

# Traversing the Trump Twitterverse

A social-network  
analysis

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# Motivation



Polarization and nastiness of Politics

- Viewing twitter as a microcosm, can we identify...
  - Communities?
  - Influencers?
  - ‘Mediators’ who bridge divides?
- What subject is more polarizing than Donald Trump?



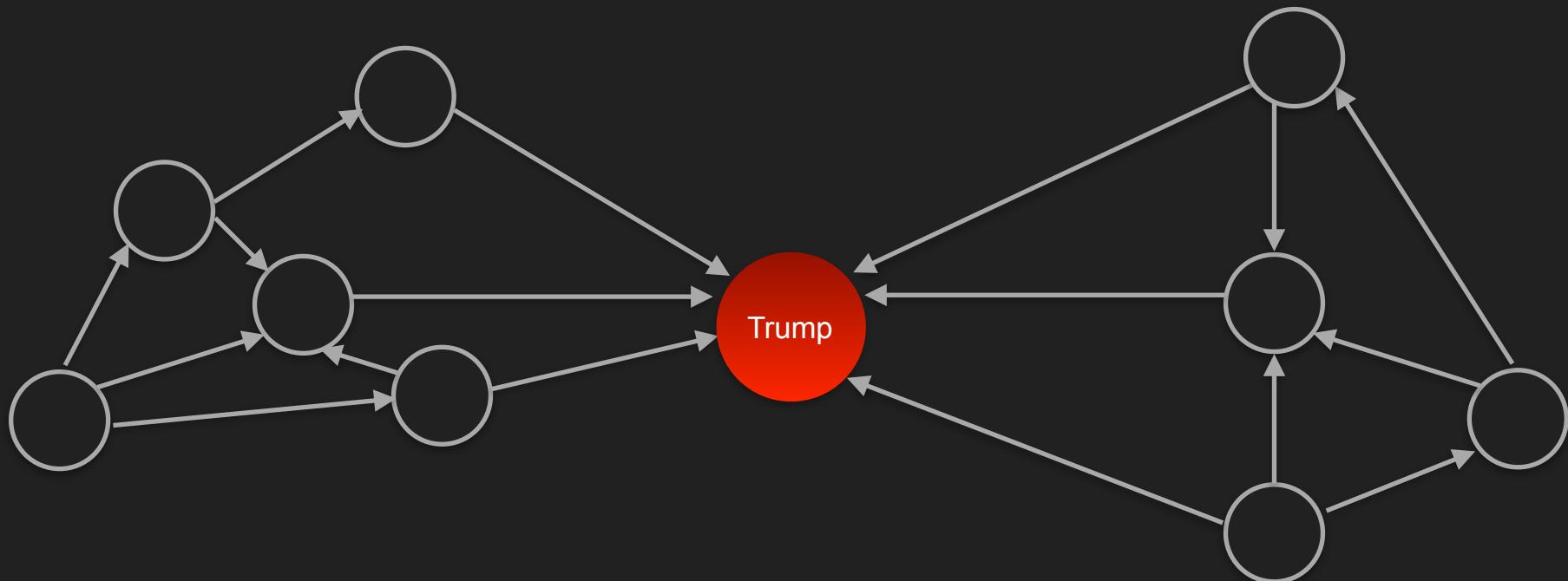
# Data:

Queried the Twitter Streaming API for tweets including  
@realDonaldTrump:

