

Social Movements in a Time of the Pandemic

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Project Presentation

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Overview

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Literature Review
- 3 Research Design
- 4 Methodology
- 5 Analysis and Findings
- 6 Conclusion

Introduction

- Social Movements and Protests
- Pandemics and COVID-19
- Socio-economic differences
- Public responses to governments



Social Movements

Tilly (2004) defines it through contention and collective claims. Della Porta and Mattoni (2015) focuses on the networks of interaction and contention. Touraine (1985) sees it as a construction of social reality.

COVID-19

Pleyers (2020) argue that COVID-19 triggered the contentions between social movements and capitalist state actors. Dave et al. (2020) study the risk avoiding behavior of protestors during BLM protests.

Cases

- ① Argentina
- ② South Africa
- ③ United States

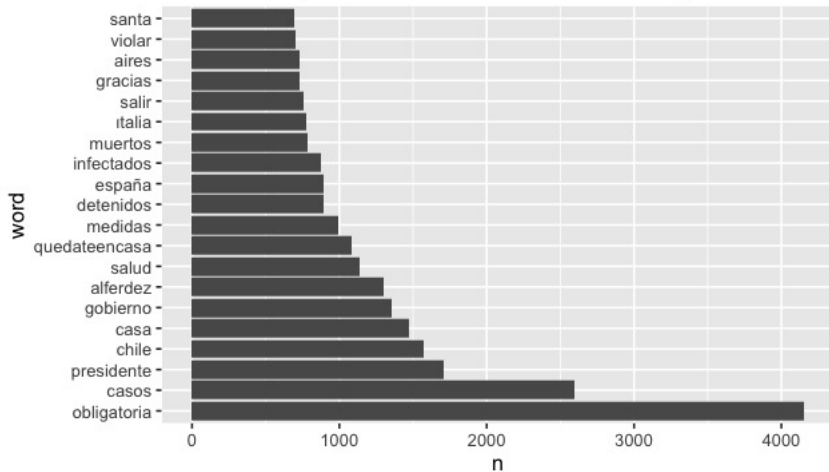
How do different governments' policies affect protests during the pandemic? The people respond differently to their governments' Covid-19 measures along the North-South dimension. However, in the literature, not much attention has been given to the relationship between social movements and the pandemic.

- Argentina
 - 4.3 M cases, 90.281 deaths
 - 86th in real GDP per capita (2019 census, CIA World FactBook)
 - Protests: dissatisfaction with the government's COVID-19 response
 - 20.03.2020 - 30.03.2020 "cuarentena" - 34.143 Tweets
- South Africa
 - 1.8 M cases, 59.258 deaths
 - 128th in real GDP per capita (2019 census, CIA World FactBook)
 - Protests: financial
 - 15.03.2020 - 14.09.2020 "lockdown" - 72.699 Tweets
- United States
 - 33.5 M cases, 602.000 deaths
 - 15th in real GDP per capita (2019 census, CIA World FactBook)
 - Protests: anti-mask, anti-vaccine, financial
 - 15.04.2020 - 15.06.2020 "lockdown" - 25.395 Tweets

- **Data Collection:** R and Python “academictwitteR”
- **Data Cleaning:** “tidyverse”, “tm”, “quanteda”
- **Sentiment Analysis:** “syuzhet”, NRC (English and Spanish) and Bing Dictionaries
- **Structural Topic Modeling:** “stm” and “quanteda”

