

Monitoring narratives about the energy transition in Germany

Social (in)justice in the energy transition — from the digital debate to the living world*

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Energy Transition

Global Issue

Environmental/Economic/Social Challenges

Energy Policy

Public/Media Debate

Public Perceptions

Social Justice

Key Actors

Automated Summary

Continuous Updates

Retrospective Analysis

Topic Models

Sentiment

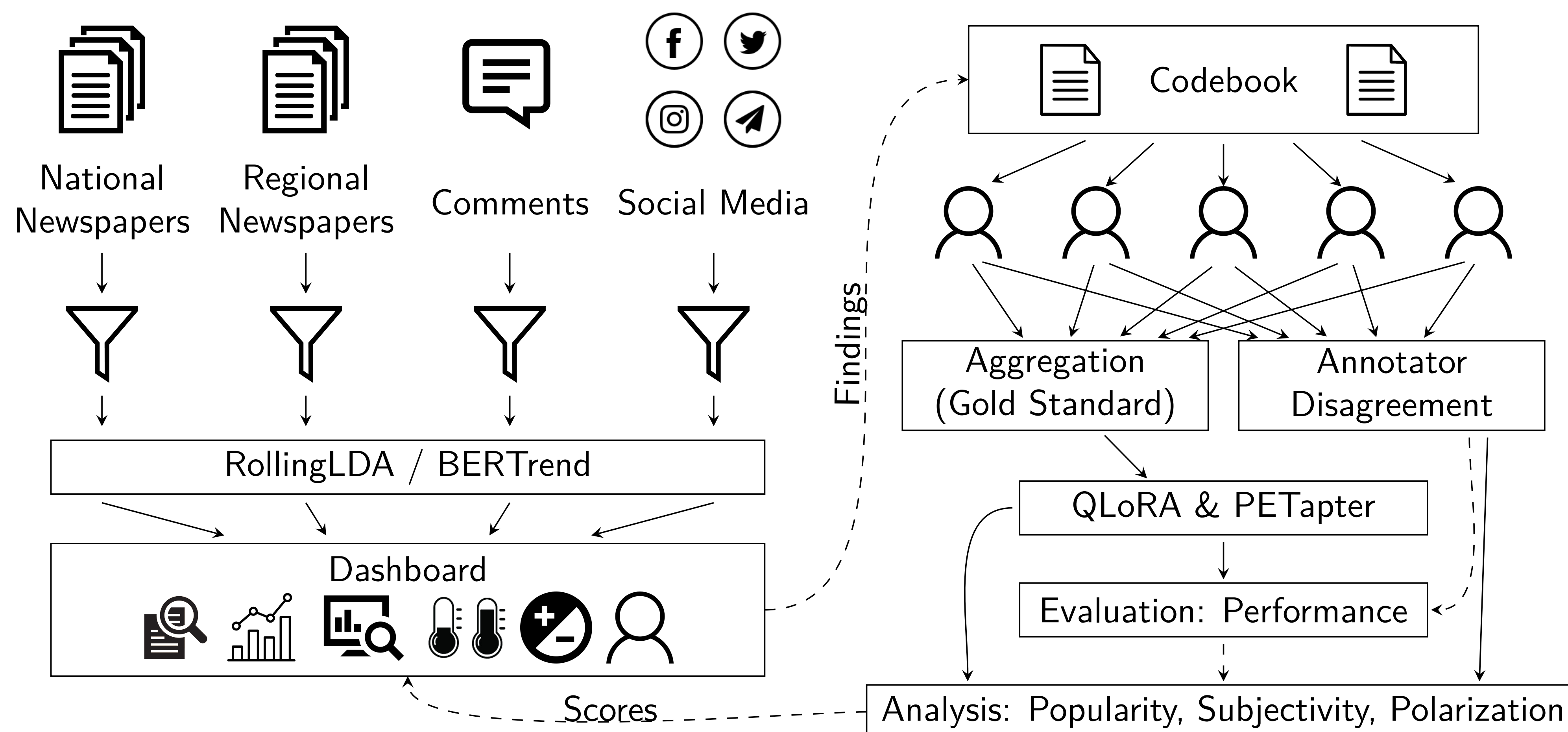
NER

PEFT

Annotations

Few-Shot

Project Framework



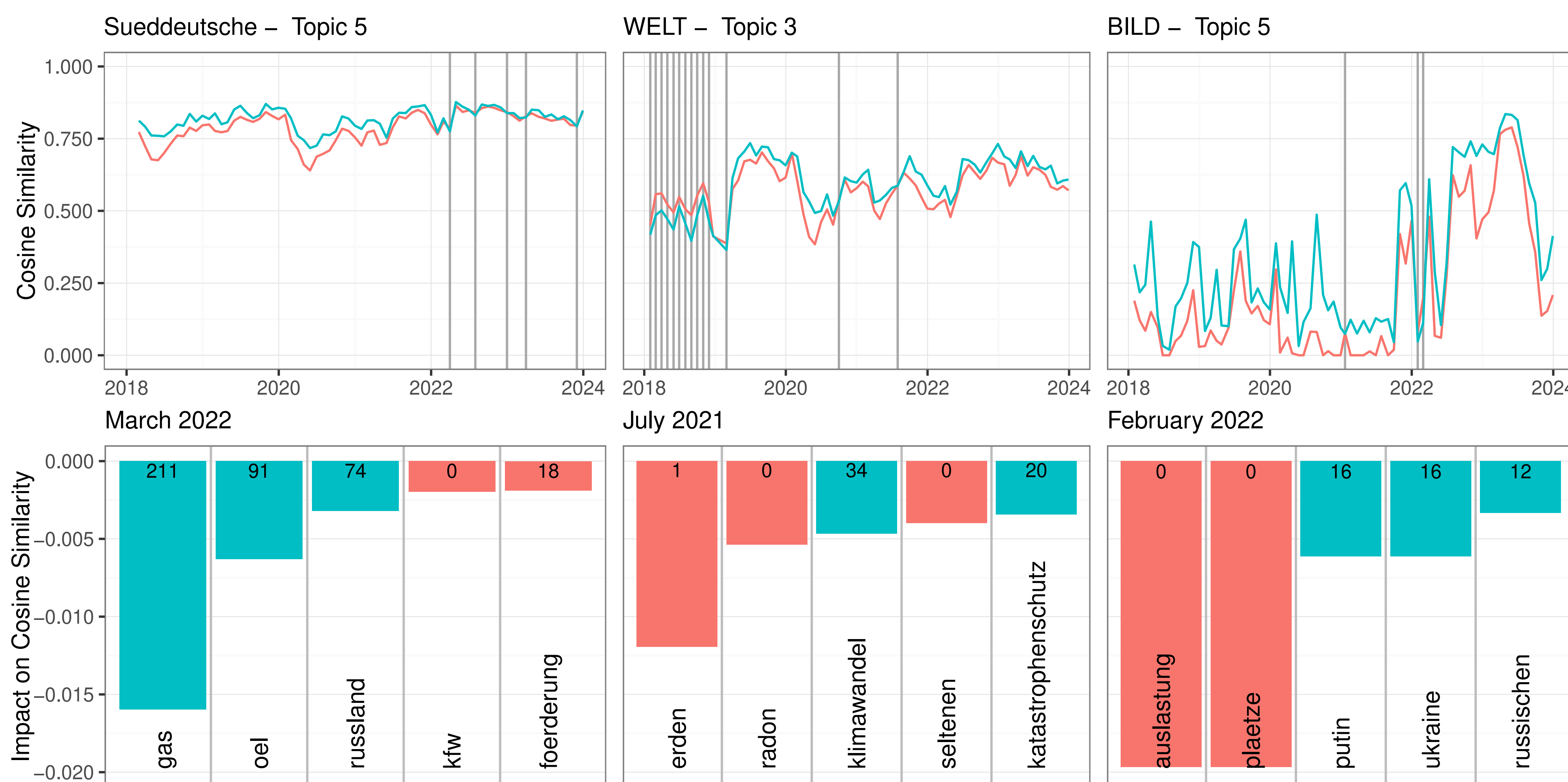
Hypotheses that we will test:

- The (media-perceptible) acceptance for the German energy transition dropped in the last two years (2023, 2024).
- The negative aspects regarding the energy transition are disseminated disproportionately often by certain media.
- The argument of social (in)justice is more often used as a counter-argument for the German energy transition as a whole than as an argument for a more socially just implementation of it.

Features:

- description of best practice case study
- continuous/reliable extraction/presentation of narrative elements
- real world application scenarios
- **further discussion and improvement**

First Insights



► different keyword filters:

- Bild: (wende | gesetz | politik | habeck | hammer) & (waerme | energie | klima | heiz)
- SZ & Welt: (wende | gesetz | politik) & (waerme | energie | klima | heizung)
- $K = 10$ topics appeared to be most promising for all three corpora
- SZ & Welt contain several relevant topics related to the German energy transition
- Bild reveals lack of energy-related topics
- Bild's coverage is skewed towards individual political entities
- *social injustice* focus barely represented

Challenges

- classifying thematic aspects, monitoring sentiment over time, and identifying key actors will be feasible
- narratives involve multiple components/concepts
- varying theoretical definitions of narratives
- special treatment for Bild newspaper articles (e.g., visual-heavy content, neologisms as *Heizungshammer*)
- social media data availability
- spatial/regional differences in the debate (regional newspapers needed)
- codebook creation
- assessing gold standard for few-shot learning
- modeling annotator disagreement

Next Steps

- improving RollingLDA to better handle emerging and fading topics
 - currently, it "fixes" topics during initializing period, potentially missing parts of social (in)justice debate
- re-evaluating the keywords for pre-filtering the corpus (higher precision & recall)
- focusing on sub-corpus of social (in)justice
- comparing usefulness of RollingLDA, BERTrend, and BERTopic

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag