

Title / Authors

Site Effects: How Reliance on Social Media Influences Confidence in the Government and News Media / Thomas J. Johnson & Barbara K. Kaye

Abstract: The rise of social media, such as blogs, social network sites, Twitter and YouTube, encourage hope for renewed confidence in the government and news media because these venues connect users directly to candidates and office holders. This paper indicates that blogs are the most heavily relied on type of social media for political information. Moreover, reliance on blogs and YouTube leads to reduced confidence in the Presidency, Congress, and the news media but reliance on social network sites and Twitter leads to higher confidence in these institutions after controlling for strength of party ties, political ideology, political interest, reliance on traditional media, and demographic variables.

Networking interest and networked structure: A quantitative analysis of Twitter data / Sujin Choi & Han Woo Park

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between individuals' networking interests and a group's networked structure. The dataset includes 25,651 members and 12,638 mentions from Twitter-mediated communities in South Korea. Using social network and web impact analyses, we investigated the micro- and macro-linkage between individuals' interests and groups' structure, the meso-level analysis of individual-to-individual relationships, and the hyperlinked content shared in each community. Findings suggest that different interests of individuals in joining online communities were associated with variations in those communities' network structures: Communities with sociopolitical goals had a denser network structure and communities for interpersonal interests had a more reciprocated network. Communities for information access exhibited greater dependence on a single member, contrary to the communities for information sharing. Types of content shared in the communities also varied by interests. These findings led us to compose a network topology with visual representation, based on sociopolitical, informational, and interpersonal interests.

The bad boys and girls of cyberspace: How gender and context impact perception of and reaction to trolling / Pnina Fichman & Madelyn Rose Sanfilippo

Abstract: A significant feature of virtual interactions involve online deviance and trolling; these include behaviors that range from mild mischief, to offensive language, to hacking and trolling, and to expression of complex social problem, such as by revolutionaries, freedom fighters, or pedophiles. Yet little research has examined online trolling in general or the impact of gender and context on these behaviors in particular. By focusing on the effects of gender and context on perceptions of and reactions to online trolling, this paper enhances Suler and Phillips' (1998) framework for online deviance. Results

indicate that men and women react differently to online trolling, and their perceptions of the impact of trolling on online communities vary; men and women identify different motivations for similar behaviors in different communities, and they both perceive that men and women trolls differ in their behavior and motivation.

The relationship between openness to experience and willingness to engage in online political participation is influenced by news consumption / Gerald Jordan,, Megan Pope, Patrick Wallis; & Srividya Iyer

Abstract : Openness to experience is known to be an independent predictor of online political behavior, although the degree to which this relationship is influenced by other factors has not been tested. One objective of this study was to test if the relationship between openness to experience and the propensity to engage in online political participation is mediated by internal political efficacy and hours spent consuming news. The second objective was to determine if a preference for different news sources would be related to a willingness to participate in online political behavior. University students (n = 419) were assessed on willingness to engage in online political participation, hours dedicated to news consumption, preference for different news sources, and internal political efficacy. Our results showed that openness to experience was related to a willingness to engage in online participation, and this was mediated by hours spent consuming news and internal political efficacy (95% CI = .0048 - .32). A preference for both semi-public and private news sources was related to greater internal efficacy (95% CI= .2347 – 1.4799), which was in turn related to a greater propensity to engage in online political participation. These findings highlight the potential importance of news consumption for a propensity towards online political engagement.

A replication and analysis of tiebout competition using an agent-based computational model / Chad W. Seagren

Abstract: Replication is a critical element of the scientific process. This paper is an effort to contribute to the slowly growing literature concerning the replication of Agent-Based Computational Models. We present a replication of Kollman, Miller & Page's (1997) model of Tiebout sorting. In that model, individual agents with heterogeneous preferences for government policies select among jurisdictions that offer the most satisfactory package of government services. This project makes three contributions to the literature. First, our successful replication provides the research community with a modernized version of that seminal model. Second, we confirm that earlier results with respect to the single jurisdiction setting are highly robust with respect to voter preferences, while the results for multiple jurisdiction settings are more sensitive. Finally, we demonstrate a technique for conducting sensitivity analyses that leverages a high-dimensional experimental design.

Explaining interview duration in web surveys: A multilevel approach / Tobias Gummer & Joss Roßmann

Abstract: Interview duration is an important variable in Web surveys because it is a direct measure of the response burden. In this article, we analyze the effects of the survey design, respondent characteristics, and the interaction between these effects on interview duration. For that purpose, we applied multilevel analysis to a data set of 21 Web surveys

on political attitudes and behavior. Our results showed that factors on both levels, the individual and the survey level, had effects on interview duration. However, the larger share of the variation in interview duration is explained by the characteristics of the respondents. In this respect, we illustrate the impact of mobile devices and panel recruitment on interview duration. In addition, we found important relationships between the respondents' attitudes and how a Web survey is designed: highly motivated respondents spent significantly more time answering cognitively demanding questions than less motivated respondents. When planning a survey, not only the number and formats of questions need to be taken into account but also the expected sample composition and how the participants will respond to the design of the Web survey.

Reports and Communications

SurveySignal: A convenient solution for experience sampling research using participants' own smartphones / Wilhelm Hofmann & Paresh V. Patel

Abstract: Experience-sampling or ecological momentary assessment offers unique insights into how people think, feel and behave in their natural environments. Because the method is able to capture situational variation as it happens in "real time", experience-sampling has become an increasingly popular method in social psychology and beyond. With the ubiquity of smartphone ownership and the recent technical advances, conducting experience-sampling studies on participants' own devices has become increasingly easy to do. Here, we present one reliable, user-friendly, highly customizable, and cost-effective solution. The web-based application, SurveySignal, integrates the idea of using SMS messages as signals and reminders, according to fixed or random schedules, and of linking these signals to mobile surveys designed with common online survey software. We describe the method and customizable parameters and then present evaluation results from nine social-psychological studies conducted with SurveySignal (overall N = 1,852). Mean response rates averaged 77% and the median response delay to signals was 8 minutes. An experimental manipulation of the reminder signal in one study showed that installing a reminder SMS led to a 10% increase in response rates. Next to advantages and limitations of the SMS approach, we discuss how ecologically valid research methods such as smartphone experience sampling can enrich psychological research.