

Migration Policy Framing in Political Discourse - Evidence from Canada and the US

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How do political parties frame migration issues in legislative debates?

- Hypothesis: Parties discuss migration policy in a way which frames the debate in terms of a policy area they 'own'

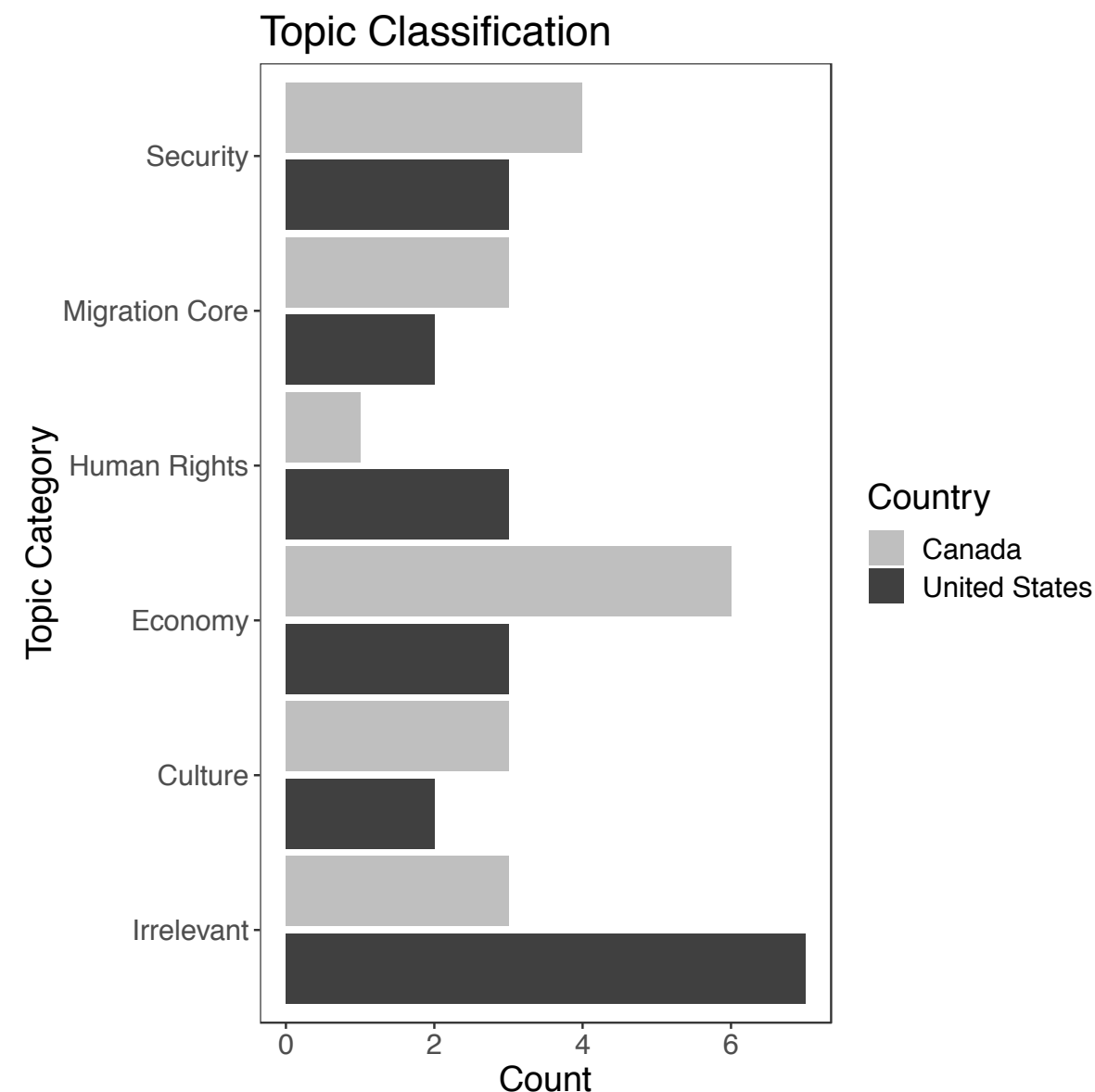
liberal	Poverty, Education, Gun control, Environment, Health
conservative	External threats, Security, Law and Order

