**Proposal**

**Emotional Attributes of diverging political spheres on Twitter**

Problem: For our project we want to analyse the Twitter sphere of (far) right politics and contrast it with the (far) left spectrum of Twitter accounts. To specify the corpus we only focus on German and Austrian politicians, who are still active on a federal level. In accordance with our preliminary hypothesis, we presume a higher occurrence of emotions such as aggression, dominance - i. e. assertive language - in the Tweets of the politicians on the (far) right spectrum than for the politicians on the (far) left spectrum.

From the scientific literature emerges a trend for German moderate and leftist politicians to opt for the opposing end of the emotional spectrum in order to distance themselves from any direct association with their political counterparts. Since a trend like this has not yet been observed in Austria we would like to analyze if this holds true for their Austrian counterparts as well or if at least a similar notion can be detected.

Data: The dataset will be scraped via the R-library *twitteR* and consists of 23 Twitter-IDs. For each Twitter-ID we will first scrape the 1000 most recent Tweets and paste each result into its own csv-file. Thus, we create individual files for each politician and merge them afterwards, where appropriate. Furthermore this practice allows us to subset the data according to different parameters such as country, political affiliation, party, etc.

In order to consider a respective Twitter-account significant for our analysis we defined the selection criteria that the user in question had to be active within the last 4 weeks and that the profile contained at least 1000 individual Tweets.  
To each Tweet from a given user we assigned its own row in the csv-file, while the columns for each entry contain the ID of the Tweet, the textual content, the date when the tweet was created, the favorite count and the count of retweets. The reason we chose to incorporate favorite count and the count of retweets as quantitative measures was to add a numerical feature of comparative value to the dataset, so that we can then also provide a better description on the range of influence for the Twitter feed of a given politician. Because of the fact that the population count between Germany and Austria differs considerably in size, we also decided to add a division factor of 9.3, which we then apply to the quantitative features of the German Twitter accounts so that we end up with a normalised distribution of said measures.

Emotional Model: So far we have decided to focus on a model with the three axes found in Ekman’s set of basic emotions, which are dominance, valence and arousal - while also retaining the option to branch out to more fine grained solutions later on. Thus, we will be using the Multilingual Emotional Lexicon (MEmoLon) by JULIE Lab.

Emotion models:

MEmoLon  
<https://github.com/JULIELab/MEmoLon>

German Emotion Dictionaries

<https://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/forschung/ressourcen/lexika/germanemotion/>

German Sentiment Analysis

<https://huggingface.co/oliverguhr/german-sentiment-bert>

Additional Sources:

Widmann, Tobias: How Emotional Are Populists Really? Factors Explaining Emotional Appeals in the Communication of Political Parties

<https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/70695/VALENTIM_WIEDMANN_2021.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Saeedeh Momtazi: Fine-grained German Sentiment Analysis on Social Media

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266887913_Fine-grained_German_Sentiment_Analysis_on_Social_Media>

Sidorenko, Wladimir: Sentiment Analysis of German Twitter

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.13062>

Büchel, Sven Eric: Automatische Analyse von Emotionen in Geschäfts- und Nachhaltigkeitsberichten

[https://julielab.de/downloads/publications/thesis/BA\_Buechel\_Emotionsanalyse\_2016-02-04.](https://julielab.de/downloads/publications/thesis/BA_Buechel_Emotionsanalyse_2016-02-04.pdf)

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<https://www-journals-uchicago-edu.uaccess.univie.ac.at/doi/full/10.1086/707613>

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<https://www-cambridge-org.uaccess.univie.ac.at/core/journals/political-analysis/article/text-as-data-the-promise-and-pitfalls-of-automatic-content-analysis-methods-for-political-texts/F7AAC8B2909441603FEB25C156448F20>