

Dealing with Citizen-centric Social News

A Behavioral View

Panelists

Drs. Serpil Tokdemir Yuce, Stephan Böhm, and Nitin Agarwal

Moderator

Nitin Agarwal

Panelists



Dr. Serpil Tokdemir Yuce is research project analyst at the Office of Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG), Little Rock, Arkansas, USA. Dr. Yuce has a joint affiliation with COSMOS, UALR as research associate. Her work involves extracting raw data from Fraud and Abuse Detection System (FADS), cluster analysis, anomaly/outlier detection, predictive analysis and decision support systems, data visualization, content mining, and network analysis. Dr. Yuce obtained her PhD from UALR in 2015 with support from U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). Bringing together the computational modeling and social science theories, her dissertation explored the role of social media in coordinating online collective action in the context of Saudi Arabian Women's right to gender equality. She obtained her B.S. degree in Computer Science from Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey in 2003. She completed her Masters Degree (MS) in Computer Science Department from Georgia State University in 2006, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Panelists



Dr. Stephan Böhm is a Professor of Telecommunications and Mobile Media at the Faculty of Media Management at the RheinMain University of Applied Sciences. Professor Böhm is a co-founder of the Center for Advanced E-Business Studies (CAEBUS) in Wiesbaden and of the Mobile Media Forum, an annual conference on mobile media technologies and applications, in Germany. He teaches on media technology and media management topics in bachelor and master programs and is a visiting professor at the International College of the NIDA in Bangkok, Thailand. Professor Böhm is the author of more than 50 articles and a member of the program committees of several international academic conferences. His current research work focuses on Innovation Management and Marketing, Technology Acceptance for Mobile Applications and Services, Up-front User Research for Mobile Applications, Mobile Prototyping, Mobile HCI. Before joining Rhein-Main University of Applied Sciences in 2006, he worked for the leading strategy and technology consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton in Berlin and Dusseldorf.

Panelists



Dr. Nitin Agarwal is a distinguished professor and Maulden-Entergy endowed chair of information science at University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is also the Director of the Collaboratorium for Social Media and Online Behavioral Studies (COSMOS). His research includes, social computing, deviant behavior modeling, mis/disinformation dissemination, computational propaganda analysis, group dynamics, social-cyber forensics, data mining, and privacy. His research has been supported by NSF, ARO, ONR, AFRL, DARPA, DHS with a total funding of over \$10 million. He is an IARIA fellow. He received his doctorate at Arizona State University in 2009 with outstanding dissertation recognition and was recognized as top 20 in their 20s by Arkansas Business. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles with several best paper awards.

On the left side of the slide, there is a decorative graphic. It features several vertical lines of varying heights and widths in shades of orange and light orange. Overlaid on these lines are several solid orange circles of different sizes, arranged in a descending, staggered pattern from top to bottom.

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO DRIVE: SPILLOVER OF BROKERS, MOBILIZATION, AND CYBERACTIVISM

Serpil Tokdemir Yuce

**Postdoctoral Research Associate- University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Research Project Analyst – Office of Medicaid Inspector General**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- This research is funded in part by the National Science Foundation's Social Computational Systems (SoCS) and Human Centered Computing (HCC) programs (Award Numbers: IIS-1110868 and IIS-1110649) and the US Office of Naval Research (Grant number: N000141010091).
 - Project website: <http://oca.lab.asu.edu/>

OUTLINE

- Introduction: History of Women's Rights Campaigns
- Analysis
- Discussion

INTRODUCTION

- (ICTs) – such as social media:
 - people interact, communicate, share information and how they entertain themselves
- Cyberspace – individuals within a community who were formerly unequipped for discovering their voices are presently fit to better organize and coordinate with one another through numerous Internet-based media.
- Arab Spring, the Occupy and other recent movements:
 - Spread messages, organize, and mobilize support for their campaigns.

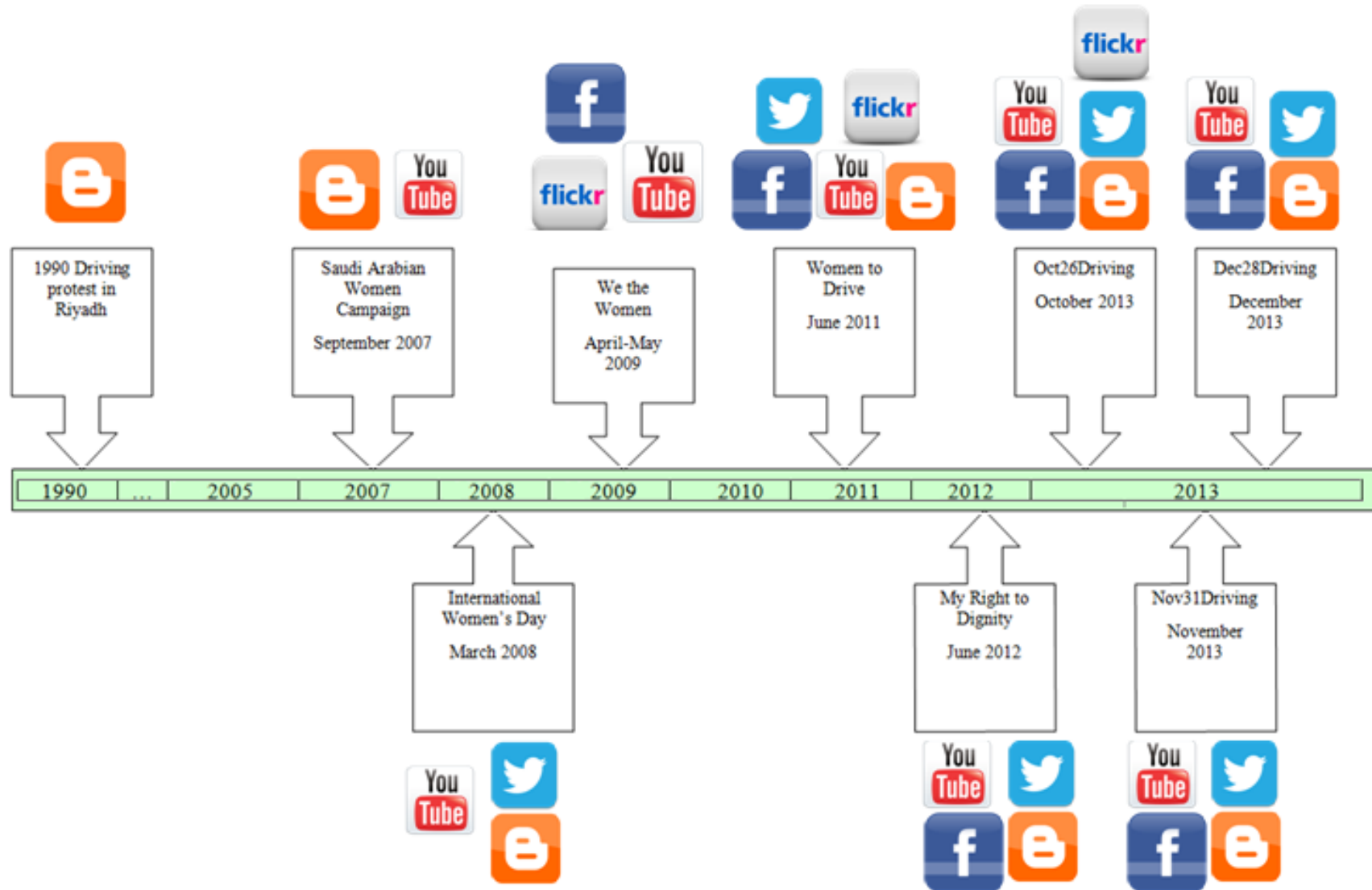
INTRODUCTION – CONT...

- YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and blogs:
 - Utilized to assist the protesters in spreading messages, organizing, and mobilizing support for their causes
 - Female Muslim population in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Saudi women face some of the most inequitable laws and practices when compared to international standards, including the prohibition of driving motorized vehicles
- Denied freedom of expression forced them to deploy active political uses of social media

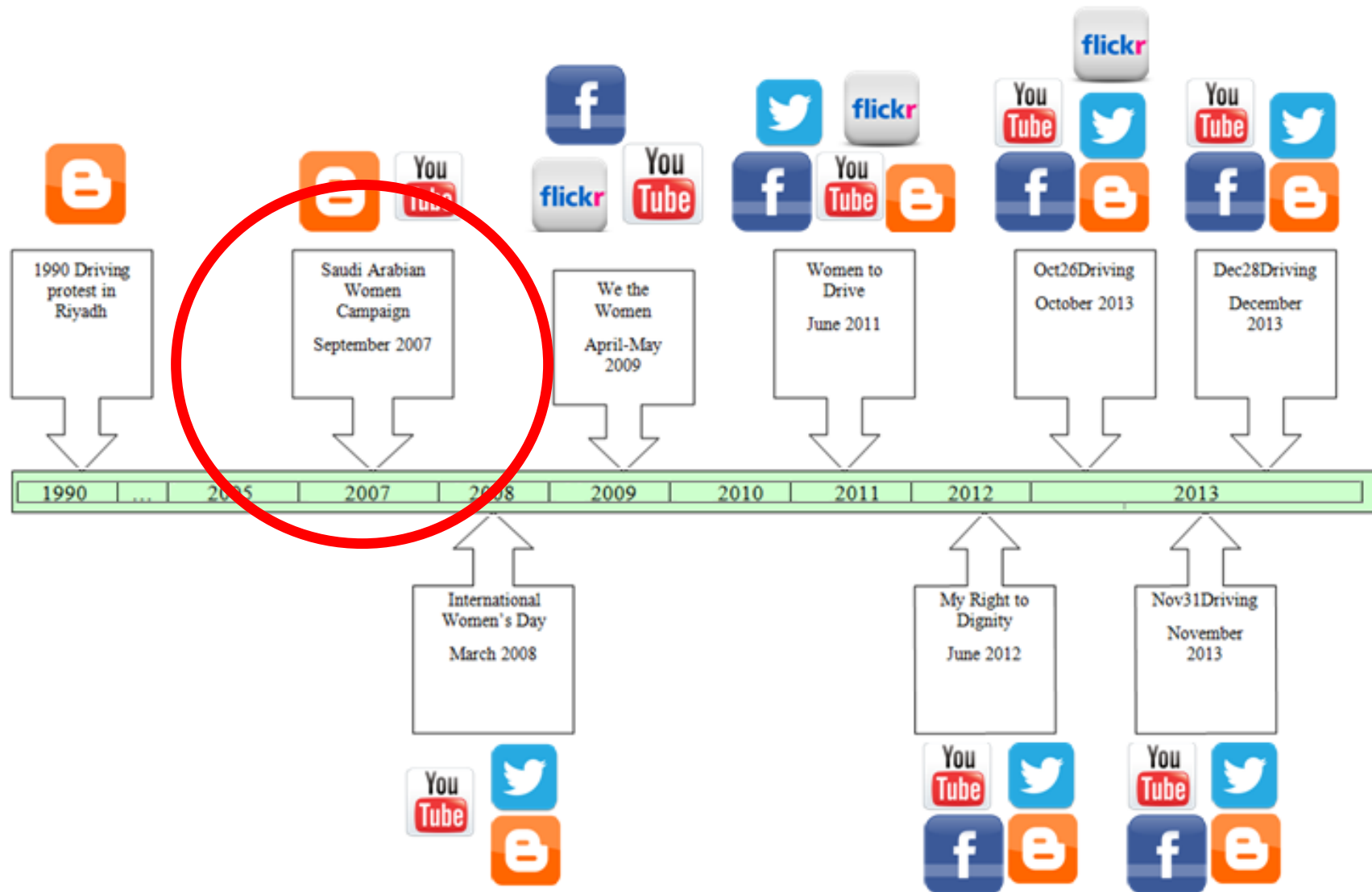
INTRODUCTION – CONT...