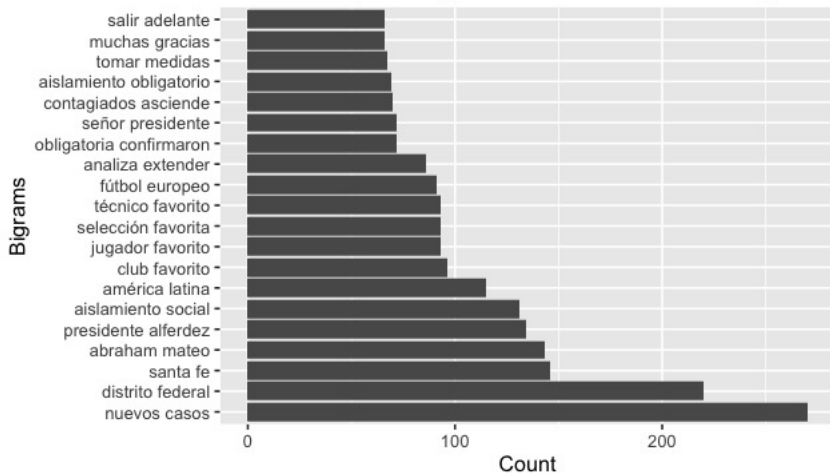
Word Frequency Analysis - Argentina

20 most frequent words on 'Cuarentena' in Argentina

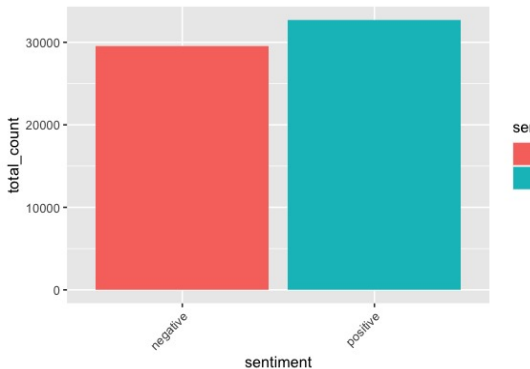
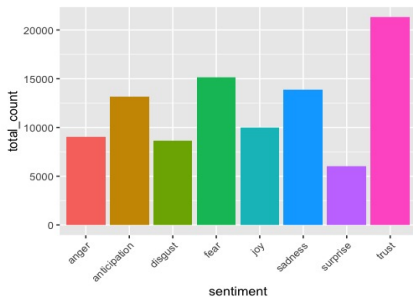


Bigrams - Argentina

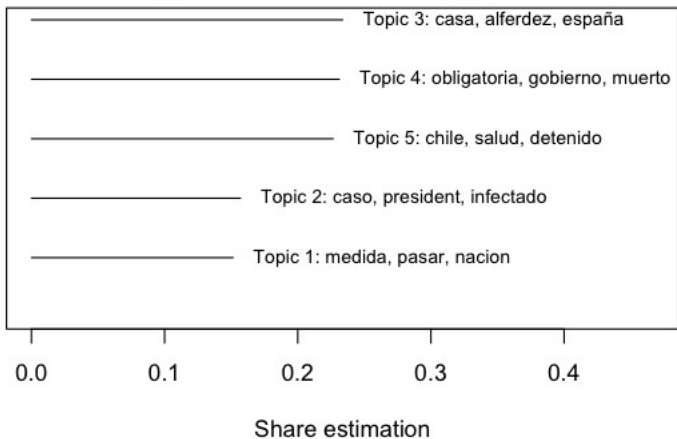
20 most frequent bigrams on 'Cuarentena' in Argentina



