

Introduction

The visibility of the alt-right emerged in mainstream political discourse during the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville, VA in 2017. It is a network of loosely-connected far-right groups that espouse white supremacy. In this project, we collected data to understand the relative popularity of the alt-right within Latinx communities.

Goals

1. Understand the size of the Latinx alt-right community
2. Collect data to explore topics that appeal to members
3. Visualize Latinx alt-right networks on Twitter

Data

	Founded	Type	Founder	# Articles	Time	Size (MB)
American Renaissance	1990	White Nationalist	Jared Taylor	47,000	1990-2020	200
VDARE	1999	White Nationalist	Peter Brimelow	20,000	1987-2000	150
Breitbart News	2007	Alt-Right	Andrew Breitbart	165,000	2007-2020	500
Daily Stormer	2013	Alt-Right, Neo-Nazi	Andrew Anglin	40,000	2013-2020	100
Stormfront	1995	White Nationalist	Don Black	8,777	2004-2020	11
Twitter	2006	-	Jack Dorsey	-	-	70

Network Visualization

Using eigenvector centrality to determine node size and color, we can measure how “influential” each user is in the network. For example, the force-directed network for Maria Espinoza, a former candidate for US Congress and Latina from Texas, can show us how connected she is to politicians and possible members of the alt-right.

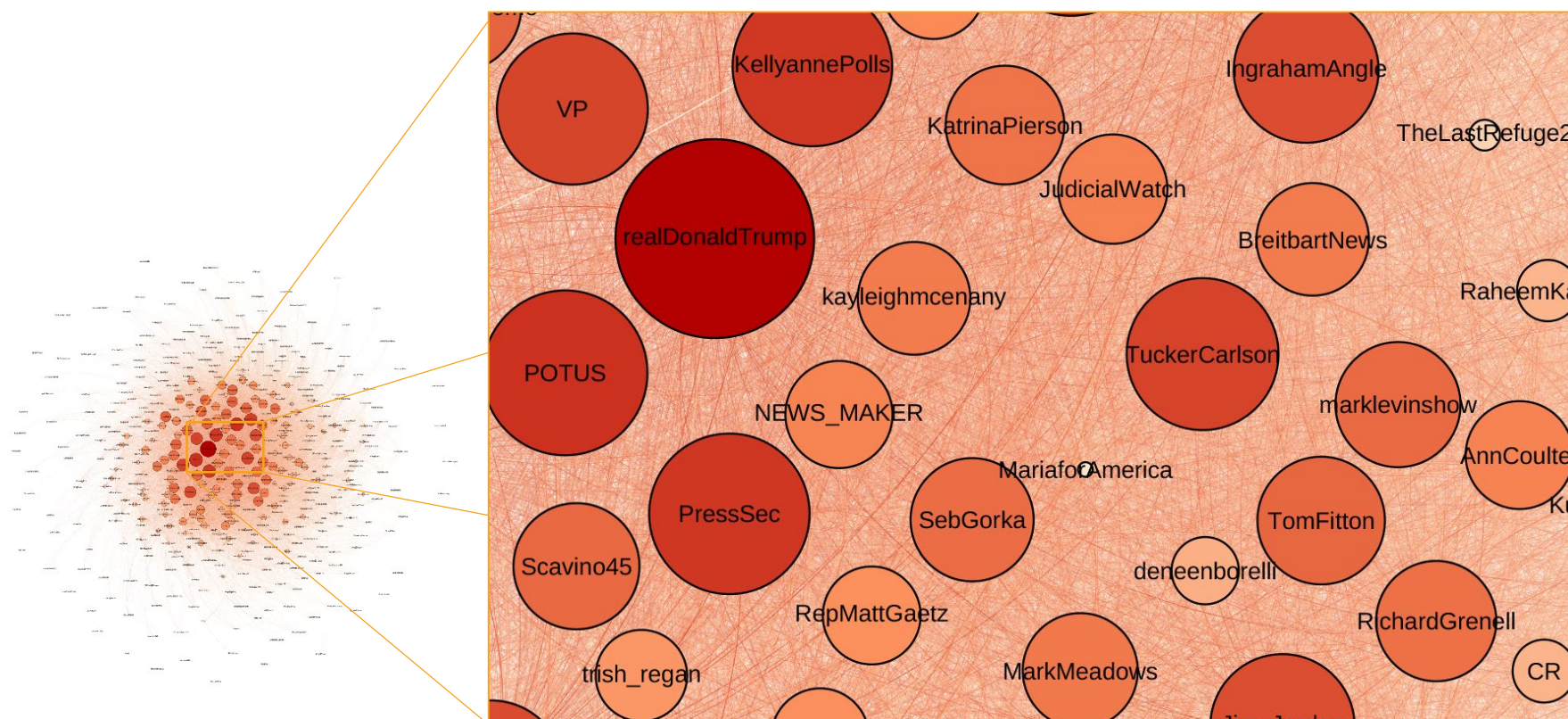


Figure 3: Network visualization for @MariaforAmerica on Twitter

Data Wrangling

1. Web Scrape → 2. Clean → 3. Process

The Truth About Martin Luther King (14 Viewing)
Linked from www.martinlutherking.org. Getting an early start for all the students forced to write papers about “The Dreamer.”