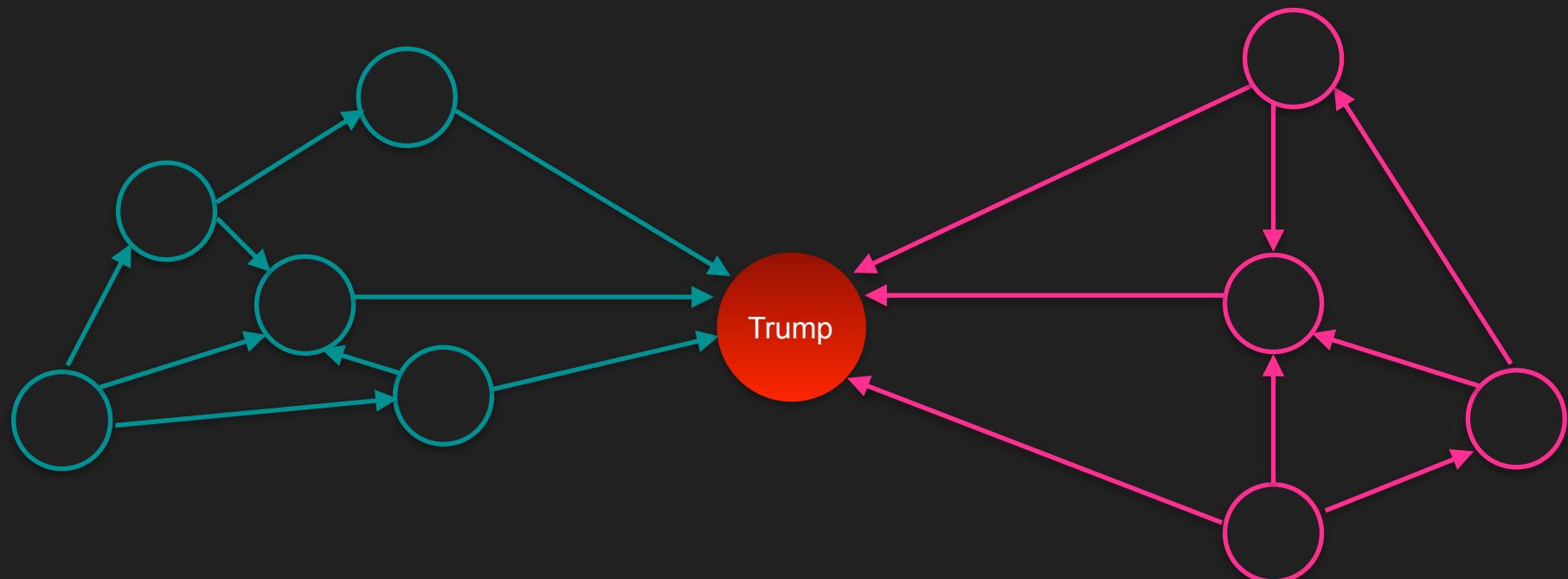
Collected more than 3.5 million tweets across 663,916 users from March 16th - 26th 2018

Tweets processed and analyzed using:  
Spark SQL, networkX, and LDA topic modeling

