Communists, Double Agents, Bats, and Other Inanities of Allusive Racism:

Anti-Asian Mis/disinformation on Social Media During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Project manager: Mark Abraham

Three Crises of Current Moment in the Informational Age

1. Pandemic
2. Infodemic
3. Racist epidemic

Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism CSUSB

Report to the Nation: Anti-Asian Prejudice & Hate Crime
Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism

Anti-Asian Hate Crime Reported to Police in Large U.S. Cities: 2021 & 2020

Anti-Asian Hate Crimes Increases 164% First Quarter 2021 Over Same Period 2020

Anti-AAPI Hate Crime Data for Select U.S. Cities (First Quarter 2020 and 2021)

US City Population	% of Population - AAPI	Hate Crimes 2020 First Quarter	Hate Crimes 2021 First Quarter	% Change
New York, NY 8,336,817	14.5%	13	42	223%
Los Angeles, CA 3,979,537	11.6%	5	9	80%
Phoenix, AZ 1,680,988	4.2%	1	1	Unchanged
Philadelphia, PA 1,584,064	7.5%	1	0	-
San Antonio, TX 1,508,083	3%	0	5	-
San Diego, CA 1,423,852	17.2%	0	1	-
San Francisco, CA 881,549	35%	5	12	140%
Seattle, WA 753,655	17%	4	4	Unchanged
Washington, D.C. 705,749	4%	0	6	-
Boston, MA 694,295	9.7%	5	8	60%
Louisville, KY 615,924	2.7%	0	1	-
Miami, FL 478,251	1.1%	0	0	Unchanged
Tampa, FL 404,636	4.3%	1	0	-
Cleveland, OH 380,989	2.4%	1	0	-
St. Paul, MN 310,368	18.7%	0	1	-
Harris County, TX 4,779,880	6.9%	0	5	-
Totals:	**NA**	**36**	**95**	**164%**

Source: Curated Database by CSHE, 2021, Drawn from data by policing agencies

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GTA

Toronto seeing dramatic spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, new police data says

Police say the COVID-19 pandemic remains a "key" contributing factor to a jump in hate crimes that began in 2020.

By Wendy Gillis Staff Reporter
Mon., April 25, 2022 4 min. read

Article was updated 2 days ago

Allusive Racism

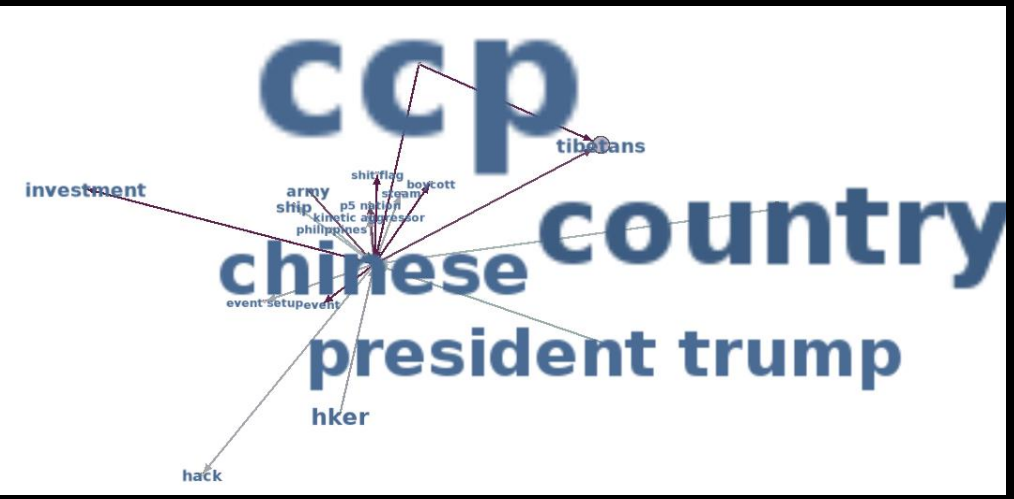
Racially referential ambiguity:

a) racialization of the virus and the pandemic without explicit racism

b) signifiers with ambiguous referents (Chinese, China, #chinaflu, #chineseflu, #wuhanflu)

c) metonymic conflation and ambiguity ('CCP' and 'China')

d) morally charged codes and historically embedded racist tropes (Yellow Peril, etc.)



Allusive Racism: Racially Referential Ambiguity

Rhetorical Mechanisms

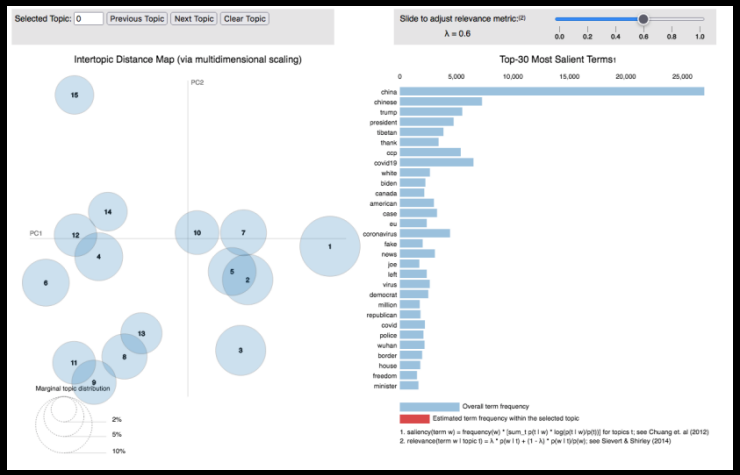
a) categorical conflation
b) symbolic extension
c) dog whistling
d) hypertextual recontextualization

Discursive Tropes

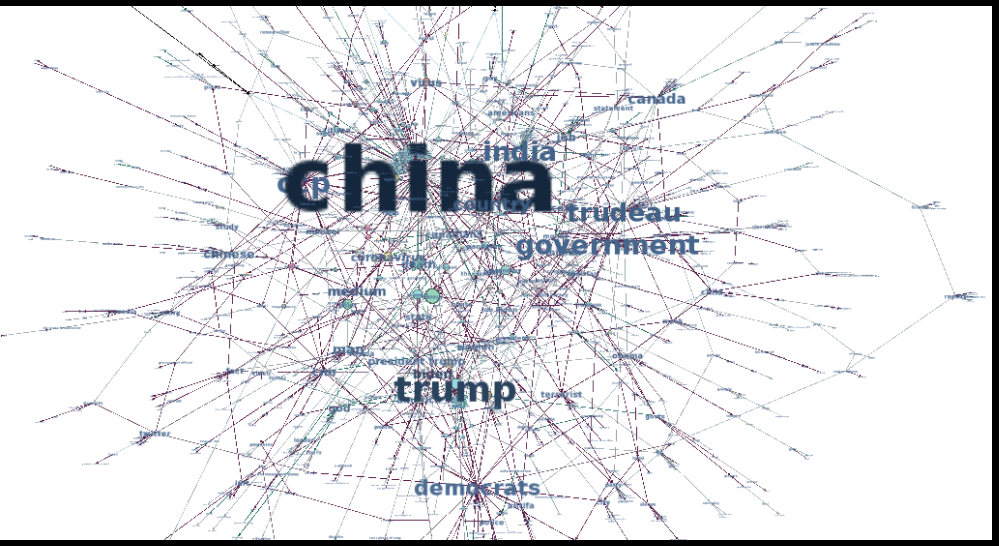
a) cultural barbarism
b) divided loyalties
c) bioracial contagiousness