- As a consequence, the diffusion and spread of mobile information technology is nothing short of a **social revolution** in the daily lives of Saudi women where they are conducting most of their efforts on various social media platforms in terms of *campaign organizations, mobilizations, and support*

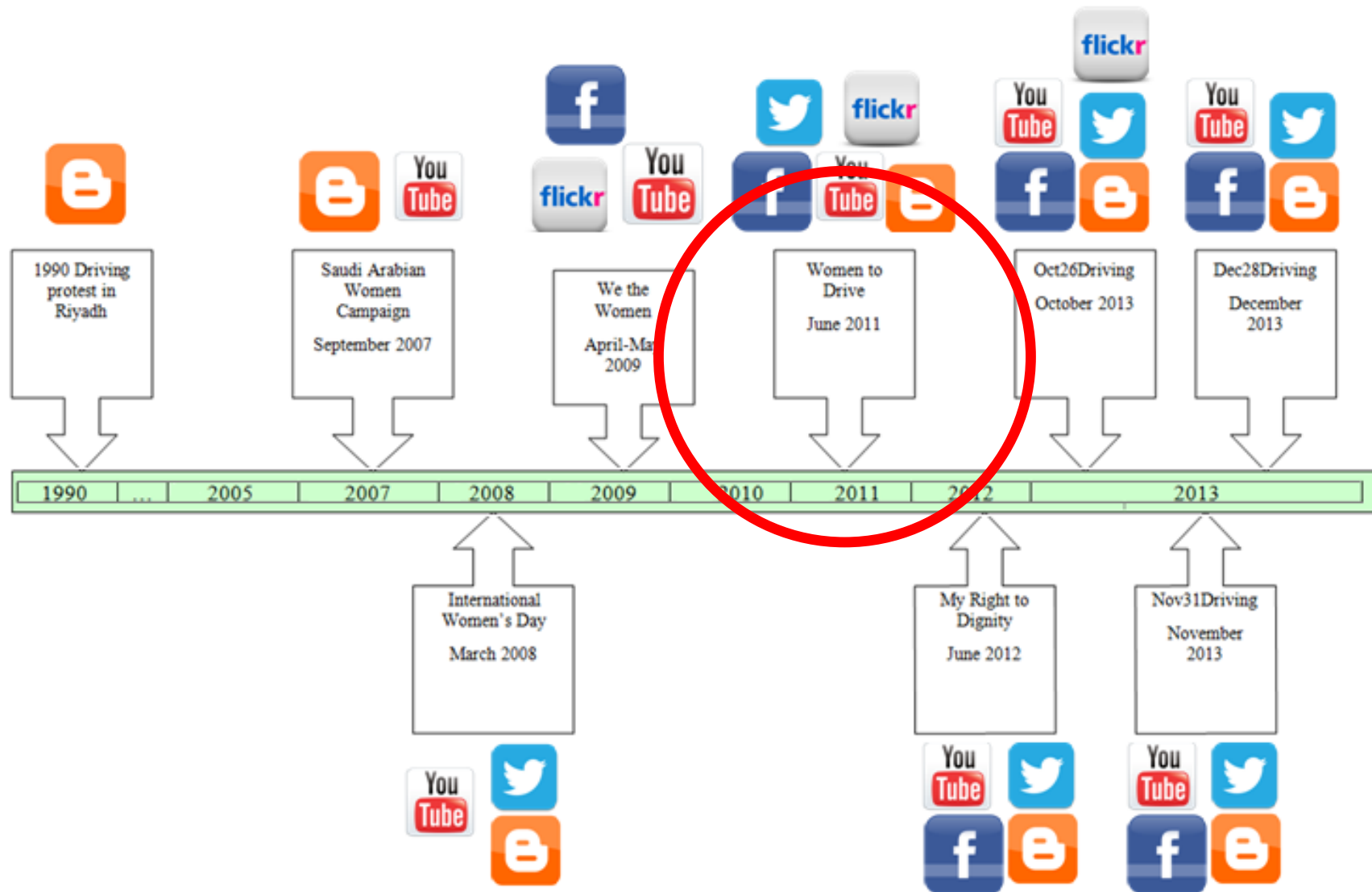
INTRODUCTION – CONT.



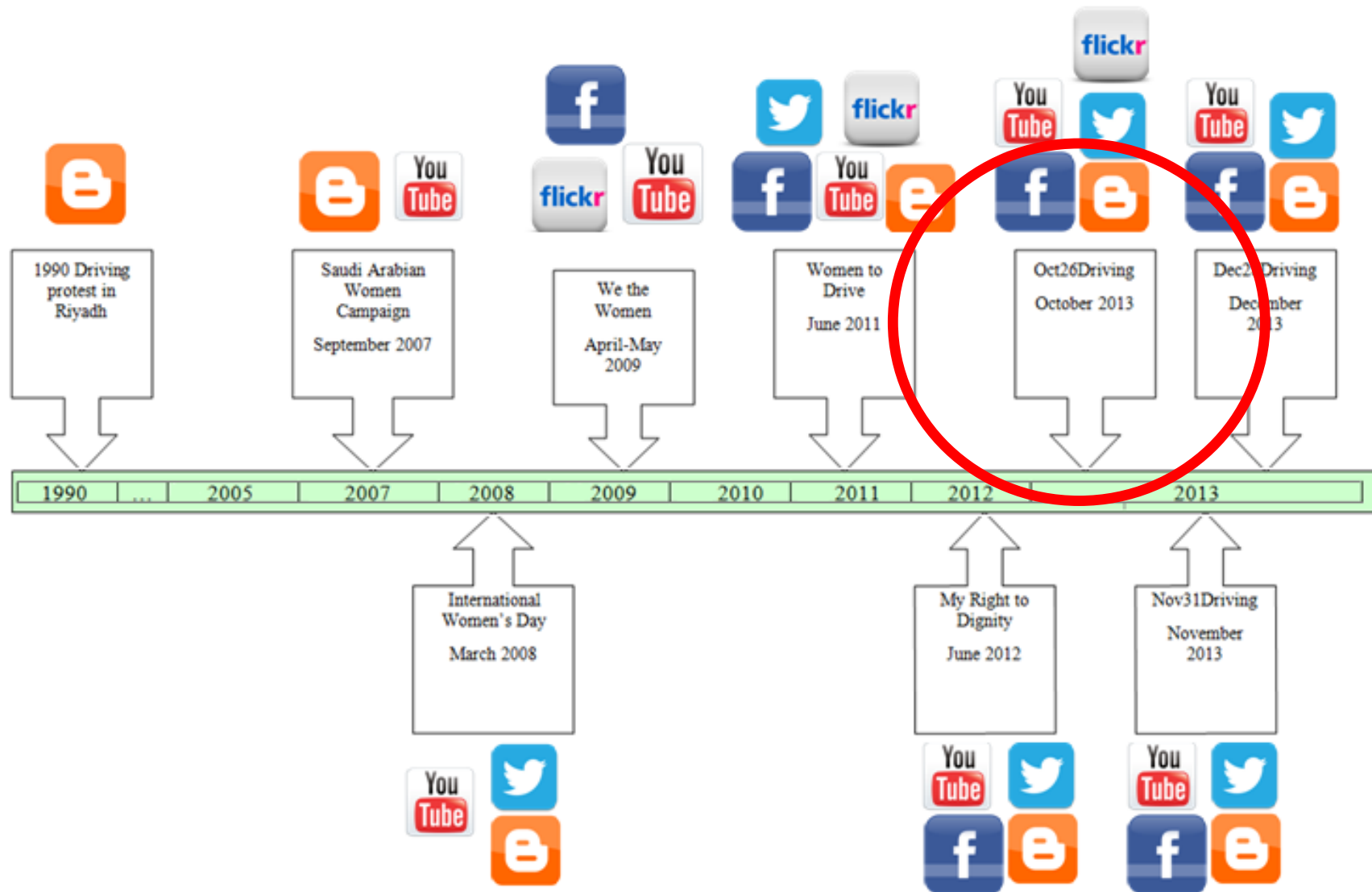
INTRODUCTION – CONT.



INTRODUCTION – CONT.



INTRODUCTION – CONT.



INTRODUCTION – CONT...

- In Saudi Arabia, women began to see a significant amount of progress on the issue of women's rights during the reign of King Abdualllah



INTRODUCTION – CONT...