Sentiment Analysis - Argentina



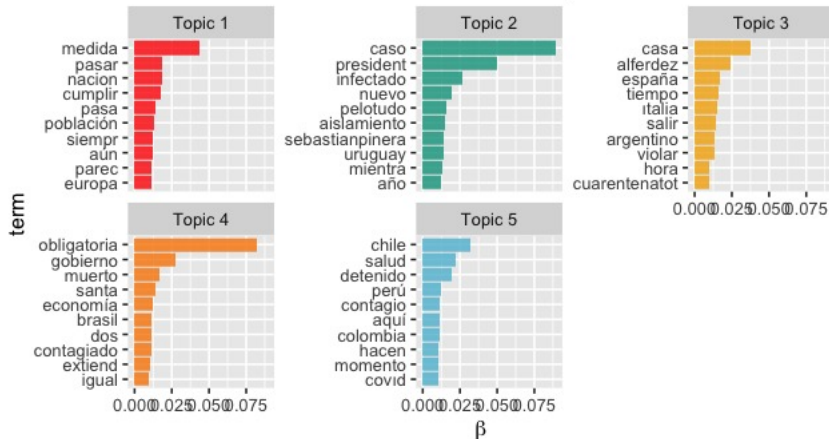
Topic Distribution on Argentina

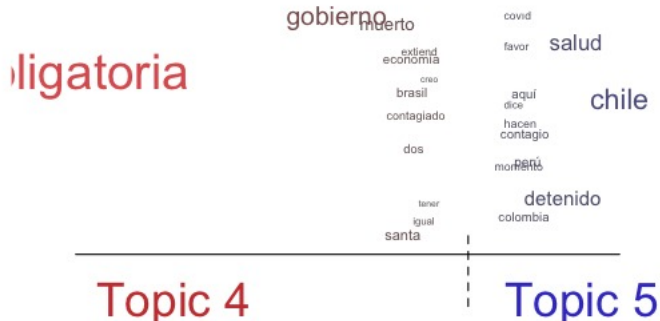


STM - Argentina

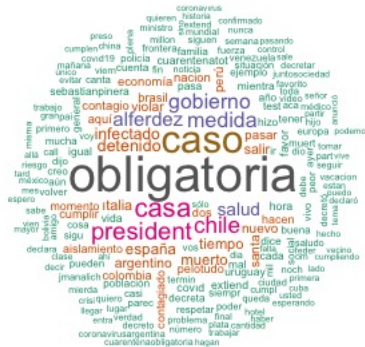
Highest word probabilities for each topic in Argentina