Mixed Methods: Computational and Qualitative

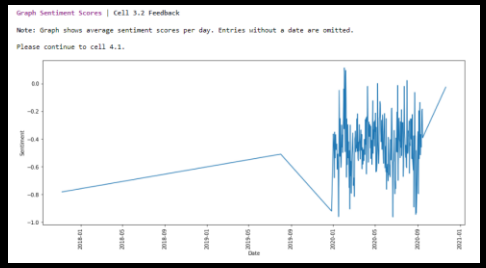
706 - chinese	2805 - piss	be start (-0.983), be take (-0.982)	3	2020-03-24 21:24:16	2020-04-05 09:57:19	-0.982777
706 - chinese	3456 - sort	take (-0.980), be fudge (-0.964), have be eat (-0.984)	3	2020-01-31 14:22:04	2020-03-30 02:32:12	-0.975763
706 - chinese	2139 - kill	continue (-0.976), want (-0.962)	3	2020-02-29 15:34:47	2020-03-19 04:34:21	-0.971481
706 - chinese	3032 - racism	do not cry (-0.954), cry (-0.966), use (-0.955), face (-0.957)	5	2020-02-27 08:20:11	2020-04-22 14:21:09	-0.957263
706 - chinese	3033 - racist	call (-0.935), be know (-0.976)	3	2020-04-01 20:57:16	2020-04-30 15:28:36	-0.948718
706 - chinese	2198 - learn	need (-0.941), forget (-0.930)	3	2020-02-04 14:51:04	2020-04-01 18:26:46	-0.937424
706 - chinese	474 - bioweapon	to release (-0.846), do not eat (-0.980), do not make (-0.929), steal (-0.967)	4	2020-02-18 03:51:17	2020-03-26 18:38:35	-0.930419
706 - chinese	1055 - death	be fake (-0.852), will record (-0.962), be underreporte (-0.953), do not count (-0.909), suffer (-0.975)	6	2020-02-01 02:18:26	2020-03-28 08:03:52	-0.926345
706 - chinese	186 - america	do not like (-0.866), will invade (-0.950), troll (-0.967)	3	2020-03-19 00:19:56	2020-07-27 05:49:59	-0.927442
706 - chinese	2314 - market	scrub (-0.946), ban (-0.899), raze (-0.882)	3	2020-02-14 17:53:06	2020-04-16 16:27:04	-0.909078
706 - chinese	130 - africans	target (-0.867), be treat (-0.959), be kick (-0.809), have be kick (-0.983)	6	2020-04-10 11:27:39	2020-06-27 09:28:25	-0.90695
706 - chinese	187 - american	use (-0.840), kick (-0.883), bring (-0.972)	3	2020-03-03 19:44:28	2020-05-01 06:50:41	-0.898456
706 - chinese	2935 - problem	would not have have (-0.627), have cause (-0.972), hide (-0.946), will cause (-0.897)	4	2020-02-16 14:33:58	2020-05-05 09:55:21	-0.860286
706 - chinese	2223 - lie	do know (-0.805), would have tell (-0.931), be push (-0.727), want (-0.953)	4	2020-02-22 04:26:07	2020-04-02 13:59:43	-0.854043
706 - chinese	637 - cat	eat (-0.763), can eat (-0.964), do eat (-0.978), skin (-0.971)	7	2020-01-29 16:00:59	2020-05-04 09:21:11	-0.852415
706 - chinese	3551 - street	spray (-0.947), have be disinfect (-0.848), disinfect (-0.754)	3	2020-03-06 05:16:57	2020-04-25 05:26:55	-0.849777
706 - chinese	571 - bury	prefer (-0.802), be go (-0.943)	3	2020-02-03 05:07:21	2020-05-13 02:04:56	-0.848938
706 - chinese	3706 - thousand	cost (-0.966), have kill (-0.983), can not handle (-0.908), be test (0.006), kill (-0.979)	8	2020-03-02 00:17:08	2020-04-19 12:53:05	-0.840948
706 - chinese	706 - chinese	avoid (-0.504), hate (-0.982), treat (-0.954), do not trust (-0.843)	4	2020-01-29 06:58:19	2020-04-10 03:38:26	-0.820527
706 - chinese	2874 - ppe	have (-0.659), to give (-0.822), have sell (-0.813), make (-0.985)	4	2020-03-30 01:26:23	2020-08-26 00:55:14	-0.81984
706 - chinese	274 - attack	make (-0.959), start (-0.718), will launch (-0.773)	3	2020-02-27 02:29:35	2020-04-10 20:50:57	-0.816471
706 - chinese	1461 - factory	attack (-0.921), will not close (-0.868), do not steal (-0.638)	3	2020-02-26 00:39:04	2020-04-07 18:49:04	-0.809099
706 - chinese	1215 - dog	eat (-0.838), use (-0.853), be kill (-0.970), call (-0.160), can eat (-0.507)	18	2020-01-23 22:58:54	2020-05-20 12:51:29	-0.805503
706 - chinese	2156 - lab	destroy (-0.959), have be infiltrate (-0.543), fund (-0.866)	3	2020-03-11 07:34:47	2020-04-13 10:47:36	-0.789475
706 - chinese	189 - americans	call (-0.888), mock (-0.976), have overtake (-0.580), be not tell (-0.630)	4	2020-01-30 20:21:38	2020-05-09 22:24:42	-0.768645
706 - chinese	1320 - embassy hotline	have flood (-0.767)	3	2020-05-15 15:42:28	2020-05-15 18:17:38	-0.766722
706 - chinese	3009 - quarantine	have implement (-0.852), be shoot (-0.953), impose (-0.162), dodge (-0.889)	5	2020-01-27 03:06:16	2020-03-07 22:50:52	-0.741396
706 - chinese	3267 - sample	steal (-0.786), destroy (-0.548)	4	2020-02-09 02:11:28	2020-07-20 06:13:54	-0.72684
706 - chinese	1608 - game	kick (-0.648), not eat (-0.714), allow (-0.811)	3	2020-02-03 04:14:36	2020-04-28 19:03:22	-0.724308
706 - chinese	1210 - doctor	lose (-0.959), visit (-0.978), can not murder (-0.882), approach (-0.061)	4	2020-02-10 02:21:04	2020-03-16 01:01:41	-0.720381
706 - chinese	936 - country	escape (-0.013), shut (-0.919), lock (-0.968), describe (-0.962), run (-0.756)	18	2020-02-10 20:26:39	2020-08-01 19:41:11	-0.717487
706 - chinese	3723 - time	lie (-0.980), have have (-0.638), have do (-0.060), waste (-0.930), may have lie (-0.968)	5	2020-01-30 22:12:19	2020-07-06 22:20:59	-0.715162
706 - chinese	2921 - price	have pay (-0.941), jack (-0.942), bring (-0.808), be pay (-0.163)	4	2020-04-01 22:16:30	2020-07-06 23:59:25	-0.713437
706 - chinese	953 - cover	would have tell (-0.817), try (-0.514), want (-0.644), lie (-0.875)	4	2020-01-28 16:23:00	2020-05-24 14:38:04	-0.71251
706 - chinese	1288 - eat	stop (-0.882), want (-0.550), like (-0.872), keep (-0.543), can not stop (-0.962)	15	2020-01-30 08:00:58	2020-06-03 19:29:20	-0.709527

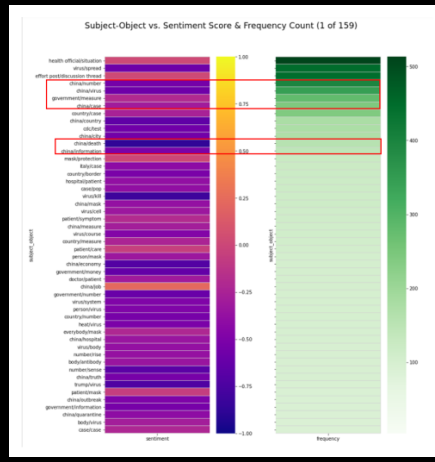


topic modeling: Gensim LDA (Python)



semantic network analysis: Gephi

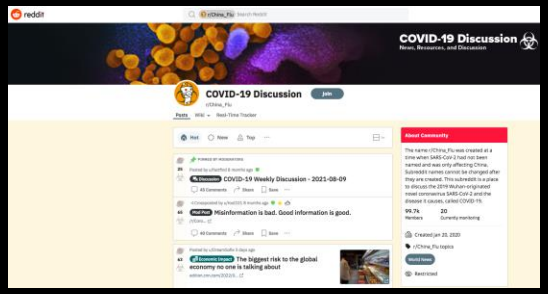




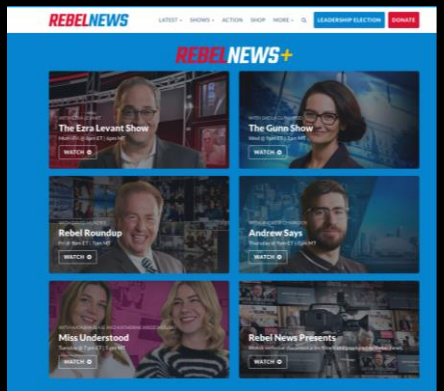
sentiment analysis: GDCL pysentimentio (Python)

Digital Data

File: /project/def-kurasawa/data/extracted/disinfo_keyword.h5
Corpus Type: keyword
Version Code: 20201109
Total # of entries: 2524577
Start date of entries: 2019-12-31 19:23:08
End date of entries: 2020-10-23 06:47:26
Total # of unique users: 635518

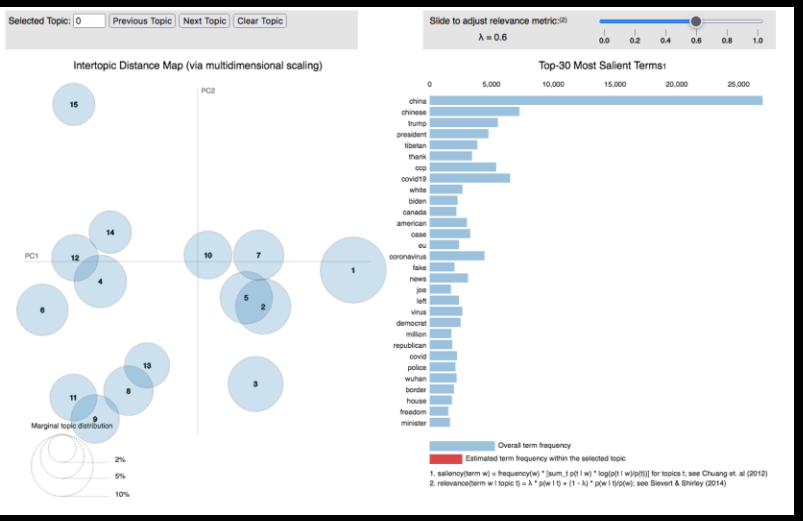


File: /project/def-kurasawa/data/extracted/disinfo_reddit.h5
Corpus Type: keyword
Version Code: 20201109
Total # of entries: 1417682
Total # of unique users: 65923
Start date of entries: 2020-01-20 09:39:52
End date of entries: 2020-10-07 19:57:46