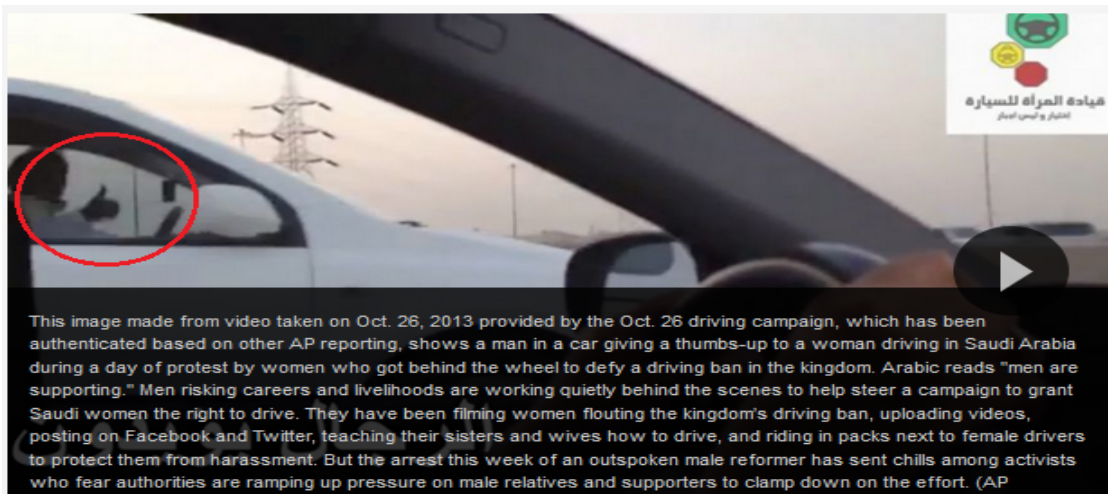
- Although the issue of women driving is considered a ***social taboo***, there is no official law banning in it
- When asked about the official position, the government has repeatedly stated that this is a ***social issue***

OCT26DRIVING CAMPAIGN

- Best-organized social campaign ever seen in Saudi Arabia
- A group of Saudi women activists launched an online petition website (www.oct26driving.com) on September 25, 2013
 - “The 26th October Campaign”
- >16,000 signatures
- The campaign website was hacked on October 9, 2013 that led to a surge in Twitter activity
- The online initiative was boosted by the fact that residents of Saudi Arabia are highly active on social media, especially Twitter and YouTube

OCT26DRIVING CAMPAIGN

- Twitter: #oct26driving



Saudi Women Challenge Driving Ban



OCT26DRIVING CAMPAIGN

- Eman al-Nafjan (@Saudiwoman), an organizer
 - more than 100 women have gotten behind the wheel
- Since political activism has no history in Saudi Arabia, Al-Nafjan stated that their strategy is “to keep marching on and to see if people join or not”

ANALYSIS

- Our study examines the networks of three campaigns during 2013 of the ongoing Saudi women's Right to Drive movement:
 - 'Oct26Driving',
 - 'Nov31Driving', and
 - 'Dec28Driving'
- Examine the *emergence, evolution, and development of spillover effects* among those three campaigns

ANALYSIS

- Role of social media in facilitating cyber-collective actions.
- How individual sentiment(s) and Twitter hashtags as markers
 - diffuse between social movements,
 - form coalitions and bridging between social movements, and
 - shapes spillover between social movements

ANALYSIS

- We looked for answers for the following research questions:
 - Who are the bridging nodes in the networks and
 - How does their brokerage give direction to the diffusion of ideas through interrelated social movements?

ANALYSIS – CONT....

- The findings of this study are conceptualized to shed new insights on
 - information diffusion,
 - mutual influence,
 - role distribution analysis of activists/supporters across movements and
 - provide a deeper understanding of interconnected social movements and social movement spillover.

DISCUSSION

- Saudi Arabia announced that it would allow women to drive, ending a longstanding policy that has become a global symbol of the oppression of women in the ultraconservative kingdom
- The change, which will take effect in June 2018, was announced in a royal decree read live on state television and in a simultaneous media event in Washington

DISCUSSION – CONT...

Saudi Arabia Agrees to Let Women Drive

By BEN HUBBARD SEPT. 26, 2017



A woman behind the wheel in Saudi Arabia in 2013. The kingdom said on Tuesday that women would be allowed to drive starting in June. Faisal Al Nasser/Reuters

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/26/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-women-drive.html>

DISCUSSION – CONT...

Ms. Hathloul [tweeted](#) a simple reaction to the news: “Thank god.”



[Manal al-Sharif](#), a Saudi women’s rights advocate who filmed herself driving in 2011 and posted the footage to YouTube to protest the law, celebrated the announcement on Tuesday.



Ms. Sharif was instrumental in organizing groups of women for collective protests to demand an end to the ban on female drivers. She was arrested at the time for taking part in the actions, and later wrote a book about her experience. She now lives in Australia.

But despite celebrating the success for female drivers, she said the next campaign would be to end guardianship laws.



- <https://nyti.ms/2yyQYjg>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/middleeast/100000005461210/saudi-women-right-to-drive.html?action=click>ype=vhs&version=vhs-heading&module=vhs®ion=title-area>

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS???



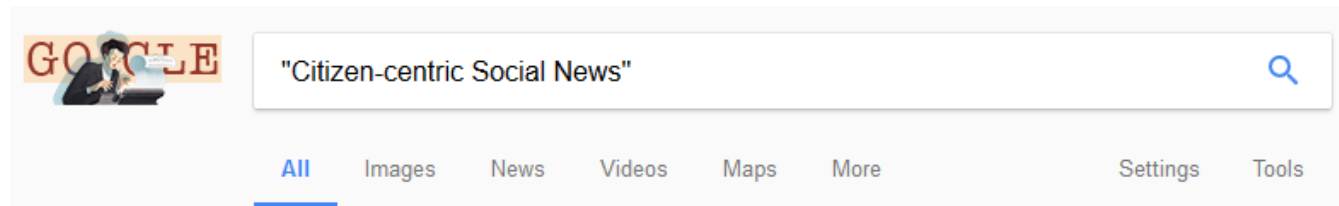
Prof. Dr. Stephan Böhm,
RheinMain University of Applied Sciences, Wiesbaden, Germany

Dealing with Citizen-centric Social News: A Behavioral View

CENTRIC
October 11, 2017
Athens, Greece

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So What is “Citizen-centric Social News”?



2 results (0.34 seconds)

ICSEA 2017 Program - iaria

<https://www.iaria.org/conferences2017/ProgramICSEA17.html> ▼

Panel on CENTRIC/SOTICS Topic: Dealing with Citizen-centric Social News: A Behavioral View.

Moderator Nitin Agarwal, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, ...

VALID 2017 Program - iaria

<https://www.iaria.org/conferences2017/ProgramVALID17.html> ▼

Panel on CENTRIC/S

Moderator Nitin Agar

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The principle of **citizen centrality** insists that neither the product nor its technology, but the users (‘**citizens**’ in case of public service delivery processes) have to be the nuclei of the design strategy. (Malhotra 2015)

Source: <https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/a-design-framework-for-evolving-a-citizen-centric-information-society/135841>

Citizen-centricity is about Putting Citizens in the Center

Governments move through four stages to become citizen centric

	Citizen neutral	Citizen aware	Citizen motivated	Citizen centric
Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clearly defined strategy for anticipating citizen needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen needs acknowledged Short-term strategy but no long-term vision Crisis-influenced decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens seen as primary strategic element Partial link between strategies and objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens at the center of strategy Clear, consistent link between strategies and objectives
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No team to manage citizen relationships No collaboration or information sharing with other organizations No KPIs to measure service performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited resources to handle citizen concerns Limited collaboration and information sharing with other organizations Some elements of service KPIs measured but not systematically tracked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen service desk with clearly defined roles Collaboration and information sharing with other organizations Consistent tracking of some elements of service KPIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central citizen relationship team across divisions with well-defined roles Maximum collaboration and information sharing with other organizations Well-defined and disclosed service performance KPIs
Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No process for receiving and analyzing citizen feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy. The organization has a clear, well-defined strategy for becoming citizen centric. Organization. The organization is citizen focused; dedicated teams review citizen feedback and performance is measured consistently against strategic objectives. Processes. Processes are designed to involve citizens and businesses and to anticipate their evolving needs. Systems. Citizen feedback is systematically captured and analyzed via social media and the Internet; communications with citizens takes place in real time. 		
Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No use of media, social media, Internet, or other mechanisms to communicate with citizens 			

Note: KPIs are key performance indicators.

Source: A.T. Kearney analysis

Source: <https://www.atkearney.com/public-sector/article?/a/agile-government-a-citizen-centric-approach-to-growth>

In Journalism Citizen-centricity is about Getting Involved

The screenshot shows the ProPublica website's 'Get Involved' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'ProPublica', 'ProPublica Illinois', and 'Data Store' on the left, and a red 'Donate' button on the right. Below the navigation bar is the ProPublica logo and a social media bar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. A newsletter sign-up form is located in the top right, with the text 'Get our top stories by email.' and a 'Subscribe' button. The main content area is titled 'Get Involved' and includes the subtext 'Participate in ProPublica's Reporting'. A 'FEATURED' section highlights an article titled 'Have You Seriously Considered Filing for Bankruptcy?' with a red background image of a stack of papers. Below this, there is another article titled 'Health Insurance Is Big and Complicated. Help Us Understand It.' and a section for 'OTHER ENTRIES' with two more article teasers. On the right side, there is a 'FOLLOW PROPUBLICA' section with buttons for Twitter, Facebook, Podcast, and RSS, and another newsletter sign-up form. At the bottom right, there is a 'MOST POPULAR STORIES' section.

“The Mission: To expose abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust by government, business, and other institutions, using the moral force of investigative journalism to spur reform through the sustained spotlighting of wrongdoing.”

Source: ProPublika Website

Source: <https://www.propublica.org/getinvolved/>

Crisis of Trust in Traditional Journalism in Germany (1/2)

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Diskussionskultur in Deutschland

"Lügenpresse" ist keine Medienkritik

Wer "Lügenpresse" schreit, will nicht bloß auch seine Meinung in den Medien sehen, sondern ausschließlich seine Meinung. "Lügenpresse" ist der Ruf nach einer autoritären Gesellschaft.



