

# CounterPoint

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# The Problem

- News publications are becoming increasingly partisan
- Individuals are falling into “echo chambers” online
- Political discourse has become an (opinion poll) point scoring contest
  - This results in political entrenchment whereby we no longer see much cross party support on most matters



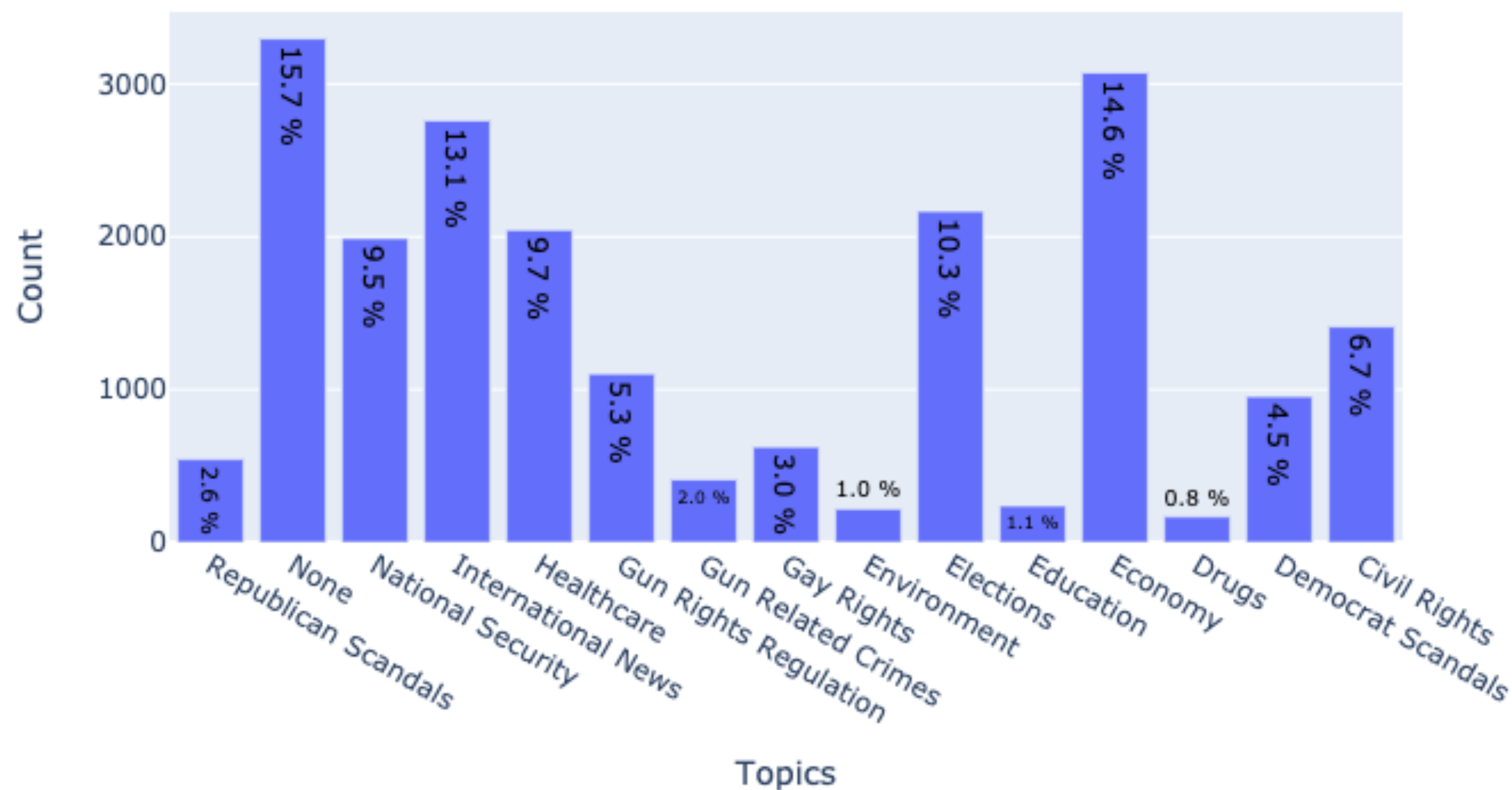
Macron, Merkel, Abe and Trump in discussion



# The Data

- From the University of Michigan
- 21,000 articles
- Each broken down into 7 columns, including topics, political bias and the method by which the article was evaluated

Distribution of Topics



# A Possible Aid - CounterPoint

How it works:

- User inputs an article
- The model, which combines NLP with an SVM, determines the political bias of the article (right leaning, left leaning or neutral)
- The programme will then recommend a couple articles that argue the same topic but from the other side of the discourse
- The hope is to encourage the user to read a broader range of views so that they may be better informed moving forwards

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With future work I plan to open up my programme to a wider variety of topics and hopefully add a live element whereby articles will be downloaded and classified in real time in order to have a wider breadth of articles to recommend.