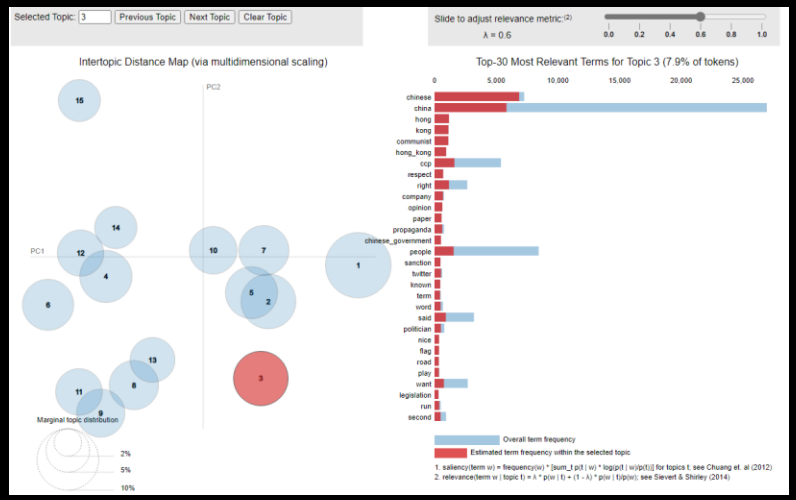


File: /project/def-kurasawa/data/extracted/covid19.h5
Corpus Type: actor
Version Code: 20201109
Total # of entries: 186382
Total # of unique users: 175
Start date of entries: 2020-01-01 19:42:54
End date of entries: 2020-12-02 00:00:00

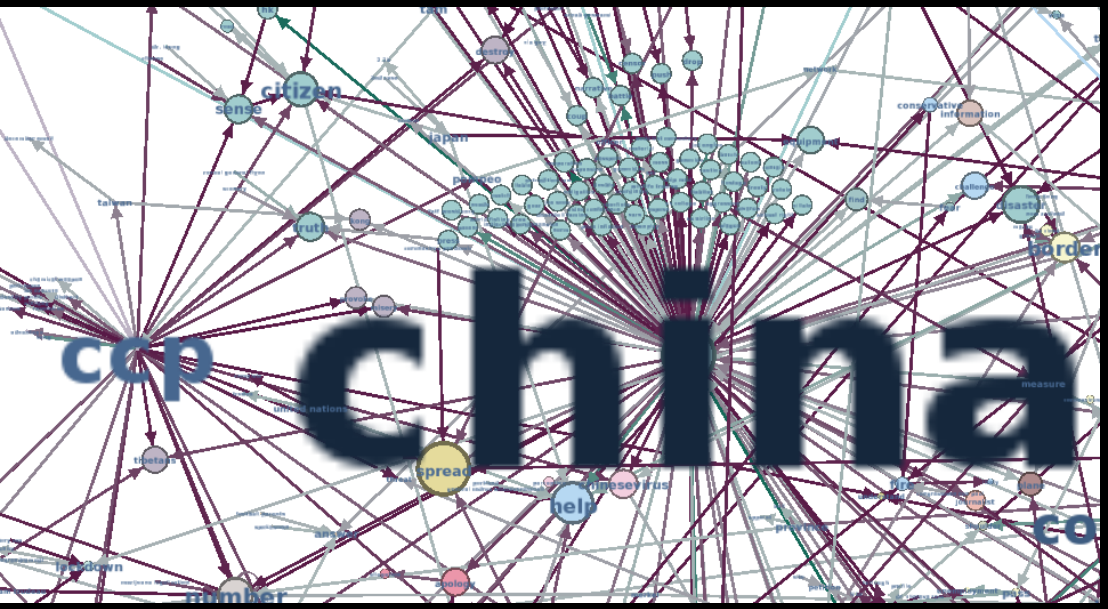
Rhetorical Mechanism 1: Categorical Conflation



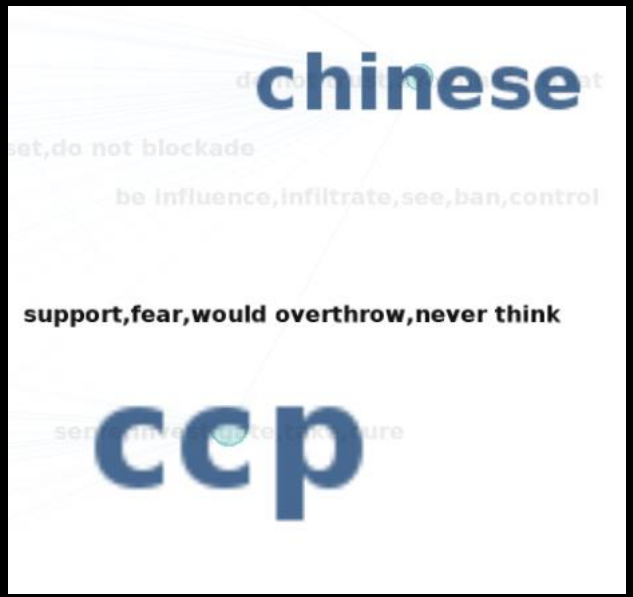
Multiplatform aggregate



Multiplatform Topic 3

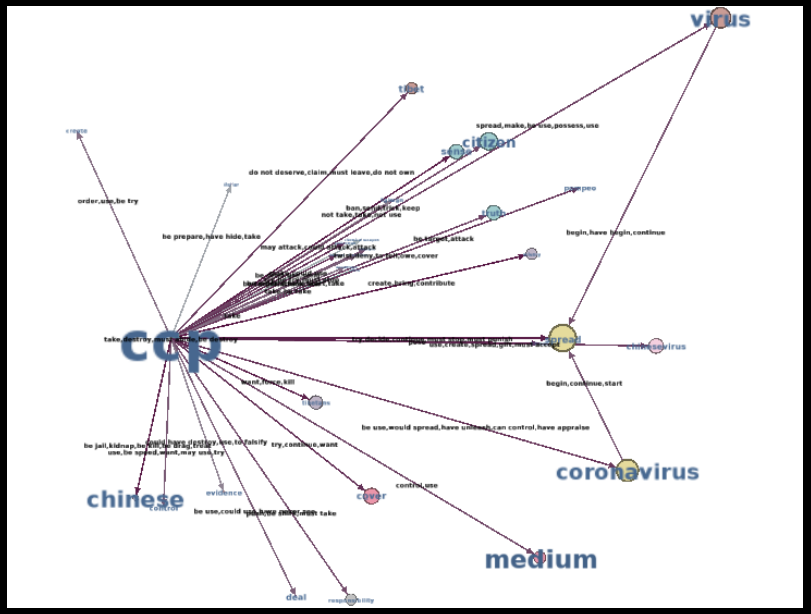


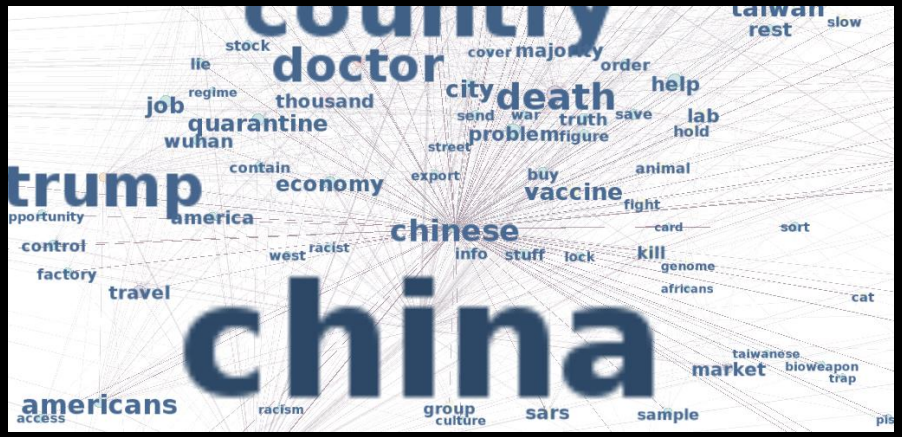
Multiplatform 'China' node



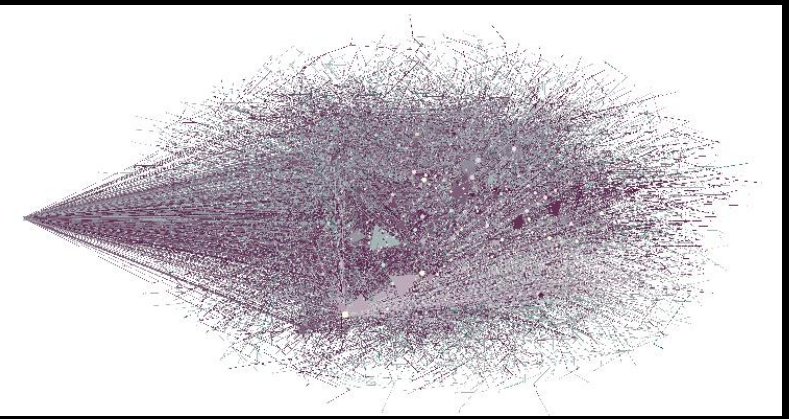
Reddit

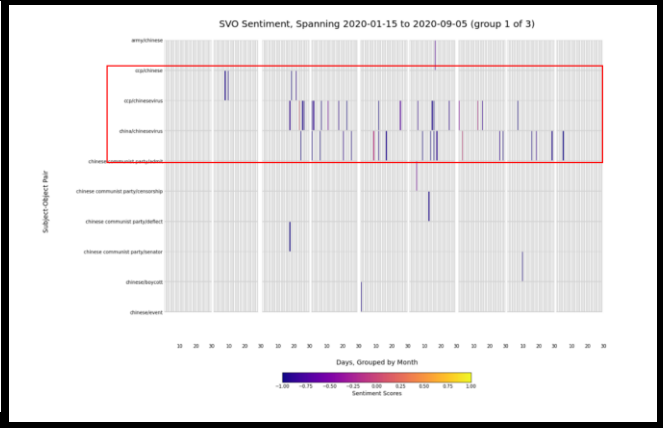
Rhetorical Mechanism 1: Categorical Conflation

