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The National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences Research Article Review Topic: Effect of Digital Technology on Politics Course: Modern Politics and Government Section: BCS-4A Group Members Names Roll Numbers Ayesha Saikhani 21L-7743 Hashir Saikhani 21L-7742 Laraib Akhtar 21L-5294 Saad Asif 21L-7532 Ashar Nadeem 21L-5336 Article Review #1

> 9**Politics on Twitter: One-Third of Tweets from U.S. Adults Are Political** About **the**

Author(s) The article is written by Samuel E. Bestvater. He

> 10**is a second-year Ph.D. student** at **the Political Science Department** who is specialising **in**

Comparative Politics and Political Methodology. His research interests center around contentious politics and political participation, with a specific focus on social movements, their outcomes, and their downstream effects on political behavior. Summary The article reports on a study conducted by Pew Research Center, which found that 33% tweets from Americans are political. The study analyzed over 1.1 million public tweets posted between April 2021 and January 2022. It also found that political tweeting varies by age, gender, and political affiliation, with women and Democrats being more likely to tweet about political topics. The study notes that political tweeting tends to spike during major political events, but also points out that the vast majority of Twitter users do not post political content regularly. It is important to note that the study only focused on Twitter and may not be representative of political discourse across all social media platforms or among the general population. Analysis Opinion The study conducted by Pew Research Center provides valuable insights into the prevalence and patterns of political tweeting on Twitter. The finding that a third of tweets posted by Americans are related to politics is noteworthy and shows how social media is important in changing our perspective. It is also necessary to note that the study only focuses on Twitter and may not be representative of political discourse across all social media platforms or among the general population. The study's finding that political tweeting tends to spike during major political events is not surprising, but it provides some important context for understanding the part twitter plays in politics. Furthermore, the study's finding that the vast majority of Twitter users do not post political content regularly raises important questions about how social media plays its part in the political scenario. Overall, the study provides some valuable insights into the prevalence and patterns of political tweeting on Twitter. However, the results needs to be looked at with careful and a meticulous eye to recognize that social media is just one of many factors that shape political discourse and participation. Strengths Firstly, the article provides a nice a short passage for readers to understand and wrap their heads around the key insights. The article also gives additional information to analyze any implications of the findings that can be derived. highlights the limitations of the study and acknowledges that it only focuses on Twitter and U.S. adults. This is an important aspect of the article because it helps readers understand the scope and generalizability of the study's findings. Thirdly, the article provides useful visual aids, such as graphs and charts, to help readers understand the study's findings. These visual aids make it easier for readers to interpret and analyze the data presented in the study. Fourthly, the article provides a balanced perspective on the implications of the study's findings. It acknowledges the importance of twitter in moulding the path politics is taking ,meanwhile, recognizing it's weaknesses, the role of other factors in political participation and engagement. Overall, the article provides a clear and informative summary of the study conducted by Pew Research Center on political tweeting on Twitter. The article's strengths include its clear presentation of the study's findings, its acknowledgment of the study's limitations, its use of visual aids, and its balanced perspective on the implications of the study's findings. Gaps Firstly, the article gives a clear understanding for the readers to grasp the key insights. The article also gives extra information to readers so they can analyze the results of the research. Secondly, it highlights the limitations of the study and acknowledges that it only focuses on Twitter and U.S. adults. This is an important aspect of the article because it helps readers understand the scope and generalizability of the study's findings. Thirdly, the article provides useful visual aids, such as graphs and charts, to help readers understand the study's findings. These visual aids make it easier for readers to interpret and analyze the data presented in the study. Fourthly, the article provides a balanced perspective on the implications of the study's findings. It acknowledges the importance of twitter as well as identifying what it failed to offer and the role of other factors in political participation and engagement. Overall, the article provides a clear and informative summary of the study conducted by Pew Research Center on political tweeting on Twitter. The article's strengths include its clear presentation of the study's findings, its acknowledgment of the study's limitations, its use of visual aids, and its balanced perspective on the implications of the study's findings. Points of Agreement Firstly, I agree that the prevalence of political tweeting on Twitter is noteworthy and highlights the significant role that social media plays in shaping political discourse. This finding underscores The importance of social media for shaping public opinion,

political engagement and civic engagement. Second, I agree that the finding that political tweets tend to increase before and after major political events is an important finding. The results show that Twitter users are more likely to engage in political discussions during times of high political relevance, such as elections and major political debates. Third, we agree that the finding that the majority of Twitter users do not post political content on a regular basis raises important questions about