Eine Kolumne von [Sascha Lobo](#) ▼



Source: <http://www.spiegel.de/netzwelt/web/deutschland-luegenpresse-ist-keine-medienkritik-kolumne-a-1123778.html>

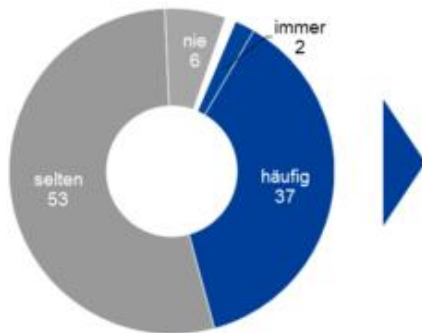
„Those who scream "Lie press" don't just want to see their opinion in the media, but only their opinion. "Lie press" is the call for an authoritarian society.“

*Sascha Lobo,
German Blogger and Author*

Crisis of Trust in Traditional Journalism in Germany (2/2)

37 percent of the German audience believe that lies are frequent in media.

Glaubwürdigkeit der Medien
Lügen in deutschen Medien



Frage: Glauben Sie dass in deutschen Medien gelogen, also absichtlich die Unwahrheit gesagt wird? Würden Sie sagen...?

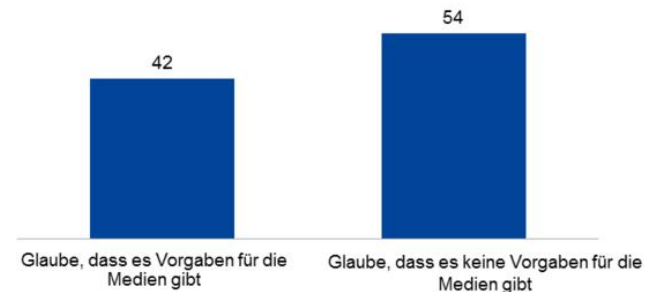
Frage: Auf welche Medien trifft dies am ehesten zu?

Grundgesamtheit: Wahlberechtigte Bevölkerung in Deutschland / Angaben in Prozent
Fehlende Werte zu 100%; Weiß nicht / keine Angabe



42 percent believe that there are political directives for media reporting.

Glaubwürdigkeit der Medien
Vorgaben der Politik für die Berichterstattung der Medien



Frage: Und glauben Sie, dass den deutschen Medien von Staat und Regierung vorgegeben wird, worüber sie berichten sollen?

Grundgesamtheit: Wahlberechtigte Bevölkerung in Deutschland / Angaben in Prozent
Fehlende Werte zu 100%; Weiß nicht / keine Angabe



Source: <https://www.infratest-dimap.de/umfragen-analysen/bundesweit/umfragen/aktuell/glaubwuerdigkeit-der-medien/>

Opinion Influencing and Distortion in Social Media

Bessi/Ferrara 2016: Social Bots Distort the 2016 US Presidential Election Online Discussion

<i>Bot specific statistics</i>	<i>Top 50K users (exact)</i>	<i>Extrapolation for the full population</i>
<i># Bot-generated tweets</i>	2,330,252 (18.45%)	~ 3.8M
<i># Human-generated tweets</i>	10,303,251 (81.55%)	~ 17M
<i># Bots</i>	7,183 (14.4%)	~ 400K
<i># Humans</i>	40,163 (80.3%)	~ 2.2-2.3M
<i># Unknown</i>	2,654 (5.3%)	~ 150K

Table 3. Bot-specific statistics for the top 50 thousand users (ranked by activity) and



Note: Larger version of [here](#).

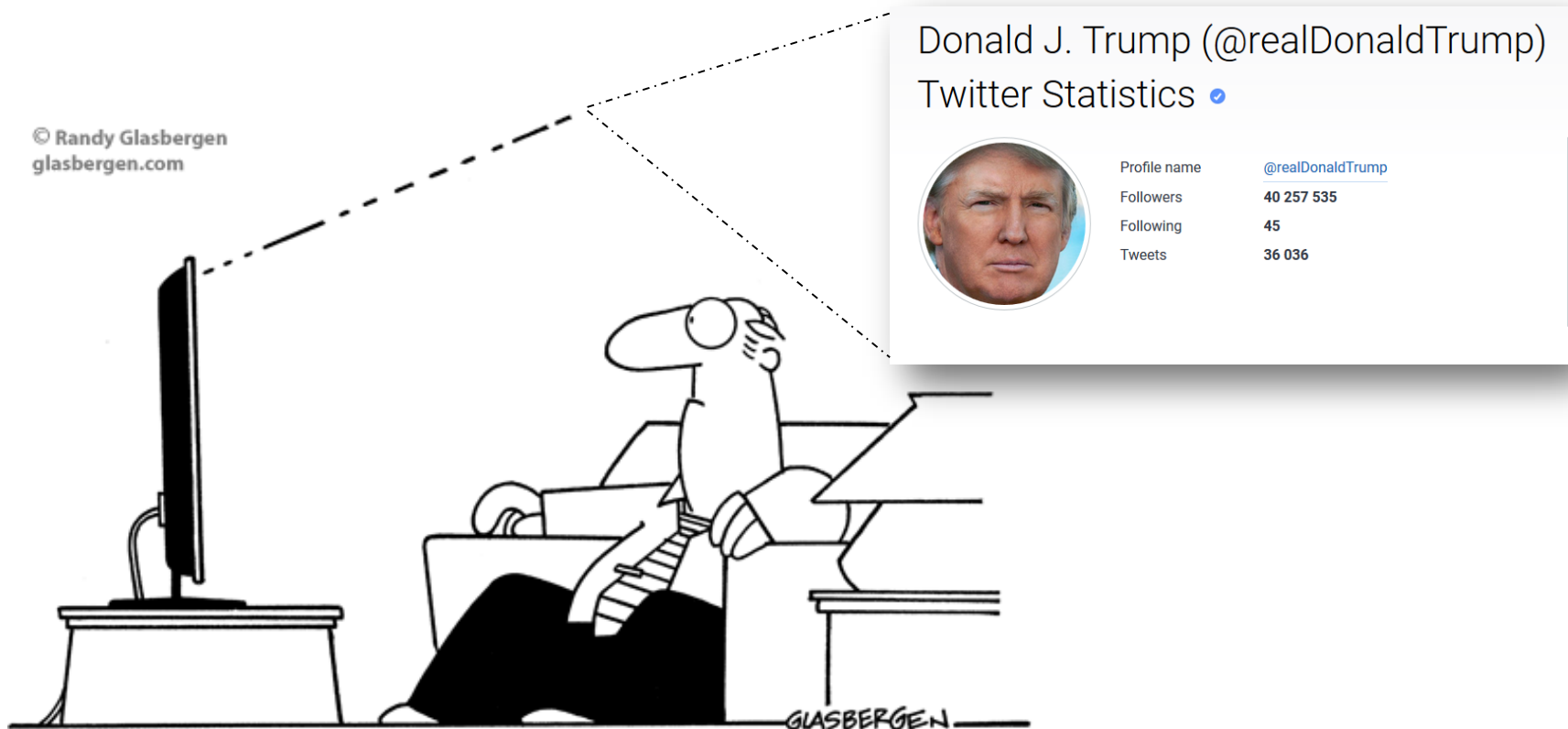


Note: Larger version of [here](#).

Figure 3: Geocoded sources for bots (left) and human-generated (right) tweets.

Source: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2982233











Transformation of Media: Broadcasting follows Social



“We interrupt this program for an urgent Twitter from Washington...”

Source: <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/de/79/fe/de79fed2bcd7caef8d8e2e77345df08a.gif>,
<https://www.socialbakers.com/statistics/twitter/profiles/detail/25073877-realdonaldtrump>

Top Influencer: Ranking of Twitter Accounts by Followers

		Followings	Followers
1	 KATY PERRY (@katyperry)	205	104 915 258
2	 Justin Bieber (@justinbieber)	311 045	102 088 080
3	 Barack Obama (@BarackObama)	627 642	95 723 194
4	 Taylor Swift (@taylorswift13)	0	85 596 714
5	 Rihanna (@rihanna)	1 130	79 782 770
6	 Ellen DeGeneres (@TheEllenShow)	36 022	74 291 818
7	 xoxo, Gaqa (@ladygaga)	128 853	71 840 273
8	 YouTube (@YouTube)	1 020	70 080 271
9	 Justin Timberlake (@jtimberlake)	253	62 330 624
10	 Twitter (@Twitter)	168	62 000 911

Source: <https://www.socialbakers.com/statistics/twitter/profiles/>

Differences between Broadcasting and Social Media (1/2)



Traditional news broadcasting (1-to-many): all recipients get the same content.

Source of pictures: Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Differences between Broadcasting and Social Media (2/2)

How Does Facebook Choose What To Show In News Feed?

$$\text{News Feed Visibility} = * \text{I} \times \text{P} \times \text{C} \times \text{T} \times \text{R}$$

Interest Post Creator Type Recency

I

Interest of the user in the creator

P

This post's performance amongst other users

C

Performance of past posts by the content creator amongst other users

T

Type of post (status, photo, link) user prefers

R

How new is the post

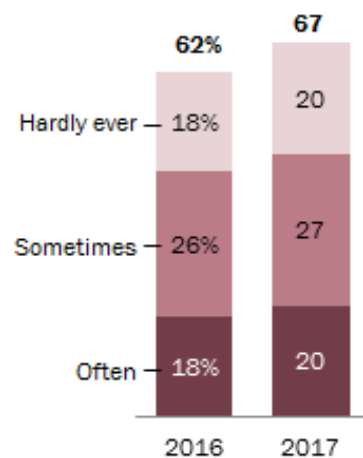
* This is a simplified equation. Facebook also looks at roughly 100,000 other high-personalized factors when determining what's shown.

Source: <https://techcrunch.com/2014/04/03/the-filtered-feed-problem/>

Differences by Type of Social Media

In 2017, two-thirds of U.S. adults get news from social media

% of U.S. adults who get news from social media sites ...