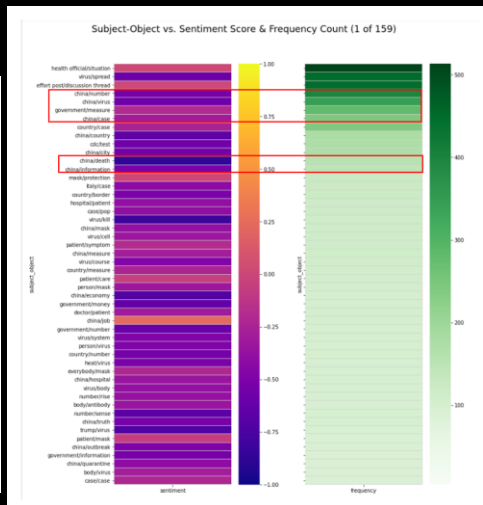




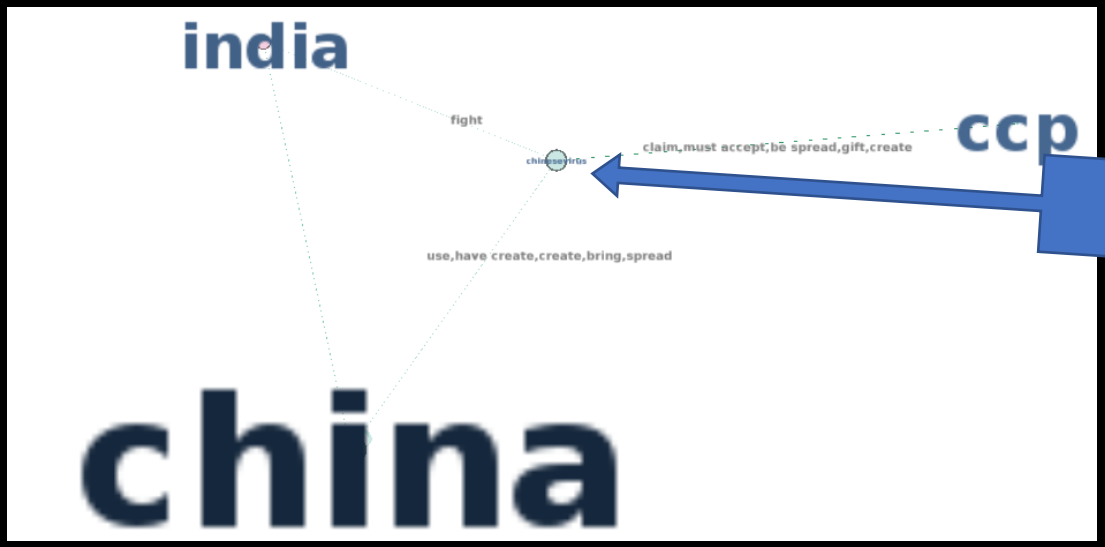
514 - ccp	1341 - misery	create,bring,contribute	3	-0.980465	2020-02-15 10:01:31	2020-04-19 09:48:32
514 - ccp	353 - chinese	be jail,kidnap,be kill,be drag,treat	5	-0.945196	2020-02-08 21:04:41	2020-03-22 08:44:50
514 - ccp	1877 - sense	not take,take,not use	3	-0.943946	2020-03-10 11:14:15	2020-03-28 12:44:53
514 - ccp	1960 - spread	try,decide,continue,must stop,must punish	5	-0.92635	2020-03-14 03:38:51	2020-07-28 00:00:00
514 - ccp	2090 - tibetans	want,force,kill	3	-0.918367	2020-01-17 07:33:32	2020-03-11 10:00:46
514 - ccp	2081 - threat	pose	3	-0.914598	2020-02-26 01:59:09	2020-07-28 00:00:00
514 - ccp	472 - cover	try,continue,want	5	-0.829341	2020-03-04 19:40:32	2020-07-28 00:00:00
514 - ccp	168 - bannon	be target,attack,fear	4	-0.822302	2020-03-31 10:18:10	2020-05-18 00:00:00
514 - ccp	1576 - policeman	be send,use,send	3	-0.817779	2020-02-22 22:58:50	2020-04-05 23:12:18
514 - ccp	1582 - pompeo	be target,attack	3	-0.79743	2020-03-31 10:18:10	2020-05-18 00:00:00
514 - ccp	358 - chinesevirus	use,create,spread,gift,must accept	12	-0.789209	2020-03-18 05:13:41	2020-06-26 01:46:34
514 - ccp	455 - coronavirus	be use,would spread,have unleash,can control,have...	7	-0.788022	2020-02-21 20:51:36	2020-07-27 00:00:00
514 - ccp	2085 - tibet	do not deserve,claim,must leave,do not own	4	-0.744742	2020-01-15 02:25:53	2020-07-28 08:16:31
514 - ccp	2237 - virus	spread,make,be use,possess,use	15	-0.744404	2020-03-04 19:40:32	2020-07-27 00:00:00
514 - ccp	2153 - truth	twist,deny,to tell,owe,cover	7	-0.723754	2020-03-07 21:33:45	2020-05-10 01:58:37
514 - ccp	369 - citizen	ban,send,trick,keep	4	-0.702412	2020-01-24 11:49:54	2020-04-20 07:39:05
514 - ccp	1302 - medium	control,use	3	-0.697438	2020-06-26 05:42:15	2020-09-07 20:00:00
514 - ccp	1767 - responsibility	push,be shirk,must take	3	-0.672037	2020-03-19 02:32:02	2020-05-09 04:59:00
514 - ccp	614 - distract	try,be try,must stop	3	-0.600688	2020-03-04 19:40:32	2020-06-01 02:48:17
514 - ccp	447 - control	use,be speed,want,may use,try	6	-0.576947	2020-01-02 21:18:03	2020-09-04 20:00:00
514 - ccp	548 - deal	be use,could use,have never see	3	-0.539032	2020-02-23 10:27:40	2020-03-13 05:59:32
514 - ccp	1785 - revolution	be initiate,have start,take	3	-0.524189	2020-02-10 09:04:17	2020-08-18 20:00:00