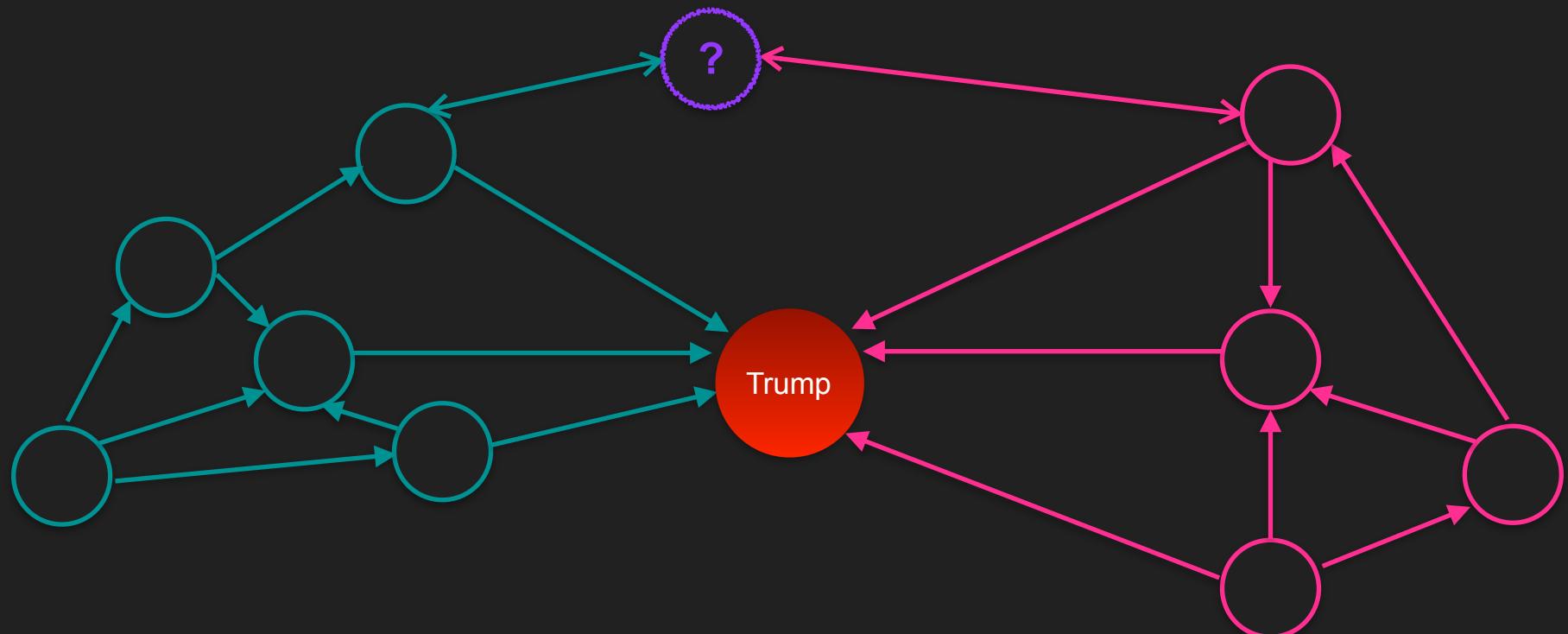
# Nodes and Edges



# Communities



# Mediators?



# With Trump

Anti-Trump

Not coherent

Donald  
Trump

Right Wing Conspiracists

Pro-Trump

Venezuela?

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“ Thank You Mr.  
**PRESIDENT** for being Our  
Voice”

“God bless you Mr  
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Venezuela?

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“ Liar, Liar, Liar, Liar,  
Liar...”

“WHY DOES TRUMP WANT  
US TO LIKE PUTIN? PUTIN  
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Liar..."

"WHY DOES TRUMP WANT  
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Right Wing Conspiracists

"Netflix is Obama.  
You have been informed.  
Make your choice. #Qanon 4chan"