Data

- Debates from both lower houses of Canadian and US legislatures
 - US: Gentzkow et al. (2018)
 - CAN: OpenParliament.ca dump via Beelen et al. (2017)
- Subset data with stemmed key words: asylum, refugee, immigration
 - US: 15,072 speeches (2%)
 - CAN: 15,547 speeches (5%)

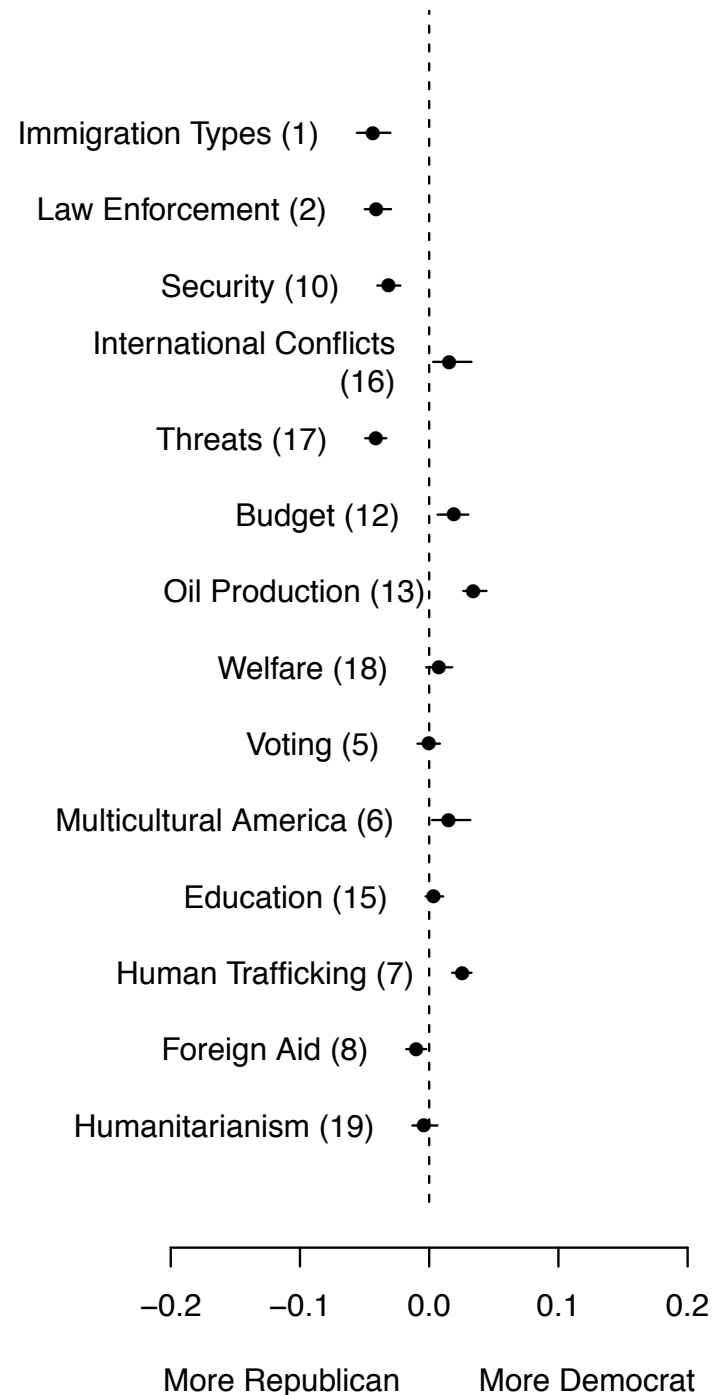
Methods

- Structural Topic Modelling (STM) previously applied to legislator speeches
 - Grimmer 2010; Nguyen et al. 2015; Ramey et al. 2016
- Apply methods in Roberts et al. (2017)
 - *stm* package in R
- 20 topics, hand coded into broader categories
 - Economy, Culture, Security, Human Rights, Migration Core, Irrelevant

