

# Polarization of Climate Politics Results from Partisan Sorting: Evidence from Finnish Twittersphere

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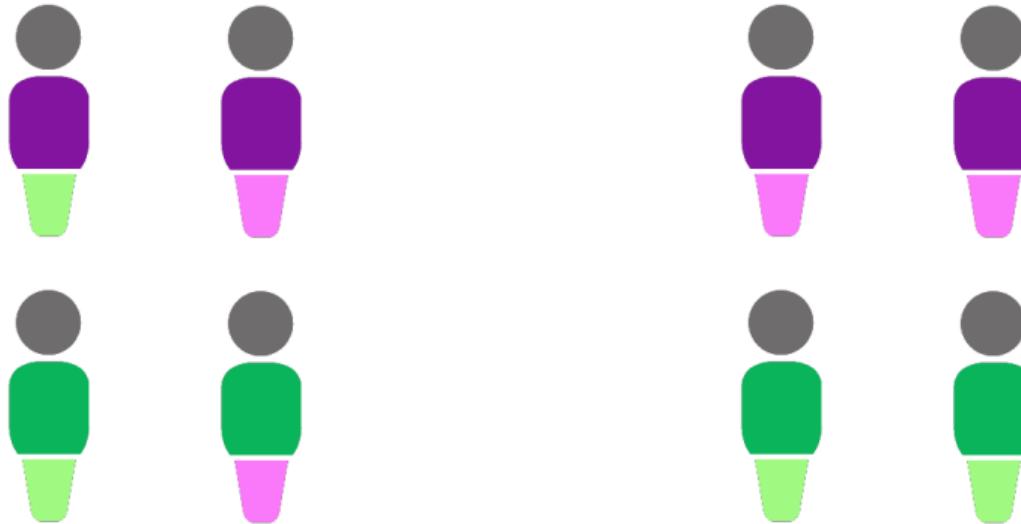
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# Climate Change Politics and Polarization



# The Importance of *Alignment* in Political Polarization



Alignment creates entrenched cleavages

# Empirical Approach

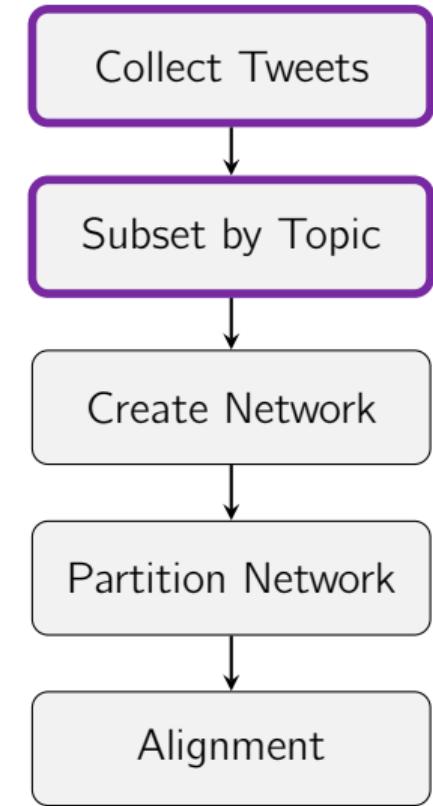
Twitter statuses/filter API with hashtags for 11 topics

