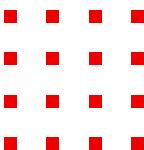
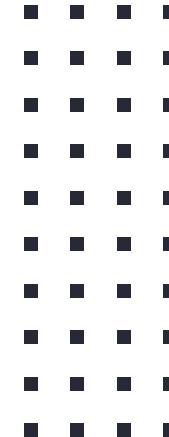




It's This American Life

I'm Pang Weirich



Act One: Origin Story

- Debuted on Nov. 7, 1995
- Hosted by Ira Glass
- Almost 650 episodes
- Journalistic non-fiction
- Includes essays, memoirs, and short fiction



Act Two: The Weight Of Words

- Latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) finds correlated words
- Example:
 - Family: 43%
(dad, mom, father, mother, parent, brother)
 - Politics: 28%
(president, republican, vote, party, campaign)

680 July 26, 2019

The Weight Of Words

Words mean things, but some words are especially meaningful — whether in a survival manual, a song lyric, or a slur.



Act Three: Picture Show

- **Violence/Military**

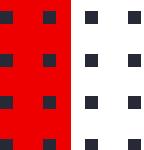
ex. words: police, war, kill, gun, officer, shoot, cop, soldier

- **Economy/Business**

ex. words: company, buy, bank, sell, business, worker

- **Politics/Elections**

ex. words: president, republican, vote, party, campaign



Act Three: Picture Show

- **Violence/Military**

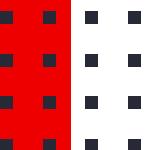
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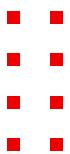
ex. words: president, republican, vote, party, campaign







From 2001 to 2010 ‘military’ topics were focused on the wars in the Middle East



414 Sept. 10, 2010

Right to Remain Silent

A New York police officer secretly records his supervisors ordering officers to do all sorts of things that police aren't supposed to do.



547 Feb. 6, 2015

Cops See It Differently - Part One

There's a division between people who distrust the police and people who see cops as a force for good.



548 Feb. 13, 2015

Cops See It Different - Part Two

We look at one city where relations between police and black residents are terrible, and another city where they seem to be improving remarkably.



Since 2010, all 'military' topics shifted to cops...

■ ■ ■ 442 July 29, 2011

Thugs

Like a lot of Mexican towns, Florencia has had its share of problems dealing with drug gangs. Until recently, when new narcos rolled into town.



465 May 25, 2012

What Happened at Dos Erres

A Guatemalan immigrant living near Boston gets a phone call with some very strange news about his past.



488 Feb. 22, 2013

Harper High School - Part Two

Part two of our program on Harper High School in Chicago, where in the last year 29 current and recent students were shot.