> 4**the role of social media in political**

participation and engagement. To do. The results suggest that while

> 4**social media can be a powerful tool for political**

discourse, it does not necessarily represent political views or public participation. In conclusion, I agree that this article provides a balanced perspective on the findings and acknowledges the limitations of the study. This balanced perspective is important because it helps readers understand the scope and generalizability of our findings, as well as

> 11**the role of social media in** shaping **political discourse**. Points of Disagreement **The**

article, right off the bat, centers around the review's discoveries on Twitter instead of other virtual entertainment stages. Twitter is only one of numerous virtual entertainment stages, and the commonness of political substance on Twitter may not be delegate of the predominance of political substance on different stages. Furthermore, the review's example size and time period are not adequate to make expansive inferences about the predominance of political substance on Twitter. The review investigated over 1.1 million public tweets posted between April 2021 and January 2022, which may not be agent of the general volume of political substance posted on Twitter or political talk all the more extensively. Thirdly, the article makes a statement that the pervasiveness of political substance on Twitter is a reason to worry. While virtual entertainment can possibly shape general assessment and political commitment, a few perusers might contend that political talk is sound and significant for popularity based social orders. Finally, the article needs conversation about the possible positive parts of political tweeting on Twitter, for example, the capacity to interface with similar people, activate networks, or consider legislators responsible. Conclusion All in all, the article sums up a review led by Seat Exploration Center that investigates the commonness of political tweeting on Twitter. The investigation discovers that 33% of tweets posted by US grown-ups are political, with political substance spiking during major political occasions. The article gives a reasonable viewpoint on the review's discoveries and recognizes the limits of the review. While the review reveals insight into the huge job of virtual entertainment in molding political talk, it is vital to take note of that Twitter clients may not be delegate of the more extensive populace, and Twitter's one of a kind highlights and culture might impact the sort of political substance shared on the stage. In addition, the review's meaning of political substance might be viewed as too wide by certain perusers. The article gives a helpful outline of the review's discoveries, and its reasonable viewpoint is a strength. Notwithstanding, a few perusers might disagree with the review's example size, meaning of political substance, or the article's emphasis on the negative parts of political tweeting on Twitter without examining possible positive results. Generally speaking, the article features the significance of web-based entertainment in forming political talk, while likewise perceiving the constraints and expected predispositions of the review. Article Review #2

> 3**The impact of Twitter on political influence on the choice of a running mate: Social Network Analysis and Semantic Analysis** About **the**

Author(s) The article is authored by

> 13**Immaculate Wanza, Irad Kamuti, David Gichohi**, and **Kinyua Gikunda**

. Wanza is an accountant in Nairobi, Kamuti is an academic writer in Nyeri, Gichohi is a student at Kenyatta University, and Gikunda is a Computer Science Lecturer in Dedan Kimathi University of Technology with research interests in Machine Learning. Summary The article investigates the organizations of political pioneers' allies and the way that it could support navigation, explicitly in anticipating their political prospects, the article looks at the use of interpersonal organization examination and semantic investigation on Twitter. Online entertainment has turned into a crucial wellspring of information rich data that can be utilized to find out about individuals' political sentiments and interests. SNA is a device used to concentrate on the designs of communications among people and associations, while SA is a kind of information portrayal that consolidates semantic data to communicate the relationship or reliance between ideas or items. The

objective of the review is to distinguish the numerous techniques utilized in SNA and SA comparable to governmental issues, select the best strategy, and use it to learn

1**the political** effect **on the choice of a running**

accomplice. The scholars stress the meaning of virtual entertainment in legislative issues and the upsides of perhaps utilizing SNA and SA to use sound judgment. Analysis Opinion The authors offer an excellent overview of SNA and SA techniques used in political analysis, demonstrating how these methods can be used to forecast political outcomes, identify key individuals and organizations, and analyze network dynamics. The article also emphasizes how semantic networks are distinct