## Issues

climate  
immigration  
social security  
economic policy  
education

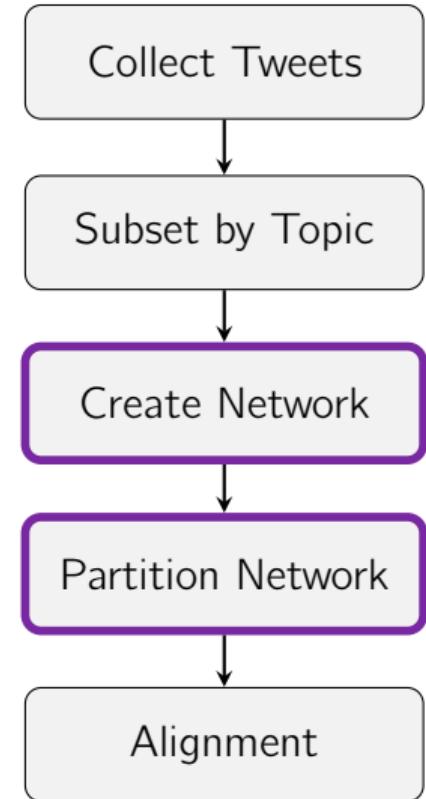
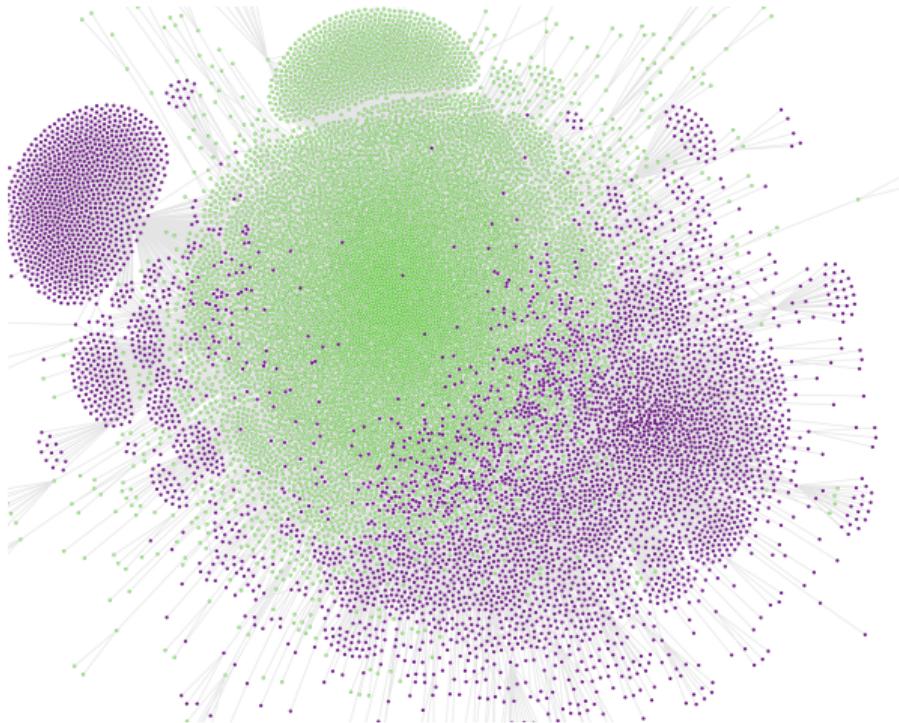
## Parties

Social Democrats  
Finns Party  
National Coalition  
Green Alliance  
Centre Party  
Left Alliance



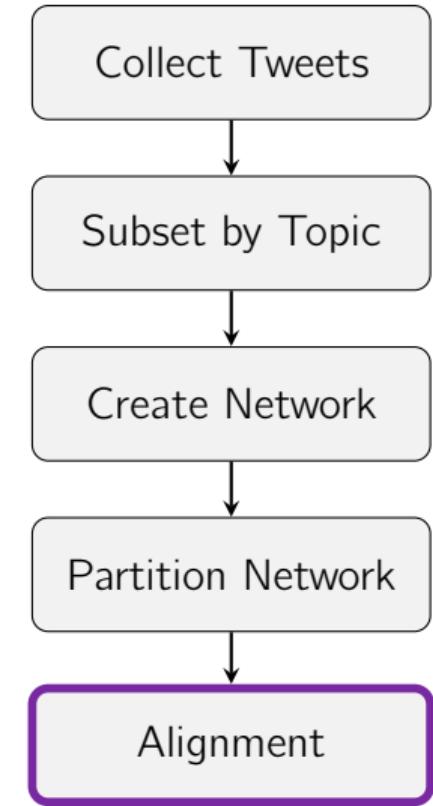
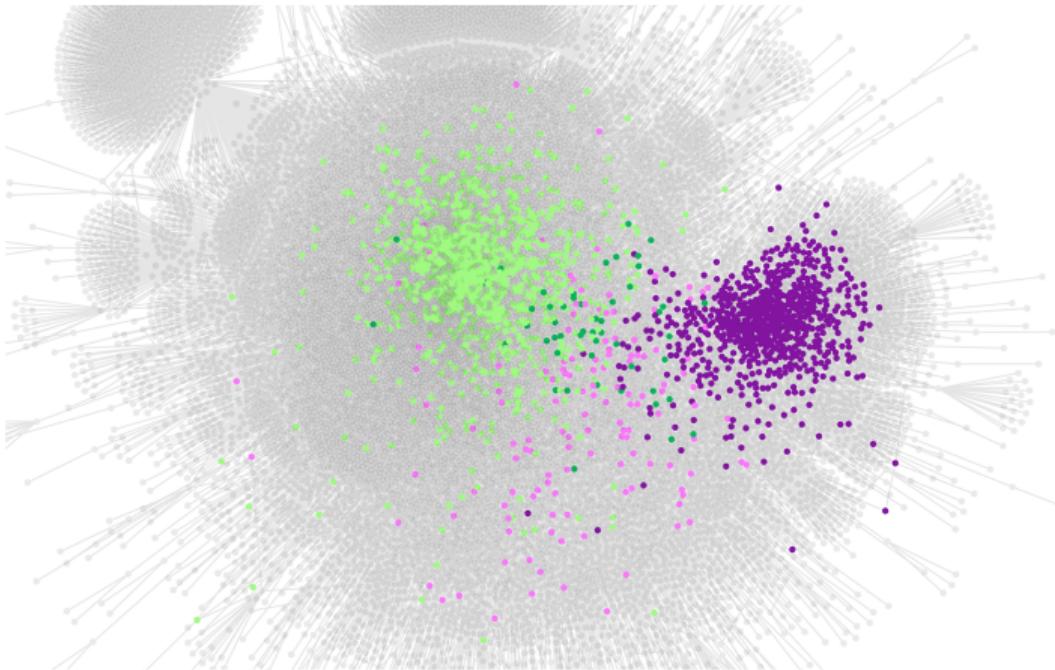
# Empirical Approach

