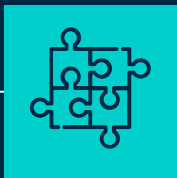# Comparison of The Hate Speech Targeting Asian Community on Twitter and Reddit

IMT 547 Research Project
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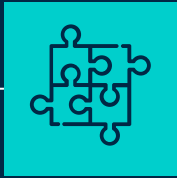Who might care about the research and what difference could the it make

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WHAT IS THE PROBLEM

What are we trying to do

We are conducting a cross-platforms research into the hate speech targeting Asian community on Twitter and Reddit

Why is it hard

- Lack of previous research
- Lack of awareness of anti-Asian speech
- Difficulty collecting evolving hate speech expressions

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM
The Research Objectives

1
Describe the characteristics of hate speech against the Asian community on Twitter and Reddit
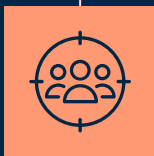
2
Identify the behavior characteristics of the users who publish and/or endorse hate speech
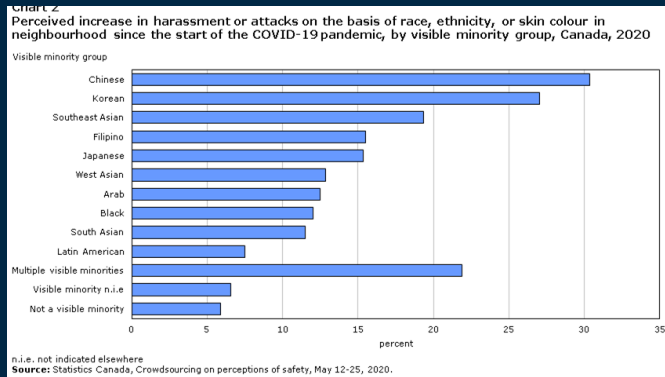
3
Compare the policies and community culture towards Asian community on Twitter and Reddit

Stretched Objective
Describe the evolvement of the hate speech on Twitter and Reddit

Why is it important

Chart 2
Perceived increase in harassment or attacks on the basis of race, ethnicity, or skin colour in neighbourhood since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, by visible minority group, Canada, 2020

Visible minority group

n.i.e. not indicated elsewhere
Source: Statistics Canada, Crowdsourcing on perceptions of safety, May 12-25, 2020.

Asian Americans have experienced physical violence/hate crime and harassment (e.g., violent attacks during establishment of Chinatowns in the late 1800s [Chen, 2000]), persistent marginalizing stereotyping, and verbal attacks and microaggressions motivated by individual-level racism and xenophobia from the time they arrived in America in the late 1700s up until the present day (Chen, 2000).

------American Journal of Criminal Justice

Why is it important

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Asians and people of Asian descent have been targets of derogatory language in media reports and statements by politicians as well as on social media platforms, where hate speech related to Covid-19 also appears to have spread extensively.

-----Human Rights Watch

Hate speech has also been "trending" on social media, via hashtags such as '#Wuhanvirus' and '#chinaliedpeopledied'.

------Human Rights Watch

Who Cares

Public

- Asian groups
- Care for social justice

Platform

- Has Asian users
- Wants to identify hate speech toward minority
- Wants to create a culture inclusive community

Sociologist

- Hate speech analysis
- Social discrimination
- Minority analysis

Impacts

Social Goodness
- Public awareness of the equal rights for Asian group;
- Provide suggestions for Asian users in choosing community
- Prevent hate crime that caused by hate speech

Online Environment
- Help detect hate speech for Asian users;
- Provide advices for Twitter and Reddits to update their policy
- Create a culture inclusive online environment