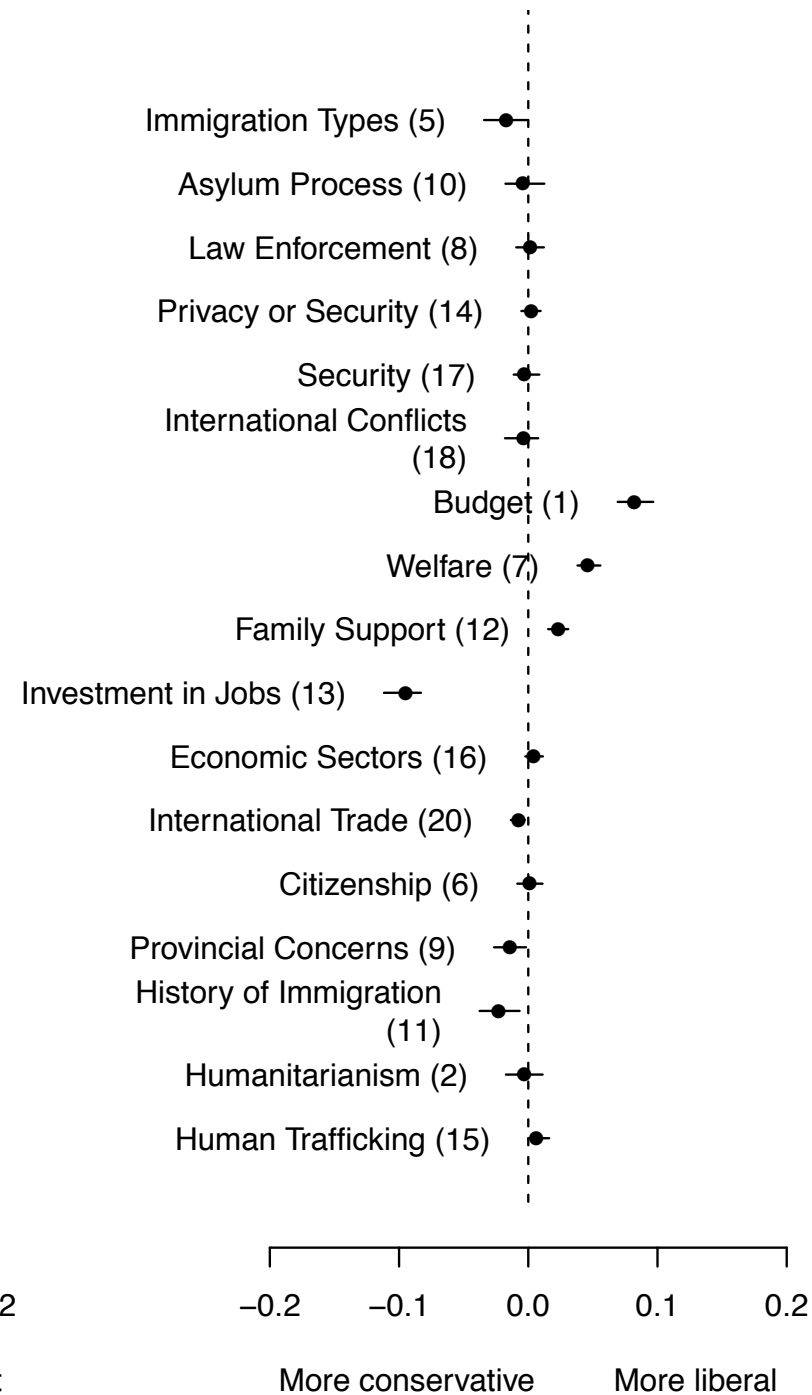


Results x Party

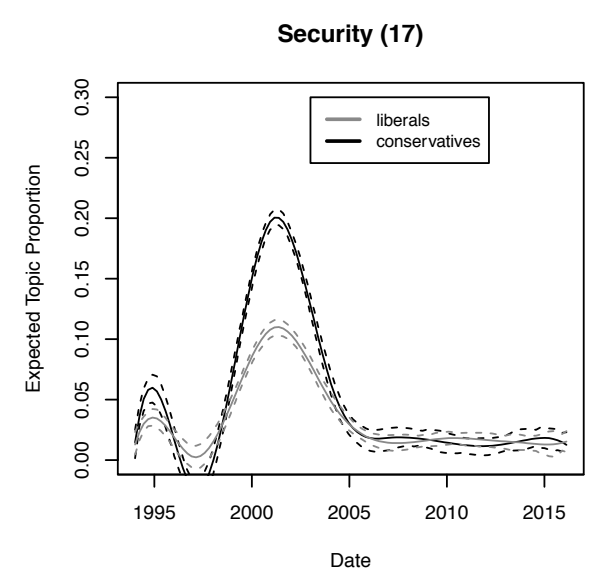
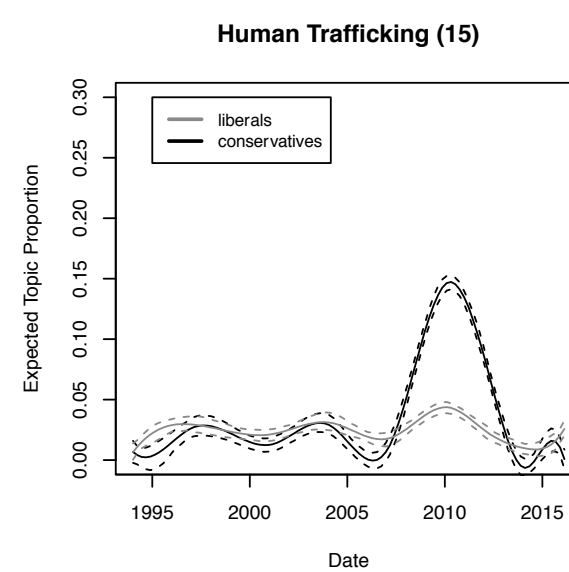
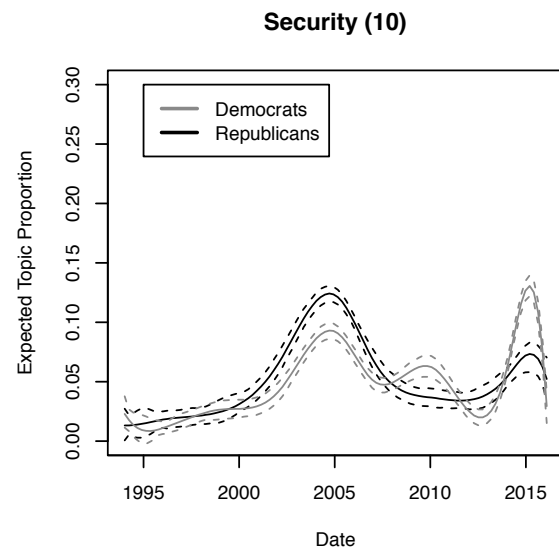
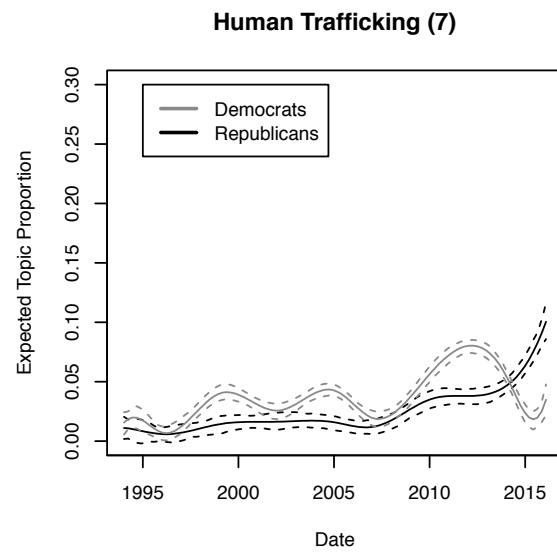