1**from social network analysis in that nodes are semantic concepts**

rather than social actors, and links are relationships between concepts rather than social interactions. Overall, the paper presents a useful review of SNA and SA techniques in political analysis and provides a good overview of the potential of these tools in predicting political futures. However, it could have been strengthened by providing more concrete examples of the application of these techniques to the study of political leaders and their supporters. Additionally, the paper could have addressed some of the limitations of using social media data for political analysis, such as biases in the data, difficulties in verifying the authenticity of users and their opinions, and the potential for echo chambers and filter bubbles. Conclusively, the paper provides a good foundation for future research into the application of SNA and SA to political analysis. It highlights the potential of these techniques in understanding political support networks and predicting political futures, and it raises important questions about the validity and reliability of social media data in political analysis. Strengths The paper is first and foremost incredibly well-researched and educational. The author has obviously studied much in related fields and has a thorough comprehension of the topic at hand. The article gives a comprehensive review of the subject and goes over a lot of material without being tedious. The article's clarity is another asset. The author uses understandable language that is easy for readers to understand while writing in a concise way. With distinct headings and subheadings, the content is well-organized and simple to read. The post also draws from a number of sources, such as research and quotes from experts, which gives the data offered a greater weight. The utilization of trustworthy sources by the author clearly strengthened the article's overall thesis. Additionally, the article is engaging and thought-provoking. The author presents a compelling argument and provides a unique perspective on the topic. The article raises important questions and encourages readers to think critically about the issue at hand. Overall, the article is a well-written, informative, and engaging piece of writing that offers valuable insights into the topic it covers. Gaps While the article provides a good overview

1**of social network analysis (SNA) and semantic analysis (SA**

) in relation to politics and Twitter, there are some gaps in the discussion. Firstly, the article does not delve into the limitations and challenges of using SNA and SA in analyzing political trends on Twitter. For instance, the sample size used for the analysis might not be representative of the larger population, leading to biased results. Additionally, the data used for the analysis might be noisy, with irrelevant or misleading content, which can compromise the accuracy of the findings. Secondly, the study does not clearly outline a methodology or framework for performing SNA and SA on Twitter data. It would be helpful to have a step-by-step guide on how to collect and analyze data, as well as the tools and software needed for the analysis. Without such guidance, researchers might face challenges in implementing SNA and SA, especially if they are new to these techniques. Thirdly, the article might use a more thorough explanation of the ethical issues. involved in using Twitter data for political analysis. For instance, researchers might need to obtain informed consent from the users whose data they are using, as well as adhere to data privacy regulations to avoid infringing on users' rights. Finally, while the article discusses the potential of SNA and SA in predicting the political futures of running mates, it does not provide any empirical evidence to support this claim. It would be useful to include case studies or examples of how SNA and SA have been used to predict political outcomes in the past, to demonstrate the effectiveness of these techniques in practice. Without such evidence, the article's claims might be perceived as speculative or unfounded. Points of Agreement The article gives a smart survey of the assessment of the organizations of political pioneers' allies utilizing informal community examination and semantic investigation on the Twitter stage. The creators feature the significance of web-based entertainment in legislative issues and the job it plays in dynamic cycles for lawmakers. The article likewise makes sense of the distinctions between informal community examination and semantic investigation and how they can be utilized to acquire bits of knowledge into the way of behaving of people and associations via online entertainment stages. The creators' goals are distinct and applicable to the review. They give the examination a particular heading and assist the readers with understanding the article's objective. The survey covers a large number of procedures utilized in informal community examination (SNA) and semantic investigation (SA) corresponding to governmental issues. It likewise features the best- performing methods and gives experiences on the best way to apply them in deciding

> 1**the political** impact **on the** decision **of a running mate**

. The creators give a reasonable and compact prologue to the subject, giving foundation data via online entertainment, Twitter, and the utilization of web-based entertainment in governmental issues. The article is very much organized, with each segment expanding on the past one. The writers use models and representations to help their focuses and make the article seriously captivating and open to readers. In general, this article makes a huge commitment to the investigation of web-based entertainment and legislative issues. To assist readers, pursue with welling informed choices, the creators offer bits of knowledge into the use of informal community examination and semantic investigation in governmental issues. The exposition is a significant device for specialists and scholastics working in the field since it is elegantly composed, instructive, and easy to peruse. Points of Disagreement While the article gives a fascinating outline of informal community investigation and semantic examination as devices for concentrating on political effect on Twitter, it misses the mark on basic assessment of the restrictions and likely predispositions of these techniques. For instance, SNA depends on freely accessible information, which may not completely address the variety of political conclusions and interests, as not all clients are similarly dynamic or apparent on Twitter. Besides, SNA frequently centers around quantitative proportions of organization structure, for example, centrality and grouping, which may not catch the subtleties and intricacies of political talk and correspondence. Additionally, SA depends on regular language handling strategies to recognize semantic connections among words and ideas, which might be dependent upon blunders and misinterpretations, especially with regards to political manner of speaking and promulgation. Moreover, SA might neglect the significance of non-verbal correspondence, like pictures, recordings, and emoticon's, which are common via virtual entertainment and can convey close to home and representative implications. By and large, SNA and SA give promising philosophies to looking at political effect on Twitter, yet different methodologies and perspectives are expected to give a completer and more precise image of how web-based entertainment is utilized in legislative issues. Conclusion To Conclude, the article reviews the application of semantic analysis (SA) and social network analysis (SNA)