Two groups with the lowest inter-group agreement



# Empirical Approach

Subset topic-pairs to node-aligned multiplex networks

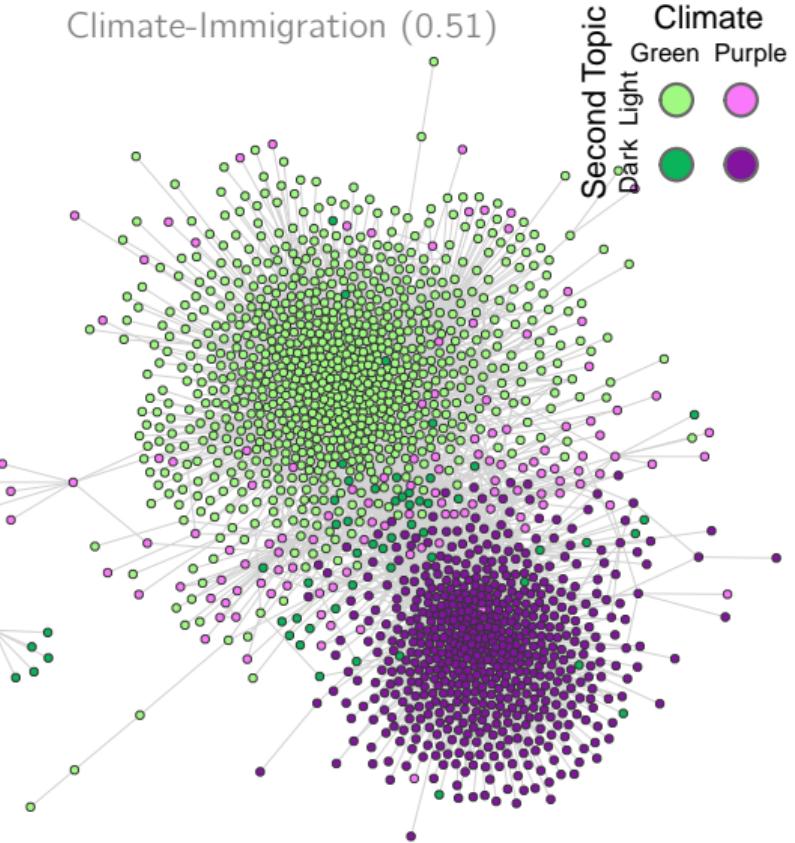


# Alignment Examples

Climate-Economic Policy (0.16)