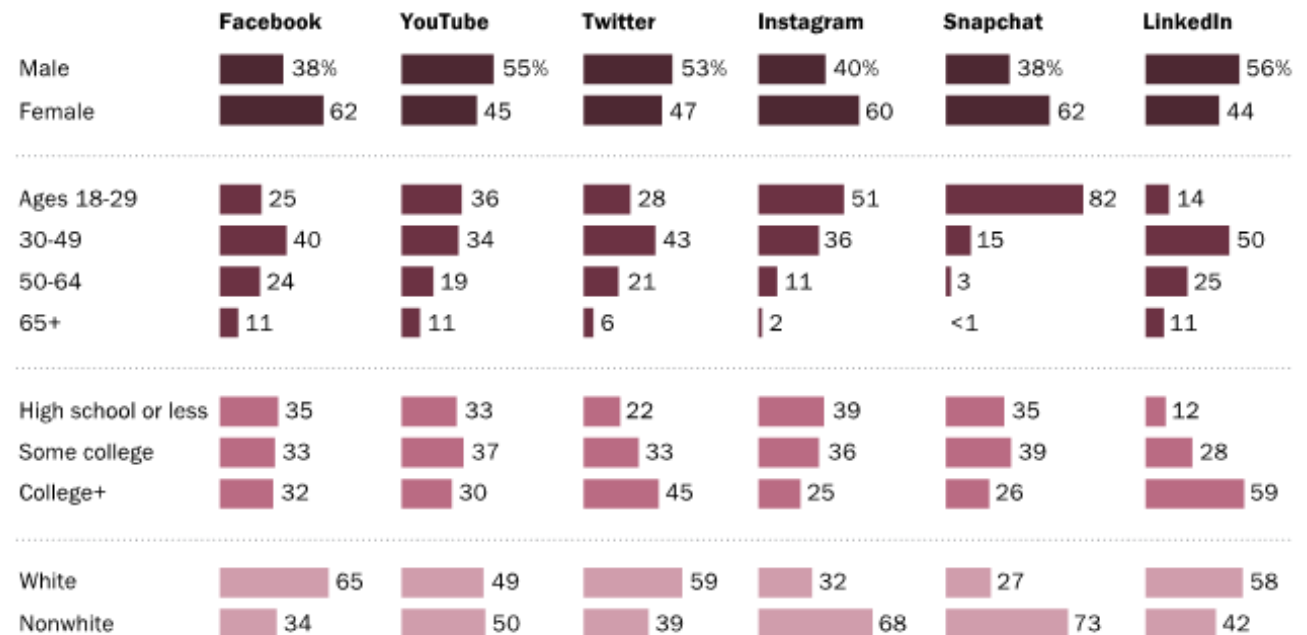


Source: Survey conducted Aug. 8-21, 2017. "News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2017"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Social media news user profiles

% of each social media site's news users who are ...



Note: Tumblr, Reddit, and WhatsApp not shown. Nonwhite includes all racial and ethnic groups, except non-Hispanic white.

Source: Survey conducted Aug. 8-21, 2017.

"News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2017"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Source: <http://www.journalism.org/2017/09/07/news-use-across-social-media-platforms-2017/>

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When Citizen Journalism Goes Rogue

Prof. Dr. Nitin Agarwal

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University of Arkansas-Little Rock

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Social Media and Citizen Journalism

- **“Twitter: News No Longer Breaks, It Tweets”**. Ch. 7 “Friends and Followers of the Future: How Social Media Changing Politics, Threatening Big Brands, and Killing Traditional Media” by Rory O’Conner.
- Krums, Janis (January 15, 2009). **"There's a plane in the Hudson. I'm on the ferry going to pick up the people. Crazy"**. TwitPic.
- Sometimes **Citizens Journalism is good.**



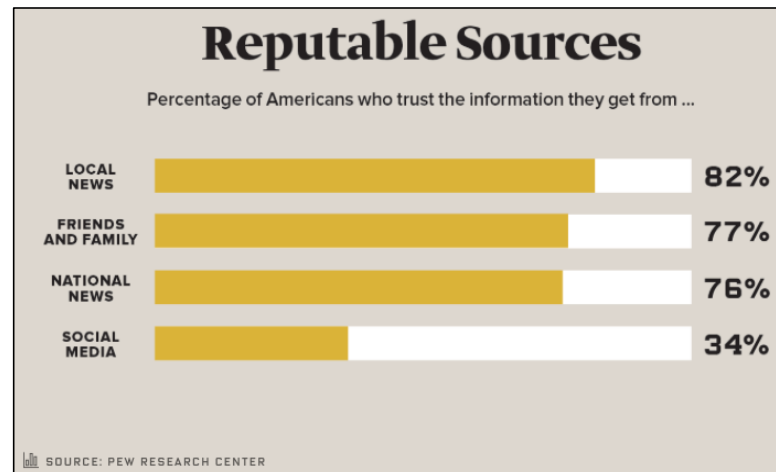
Social Media and Citizen Journalism

- The Concept of “**Citizen Journalism**” is when “public citizens play an active role in the process of *collecting, reporting, analyzing, and disseminating* news and information”
- When people get their news from “social media” instead of “mainstream media”, irresponsible Citizen Journalism can pose a danger to society if it misrepresent facts and information.



Why does it matter?

- Many people trust news that comes from their friends circle on social media channels
 - 34% Americans trust the information they get from social media (Pew Research Center, 2016).
 - 14% Americans consider social media as the most important source of information (the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 2017).



Fake News Factories – The Business Model

- **Running a fake-news campaign is cheap:**
 - For \$55,000 you could discredit a journalist;
 - For \$200,000 you might instigate a street protest.
 - For \$30 an 800-word fake news article, written by *Chinese* content marketer **Xiezuobang**
 - For \$621 a video appears in YouTube's main page for two minutes, created by *Russian* firm **SMOService**
 - For \$25 to have 2,500 Twitter followers all retweet a link for you, using the *English-language* firm **Quick Follow Now**.

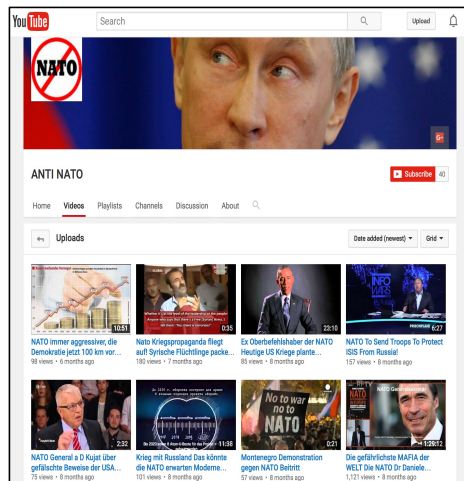


Source : Cyber security firm Trend Micro, 2017

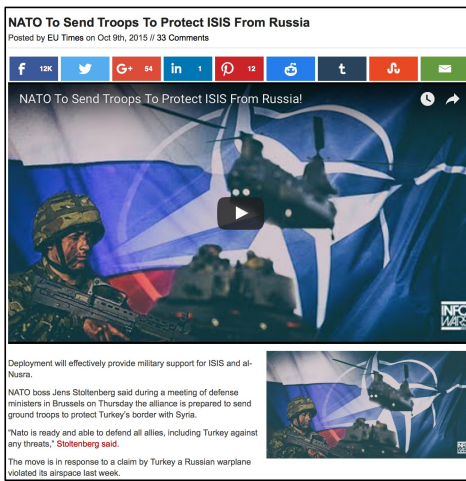


Mememes and Fake News

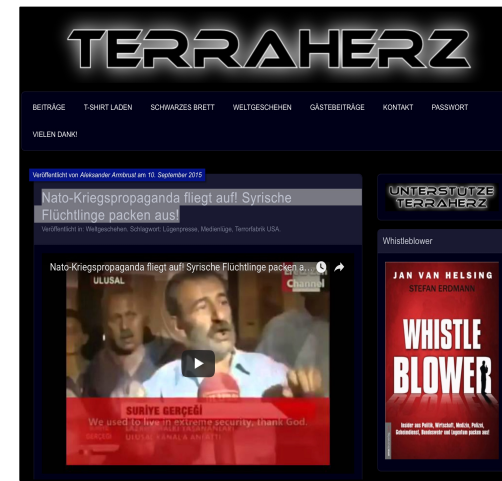
Cross-Media Dissemination



A YouTube channel with several Anti-NATO propaganda videos. The channel is called, "ANTI NATO".



A blog using YouTube video to spread anti-NATO propaganda suggesting NATO's troops obstructing Russian operations in Syria thereby helping ISIS.



A blog using YouTube video to spread anti-NATO propaganda by suggesting NATO is waging war against Syrian refugees.



A brand new search engine...



Independent Media Mainstream Media Academia Products

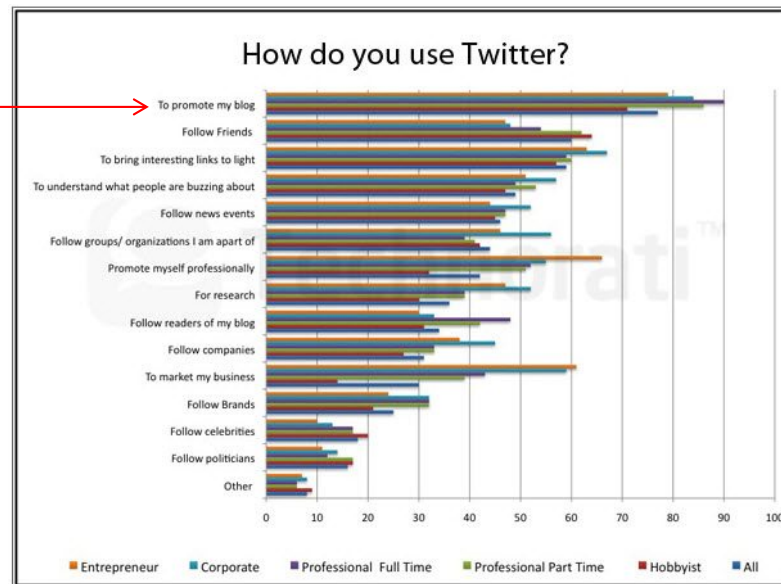
[Learn what makes Good Gopher the search engine for independent news and information.](#)

Some of the independent news websites included in GoodGopher:

NaturalNews.com	Breitbart.com	DrudgeReport.com
NewsTarget.com	Infowars.com	FukushimaWatch.com
TruthStreamMedia.com	Trump.news	GovtSlaves.info
ActivistPost.com	WashingtonTimes.com	TheSleuthJournal.com
TruthWiki.org	GrassrootsLiberty.com	EyeOpening.info
TheBlaze.com	FreedomWorks.org	LibertyBlitzkrieg.com
Twitchy.com	TheLibertyBeacon.com	NoMoreFakeNews.com
LewRockwell.com	IntelliHub.com	NutritionalAnarchy.com
PoliticalTracker.com	SurvivalBlog.com	RightSideNews.com
OffGridSurvival.com	TheDailySheeple.com	WhatReallyHappened.com
TenthAmendmentCenter.com	TrueActivist.com	
TheEconomicCollapseBlog.com	WesternJournalism.com	

Motivation to Study the Blogosphere

- Blogosphere gives citizens the power and freedom to express their opinion, frame narratives more effectively than any other social media platform
- Because blogs:
 - Have no characters limit.
 - Have no censorship.
 - And provide digital town halls.