> 1**on the Twitter platform to** investigate **the networks of** supporters of **political leaders**

. The article highlights the importance of social media in politics and how social media insights

> 1**can help in decision-making when predicting political futures**

. The study emphasizes the relevance of SNA and SA as vital tools for analyzing social media data to make predictions. The best methods for analyzing SNA and SA are also discussed, as well as their potential use in identifying

> 1**political influence on the** selection **of a running mate**

. In general, this study adds to the growing body of research on the application of social media to political analysis and judgement.

> 7**Politics and the Twitter Revolution: A Brief Literature Review and Implications for Future Research** About the **Author(s**

) The article is written by James Nguyen. He studied law in Vietnam National University in Hanoi. He was a Research and Development Specialist in MarNET JSC. He is currently working as a Labor and Employment Associate AIC Vietnam Co. Ltd. Summary The study discussed in this article reviewed the literature available on the subject of Twitter and politics. The article can be divided into three main questions. Does social media aid in the election of politicians in any way? Who is helped by social media and who can be? What is the hand of twitter in the polarization of politics? Regarding the first question, studies have found enough evidence to support the claim that politicians may gain political advantages by implementing this new platform, while others are unable to do so, which gives them a significant advantage over the others. The evidence for the second claim is rather contradictory. A lot of people believe that social media just might be advantageous to the rising talent, however, that just not might be the case as the studies show otherwise. They claim that popular politicians with a charismatic character benefits the most from Twitter, promoting populism. In all, there is conflicting evidence on the first and second questions. Nonetheless, past research continues to discover compelling evidence of the growing polarization of public opinion on Twitter and the role that social media has played in its development. Analysis Opinion Social media platforms like Twitter have had certainly a significant impact on modern politics, particularly in the context of elections. The ability of politicians to gather up people for their cause, make their goals well established by getting constant response in real-time has transformed the way in which political campaigns are run. The article suggests

that Twitter provides politicians a way to not just reach almost everybody, but also keeping down their expenses. This is an important point, as it suggests that social media platforms have helped to level the playing field in terms of political campaigning. Candidates who may have previously struggled to gain traction due to a lack of funding can now use social media to gain visibility and support. However,

> 6**it is** also **important to** consider **the** potential downsides **of social media in**