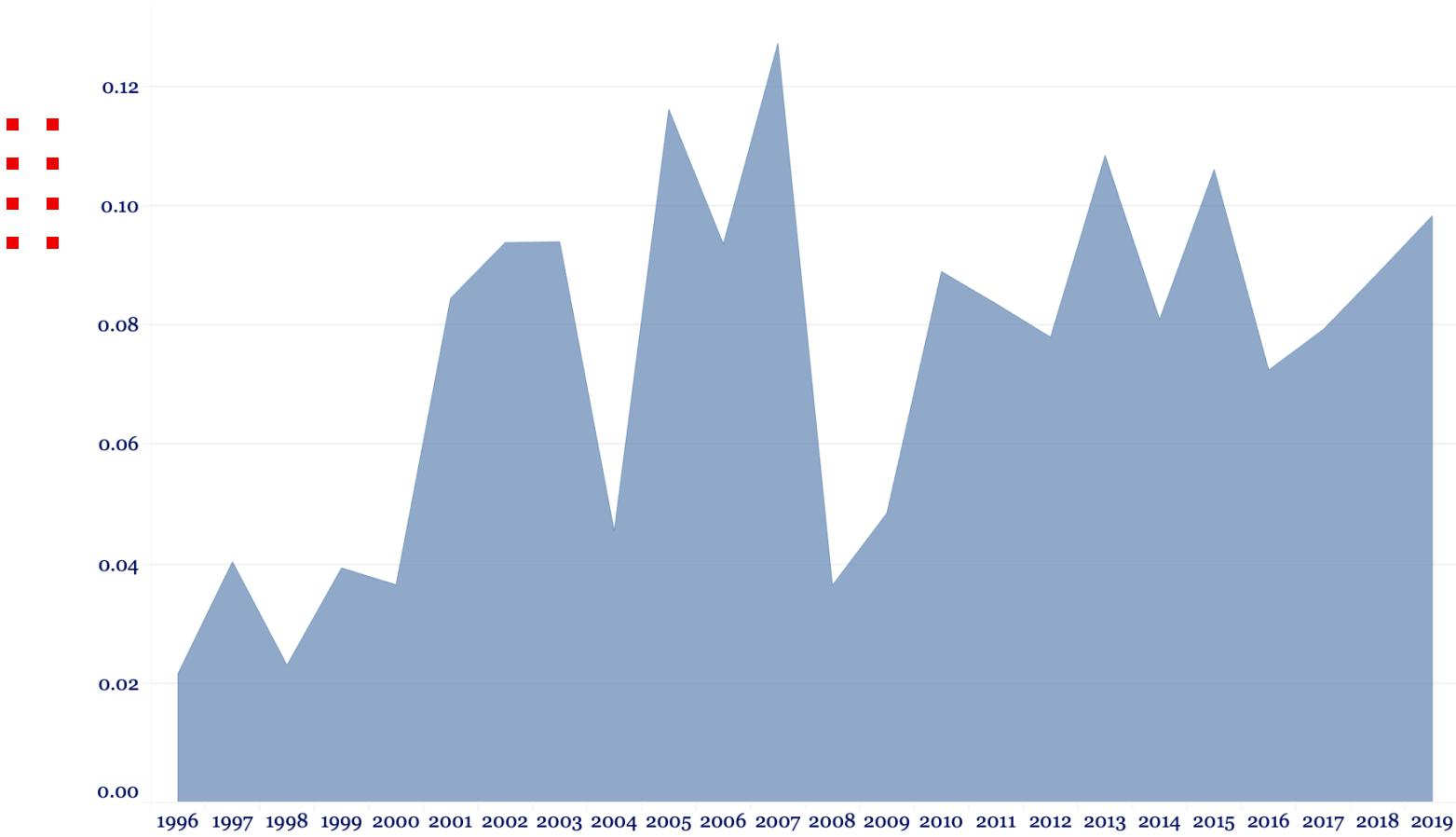
657 Sept. 21, 2018

The Runaways

A bunch of teenagers go missing from a town in Long Island.



Gang violence...



The focus of military/violence has shifted over the years, but was highly impacted by 9/11

