

Online Communication
Shifts in the Midst of the
Covid-19 Pandemic:
A Case Study on Snapchat

Qi Yang, Weinan Wang, Lucas Pierce, Rajan Vaish, Xiaolin Shi, Neil Shah **Research Question 1:** How has Covid-19 impacted online private and public sharing propensity?



- Geo-based public sharing ↓; private sharing substantially ↑ on Snapchat
- This suggests social platform use as a compensatory means of communication during distancing

Research Question 2: How has Covid-19 influenced homophily in online communications between users?

		Direct Comr	VID-19 Absolute Change			
Correspondent Age Group	35-plus	1.882	1.052	0.285	0.139	0.072
	25-34	2.975	0.952	0.16	0.104	0.086
	21-24	1.988	0.449	0.238	0.142	0.157
	18-20	0.63	0.474	0.305	0.237	0.333
	13-17	0.534	0.472	0.369	0.38	0.482
		13-17	18-20	21-24	25-34	35-plus

- Post-onset Covid-19 communications show \(\) in location/gender/age homophily
- This suggests an 1 in communication heterophily and diversity, a "bringing people together" effect

Research Question 3: Are changes in online communication patterns correlated to the severity of offline Covid-19 impact?



- As Covid-19 cases ↑ in a state, people communicate with friends outside the state ↑; geo-based public sharing ↓
- This suggests higher case-severity likely corresponds to more communication diversity and less willingness to share in public