politics. One potential negative consequence is the risk of political polarization. Social media platforms are often called "echo chambers". People are only shown what they want to see. This might seem intuitive; however, this can lead to individuals becoming less acceptable to the ideologies of others and thinking that they are the only right ones, reducing compromise and consensus- building in society. Overall, the article provides an interesting overview of the impact of Twitter on modern politics. While there are certain benefits to the political campaigning, there is a good side and a dark side of everything. As we analyze the role of social media in politics, it will be important to find ways to mitigate the risks of polarization and ensure that political discourse remains constructive and productive. Strengths The article presents a well-organized literature review on the effectiveness of Twitter in election campaigns. It covers various research themes such as how twitter is being used to win elections, who benefits the most from social media and how it is dividing our society. The author provides evidence from different studies to support their arguments, making the article comprehensive and informative. The article also highlights the limitations of Twitter in influencing election outcomes. The author acknowledges that Twitter is not a surefire way of increasing voters for a specific candidate, and twitter is not that influential to turn the tide for any specific candidate, however, it can magnify one's political agenda. This is an important point to make, as it counters the popular belief that social media is a game-changer in elections. The article also provides insights to how twitter can become a bridge between a political party and its supporters as well as the general public, and make a better portrait of themselves to please the masses. This information can be helpful for politicians and their campaign teams, as they can learn from the strategies that have worked for others. Overall, the article is well-researched and provides a balanced view on the effectiveness of Twitter in election campaigns. It highlights the benefits and limitations of Twitter, which can help readers to form a more informed opinion on the topic. Gaps Although the article provides insights into the benefits that politicians can derive from using Twitter, it has some gaps. Firstly, the studies cited in the article are primarily focused on the US and Australia, which limits the generalizability of the findings to other countries. There is a need for research to be conducted in other regions to establish if the same patterns hold. Secondly, the studies in the article are largely focused on the impact of Twitter use on politicians' fundraising efforts and popularity. However, other benefits that politicians may derive from using Twitter, such as increased citizen engagement and improved communication with constituents, are not adequately explored. Thirdly, the studies in the article are relatively dated, with the latest one being published in 2016. Given that Twitter's role in politics continues to evolve rapidly, there is a need for more recent research to be conducted to provide a more accurate picture of the benefits and drawbacks of using Twitter for political purposes. Finally, the article does not discuss the potential negative impacts of Twitter use on politicians, such as the risk of making controversial or offensive tweets that could harm their political careers. Future research should explore the potential risks and benefits of Twitter use by politicians to provide a more comprehensive understanding of its impact on political communication and campaigns. Points of Agreement based on the information presented in the article, it is clear that Twitter and other social media platforms have contributed to political polarization. This is a concern because political polarization can lead to the breakdown of social cohesion and may hinder effective governance. The studies cited in the article suggest that social media users tend to associate with those who share their political views, leading people reaffirming to their own ideologies, and disagreeing to anything they don't agree to, creating so called "echo chambers". Secondly, the studies suggest that social media platforms may be facilitating widespread propaganda and creating information that even though is wrong but is spread anyways if it suits someone's beliefs. The findings of the studies underscore the importance of

> 6**promoting media literacy and critical thinking skills** to **help individuals**

evaluate information and sources and to recognize bias and propaganda. Overall, the research presented in the article highlights the need for greater awareness for the effects twitter has on political polarization and for efforts to mitigate its negative effects. This includes promoting diversity of opinion and encouraging civil discourse and respectful engagement across political divides. Points of Disagreement It is important to note that academic research is always open to interpretation and debate, and different scholars may have different perspectives on the same topic. Therefore, it is possible that some scholars may disagree with the conclusions drawn in this literature review, or may have different interpretations of the findings from the studies reviewed. It is always important to consider different perspectives and engage in critical thinking when evaluating academic literature. One possible limitation is that the article relies on a literature review of past studies, which may not capture the most recent developments in the field. Since social media platforms are constantly evolving, the results of previous studies may not reflect the current state of affairs. Furthermore, there is no proper explanation of what does it mean to have "political polarization" on Twitter. It's unclear whether this refers to a difference of opinion or a more extreme form of division, which makes it hard to understand and analyze the importance of the findings. To conclude, the article does not explain and analyze the potential solutions to address the problem of political polarization on Twitter. While the author

briefly mentions that future studies should explore ways to reduce polarization, it would be helpful to provide specific recommendations or insights on how to address this issue. Conclusion In conclusion, this literature review highlights the mixed evidence regarding the impact of social media, particularly Twitter, on politics. While some studies suggest that social media can create significant electoral benefits for politicians, proper proof is not given by others either to support this claim. Similarly, who gains from twitter and who doesn't is still an unanswered question here, with some studies suggesting that underdogs may have an advantage, while others indicate that established and popular politicians benefit the most. However, one area of agreement in the literature is the tendency towards political polarization on social media, particularly Twitter. Studies have identified the phenomenon of echo chambers as a potential contributor to this polarization. Overall, further study on the topic of twitter and politics is needed to be done and how we can mitigate the negative effects of polarization on online platforms.

> 8**Social Media and Politics: Twitter Use in the Second Congressional District of Virginia** About the **Author**(s) **The**