Act Three: Picture Show

- **Violence/Military**

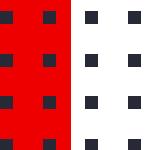
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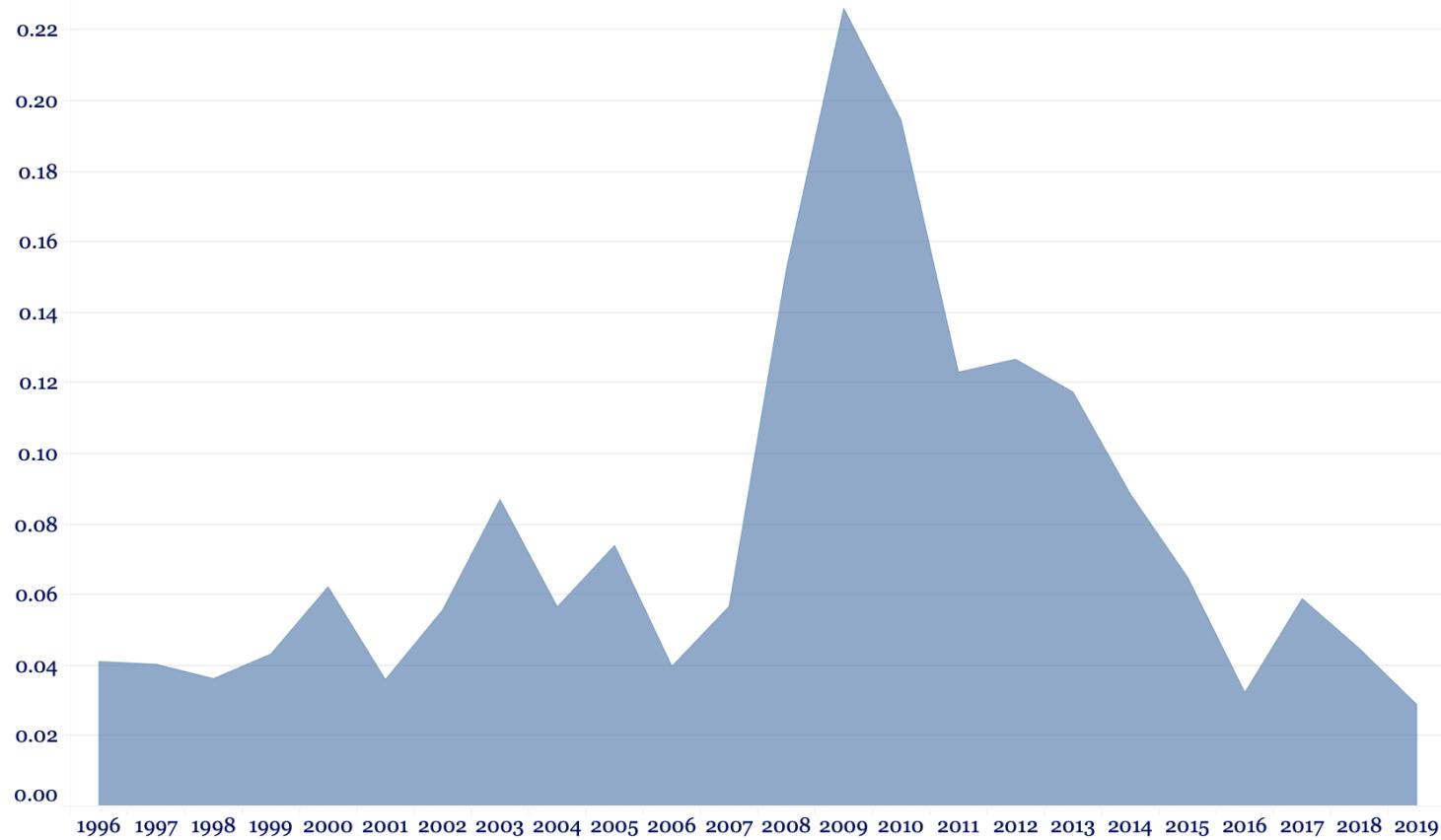
- **Economy/Business**

ex. words: company, buy, bank, sell, business, worker

- **Politics/Elections**

ex. words: president, republican, vote, party, campaign





Coverage of business/economy over the last 25 years

355 May 9, 2008

The Giant Pool of Money

- The surprisingly entertaining story of how the U.S. got itself into a housing crisis.



377 Mar. 27, 2009

Scenes From a Recession

We highlight the unusual circumstances our economic drought has left us in.

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Coverage

365 Oct. 3, 2008

Another Frightening Show About the Economy

A look at what regulators could've done to prevent the financial crisis from happening in the first place.



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382 June 5, 2009

The Watchmen

Where were the regulators and watchdogs who were supposed to be overseeing the banks and the finance industry?



02 2003 20

375 Feb. 27, 2009

Bad Bank

We tackle a very tough subject: Trying to explain exactly what a bank is and does.



390 Sept. 25, 2009

Return To The Giant Pool of Money

We mark the anniversary of the economic collapse.



