

Ideological extremity and success in primary elections: Drawing inferences from the Twitter network / Aaron S. King, Frank J. Orlando, & David B. Sparks

Abstract: Many cite the growing tendency of political parties to nominate ideologically extreme candidates in United States primary elections as a reason for increasing congressional polarization; however, a lack of quantitative data on candidate ideology makes this claim difficult to test. We propose a unique solution to this problem that exploits data from the increasingly popular realm of social media by estimating ideal points for candidates for the U.S. Senate based on the patterns of connections in their Twitter social network. We identify a latent ideological dimension from the matrix of Following relations, which corresponds closely to roll-call based estimates for congressional officeholders. Controlling for other relevant factors, we find support for the hypothesis that ideological extremity is advantageous in party primaries.

Social representations of social media use in government: An analysis of Chinese government microblogging from citizens' perspective / Baozhou Lu, Song Zhang, Weiguo Fan

Abstract: Social media use in government has gained a rapid growth in the last few years around the world. China has witnessed a boom in social media use in government, especially government microblogging. In this study, we employ social representation theory as the primary theoretical lens to investigate Chinese government microblogging. We hope the employment of social representation theory could help us overcome the limitation that previous studies focused on the technology and government side. Interviewing data are drawn from a number of Chinese citizens for eliciting their understandings of Chinese government microblogging, followed by structural analytical procedure on the collected data. The social representation elements are obtained and presented in a map. The findings indicate that: (1) social media use in government in China is at the stage of fast growth but low interaction level; (2) governance and social media user experiences are two new but significant concepts that might have been missed in literature; (3) government microblogging does improve citizens' perceptions towards government, however, the final outcomes like trust and accountability cannot be achieved by relying on social media use in government alone. Theoretical contributions and practitioner implications are then discussed, followed by the limitations. Finally, we present the concluding remarks for this study.

Coalition formation decision support system / Eli Rohn, Meir Kalech, & Abraham Diskin

Abstract: Many democratically elected representative governments around the world require the formation of a coalition to create a government that is expected to be durable and stable. Creating such a coalition is far from trivial. This research describes a computerized coalition formation decision support system that attempts to meet this challenging task and formally rank possible coalitions. We use theories from political

science and utilize insights from artificial intelligence to build the tool. We demonstrate the tool's utility and validity empirically, by comparing historical coalitions to predictions made by the tool. Tests show that we are able to recommend quite accurately durable coalitions and assess which coalitions would most likely be unstable

More than words? The effect of line character sticker use on intimacy in the mobile communication environment / Shaojung Sharon Wang

Abstract: This study investigated how messaging app Line's character sticker use may contribute to the perception of intimate experience and enhance relationship satisfaction in both positive and negative emotion situations. A 2(situation valence: positive emotion, negative emotion) x 3(response style: text, sticker, text, & sticker) x 3(scenario: career, romance, education) mixed design, with situation valence and response style between-subjects variables and scenario a within-subjects variable, was employed. The results revealed the combination of a text and sticker response to a partner's disclosure can produce the highest level of intimate experience, followed by text only and sticker only responses. It further suggests that the cartoon-like Line sticker may better convey positive than negative emotions because the detailed illustration is more similar to real-life nonverbal behavior expressing humor and happiness, and that may facilitate imagined closeness between communication partners when moving through space. The hyperpersonal affordance of text-based messages to foster relationship may be further distinguished between the cognitive and affective levels in the messaging app context.

What is the gain in a probability-based online panel of providing Internet access to sampling units who previously had no access? / Melanie Revilla, Anne Cornilleau, Anne-Sophie Cousteaux, Stéphane Legleye, & Pablo de Pedraza

Abstract: The Internet is considered an attractive option for survey data collection. However, some people do not have access to it. One way to address this coverage problem for general population surveys is to draw a probabilistic sample and provide Internet access to the selected units who do not have it and accept to participate. This is what the Knowledge panel and the LISS panel do. However, a selection effect is still possible. Units without previous Internet access might refuse to participate in a web panel, even if provided with the necessary equipment. Thus, efforts to provide the necessary equipment may not be worth it. This paper investigates the gain in terms of representativeness of offering the equipment to non-Internet units in a web panel using tablets: the French ELIPSS panel. We find that the number of non-Internet units who accept to participate is low. This is not only due to the fact that their response rates are lower but also to the small proportion of non-Internet units in the French population. In addition, they also participate less in given surveys once they become panellists. At the same time, they are very different from the Internet units. Therefore, even if because of the small number of units, the overall gain in representativeness is small, there are a few important variables (e.g. education) on which their inclusion yields a more representative sample of the general population.

Reports and Communications

Models for understanding collective intelligence on Wikipedia/ Randall M. Livingstone

Abstract: Through examining established and evolving conceptions of intelligence across natural and social science and applying them to Wikipedia, this paper argues that the world's largest encyclopedia and broadest implementation of the wiki is an online instance of collective intelligence, as it fits key models for this concept. Further, by relying on sociotechnical ensembles of human intelligence, programmed bots, social bureaucracy, and software protocols, a more humanistic collective intelligence, as proposed by Levy (1997) is realized in a virtual knowledge space that embodies information as both product and process while empowering its community to explore the cultural possibilities of its collectivism.