Technorati, 2011

Blog Monitoring Tools

Blog tracking tools: Due to the complexity and inefficiency of blog data collection many blog tracking tools have shutdown.

- Blogs do not have APIs
- The pages structure change a lot
- Its unstructured data



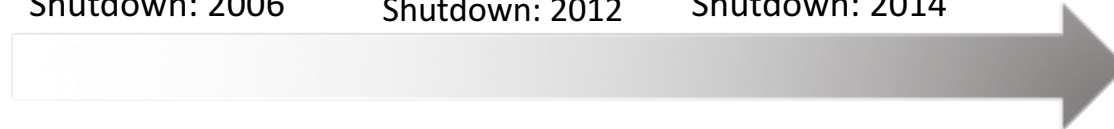
By: MIT
Shutdown: 2006



By: IntelliSeek
Shutdown: 2012



By: Google
Shutdown: 2014



By: University of Toronto
Shutdown: 2012



By: Technorati
Shutdown: 2014

Blogtrackers Tool

Blogtrackers database has:

- 264 blog sites
- 18 locations
- 308,685 blog posts
- 47 languages
- 5,454,807 entities (people, places, organizations, etc.)
- Earliest post from February 1993
- Last crawled post from July 2017

Blogtrackers Available at :

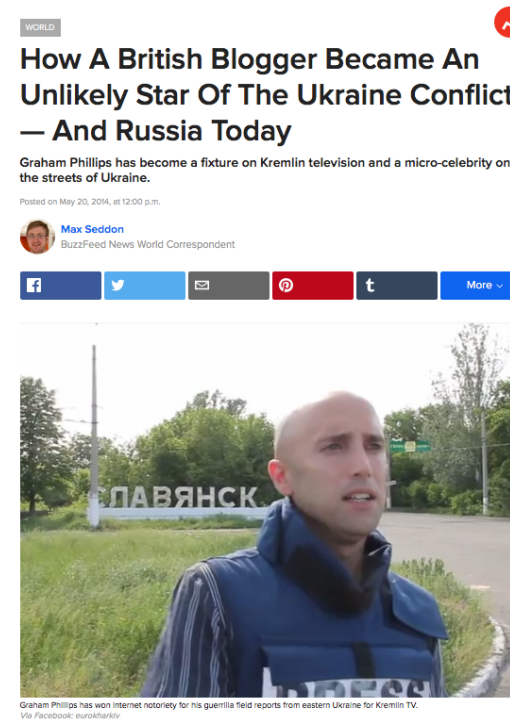
- <http://blogtrackers.host.ualr.edu/>



SOTICS, 2017, SBP-BRiMS 2017,
DATASETS 2017, ICWSM 2017,
SNAM 2012, HumanCom 2010,
ICWSM 2009, WSDM 2008

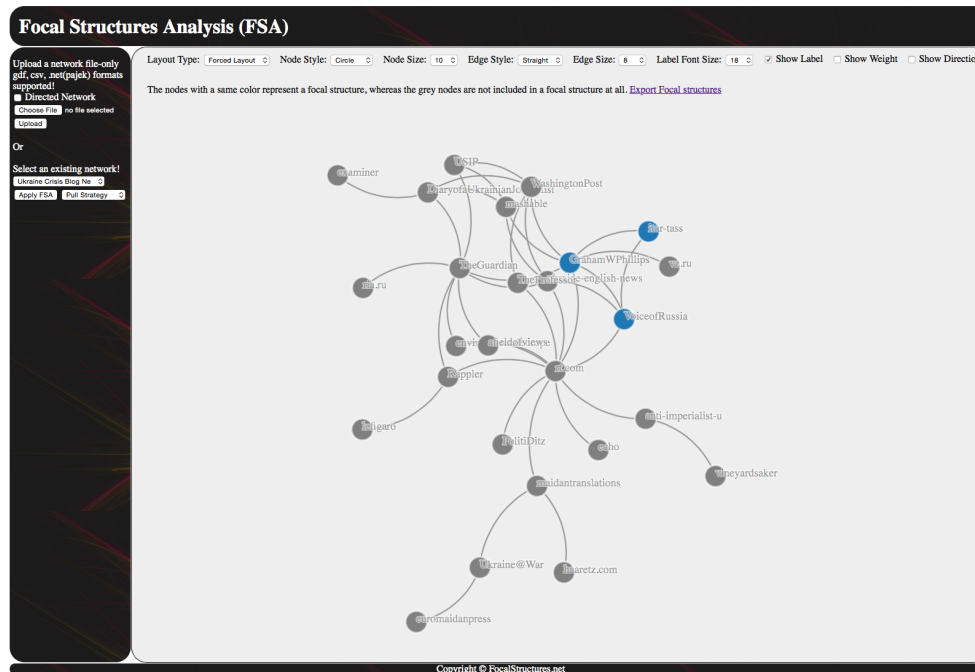
Case Study 1: 2014 Ukraine-Russia Conflict

- Graham W. Phillips is a British journalist and blogger.
- He went to Ukraine to cover the voice of Ukrainians during Euromaidan.
- He reported that Ukrainians are “happy” with the previous pro-Russian government of Ukraine.
- He used Vlogging to cover the events.
- His Vlogs made him an influential blogger & an enemy to the current Ukrainian government so they banned him from entering Ukraine for three years.
- Once he was banned from entering Ukraine he went to Russia instead of going back to England.



Coordinating Structures in Russia-Ukraine Conflict Blogosphere

SNAM 2016



- A tiny sample of blog network for Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- **Nodes** represent blogs and **Edges** represent link between blogs (out-links).
- The structure with **blue nodes** is identified as a focal/coordinating structure.
- Although RT.COM is the most central node, the triad “**Graham Phillips – Russian News Agency – Voice of Russia**” is a more influential coordinating structure for information dissemination.

- Blogs were identified using **TweetTracker**, an online tool developed by Arizona State University, by finding the sites that have been tweeted and retweeted the most during the conflict and have propagated messages.
- Those sites are manually classified as blogs or non- blogs.
- Blogs are then further subdivided into categories of:
 - Ukraine focused blogs
 - News blogs
 - Non-Ukraine focused blogs.
- Web Content Extractor, or WCE, is used to crawl through each of the identified sites.
- We obtained 18,000 blog posts from 26 different blog sites.

Case Study 2: The 2015 Trident Juncture Exercise

Influential Blog Posts

Blog Post Title	Blog Post Content
CAMPEGGIO ANTIMILITARISTA A CAGLIARI – PROGRAMMA!!!	Programma campeggio: OGGI 11 OTTOBRE 2015 MANIFESTAZIONE ANTIMILITARISTA ALLE 18 A CAGLIARI. CONCENTRAMENTO PIAZZA D'ARMI. IL CAMPEGGIO SI TROVA NELLA EX CAVA DI MONTE URPINU (VICINO AGLI ORTI URBANI) VIA RAFFA GARZIA. PER CHI VOLESSE RIMANE L'APPUNTAMENTO STAMANI 9 OTTOBRE, FINO ALLE 11 IN PIAZZA DEL CARMINE. Venerdì 9 ottobre: Dalle 9 alle 11 accoglienza in piazza del carmine – apertura del campeggio nella ex cava a Monte Urpinu- Nel pomeriggio iniziative in citta' 21.00 cena – assemblea del campeggio Sabato 10 ottobre 18.00 assemblea sulle prospettive di lotta antimilitarista e contro la trident juncture – PRESENTAZIONE DEL NUOVO CALENDARIO DELLE ESERCITAZIONI IN SARDEGNA A seguire cena Domenica 11 ottobre Mattina Assemblea conclusiva Pomeriggio corteo Il programma potra' subire variazioni per questioni meteo, per colpa degli sbirri o per imprevisti. PORTA TENDA, SACCO A PELO, PIATTO E POSATE. IL LUOGO DEL
OTAN Disolución! Hollande Presidente-Terrorista!	
قصافيفيس مجنوننة	
Sabato 19 manifestazione a Domusnovas CONTRO LA FABBRICA DI BOMBE	
Donations	
How Egypt's Conscription Generates Unemployment and Refugees!	

We identified the most influential posts using Blogtrackers that happened to have a lot of propaganda and a clear call for civil unrest against NATO forces.

The most influential post is written in **Italian language**. We used Google Translation service to find the post to be highly propaganda-riddled.