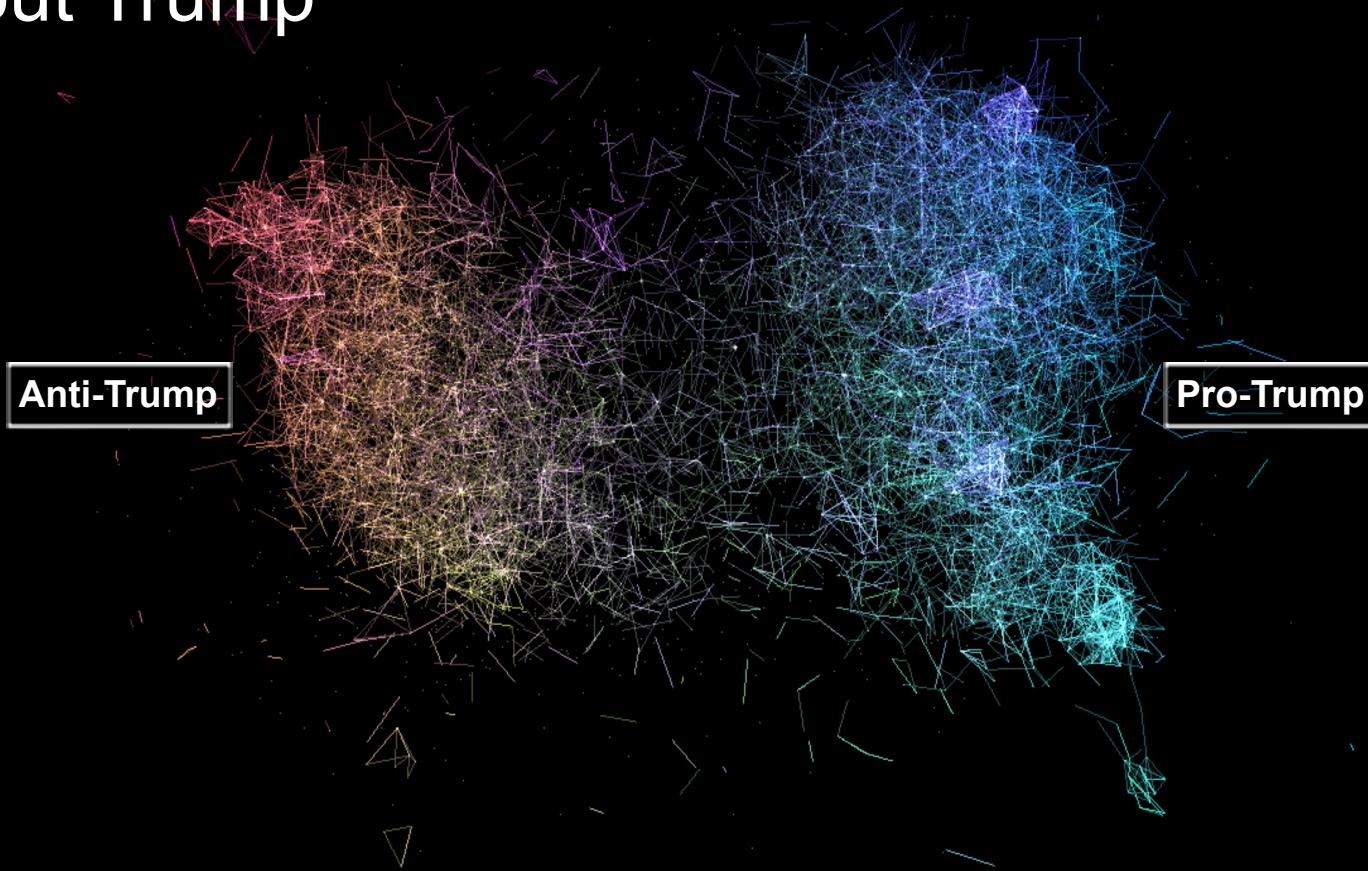
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# Without Trump