Act Three: Picture Show

- **Violence/Military**

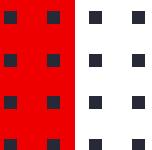
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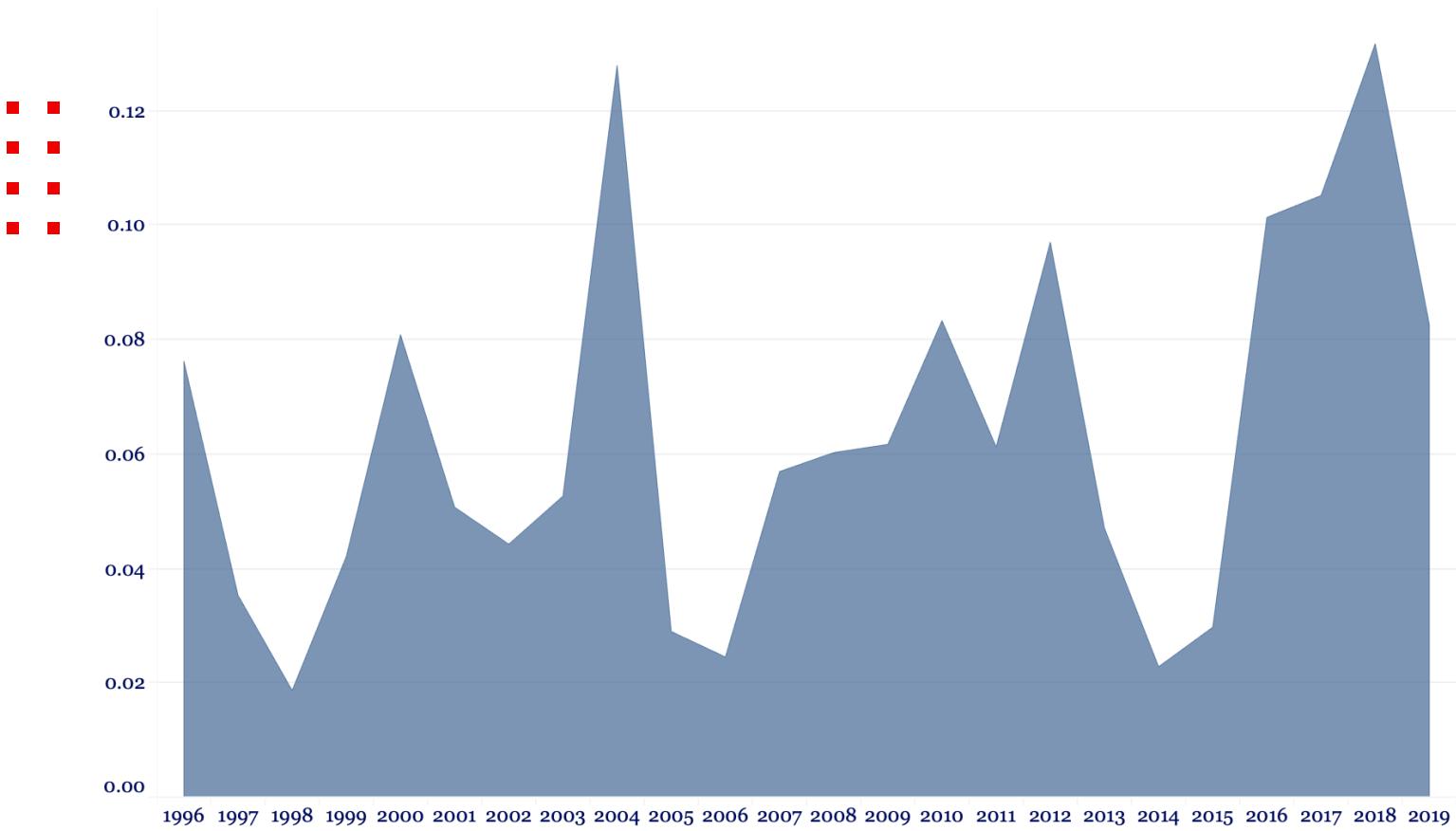