Different words are associated with different topics



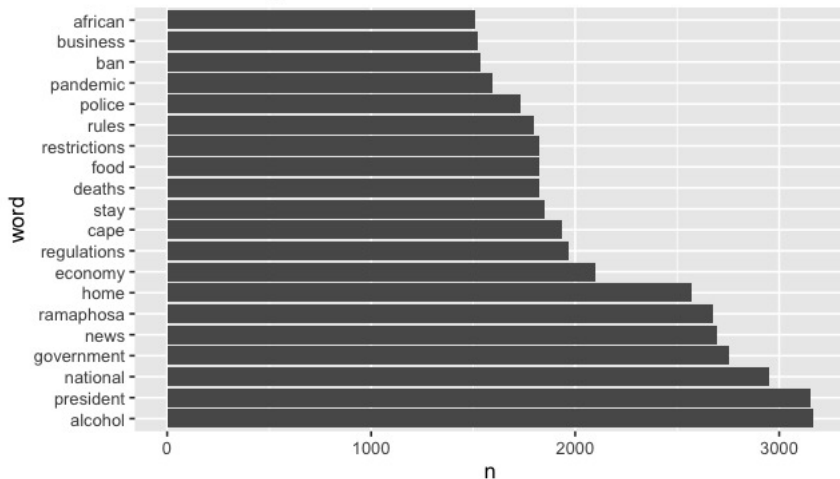


Word cloud - Argentina



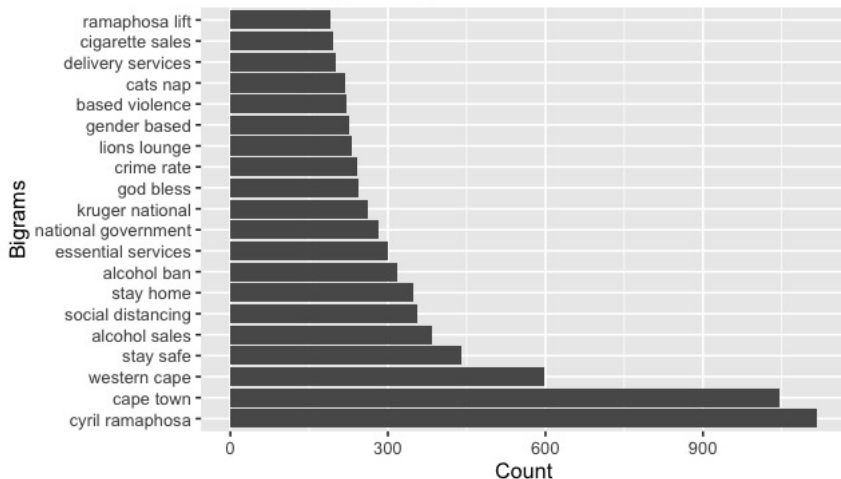
Word Frequency Analysis - South Africa

20 most frequent words on Lockdown in South Africa

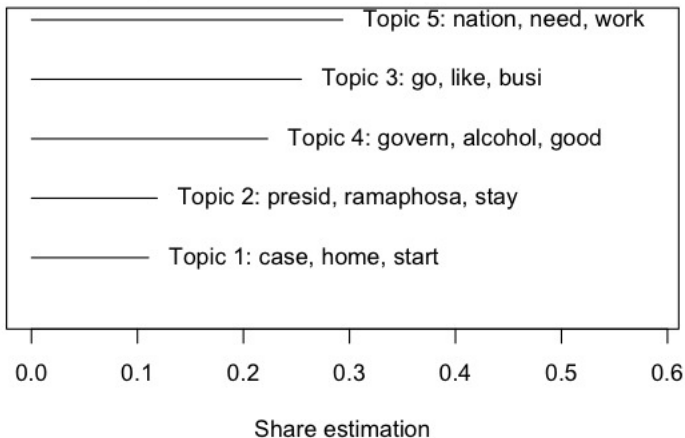


Bigrams - South Africa

20 most frequent bigrams on South Africa

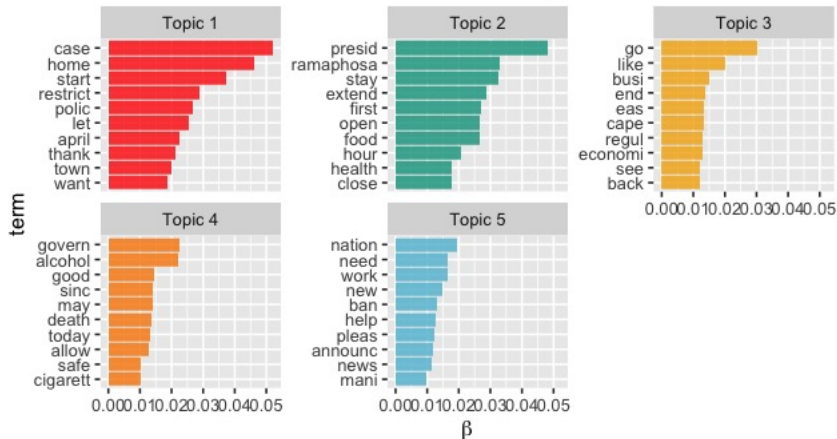


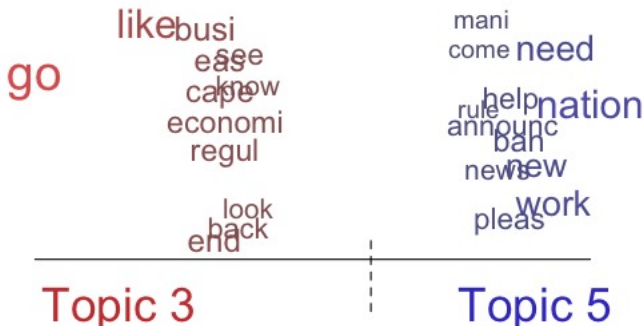
Topic Distribution on South Africa



Highest word probabilities for each topic in South Africa

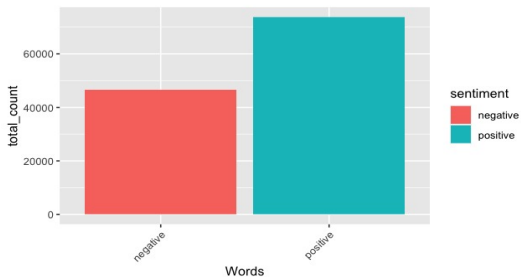
Different words are associated with different topics



