

SEARCHING FOR THE HIGH

ANALYZING THE PEAK OF
WAR ON DRUGS
MIS/DISINFORMATION

Former president Rodrigo Duterte's infamous War on Drugs is a source of great controversy, and as a result, the strong subject of internet traffic. Google Trends data shows that Philippine search queries involving the keywords "War on Drugs" peaked around the middle of 2017. Given that, we can ask:

Can the peak of war-on-drugs-related mis/disinformation be associated with a specific event?

To answer that question, an analysis on the frequency of war-on-drugs-related mis/disinformation tweets will be done.

Hypothesis

The death of Kian delos Santos caused the highest peak in war-on-drugs-related mis/disinformation.

Idea

Collect war-on-drugs-related mis/disinformation tweets, then use time-series analysis and statistical modelling.

COLLECTION



Snscape was used alongside various war-on-drug-related keywords to collect in batches; 155 tweets were found to contain mis/disinformation

ENCODING



After data anonymization, proper formatting was ensured by hand (and by Python, where possible)

TESTING



NumPy was used to perform the Chi-squared test on binned tweets (before, during, and after Kian's death)

MODELLING



Peak and change-point detection were performed through NumPy and pandas to facilitate data visualization.

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

Sufficient evidence to conclude that there was a difference between counts before, during, and after Kian delos Santos's death ($p \approx 0.000008$).

However, insufficient evidence for a difference between counts before and during Kian's death ($p \approx 0.135$).



This is supported by the machine learning graph: through visual inspection, while there exists a peak for Kian delos Santos's death, the peak for the tweets before Kian's death is higher. This higher peak can be associated with the 2016 elections.

CONCLUSION

Kian delos Santos's death did not cause the highest peak in war-on-drugs-related mis/disinformation tweets.

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