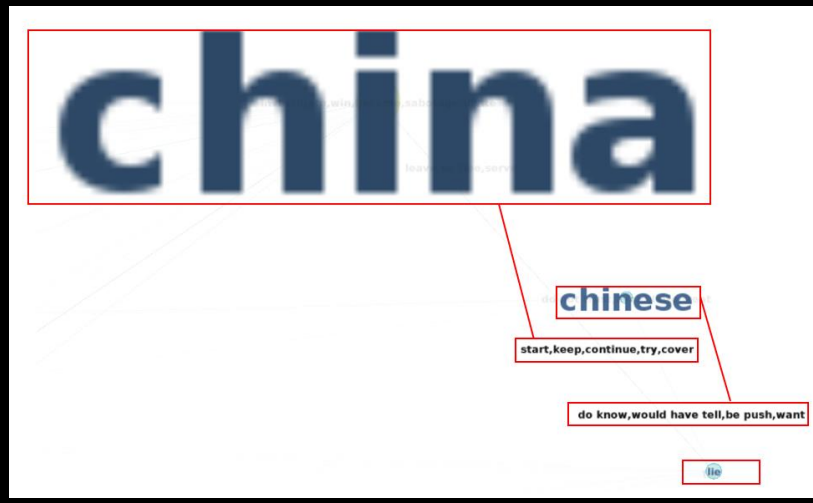


Rhetorical Mechanism 1: Categorical Conflation



chinesevirus

Multiplatform

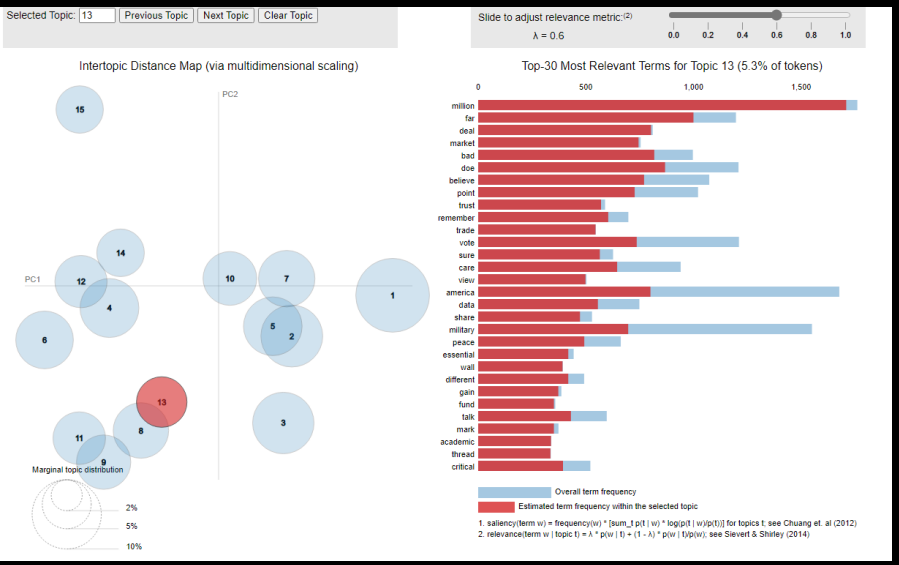


Reddit

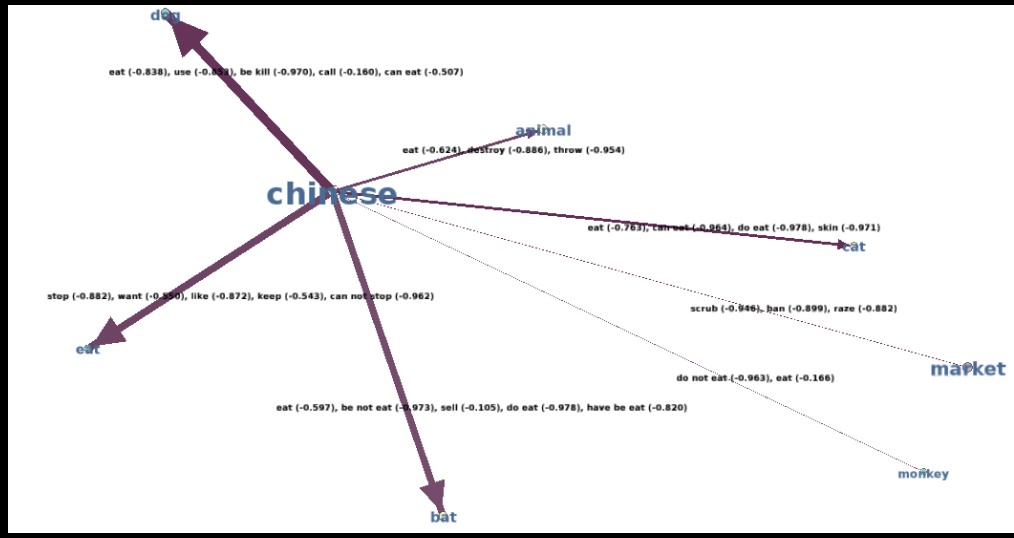
"Peddling China means result this, as CCP gifting ChineseVirus around the World, UK people must wake up!"

Tibetpeople_twitter.csv: @globaltimesnews The World is not same as one year before, after #China created #ChineseVirus & spreading around the globally, today International community hate Chinese people for its destructive ideology, #CCP's narratives has no place today's society.

Rhetorical Mechanism 2: Dog Whistling



Multiplatform Topic 13



Reddit

gatewaypundit_document_12.txt:The coronavirus now sweeping the world came from a “wet market” in Wuhan, China, which sells all kinds of exotic animals like bats, pangolins, live wolf pups, salamanders, civets, and bamboo rats.

woppa1woppa_twitter.csv: “Not only are they mass killing dogs as food, it's also sold as poisoned meat from the darts. #JustChinaThing”

Rhetorical Mechanism 2: Dog Whistling

Reddit

Multiplatform

pauljosephwatson_twitter.csv: Is it racist to think that Chinese people eating bats is gross, despite scientists linking it to the coronavirus outbreak?

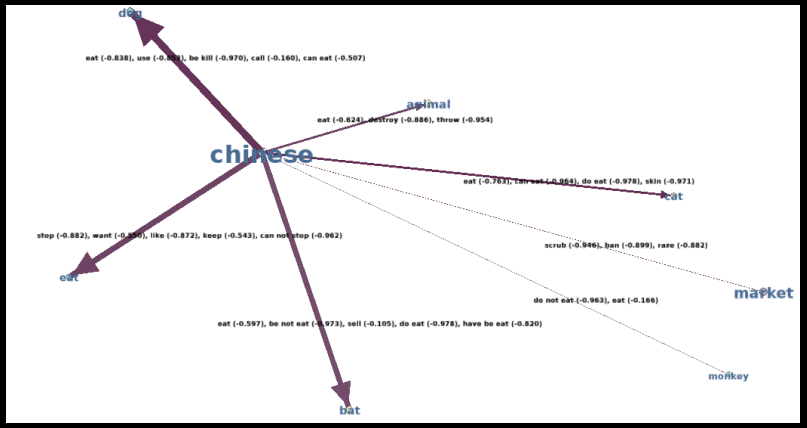
Discursive Tropes of Allusive Racism

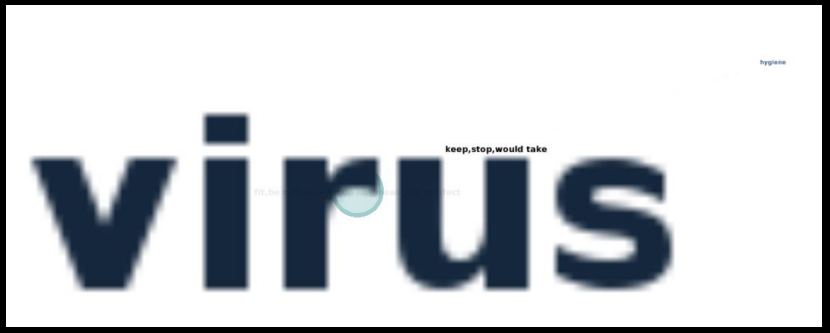
1. Cultural barbarism

2. Divided loyalties

3. Bioracial contagion

Discursive Trope 1: Cultural Barbarism

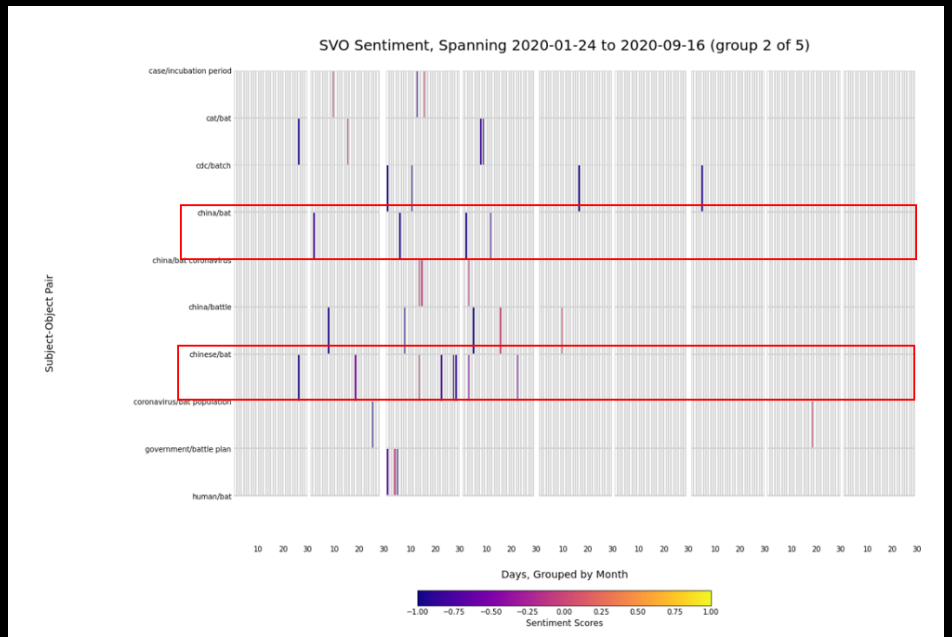




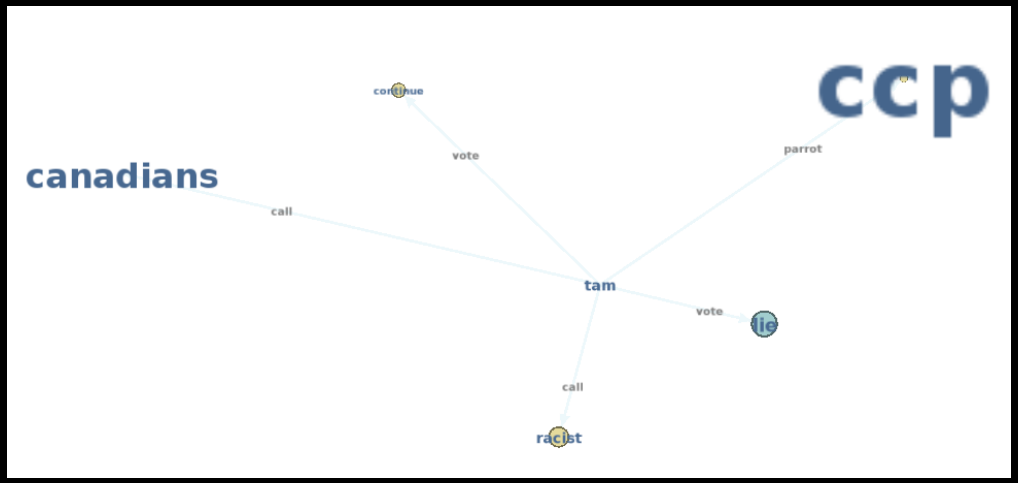
Chinaflu_reddit_3.csv: Any country which eats whatever creeps, crawls and flies or eat things alive or eat pets, is barbaric. Likewise countries which shit openly or piss and spit and curse. Ask the Hong Kong chinese what they think of mainlanders.

