a lot of work went into this
* What could move the research forward
  + I would include specific reference to Twitter in the abstract and introduction
  + Theory has broad implications, justify a bit more the focus on Twitter, or what we can draw from the findings from this one platform
  + Looking at specific political issues as well as partisanship, beyond US and Twitter context
* Constructive critique as questions
  + Would you expect this to be the ceiling of this effect, having been recorded at such as polarising time (US election)?
    - Higher levels of polarisation and bias, tweets much more overtly political
  + Has any further information on the inner workings of the recommender system become available since the release of Twitter source code?
  + The chronlogical timeline control group that is recreated. Do people ever actually see timelines like this?
  + What locations were the VPNs randomised across? Any indication of VPN detection/region effects by the recommender system? e.g Following local representative

‘Non-random Tweet Mortality and Data Access Restrictions: Implications for the Study of Sensitive Topics on Twitter’

Andreas Küpfer’s

* Paper summary
* Contribution
  + Such an important and relevant topic for wider political science, but with direction practical implications for social media researchers
* What has been done well
  + Very clearly explains the research problem/puzzle
  + Fascinating about the timescale of tweet attrition, biggest source is account removals etc
  + Very thorough replication analysis of the Kim paper
* What could move the research forward
  + Slight change in framing
    - From: loss of data, findings don’t match now
    - To: Reverse engineer, what type of Tweets are missing, whats the wider implications of this.
      * E.g. violent tweets against women were removed to a greater degree, more republicans removed
  + Broader discussion on relative importance alongside legal and ethical considerations
* Constructive critique as questions
  + Does replicability trump legal responsibilities and ethics concerns?
    - How do your arguments fit in with debates on legality/tos/legal restrictions on researchers, as well as ethical right to privacy for public digital records?
  + Invididuals or Twitter can sue idnvidual researchers, unis and funders may shit the bed
  + Potential solutions?
    - Prepublication replication, secure access by journal or 2rd party?
    - Publish sample of dataset
    - Should it be journals setting these requirements
  + What should we do in publications now?
  + Thoughts of the post-API, lack of academic API’s impact on the scale of this replication problem?
  + Figure 2 dual axis a little unclear
  + Table 1 rankling a little hard to interpret
    - Perhaps rank by % of all hastags, or % of all tweets

How to do Things with ‘Values’: A Cross-Linguistic Analysis of the Meanings and Functions of a Core Concept on Twitter’

Avishai Green

* Paper summary
* Contribution
* What has been done well
* What could move the research forward
* Constructive critique as questions
* Literature recommendations