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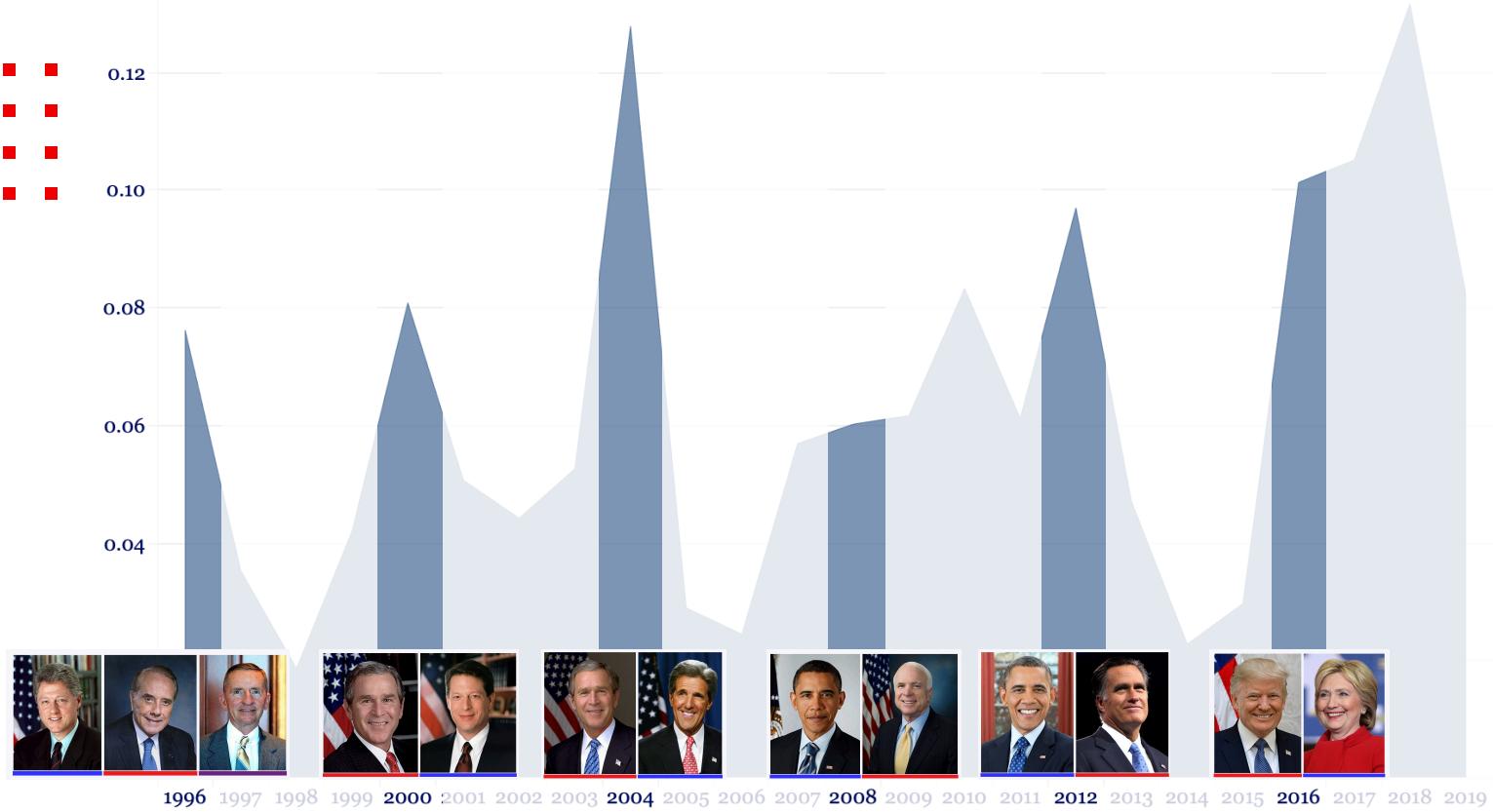
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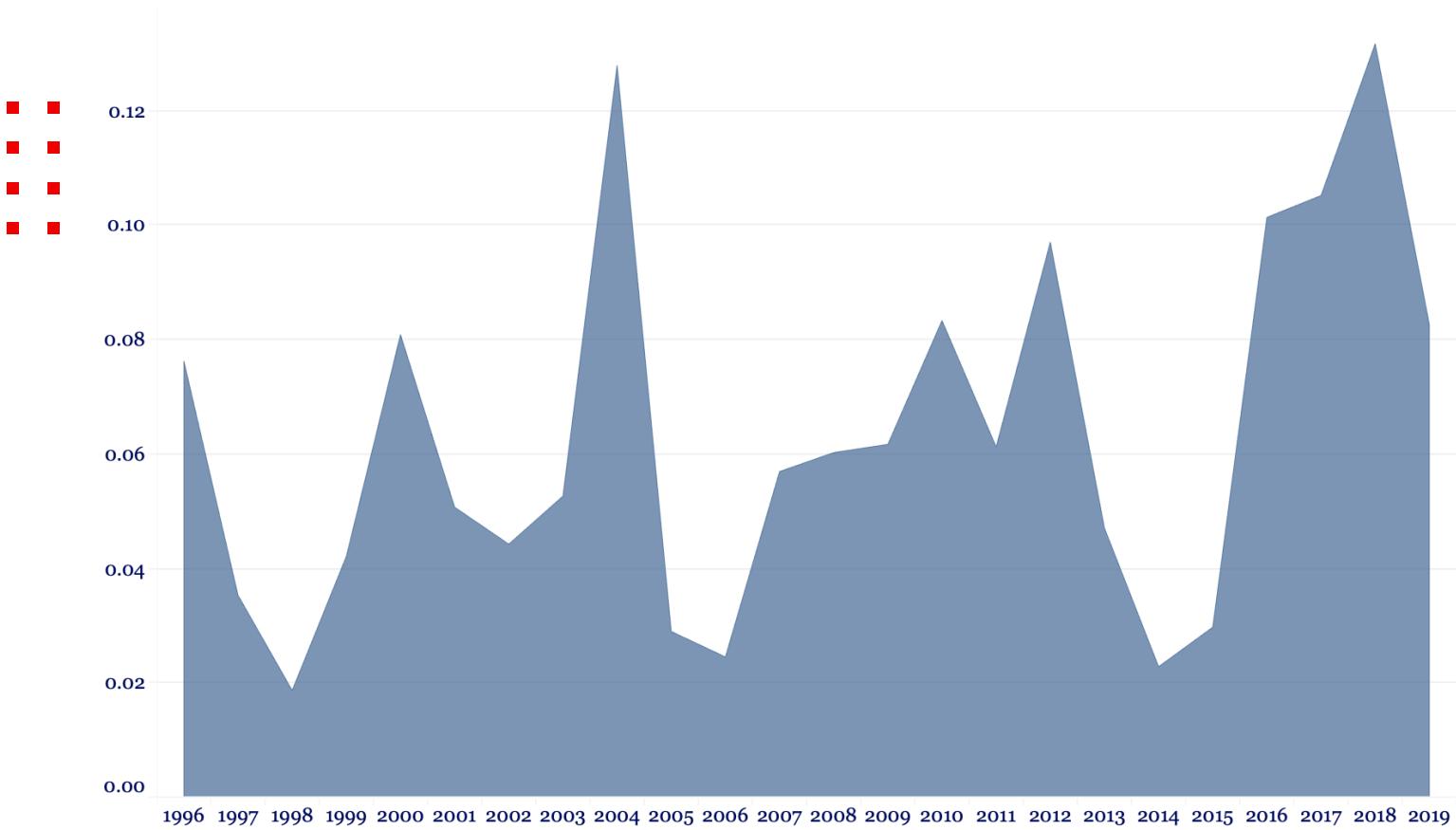




