

Saal: Project 19:15 00:30 Day: 2 Track: Ethics, Society & Politics nA  
2501

Title: **Mexican Botnet Dirty Wars**

Subtitle: Bots are waging a dirty war in Mexican social media.

Speaker: **Erin Gallagher**

**Short:** *Peabots have been active in Mexican networks since the 2012 presidential elections. Named after President Enrique Peña Nieto, armies of bots have become a political weapon to combat protests and attack critics of the Mexican government online. Bots are waging a dirty war in Mexican social media. They are weaponized censors that silence dissent and cover up crimes.*

**Long:** Developers in Mexico are using a variety of open source tools to create visualizations which are helpful in detecting bots. They are working on new open source software to stop the botnets that have taken over Mexican social media, but they need help. I've observed several different bot activities in Mexican twitter. I break them down into 5 categories: 1. Hashtag spamming 2. Making artificial trends 3. Smear campaigns (against media, individual journalists & protesters) 4. Death threat campaigns 5. Political propaganda Attached PDF presentation details each category with images & videos.