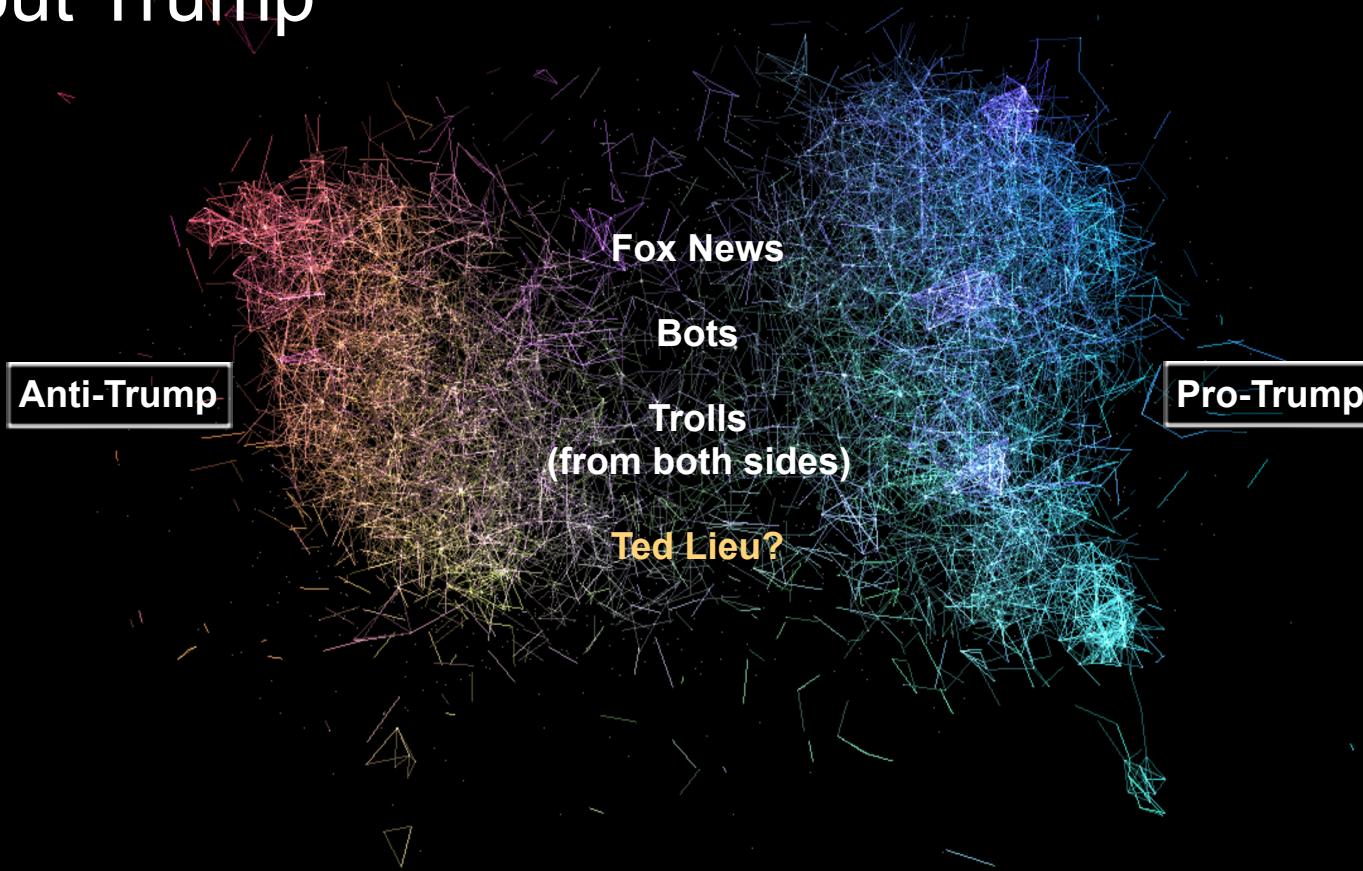
# Influencers, by “PageRank”

	label	description
1	FoxNews	America's Strongest Primetime Lineup Anywhere! Follow America's #1...
2	foxandfriends	America's #1 cable morning news show
3	CNN	It's our job to #GoThere & tell the most difficult stories. Join u...
4	NRA	National Rifle Association of America #NRA
5	DonaldJTrumpJr	EVP of Development & Acquisitions The @Trump Organization, Father,...

# Mediators, by “Betweenness Centrality”

	Twitter Handle	description
0	FoxNews	America's Strongest Primetime Lineup Anywhere! Follow America's #1...
1	inittowinit007	#CONSERVATIVE #MAGA #2A #AMERICAFIRST #MILITARY #TRUMP2020 #POTUS4...
2	RodStryker	✊ STRENGTH AND HONOR📺 🔥 #Conservative #MAGA\nIndiana State Director @...
3	Maggieb1B	#ArmyBrat #Jesus #SaveTheChildren #ConsFront🇺🇸 #PrayerWarrior🙏 #co...
4	tedlieu	Husband of Betty, the love of my life. Father of two great kids. U...