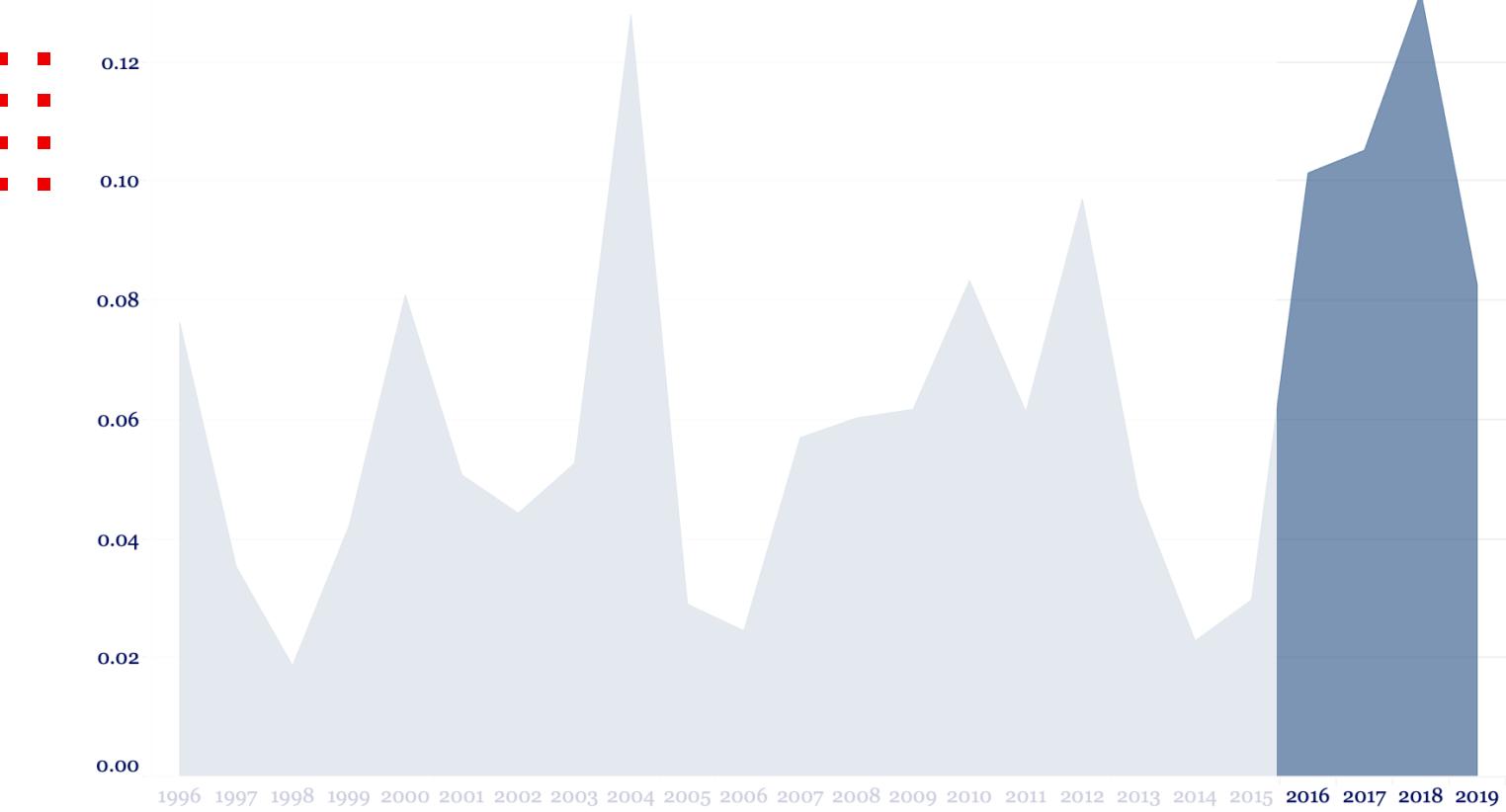
Coverage of politics over the last 25 years