Research
- Identify the variance of hate speech during pandemic
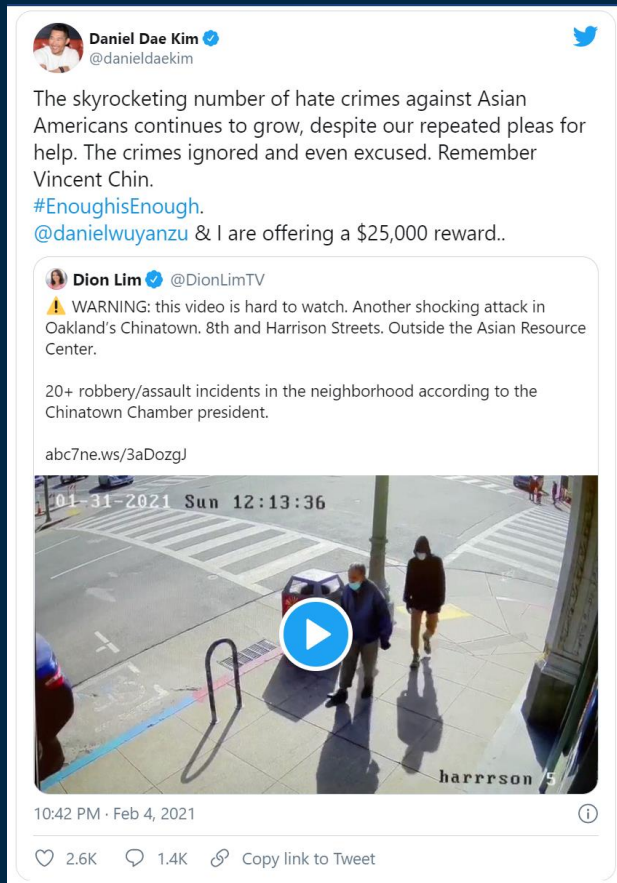- Provide lexicon of hate speech targeted at Asian group for future researches

Current Landscape

How is it done today

- Research studies anti-Asian hate and counterhate speech on Twitter during the COVID crisis
- Research on the responses of some political elites to the COVID-related racism

Limitations

- Lack of voice from the Asian community

How are we different

Comparisons:

- Cross two platforms
- before and after COVID-19

Why do we think it will be successful?

- existing research on specific platforms
- data available via platform APIs
- clear goals, objectives and plans.
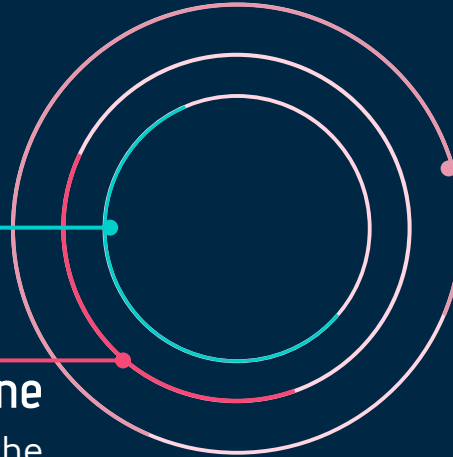- confident in our analysis skills

Success Criteria

3 characteristics analysis of the hate speech content targeting the Asian community

1st milestone

3rd milestone

Comparison on community tolerance of hate speech based on banned user accounts between two platforms

2nd milestone

3 features analysis of the hate speech regarding user behaviors

Plan of Activities

- Develop a hate speech lexicon
- Collect data from Reddit and Twitter APIs
- Clean and transform the data

- Analyze user activities and compare moderation practice between two platforms

Data Preparation
(Lizzy & Huan)

Data Analysis
(Huan & Xinyi)

Presentation
(All)

Week 7

Week 9

Week 6

Week 8

Week 10

Data Analysis
(Xinyi & Yajie)

Data Dissemination
(Lizzy & Yajie)

- Select appropriate models to analyze posts content

- Develop data visualizations
- Interpret and report findings

Challenges & Risks

- Failing to detect the evolving hate speech languages

- Necessary care to be taken of users' privacies when conducting the research methods such as data collection, data analysis, etc.

- Possibly tough data processing work regarding the large amount of data required to conduct a complete analysis based on our goals

Reference

- Covid-19 Fueling Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia Worldwide
- 'A Tsunami Of Hate': The Covid-19 Hate Speech Pandemic
- The Rise of Anti-Asian Hate in the Wake of Covid-19
- StatCan survey shows new evidence of increase in anti-Asian sentiment, attacks
- How the coronavirus is surfacing America's deep-seated anti-Asian biases
- Gover, A.R., Harper, S.B. & Langton, L. Anti-Asian Hate Crime During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Exploring the Reproduction of Inequality. Am J Crim Just 45, 647–667 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-020-09545-1

Thank you!