AGITPROP - Astroturfing

camp program: TODAY October 11, 2015 EVENT Antimilitarist TO 18 IN CAGLIARI. CONCENTRATION PIAZZA D'ARMI. THE CAMP IS LOCATED IN THE FORMER QUARRY OF MONTE URPINU (NEAR THE URBAN GARDENS) VIA RAFFA GARZIA. For visitors REMAINS THE APPOINTMENT this morning on October 9, UP TO 11 IN PIAZZA DEL CARMINE. Friday, October 9: From 9 to 11 reception in the square of the carmine - the opening of the camp in the former quarry at Monte Urpinu- afternoon initiatives in the city '21.00 dinner - Assembly of the camp Saturday, October 10 18:00 meeting on the prospects for anti-militarist struggle and against the trident juncture - PRESENTATION OF THE NEW CALENDAR OF EXERCISES IN SARDINIA following dinner Sunday, October 11 Morning conclusive Assembly Afternoon parade The program potra 'vary due to weather issues, because of the cops or contingency. PORT TENT, SLEEPING BAG, FLAT AND SERVERS. THE LOCATION OF THE CAMP WILL 'PUBLISHED TOMORROW MORNING, THEN Meet RECEPTION !! CAMPING Antimilitarist FIGHT - AROUND CAGLIARI 9-10-11 October 2015 Out of the mobilization against the Capo Frasca polygon of 13 September 2014, initiatives and actions directed against the military presence in Sardinia have multiplied and diversified to try to jam the mechanism of the war. Cuts of networks, slowing the means and blocking exercises have taken the "necessary serenity" to the conduct of military activities. Thanks to its experience and in the wake of the procession of 11 June 2015 in Decimomannu, as No Bases Network here or elsewhere we decided to call for the second weekend of October an anti-militarist struggle camping. These three days they want to continue and refine the forms of struggle practiced until now, with the aim of sabotaging the military and everything revolves around us. For this we would like active participation and contribution by all and all, then it can be a starting point for a reproducibility of the practices in their contexts and territories. The campground also wants to act as a springboard for international mobilization, called for the second half of October, against the exercise Trident Juncture 2015. With this exercise, NATO intends to test its intervention force in the short term, to prepare for the increasingly Possible conflict on Middle East fronts, North African and Russian. 36000 men, hundreds of vehicles, aircraft and ships will fire in Sardinia, Sicily, Spain and Portugal. For this exercise, the largest since 2002, NATO once again a tribute in terms of pollution, resource exploitation and militarization of the territories to train for war. As it has been for the exercises of Aries brigade, the brigade of Aosta and STAREX, we can not make ourselves complicit in all of this, do not let them rest assured. Proposal mobilization against the Trident DOWNLOAD INFORMATION MEMORANDUM ON TRIDENT Juncture 2015.

camp program: TODAY **October 11, 2015** EVENT Antimilitarist TO 18 IN CAGLIARI. CONCENTRATION PIAZZA D'ARMI. **THE CAMP IS LOCATED IN THE FORMER QUARRY OF MONTE URPINU (NEAR THE URBAN GARDENS) VIA RAFFA GARZIA.**

parade The program potra 'vary due to weather issues, because of the cops or contingency. **PORT TENT, SLEEPING BAG, FLAT AND SERVERS.**

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NATO once again a tribute in terms of pollution, resource exploitation and militarization of the territories to train for war.

Case Study 3: The 2016 Anakonda Exercise

GBlog
Under no circumstances should you make an attempt to restrain ass thinkers on head thinking

NATO Porn: My anaconda do not My anaconda do not My anaconda do not want none Unless you got buns, hun. - Or: Capybara Staring into the abyss

Amazing: If you in great truth machine Enter "Anaconda", you get **1A-hardcore-porn** displayed : In 1 the Focus with "NATO United maneuvers" Anaconda": Upon doing so the West's reluctance from' and on 3 Nicki Minaj performing **Anaconda**. Let's start with 3 , - but I push precaution times Fischers latest commentary on the current fuss around the Sexualstrafrecht a (Fischer in law / TIME online, June 7, 2016); - Not that I me einhandle by referring to the video the accusation that I encouraged men - their origin is their Anaconda also - on sexual violence. (Pop & Porn is actually also another problem, since Cher began in the '70s, performing in underwear.) View on YouTube - you must be the not view all: daily only once! This raises the question of what buns the NATO make so hot that they can get out the Anaconda ; - Especially as: The Great Anaconda moves ashore rather lazy ... it moves sinuously ... and geared using its forked tongue . What still raises the question of what NATO under assistant westcoast promotional one to this because not unproblematic, if has not thought even treasonous name for the maneuver!?! this will not be clarified. He will not think about sex for the conqueror , but maybe he had this in mind: anaconda devouring capybara The answer is more likely in 1: **NATO United maneuvers "Anaconda" - now puts the West his hesitancy from** Wednesday, 08.06. 2016 19:54 - from FOCUS online expert Klaus trowel (media magnate) A fine example of **cross-media-fuck** (... as we daily experience it in the news: the search network of ... how Funke Mediengruppe reports ...) - if the ass is large enough, in which one wants to crawl: the "media mogul" who runs a blog (Think desired - the trowel blog way for common sense and a bit more freedom.!) where he as Jesse Hughes ("Eagles of Death Metal") for its right-wing Bratze praises (from one who falls off the grid, because it is not a good person), is an expert on international relations by! That is nevertheless amazing. As I said on 1 in search engine for keyword **Anaconda ! Fuck me running!** Quite apart from the grubby NATO Porn is useful to take a larger context in the view: **Who is the fucking capybara ??**

The post mocks and ridicules the exercise, by comparing it with the Nicki Minaj's raunchy music video titled "anaconda". Here are some excerpts: "This raises the question of what buns the NATO make so hot that they can get out the Anaconda" "using its forked tongue" "A fine example of cross-media-fuck" and many others..

Video of Nicki Minaj's Anaconda song on the blog mocking the exercise Anakonda 2016.



A picture of Anaconda eating an animal

Biased or Offensive Contents

Most influential blog during Anakonda 2016 exercise period was marucha.wordpress.com.

- The blog is ridiculing Polish government's policy on accepting refugees.
- And further calls US Army participation in Anakonda exercise as **INVASION**.



Judeo-Ukrainian T.Sakiewicz Organizes More In "Imeniu Polish Community" In The Adventurous Washington said



2016-06-06 (Monday) @ 8:29:46 p.m.

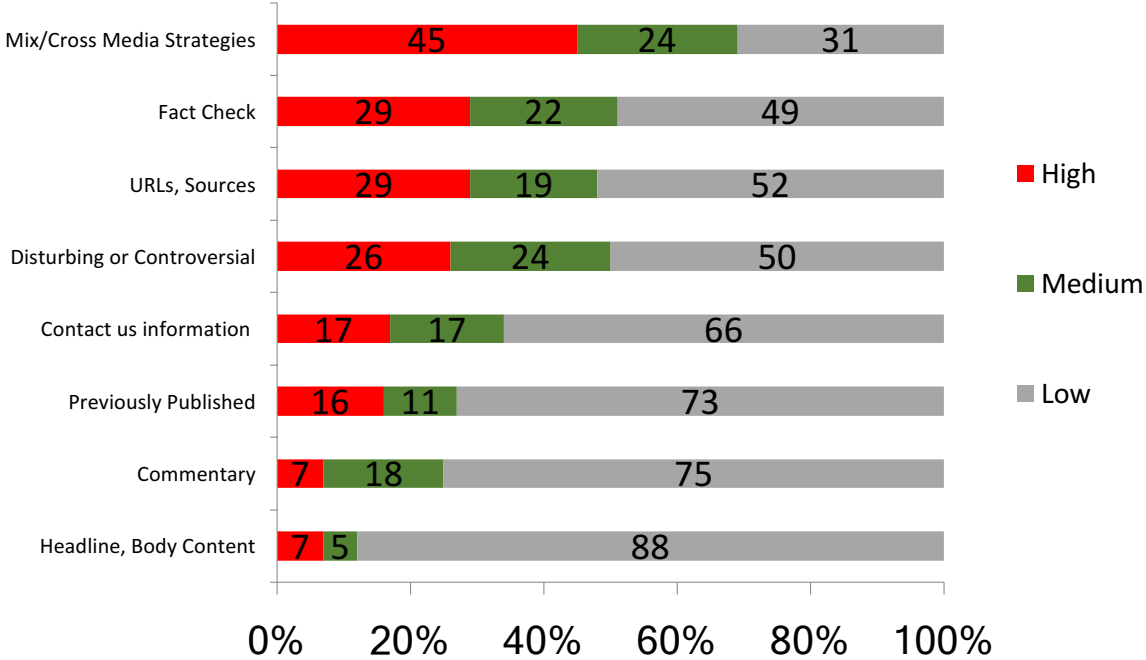
the so-called. "Polish newspaper club" in Washington CONTRACT Judeo-Ukrainian T.Sakiewiczza banderowską hired by the secret police and the CIA organized Jewish propaganda roundup UKRÓW Polish speakers living in the US, so that you may gather June 11, 2016, in Washington pm. 14:30 to 16:00 before the Jewish Melina "white house" and its manifestation of "supported" ALLEGEDLY on behalf "of the entire Polish community" INVASION 14 thousand soldiers -zabijaków US Army on Poland!

Look here:

<http://niezalezna.pl/81455-mocny-glos-polonii-amerykanskiej-wiec-poparcia-dla-obecnosci-wojsk-nato-w-polsce>

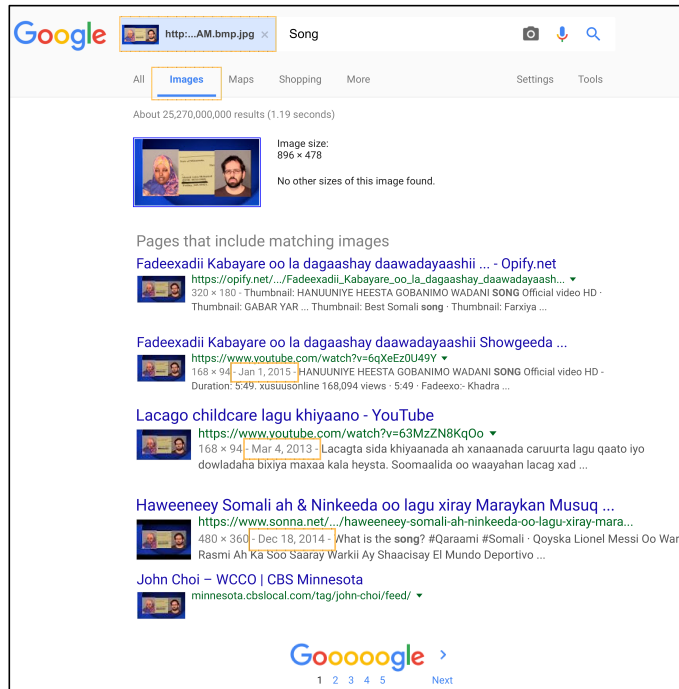


Typical Characteristics - Disinformation riddled blogs

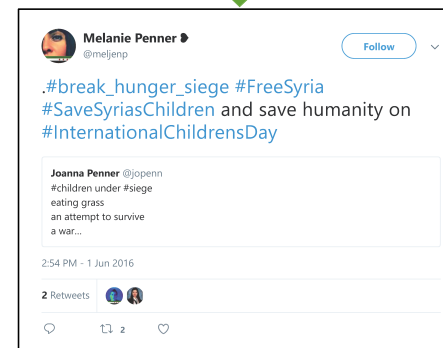


- Effectiveness of each of the 8 criteria in identifying misinformation-riddled blog.
- The criteria are sorted in decreasing order of effectiveness.
- The smaller the gray bar the more effective the criterion is.
- Numbers on the colored bars indicate the number of blog sites identified as containing misinformation with a confidence of High, Medium, and Low.