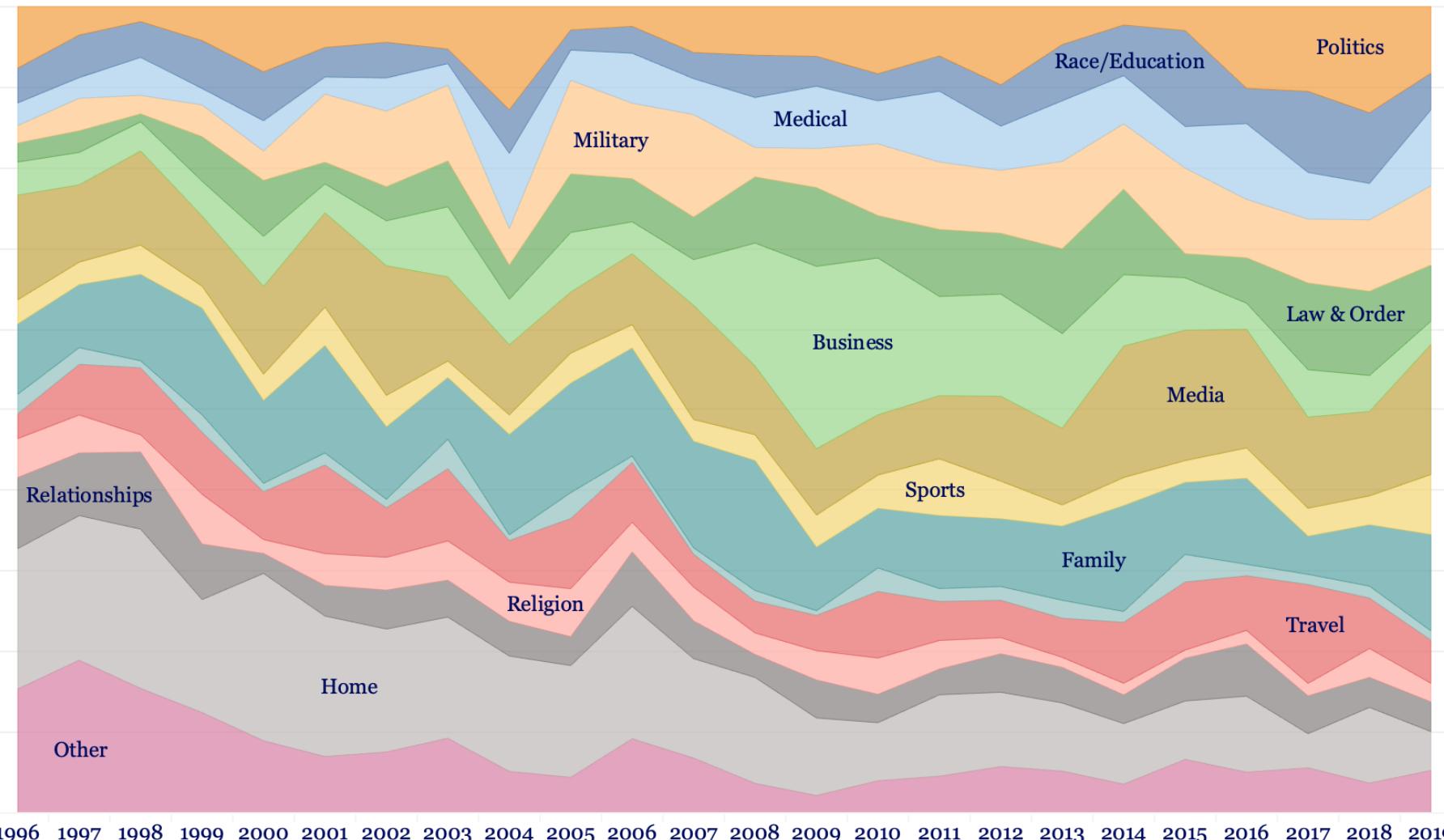
Elections!