# Without Trump



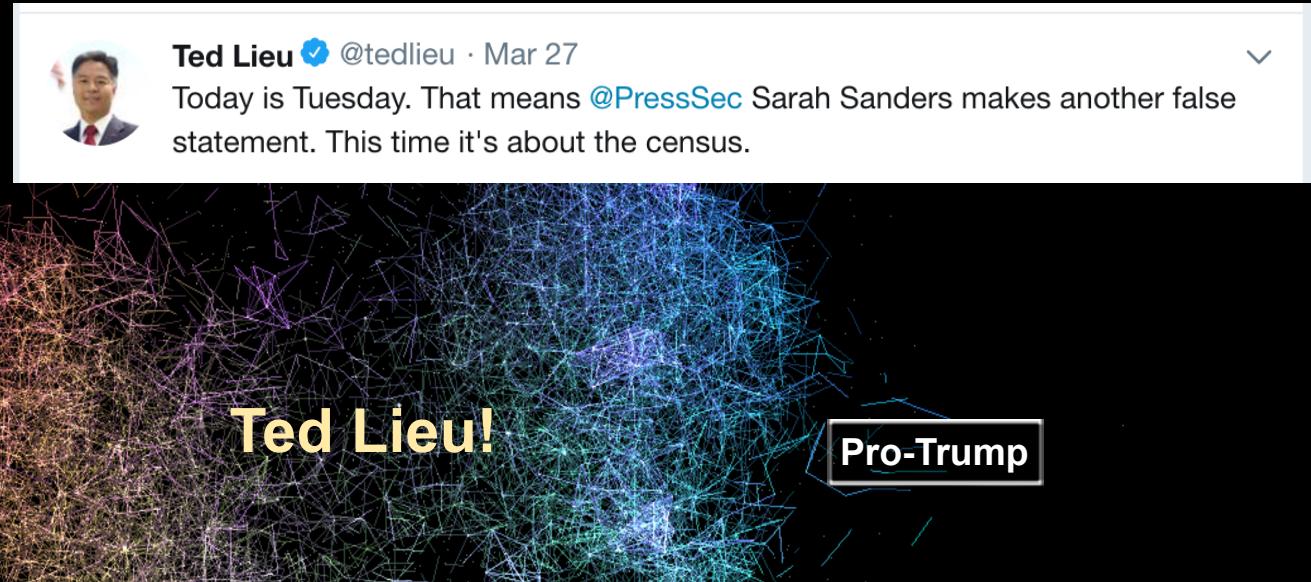
⤳ Ted Lieu Retweeted



**Capitol Weekly** @Capitol\_Weekly · 17h

Ted Lieu: Tackling Trump on Twitter. Capitol Weekly's Lisa Renner looks at Democratic Congressman [@tedlieu](#), who has aggressively pursued [@realDonaldTrump](#) all over Twitter -- and beyond. [capitolweekly.net/ted-lieu-tackl...](http://capitolweekly.net/ted-lieu-tackl...) #capopolitics

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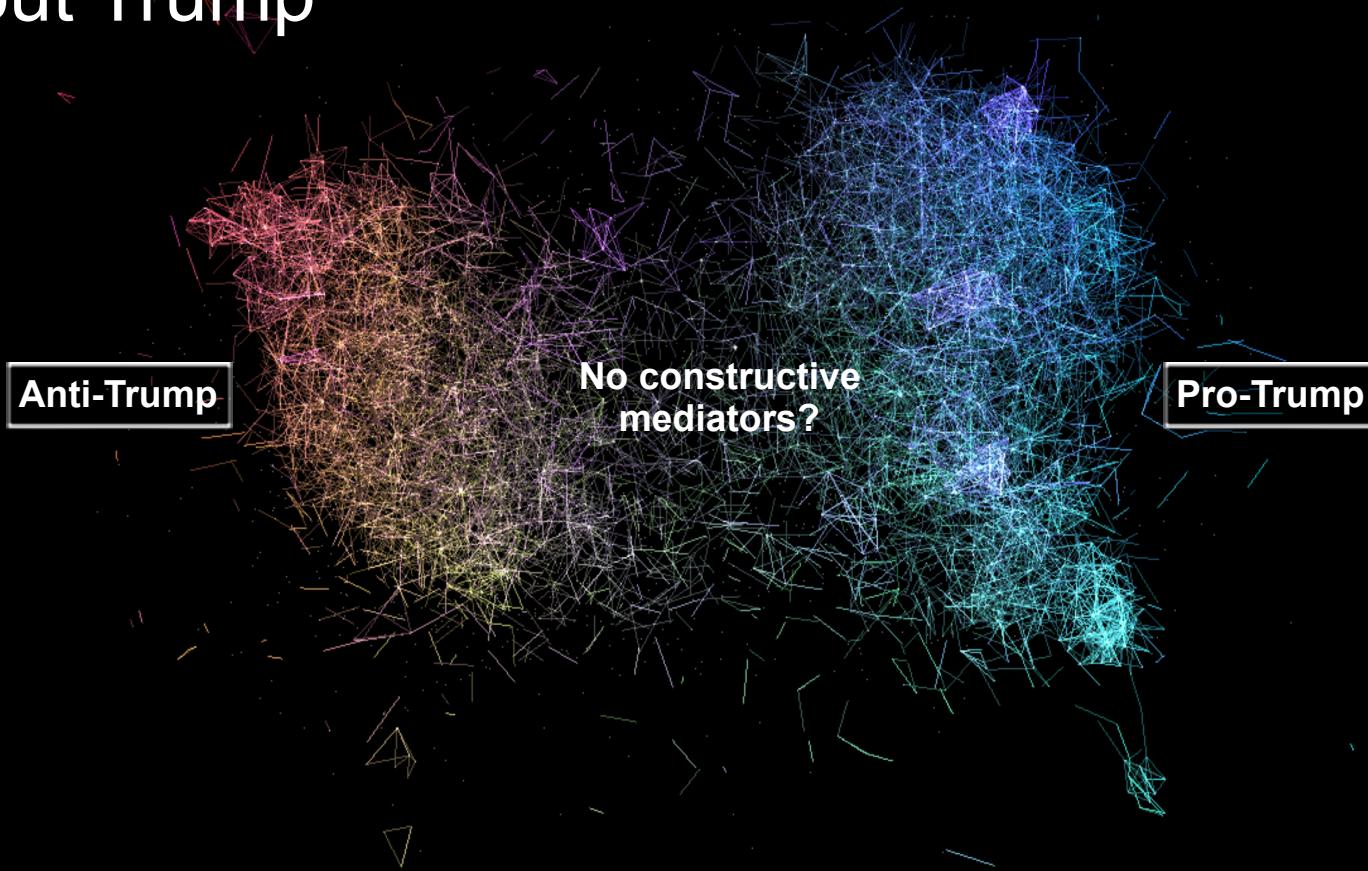