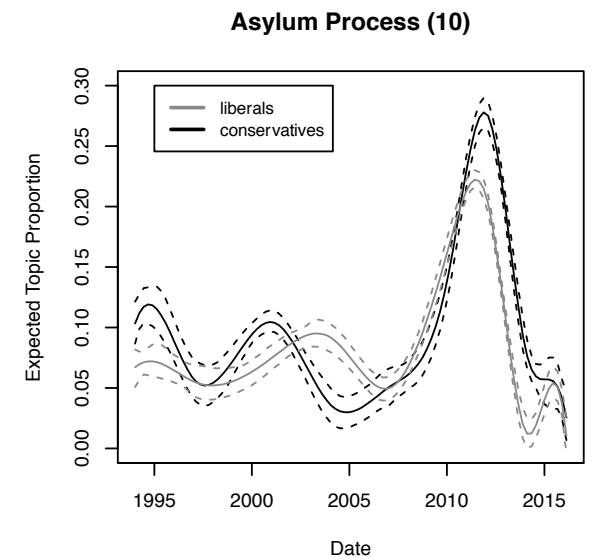
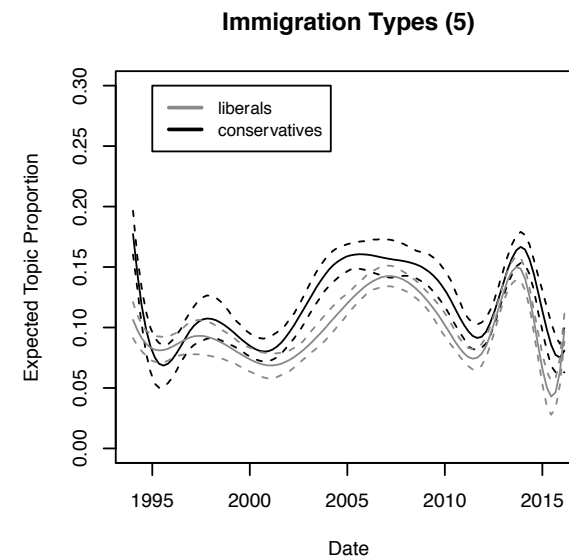
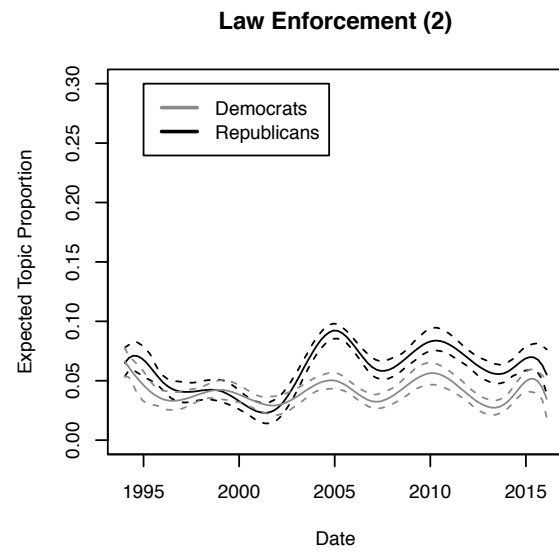
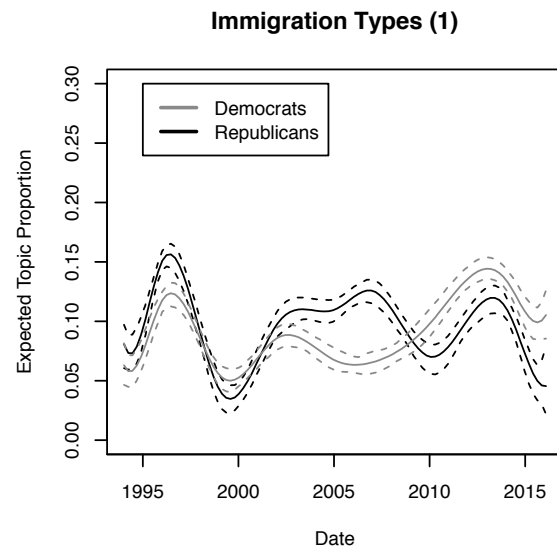
(a) Migration Topics in the US Congress



(b) Migration Topics in the Canadian Parliament



Results x Party x Time



Thank-you

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Comments and Feedback:

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