Defined peaks in 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2012, what about 2008 and 2016?



Is This American Life becoming more political?





Thanks for listening
Questions?



Act Four: After the Flood

Religion: church, christian, group, pray, Jesus, faith, lord, wall, religious, cross, hell, member, spirit, town, wife, brother, enemy, war

Business/Economy: company, buy, bank, sell, business, worker, government, million, market, dollar, plant, store, price, plan

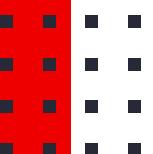
Military/Violence: police, war, kill, gun, officer, shoot, cop, soldier, military, force, fight, report, murder, army, arrest, death, crime, attack

Home: girl, mother, bed, light, sleep, wear, boy, hair, voice, floor, baby, window, throw, body, table, arm, white, apartment, drink, heart

Relationships: letter, sex, gay, marry, marriage, relationship, don, mail, advice, wife, straight, wedding, sexual, kiss, interview, computer

Race/Education: black, white, student, teacher, class, high school, college, parent, girl, neighborhood, teach, south, grade, group

Politics: president, republican, vote, party, campaign, political, election, candidate, issue, politic, win, government, bush, office



Media: song, movie, tv, York, New York, film, girl, joke, laugh, funny, sing, music, video, tape, hey, producer, stage, record, camera, thank

Other: dog, eat, animal, bird, human, fly, cat, food, writer, music, foot, map, dream, death, dead, bear, space, light, restaurant, New York

Sports: game, team, win, player, ball, card, football, throw, drink, fight, hit, beat, shoot, trick, park, college, sport, ticket, shot, party

Law & Order: court, law, judge, lawyer, drug, attorney, government, department, trial, crime, agent, prison, office, quote, justice, jail, charge

Medical: doctor, hospital, study, patient, Dr, health, test, medical, body, research, drug, treatment, control, brain, fat, group, result, human, science

Family: dad, mom, father, mother, parent, brother, sister, son, daughter, baby, wife, husband, boy, memory, happy, visit, death, feeling, prison

Holidays: Christmas, tree, ice, gift, present, window, Jesus, store, light, sing, thank, buy, cold, boy, celebrate, hat, voice, paper, laugh, red

Travel: town, camp, water, road, bus, mile, boat, land, build, truck, border, north, foot, park, beach, wall, river, government, trip, island