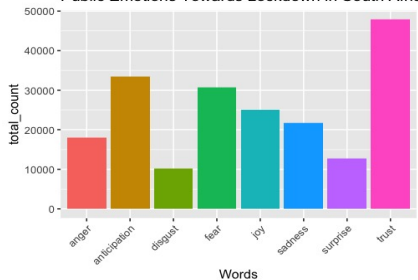


Sentiment Analysis - South Africa

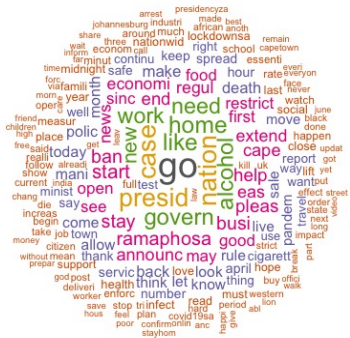
Public Sentiments Towards Lockdown in South Africa



Public Emotions Towards Lockdown in South Africa

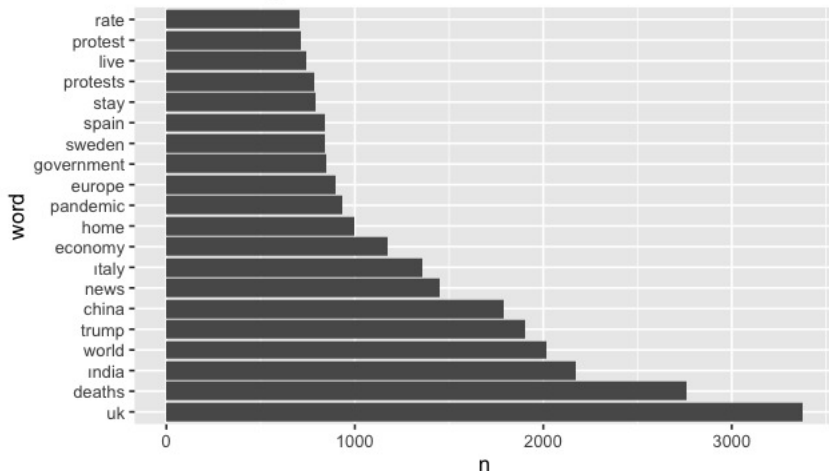


Word clouds - South Africa



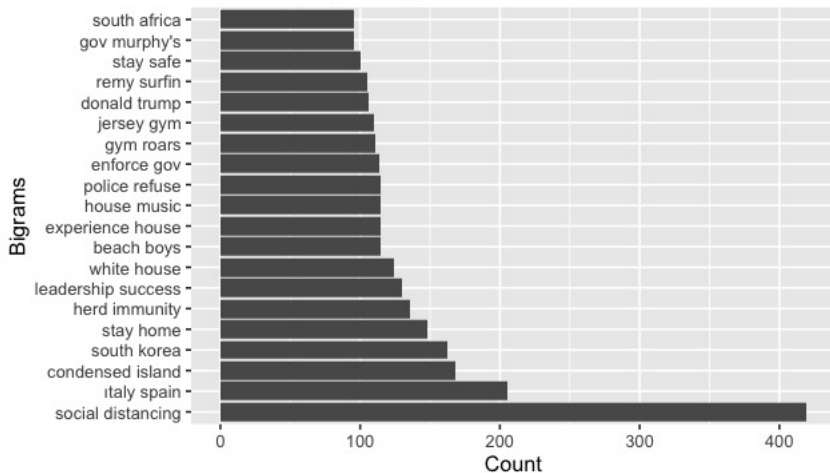
Word Frequency Analysis - USA

20 most frequent words on Lockdown in the USA

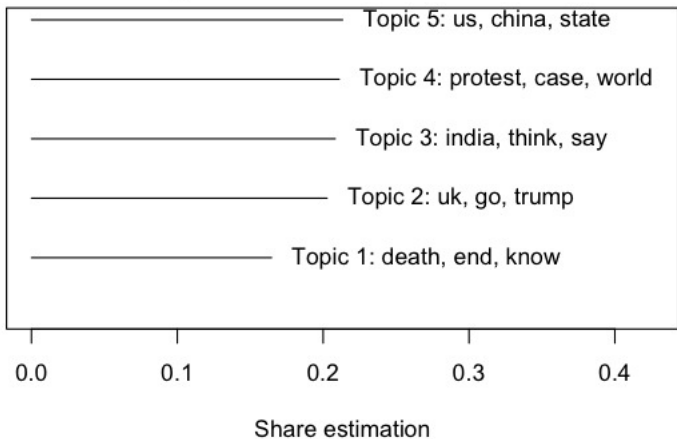


Bigrams - USA

20 most frequent bigrams on USA

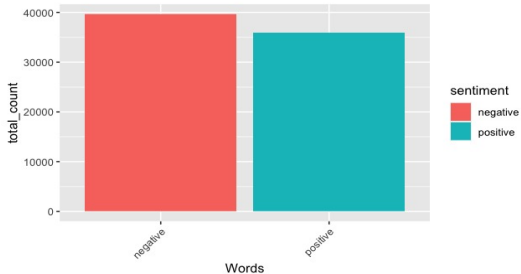


Topic Distribution on the USA

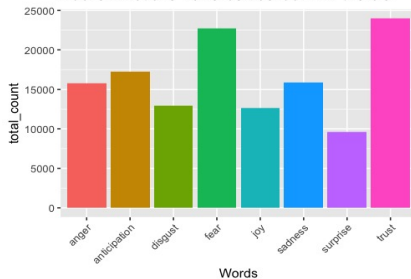


Sentiment Analysis - USA

Public Sentiments Towards Lockdown in the US

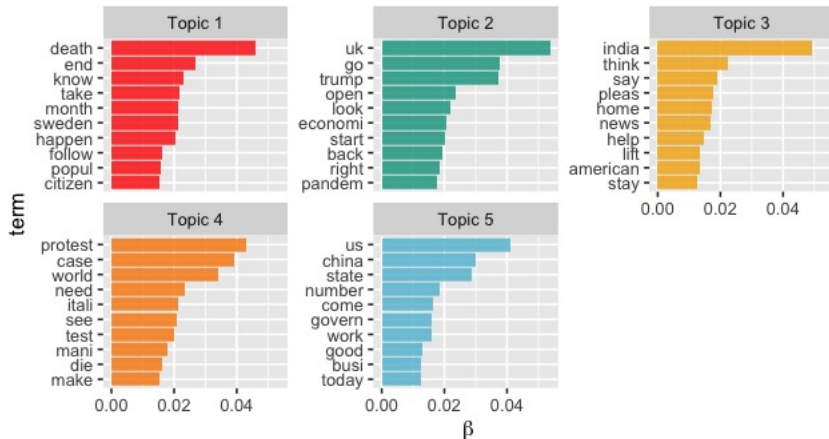