Tracking the origins of the content on these blogs

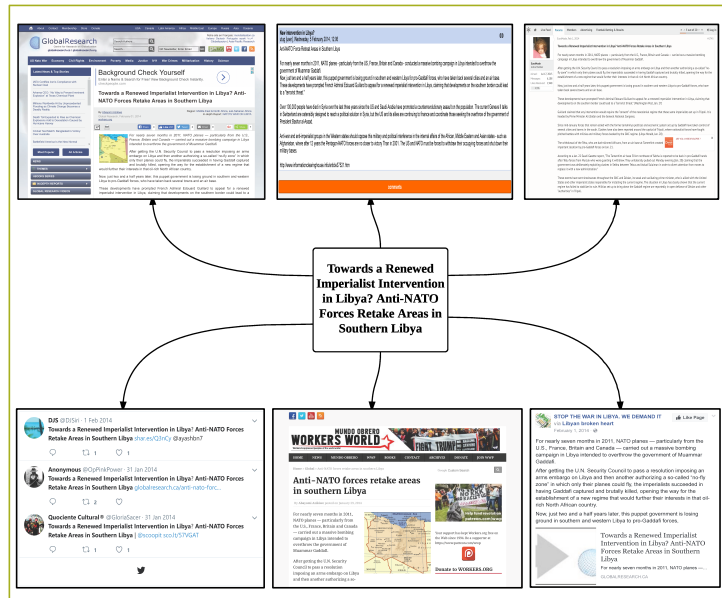


Pattern 1: Reverse Image Search - The images were not unique for each article and not relevant with the context it was used for. The same image was reused with different narratives.

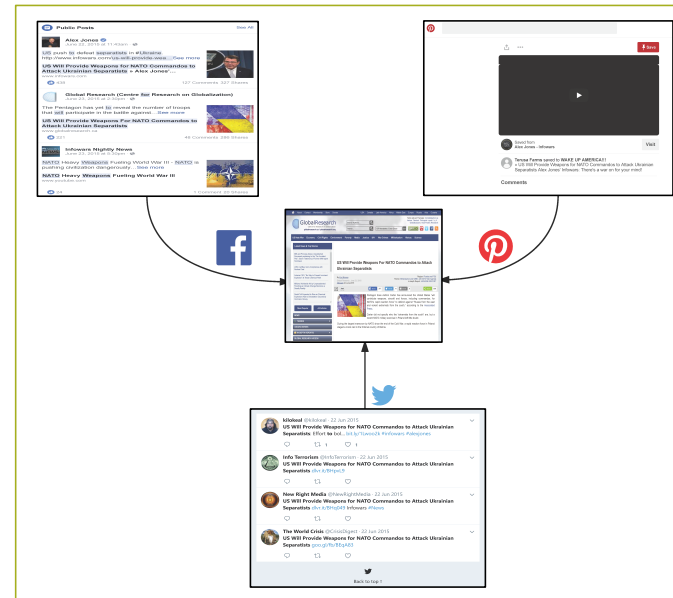


Pattern 2: The use of hashtags and links in blog posts serve as the vehicle connecting other social media channels.

Mix Media and Cross Media Dissemination Approaches

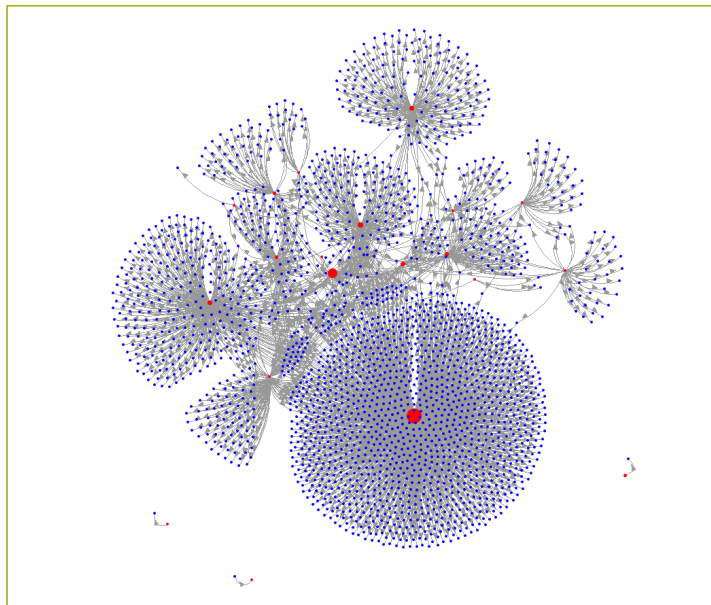


- Mix media information dissemination campaign refers to the use of multiple social media channels to diffuse a narrative.
- More precisely, the information campaign can be observed on multiple social media sites with text, images, audio and video content.
- The content may not be identical on the various social media channels, but it pertains to a particular information campaign

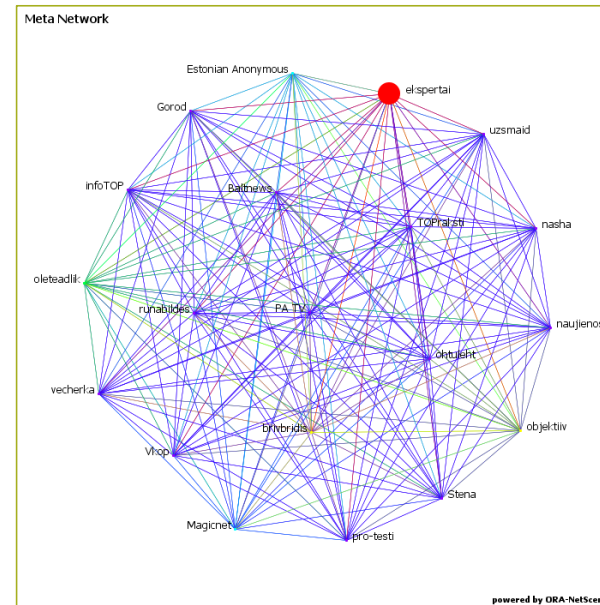


- A cross-media information dissemination campaign orchestrates the use of specific media channels.
- More precisely, the information is hosted on a website (e.g., a blog site, video on a YouTube channel) and is widely distributed through other social media channels that provide established social network structures, such as Twitter, Facebook, etc.

Disinformation Campaign Coordination



- The above figure is a network of blogsites and shared hyperlinks.
- The network contains 21 blogs (red nodes) and 2321 hyperlinks (blue nodes).
- Size of a node is proportional to the number of shared hyperlinks (i.e., out-degree centrality).
- Edge thickness is proportional to the number of times a blogsite shared a hyperlink.

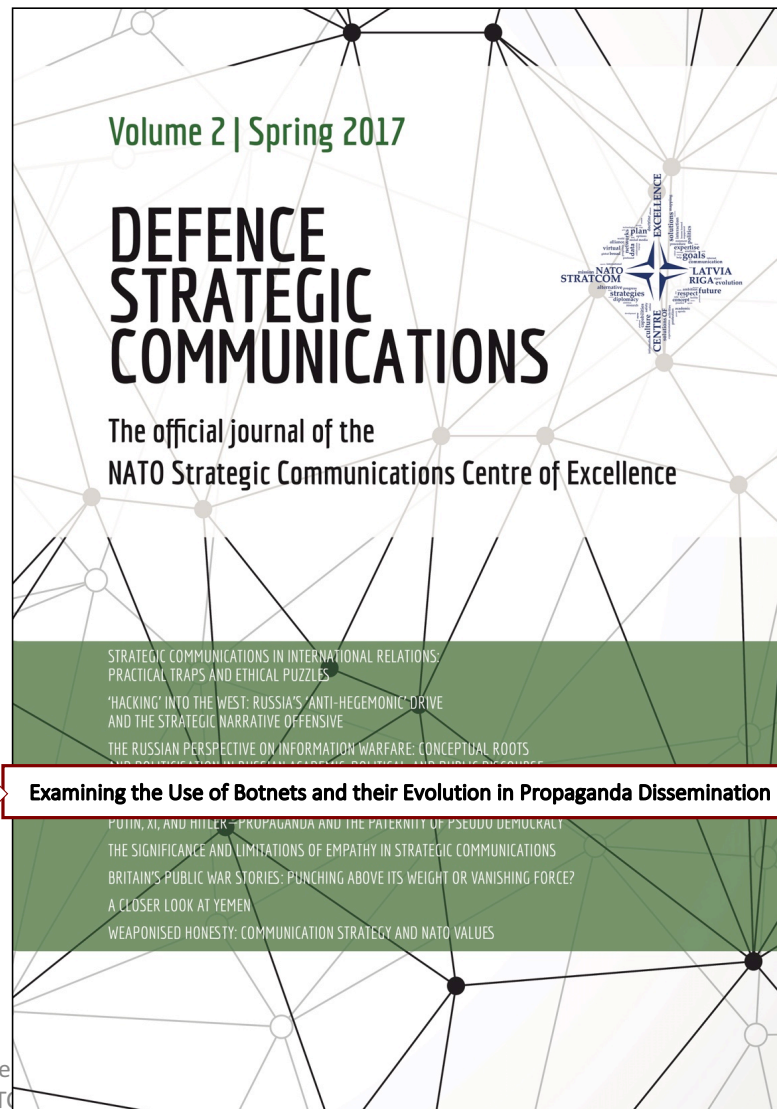


- The above figure is a network of blogs based on commonly shared hyperlinks.
- The network is fully connected, i.e., a clique, where every blog is connected with every other blog.
- This depicts massively coordinated information campaign

Botnet evolution and role in disinformation dissemination



Nitin Agarwal, COSMOS, UALR



Social Media Expert Set
STRAC

Concluding Thoughts

- There are many studies examining Twitter, Facebook, and the likes but not the blogosphere.
- Blogosphere is a good place for possibly bad citizen journalism.
- The rogue side of citizen journalism can include misinformation, agitation and propaganda, content mocking, biased or offensive contents, etc.
- We need to help develop countermeasures to stem the tide of fakery.
- Regulation is a step forward but **smarter algorithms** and **stronger media** literacy are the long term solutions

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