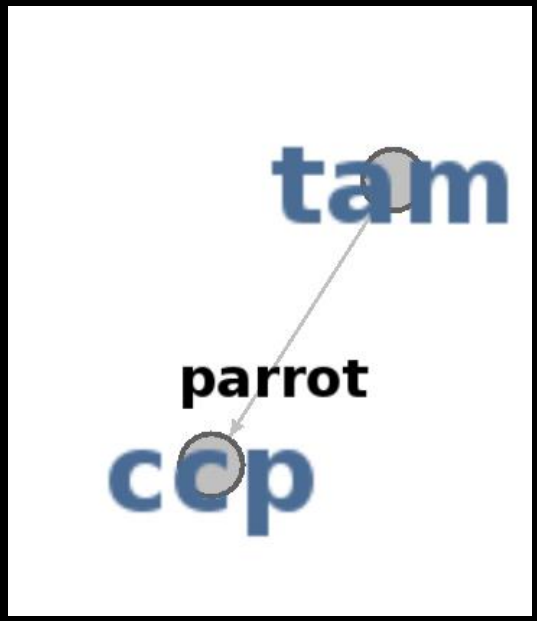
woppa1woppa_twitter.csv: Put down the bat soup, watch some livestreams and educate yourself

tibetpeople_twitter.csv: @chinaxizang86 @tibet_online @cn_humanrights We know #China's motive, #CCP spreading #ChineseVirus, millions of cheap Chinese Tourist are coming in #Nepal without restriction & for Tibetans more & more restriction like in #OccupiedTibet



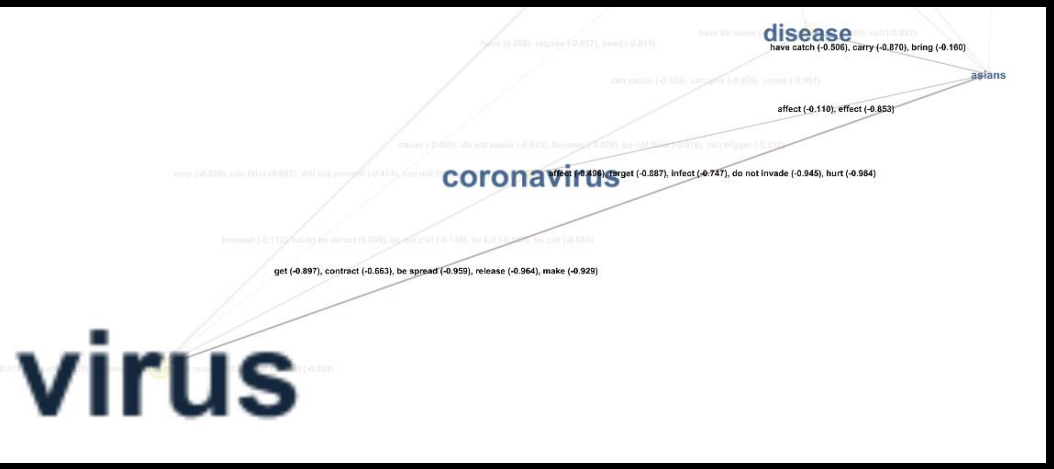
Discursive Trope 2: Divided Loyalties

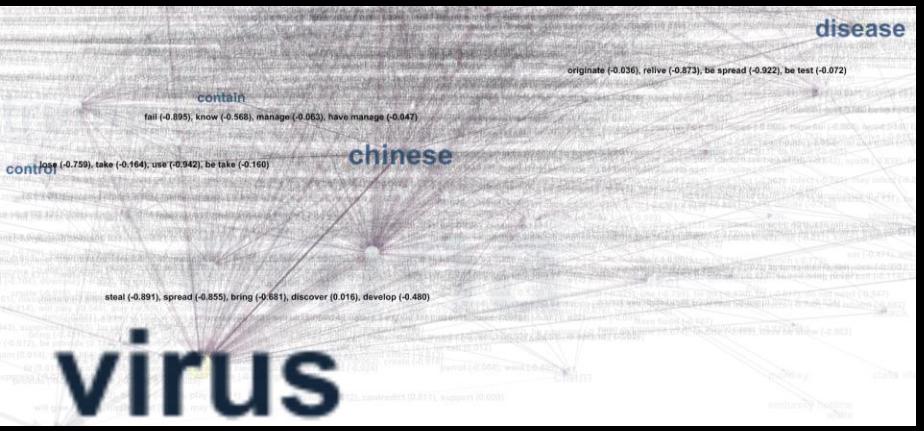


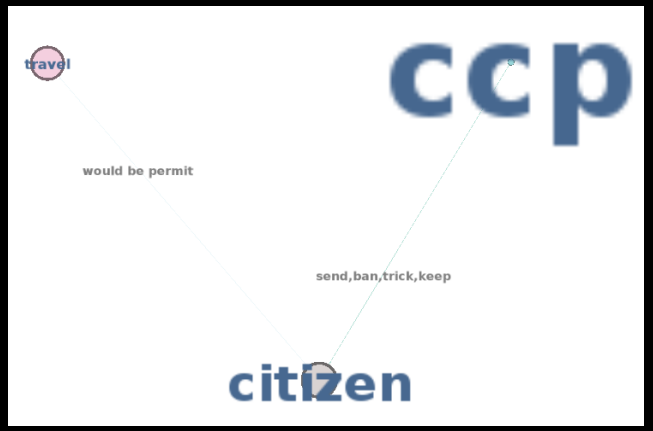


dereksloan_twitter.csv: Yes. Knowingly or unknowingly, Tam parroted the WHO and, ultimately, the CCP. Even with the best of intentions, her advice to Trudeau helped further the aims of these groups. Intentions are irrelevant—her conduct has served Canada poorly & likely cost Cdn lives. #cdnpoli

Discursive Trope 3: Bioracial Contagiousness



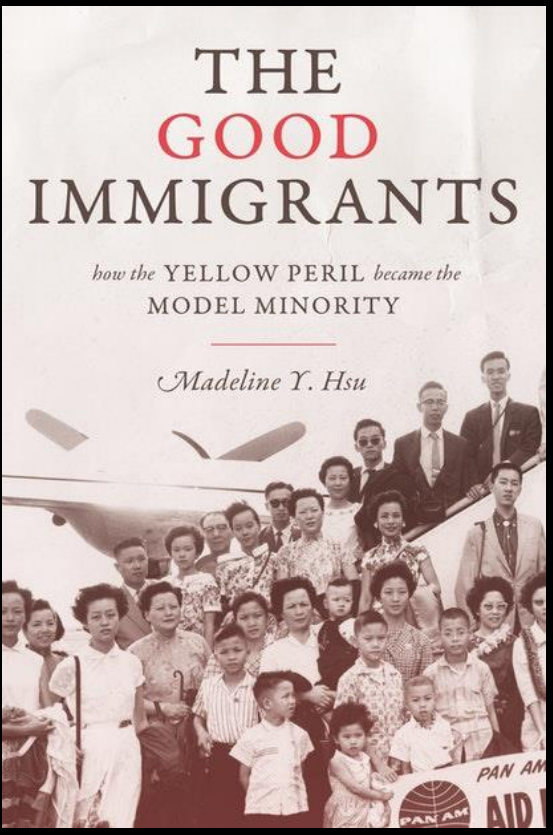


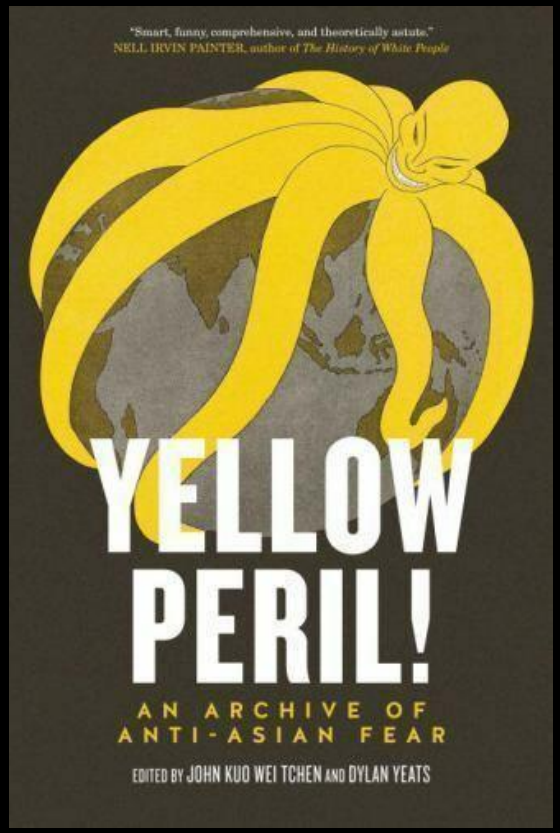


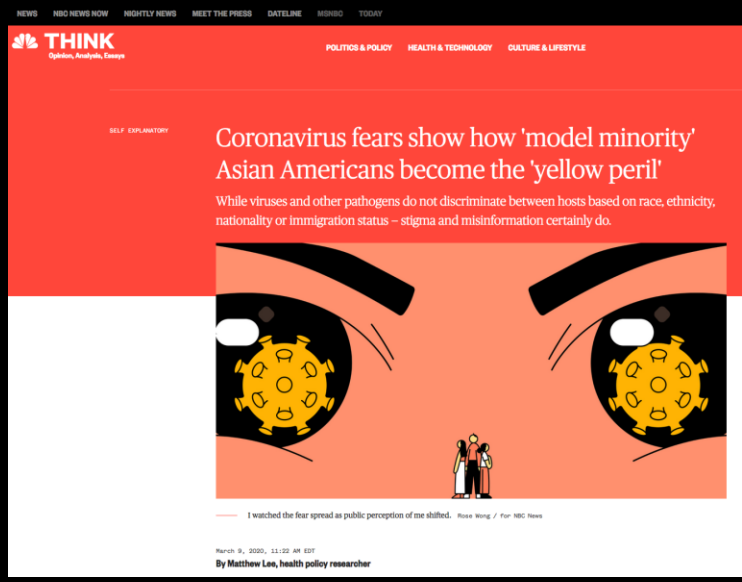
Donaldtrump_twitter.csv: Fake News got it wrong again, as always, and tens of thousands of lives were saved by my EARLY BAN of China into our Country. The people that we're allowed were heavily scrutinized and tested U.S. citizens, and as such, I welcome them with open arms!