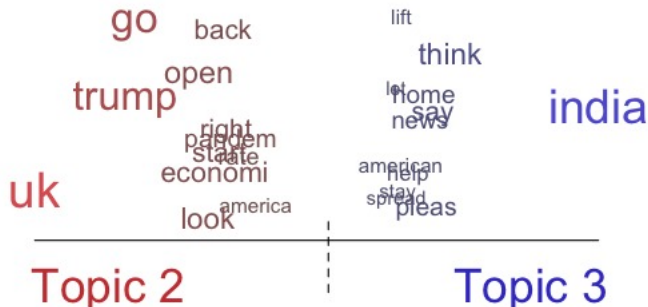
Public Emotions Towards Lockdown in the US



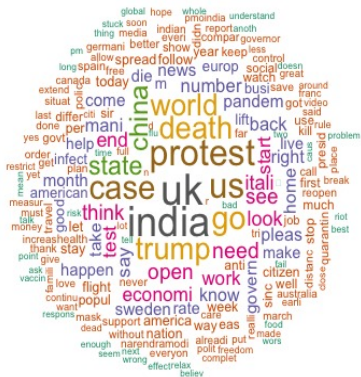
Highest word probabilities for each topic in the USA

Different words are associated with different topics





Word clouds - USA



Conclusion

- Different socio-economic backgrounds of countries
- Academic Twitter 503 Error - need for large server to extend the time periods
- How does the pandemic change the way we theorize movements?
- Does the reality of the pandemic force us to re-evaluate the robustness of existing social movement theories and concepts?
- Further research: 1-year long survival analysis - how long does each anti-government phase last?

References

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*Thank
you!*