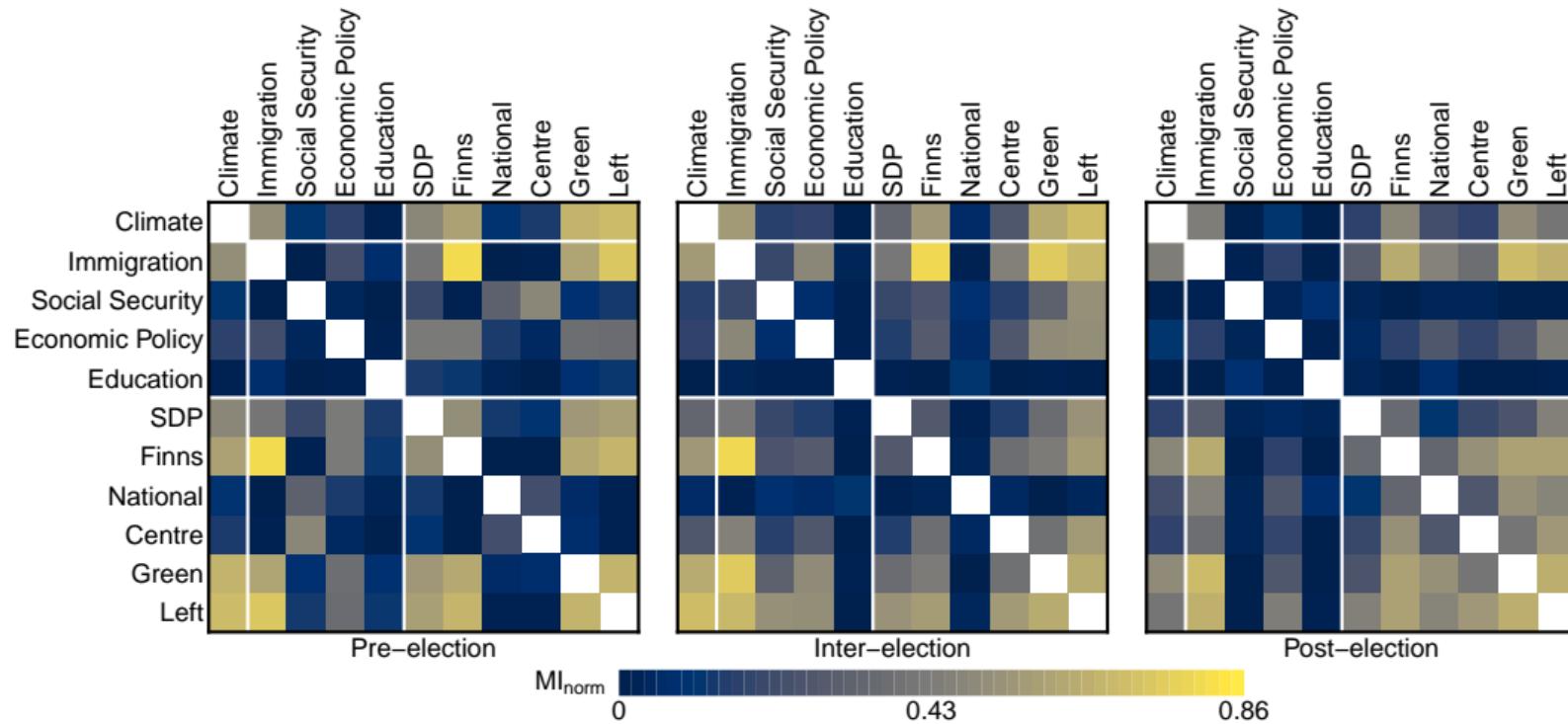


Climate-Immigration (0.51)



Second Topic  
Climate  
Green Purple  
Light  
Dark

# Results: Topic Alignment



# Findings

- ▶ Climate politics is aligned with the partisan politics of the new populist-universalist divide that is increasingly common
- ▶ The immigration issue, in particular, is strongly aligned with climate politics
- ▶ Overall, alignment-based polarization is localized to specific political domains

Chen et al. "Polarization of Climate Politics Results from Partisan Sorting: Evidence from Finnish Twittersphere." <https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.02706>

The slides are available at [https://tedhchen.com/assets/pcnet20\\_slides.pdf](https://tedhchen.com/assets/pcnet20_slides.pdf)

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