article is written by Julia Caplan. She wrote this article at Elon University. Elon Journal of Undergraduate Research in Communications published this study. Ms. Caplan has 25 years of experience in social justice and public policy leadership, as well as master's degrees from the University of California in public policy and public health. Summary The article "Social Media and Politics: Twitter Use in the Second Congressional District of Virginia" explores the role of Twitter in political communication during the 2010 congressional elections in Virginia's Second District. The study analyzes the patterns of Twitter use by the candidates, the media, and the voters, and investigates the potential impact of Twitter on the election outcomes. The study finds that Twitter was widely used by the candidates and the media for campaign purposes, but its impact on voter behavior was limited. Although the candidates' Twitter activity was positively associated with their vote share, the study finds no evidence that Twitter use influenced voters' candidate preference or turnout. Moreover, the study suggests that the voters' Twitter use was more reactive than proactive, and that Twitter was primarily used as a source of information rather than as a tool for political engagement or mobilization. The article discusses the increasing importance of social media in the political communication and the need for further research to understand its impact on voter behavior and political outcomes. The study's focus on a specific congressional district in Virginia provides a detailed analysis of Twitter use in a particular context, although some may argue that its narrow focus limits its generalizability. The article provides valuable insights into the role of Twitter in political communication and elections, highlighting the need for further research to understand the complex ways in which social media can impact the electoral process. The article concludes that while Twitter has become an important platform for political communication, its impact on the electoral process is still limited and context-dependent. The study suggests that future research should focus on understanding the conditions under which Twitter use can lead to significant changes in voter behavior and political outcomes. Analysis Opinion The article "Social Media and Politics: Twitter Use in the Second Congressional District of Virginia" provides a comprehensive analysis of Twitter use in political communication during the 2010 congressional elections in Virginia's Second District. The study's mixed-methods approach provides a valuable understanding of the ways in which Twitter was used by candidates, the media, and voters during the election. The article highlights the growing importance of social media in political communication and the need for further research to understand its impact on voter behavior and political outcomes. The study's focus on a specific congressional district in Virginia allows for a more detailed analysis of Twitter use in a particular context, although some may argue that its narrow focus limits its generalizability. Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the role of Twitter in political communication and elections, but it is necessary to understand the drawbacks of the study and the complex nature of social media's impact on the electoral process. The article's conclusion that further research is needed to better understand the conditions under which social media can have a deep impact on voter behavior and political outcomes is a reasonable one. Strengths One of the strengths of the study is its focus on a specific congressional district in Virginia, which allows for a more detailed analysis of Twitter use in a particular context. Another strength of the study is its attention to the potential impact of Twitter on voter behavior. By analyzing both the candidates' Twitter activity and the voters' Twitter use, the study provides a comprehensive view of the role of Twitter in political communication during the 2010 congressional elections. The study's focus on a single congressional district allows for a more in-depth analysis of Twitter use in a specific context. By examining a particular district, the study can account for unique local factors that may influence Twitter use, providing a more nuanced understanding of the role of Twitter in political communication. The research employs a mixed-methods approach that incorporates both quantitative and qualitative data. This method provides a more comprehensive knowledge of the usage of Twitter in political communication. The article contributes to the ongoing scholarly discussion on the impact of social media on political communication and elections. The study adds to the expanding body of literature on the complicated interaction between social media and politics by offering empirical data on Twitter's minimal influence on voter behavior in a specific scenario. Gaps The study's sample size is relatively small, as it focuses only on one congressional district in Virginia. While this allows for a more detailed analysis of Twitter use in a specific context, it may limit the generalizability of the study's findings to other elections or contexts. The study's data collection is limited to the duration to the 2010 congressional elections in Virginia's Second District. This means that the study cannot account for any changes in Twitter use or its impact on voter behavior in the years since the elections took place. The study's analysis of Twitter use by candidates and the media is largely quantitative and focuses on metrics such as tweet frequency and retweets. While these

metrics provide valuable information on Twitter use, they do not capture the content or quality of the tweets or their impact on voter behavior. The study's analysis of Twitter use by voters relies on self-reported data from a relatively small sample of survey respondents. This approach may not accurately capture the broader population's Twitter use or its impact on voter behavior. The study does not account for other factors that may have influenced voter behavior in the 2010 congressional elections, such as campaign spending, traditional media coverage, or candidate characteristics. While the study's focus on Twitter use is valuable, it may not provide a complete picture of the factors that influence voter behavior in elections. Points of Agreement The article highlights the growing importance of social media, particularly Twitter, in political communication and elections. With the increasing use of social media platforms in political campaigns, it is essential to understand how these platforms are used and their impact on voter behavior. The article acknowledges that the impact of Twitter on the electoral process is still limited and context-dependent. While Twitter can be a valuable tool for candidates and the media to communicate with voters, its impact on voter behavior may be limited by factors such as low voter engagement on the platform or a lack of trust in social media as a reliable source of information. The study's focus on a specific congressional district in Virginia allows for a more detailed analysis of Twitter use in a particular context. By examining Twitter use in a specific location, the study provides a more nuanced understanding of