Ted Lieu ✅ @tedlieu · Mar 26

How do we know [#MarchForOurLives](#) 🚩 is having a significant effect? Trump and Republican House leadership are afraid to talk about it. Did you see any tweets by [@realDonaldTrump](#) & [@SpeakerRyan](#) about the marches? Nope.

Instead, Ryan tweeted about a student internship program.

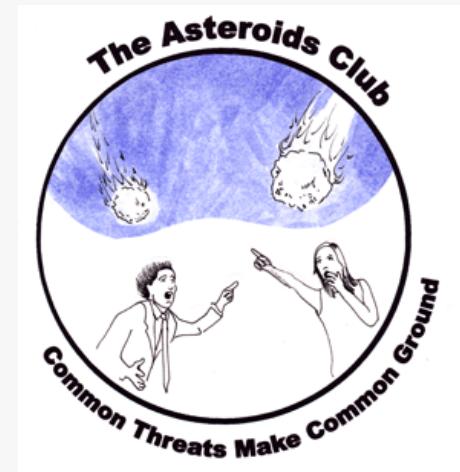
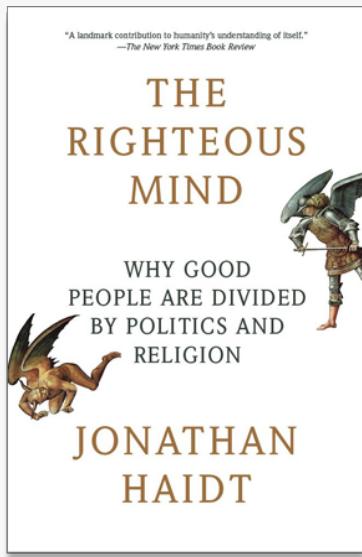
# Without Trump



# Assumptions?

- Sufficient search criteria?
  - ‘Donald Trump’ vs ‘@realDonaldTrump’
  - Hashtag search?
- Dan Hopkins’ 538:
  - Users who tweet about politics have a strong position to begin with

# For those who'd like to heal political divides....



# Make your voice heard on Twitter



the partisans certainly have!

# Thank you!

Jon Kislin

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