Jkylebass: US Department of Education sends letter to Congress with findings of China's collegiate "indoctrination program". China has infected US colleges with its donations. US colleges accepted billions in unreported foreign donations from China #ChinaPaytoPlay https://t.co/B55KezM4Yc,original,,ChinaPaytoPlay

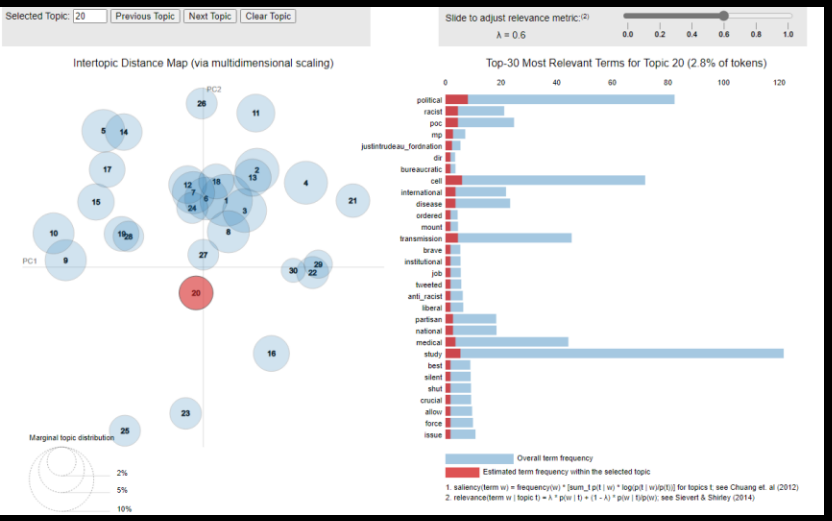
Discursive Trope 3: Bioracial Contagiousness



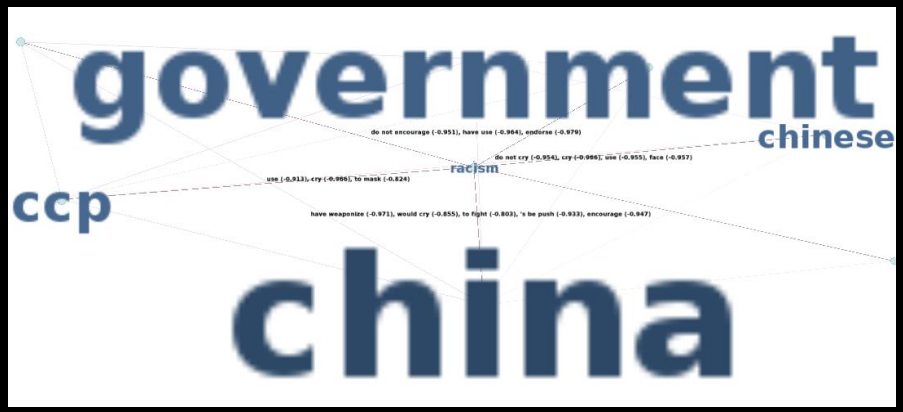




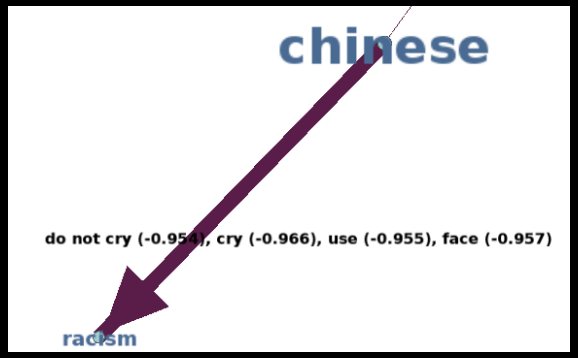
Rhetorical Paradox 1: Anti-Anti-Racism

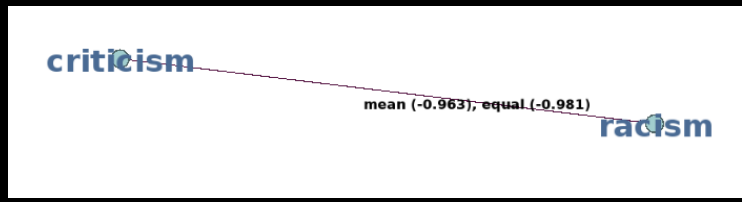


Multiplatform Doctors Topic 20



Reddit

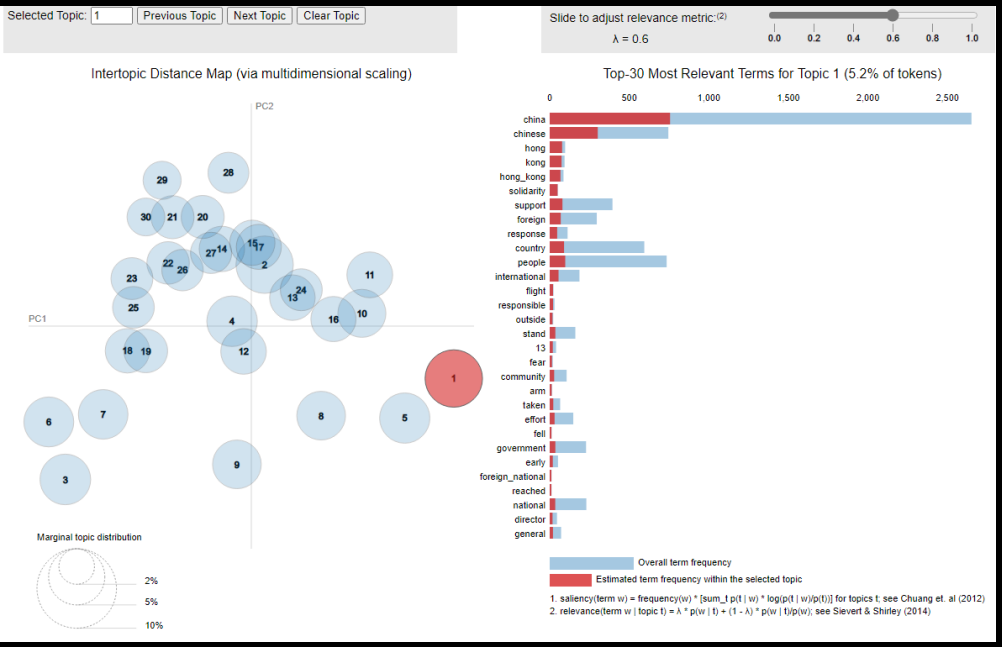




Reddit

kulvinderkaur_twitter.csv: True racists in CA: white politicians, partisans & media who repeatedly use POC as pawns for political gain by divisively labelling valid criticisms/actions as "racist". Virtue signalling manipulators then silent when their dangerous identity politics leads to harm/death of POC.

Rhetorical Paradox 2:
Anti-Sinophobic Categorical Conflation



Multiplatform Politicians Topic 1

Qualitative Analysis

27 semi-structured interviews lasting 45 to 60 minutes completed on Zoom from August 2021 to April 2022

Actors for interviews identified through social media presence as well as through snowball sampling

Attempted to get representation from the different types of actors involved in combatting online anti-Asian racism during the pandemic

Type of Actor	Journalist/Fact-Checker	Civil Society Organization	Public Health Official	Academic
Frequency	7	5	10	5

Organizational Objectives

Documenting Self-Reporting Incidents of Anti-Asian Racism

Providing Resources for Combatting Anti-Asian Racism

TIME100 Most Influential People of 2021

In a turbulent year, as the U.S. has seen a surge in racist, anti-Asian attacks—from terrifying assaults on senior citizens to the tragic mass shooting in Atlanta—no coalition has been more impactful in raising awareness of this violence than Stop AAPI Hate. Since its start, the organization has logged more than 9,000 anti-Asian acts of hate, harassment, discrimination and assault across the country.

Read More

September 15, 2021

Report a hate incident in:

Select language

Latest News

TIME: One Year After Atlanta Shootings, Why We're Still Struggling With Anti-AAPI Hate

Vox: The Stop Asian Hate movement is at a crossroads

New York Times: Stop AAPI Hate Aims a Spotlight at Rising Anti-Asian Racism

POLITICO: The 2022 POLITICO Recast Power List

Latest Reports

National Report (Through December 31, 2021)

National Report (through September 2021)

National Report (through June 2021)

Organizational Objectives

One member of an Asian-Canadian group (#2) made the following comment concerning the influence of #STOP AAPI Hate:

"*I think once hashtag STOP Asian Hate came out, suddenly, it [anti-Asian racism] became a mainstream issue. And in a way, like even for me, kind of like speaking with the team, it felt like our work was done… I'm just thinking about like our work and the whole process in the year and a half. Oftentimes, we're doing like… our organization has always done work with the marginalized, where people don't know these issues.*"

Online Activism

The act of fighting for, or supporting a cause, through the use of hashtags and other technical affordances of social media as the primary channel to raise awareness of an issue and encourage public debate.