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[1] "New forum all about Martin Luther KingIve hosted the
www.martinlutherkingorg / www.lkingorg website since it began years ago But I
believe it has been underusedEvery January millions of schoolkids are forced to do
reports on The Dreamer who is now the only American to have his own holiday having
been granted greater status than Americas founders These reports continue through
Februarys Black History monthThe truth is pretty sordid though and millions of
young people can now find out just how much theyve been lied to And if they know
theyve been lied to about that subject what else?The King Family has tried to
claim a trademark on the name in order to shut down our site but the courts have
held that they cant have it both ways If Martin is now a national treasure his
name cant be privately trademarked Theyve also threatened to sue us for defamation
Problem there iseverything on the site is true and truth is still a pretty solid
defense under US lawSo every year the protectors of the New Orthodoxy buy at the
moonhttp://dirlsalon.com/news/feature/20mlk/indexhtmlLets make this year their most
traumatic ever Link www.martinlutherkingorg everywhere anyone might be seeking the
truth"
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[1] ""
[2] "New"
[3] "forum"
[4] "all"
[5] "about"
[6] "Martin"
[7] "Luther"
[8] "King"
[9] "Ive"
[10] "hosted"
[11] "the"
[12] "www.martinlutherkingorg"
[13] "/"
[14] "www.lkingorg"
[15] "website"
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Exploratory Data Analysis