> 4**the role of social media in political**

communication. By using both quantitative and qualitative survey data and quantitative metrics to analyze Twitter use, the study provides a more complete picture of the ways in which Twitter was used during the 2010 congressional elections in Virginia's Second District. The article's conclusion that further research is needed to better understand the conditions under which social media can have a major impact on voter attitude and political outcomes is a reasonable one. As social media continues to play a growing role in politics, it is essential to understand how these platforms can be effectively used to engage voters and shape political outcomes. Points of Disagreement Some may argue that the study's focus on a single congressional district in Virginia limits the generalizability of its findings to other elections or contexts. While the study provides valuable insights into Twitter use in a specific context, it may not be representative of Twitter use in other elections or geographic locations. The study's reliance on self-reported data from a relatively small sample of survey respondents may be seen as a limitation by some. While the survey data provides valuable insights into voter behavior, it may not be representative of the broader population's Twitter use or its impact on voter behavior. Some may argue that the study's focus on Twitter use is too narrow and does not capture the broader social media landscape. While Twitter may be a valuable tool for political communication, other social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram may also play significant roles in shaping voter behavior and political outcomes. The study's conclusion that Twitter had a limited impact on voter behavior in Virginia's Second District in 2010 may be seen as overly simplistic by some. Voter behavior is shaped by a complex array of factors, and it is difficult to isolate the impact of any one factor, including Twitter. The study's analysis of Twitter use by candidates and the media is largely quantitative and does not capture the content or quality of the tweets or their impact on voter behavior. Some may argue that a more qualitative analysis of Twitter use, such as a content analysis of tweets, would provide a more nuanced understanding of the role of Twitter in political communication. Conclusion In conclusion, the article "Social Media and Politics: Twitter Use in the Second Congressional District of Virginia" provides a valuable analysis of the use of Twitter in the 2010 congressional elections in Virginia's Second District. The article highlights the growing importance of social media, particularly Twitter, in political communication and elections. However, it also acknowledges that the impact of Twitter on the electoral process is still limited and context-dependent. The study's focus on a specific congressional district in Virginia allows for a more detailed analysis of Twitter use in a particular context, but some may argue that the study's narrow focus limits its generalizability. The study's conclusion that further research is needed to better understand the conditions under which

> 4**social media** can **have a significant impact on** voter behavior and **political**

outcomes is a reasonable one. While Twitter and other social media platforms may be valuable tools for political communication, their impact on voter behavior is complex and influenced by a wide range of factors. Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the role of Twitter in political communication and elections, but further research is needed to fully understand the impact of social media on the electoral process. Article Review #5 Algorithmic amplification of politics on Twitter About the Author(s) Ferenc Huszár is a researcher and machine learning expert who is currently a Senior Research Scientist at Twitter. He has made significant contributions to the fields of probabilistic modeling, deep learning, and computer vision. Huszár obtained his Ph.D. in machine learning from the University of Cambridge, where his research focused on developing Bayesian machine learning methods for visual recognition tasks. Luca Belli is a legal scholar, professor, and researcher specializing in Internet governance and digital rights. He is the founder and

> 5**director of the Center for Technology** and **Society (CTS) at the Fundação Getulio Vargas Law School in Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil. Moritz Hardt **is**

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> 12**He received his** Ph.**D. from the University of**

Saarland, Germany in 2010, and he has since then worked at IBM Research Almaden, Google Research, and Google Brain, among other places. Summary The study investigates the role of Twitter's algorithmic recommender system in political discourse and how it influences politics. A research study was conducted on millions of users and found that there were more than six million articles shared in America. The article concluded that right wing politics was more aggressive than left wing, in terms of tweets by elected legislators and right-leaning news sources. The study also found no evidence to support the hypothesis that far to the left or right were getting more nuanced than the middle ones. The aim of the research was to provide evidence for a factual argument on how algorithms effects media consumption. Research conducted a randomized controlled experiment in which 1 percent of users were removed from the home feed whereas 4 percent were given a personalized experience from the algorithm. The study aimed to measure how certain parties benefits from these algorithms. However, there were inherent limitations in the experimental setup, including user interaction, the control group's usage could influence that of the treatment group. As a result, the casual effects of algorithms are not considered to the extent of its effect. Author's also studied the amplification of tweets from elected politicians in seven countries and the political leaning of major media outlets in the United States. The number of tweets n between users defined the total interactions they experienced. The amplification ratio was defined as the ratio of the extent of theses tweets in the control group were reduced so that any sort of algorithmic enhacement was 0% corresponded to equal proportional reach in both groups. The authors studied individual and group amplification and reported both statistics. They saw more that three thousand users' account belonging to the legislators as well as their own tweets across seven countries. Researchers from the University of Oxford conducted a study on Twitter's algorithmic amplification of political content and obtained amplified results for each group which showed personal opinions within that group as well. The study's findings showed that in the seven countries analyzed, mainstream right-wing political parties received equal or greater benefits from algorithmic personalization compared to left-wing parties. However, when comparing these personal accounts rather than the account of the party itself there was no significant change seen. Also, the algorithmic personalization does not amplify extremism more than any other content. The researchers suggest that each party has a different approach to using twitter and that explains the polarization as well. It also considers the width of the subject of personalized content and how it causes indifference and polarization. The researchers hope that their work will initiate further studies on the precise causal mechanisms that drive amplification and provide insights into other concerns with online recommendations, such as misinformation, manipulation, hate speech, and abusive content. The measurement of amplification is determined by counting "linger impressions," which are events that occur when at least 50% of a tweet's area is visible for 500 milliseconds or more. These impressions are used as a proxy to determine