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(i) Compile Evidence for Advocacy Work

"We knew that we needed to document the racism and the first-hand accounts in order to get government to respond and the approaches are very community based participatory research project. Knowing that historically there's been this pattern of blaming Asians for diseases coming will be wanted to pre-empt that type of surge of racism, as we began to see the rise in racism."

(Co-founder, Asian-American civil society group #1)

"And so with some elders in the community, being that they were sort of our age at the time of SARS really gave us the idea that you need to start tracking this so that we because this is going to blow up and also with data with evidence that's only going to make your case stronger later on for advocacy."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #2)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(i) Compile Evidence for Advocacy Work

(i.a) Importance of Self-Reporting

"Now, when in terms of the stories that we include it is extremely important. If we've learned anything from any of the social movements that we see today, especially from Black Lives Matter, and especially from the Truth and Reconciliation Act, it is that we need to provide that truth in order to understand reconciliation. And so that is what we do in terms of the Asian-Canadian communities. We ensure that their stories are there, we ensure that they understand their impact. We also ensure their well-being and their mental health is looked after."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism Foundations & Strategies

(i) Compile Evidence for Advocacy Work

(i.b) Limitations of Self-Reporting

"They're highly educated. We had a real high number of a first essential workers."

(Co-founder, Asian-American Civil Society Group #1)

"I actually think the biggest thing that you should take away is that self-reporting is ultimately very, very low. Self-reporting that you got from that report, from [Asian-Canadian Group], essentially, it's people who somehow have heard of us, who have somehow heard that you could submit an incident reports and took the time to go on the websites fill in the form and give us that data. That's self-reported data. It's not as though we have millions of dollars in marketing to let that be known. It really is very small scale and it depends on, the social media reach, depends on who feels inclined to report. I know a lot of people in my own personal circle, who have encountered various instance of anti-Asian racism and they didn't make any reports."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(ii) To Lobby and Push for Legislative Change

"We partnered with the Federal Government as well. We sat on some meetings with MPs, Minister Guilbeault, who is really kind of heading that push for online hate and social media regulations on that end to help them develop that legislation. "

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

"We didn't engage so much on social media campaigns, as we engaged in the data analysis on the policy advocacy, so we felt that that was our realm and there were other groups for a better position to do social media."

(Co-founder, Asian-American Civil Society Group #1)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(iii) To work with social media corporations

"So we've been working with partners like the platform companies themselves to help them identify what are the less explicit but still really threatening phrases or words or patterns that we are seeing that we're concerned about that they should be aware of. "

"Right, I think I think they're [i.e. social media corporations] very receptive because they realized, you know they're not neutral in this. And you know they don't want to be known as the reason anti-Asian sentiment was amplified right and all these people were attacked. So they take it seriously, they're receptive, and we talked to like almost all of the mainstream social media platforms."

"But I personally... I have a lot of empathy for their situation, because you know they're the tech experts, they're not folks who are trained on Asian-American history and dog whistles and all of this, and so they're trying but... if even like Asian-Americans who are victims of this like don't want to talk about it, don't want to learn about it, of course the tech companies are going to struggle with it."

(Member of Asian-American Social Justice Group #2)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(iv) To Provide Online Resources to Combat Anti-Asian Racism

"Our goal was to centralize the resources that all of these community groups pretty much have produced to talk about anti-Asian racism and also to provide the resources on a national scale and make it more accessible. We're actually still in production and making that website a lot more accessible to Asian communities by getting it translated."

"That's one thing I really want to stress, this is also a class issue. Those who cannot afford schooling, obviously, will be disengaged with that critical thinking, and so, therefore, we want to be able to bring those resources to those communities, so that they can engage so they're not left out in any way and so they can actually form independent opinions about these issues."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(v) Combatting Anti-Asian Racism through Bystander Intervention

"Certainly. Bystander intervention is mostly, it's a community-based type of practice and it's to ensure that you're reaffirming each other and your allies within the context of violence. For instance, if somebody is a victim of a hate crime in the moment, by bystander intervention is to reaffirm and reassure and also to confront the problem. It's to also redirect that anger and that aggression and that hate somewhere else. But it's to ensure that you're having allyship within that context, at the moment, to ensure that the victim is protected by the community that they're in at the moment."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

"We've had thousands of people sign up for this bystander intervention training, we've had a lot of folks want to learn more about the history, we've been able to launch you know, a new program to support inclusion of AAPI history in the curriculum and K through 12 schools."

(Member of Asian-American Social Justice Group #2)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(vi) To Promote Greater Sensitivity in the Use of Terms/Language in the Public Forum

"Yes, so that's, the first thing that we've been advertising, we keep telling people and we keep telling governments everywhere, please make sure when you talk about China, you mean Chinese government. But I can definitely, yes, that there is a strong relationship that the criticism, whether it's from Trump or from even Biden, the criticism towards the Chinese Government definitely has a strong relation, actually in our latest report we found approximately 50 percentage of the anti-Asian hate incidents are related to anti-China politics."

(Member of Asian-American Social Justice Group #3)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(vii) To Build Networks to Combat Anti-Asian Racism

"Throughout my entire life social justice has been very, very dominant and I've been very engaged in the conversations in the rhetorics on how to really combat systemic change. We do a lot of conversations with Indigenous communities along with BLM, along with communities as well. I do work quite a bit with BIPOC."

"We work very closely with #Elimin8Hate, Project 1907, CCNC-TO. They're really very much on speed dial. We do a lot of coordinating and cooperate on a lot of projects. That's kind of where we get our broader action because everyone has their connections and piece to play."

"I will definitely champion Black Lives Matter and what they've done with social media in terms of how they've utilized it as their platform to really gain traction on the movement. Really organized themselves by taking advantage of those algorithms and that's another thing we have a, because this is so new to me a media alternative just to mainstream audiences, in general, we lack digital literacy."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

Combatting Anti-Asian Racism: Foundations & Strategies

(viii) Learning To Recognize Anti-Asian Racism

"One of my staff every time he does any mental health intake, we kind of asked him to ask, have you experienced any anti-Asian racism? And the answer is always no, so I'm like this is a flawed question. The youth aren't recognizing that maybe they are really experiencing racism, but then in actual counseling sessions, when you start diving into it, then they talk about it just more. When you're giving the youth more time, they get it, they know what it is, but when we just straight up ask the question, no they don't …"

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #2)

Online controversies help people recognize allusive forms of anti-Asian racism

Examples: Bryan Adams, Derek Sloan, Trump/Pelosi

Online Controversy 1

"I mean it's funny. I guess we're all fine for the fancy academic term [i.e. "Racially Referential Ambiguity"], we cited that point in our paper back in October, called it fringe racism, just because, again kind of our biggest one was actually our encounter with Bryan Adams."

"We actually got a lot of hate, because we were one of the first people to help call him out. For like two weeks our mailboxes were flooded, the phones were ringing, with all these people. Because he came out, he said these very overtly racist things and then until now he got a lot of flack for it, and he was like, "but I was talking about veganism". "

"I think there's like a general thought that racism is bred through passing on extremist messages. That's actually not very accurate. More so it's born from controversy and incremental exposure to increasingly radical views. That's why we are focused on the role of social media because YouTube is primarily dictated by recommendations. We know that Facebook and Instagram, they do like an incremental gauge of your engagements and they're selling more towards whatever you identify."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

Twitter Screengrab

Online Controversy 2

"Not as much backlash as the Bryan Adams one. I think there is something about celebrities that, either they just have more exposure. Or perhaps, as I said with my theory, that it's one thing to criticize politicians, but when we're now delving into the private sphere that people get more triggered. That's maybe my hypothesis to it."

"But certainly we got a lot of backlash. I felt that it was much quieter because at that point in time, there was beginning to be more of a backlash on Trump-style politicians. A surge of Trump-style politicians."

"Then when Derek Sloan came out and did his thing, there was a push back on that. Not so much like hate and whatever. We still got some, we still made new cycles, but nowhere near as much attention as they paid us during the Bryan Adams [episode]."

(Member of Asian-Canadian Social Justice Group #1)

Online Controversy 3

"I mean one specific example that comes to mind that I thought was a really powerful one, is when Trump tweeted, Facebook everything on his social media, about Nancy Pelosi going to visit SF Chinatown at the very time... you know when the US started panicking about the COVID. There was this rhetoric of like "oh look at Pelosi, like we're trying to fight COVID it and what does she do, she goes straight to Chinatown to like support the other side"."

"And it was not you know, this was explicit, like oh Chinese people are responsible, it was an attack on Pelosi. But you know the underlying argument was like Chinatown is somewhat responsible for this, or like Chinatown carries the disease because of their association with China. So, while it wasn't like explicitly racist it was encouraging this rhetoric where we see a certain area or certain people were seen as being responsible [for COVID], which I thought was interesting."

"And you know, like afterwards they're like "oh no we're not saying like Chinese Americans are responsible, we're just saying like it came from Wuhan, it came from Chinese people, so like we want to be extra careful."

(Asian-American Social Justice Group #2)

Concluding Remarks