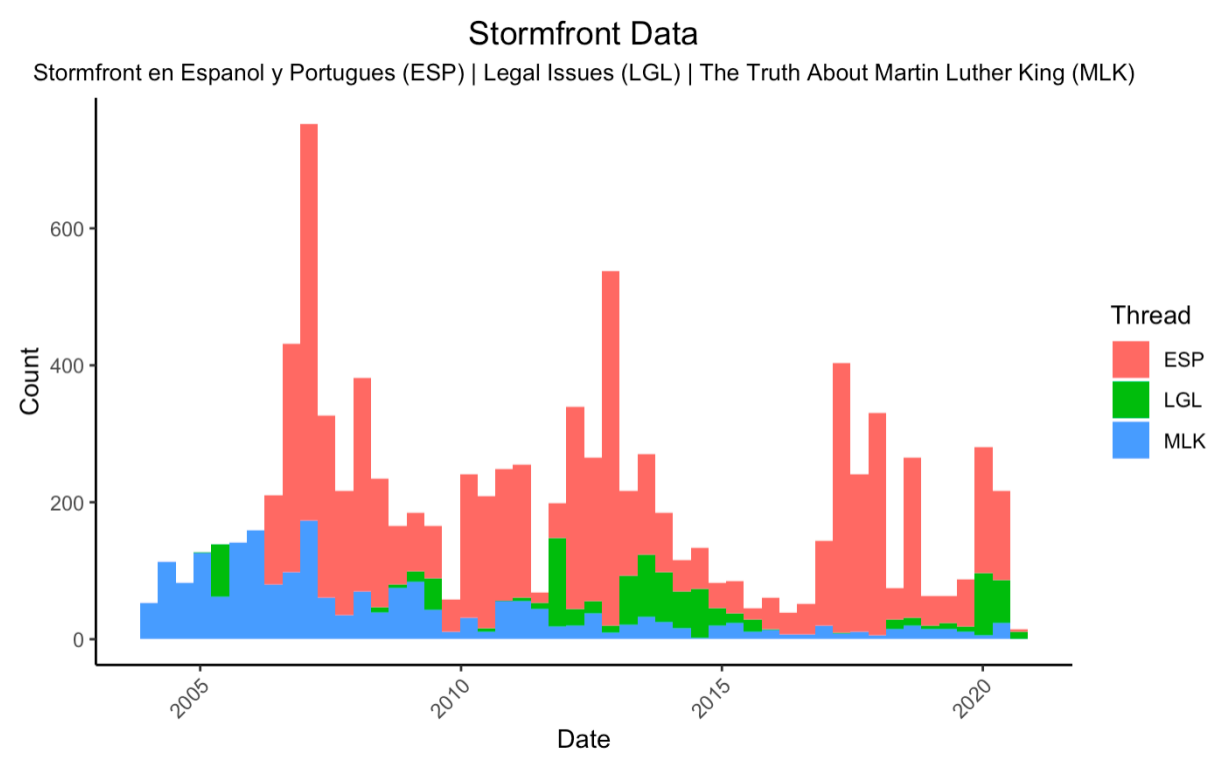


Figure 1: Histogram of Stormfront posts in three prominent threads

Topic Modeling

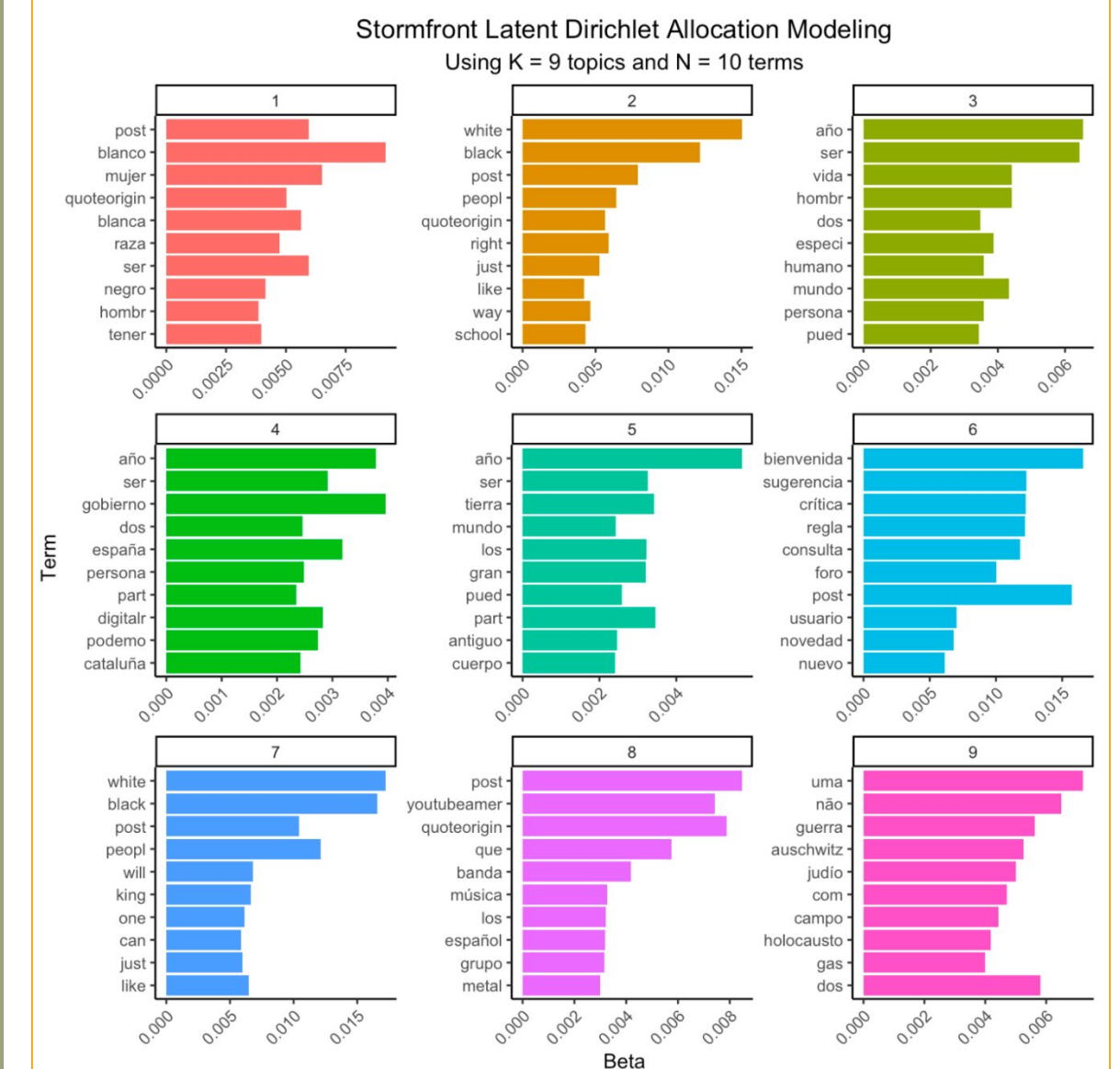


Figure 2: Latent Dirichlet Allocation using K=9 topics and N=10 terms

Conclusion

- Results:
 - Topic models can reveal how language is clustered into latent themes
 - Spanish and Portuguese terms often alluded to war and separatism (in relation to Spain)
- Limitations:
 - Subjective interpretations
 - Lack of consistently-sized data
 - Hindrance with web scraping
- Moving forward, we want to document our web scraping and modeling experience to support future research in alt-right communities.

References

- [1] “Why Young Men of Color Are Joining White-Supremacist Groups” – Gupta 2018
- [2] “Latin Americans and US Politics” – Sanchez et. al, 2019
- [3] “The First White President” – Coates, 2017
- [4] “Red-Pilling the Normies: The Use of Social Media as a Radicalization Tool by the Alt-Right” – Maloney et al., 2020
- [5] “The Boogaloo Movement Is Not What You Think” – Evans, 2020
- [6] “Shitposting, Inspirational Terrorism, and the Christchurch Mosque Massacre” – Evans, 2019
- [7] “The Rise of the Chinese-American Right” – Xiaoqing, 2019