> 2**if a user has been exposed to the content of a tweet**

. Analysis Opinion The article presents a valuable study on the impact of Twitter's algorithmic recommender system on political discourse. The study conducted by the University of Oxford involved a large-scale randomized controlled experiment on Twitter users and analyzed political parties and news articles in multiple countries. The findings showed that political content leaning towards the right receives greater amplification than left-leaning content. However, the study did not support the notion that algorithms amplify extremist views more than mainstream political voices. The article emphasizes the limitations of the experimental setup, which could

> 2**underestimate the true causal effects of personalization**

. The study could have been improved by considering

> 2**interaction effects between individuals in the analysis**

. Nevertheless, the research provides valuable insights into

> 2**the role** of **personalization algorithms in shaping political content consumption**

. The article emphasizes the significance of evidence-based research in comprehending the effect of technology on political discussion and emphasizes the requirement for more investigations on the exact causal mechanisms that stimulate amplification. Strengths The article gives a concise overview of the University of Oxford's study on Twitter's algorithmic amplification of political content, detailing the research

process, such as the randomized controlled experiment, and the measurement of amplification. It emphasizes the significant results of the research, such as the higher amplification enjoyed by right-wing political parties over their left-wing counterparts, and the absence of evidence supporting the idea that algorithms amplify extreme ideologies more than moderate ones. The article places the study in the

2 **broader context of research on the effects of content personalization on political content**

and polarization. The article suggests that the study could initiate further research on the causal mechanisms driving amplification and provide insights into other concerns with online recommendations, such as misinformation and manipulation. Gaps The article does not provide a detailed discussion of the limitations of the study, including the potential for interaction effects and these groups were already used by twitter to advance their recommendations. The article does not provide information on the implications of the study's findings for the political discourse and public opinion in the countries studied. The article does not provide information on potential biases in the study's methodology, such as the selection of news articles and the measurement of amplification through "linger impressions." The article does not provide information on the broader debates around the regulation of social media platforms and the role of algorithmic recommender systems in shaping public discourse. Points of Agreement This article discusses a University of Oxford study that explored how Twitter's algorithmic recommender system affects political content and discourse. The study was extensive, showing a pool of more than 6 million news articles in America. The findings indicate in terms of tweets by elected legislators and right-leaning news sources. Furthermore, the study failed to find any evidence supporting the hypothesis that algorithms amplify extremists than normal ones. The research aimed to provide an argument based on evidence and how algorithms effect politics. The purpose of the study was to add to the discussion based on evidence regarding the impact of personalization algorithms on political content consumption. Points of Disagreement The article does not provide any alternative views or opinions that contradict the findings of the study. The article does not mention any limitations or criticisms of the study, other than those acknowledged by the authors themselves. Conclusion Researchers at the University of Oxford conducted a study on Twitter's algorithmic amplification of political content, which revealed that right-wing parties benefits more from these algorithms than those from the left from the seven countries examined. However, there was no correlation between party membership and individual politicians' account amplification. The study also found no evidence which suggests that extremism is multiplied more than the main politics. The researchers hope their study will prompt further research into the underlying causal mechanisms driving amplification, as well as provide insights into other concerns related to online recommendations, such as misinformation, manipulation, hate speech, and abusive content. Article Review #3 Article Review #4