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# Narratives of solidarity, outrage and hatred towards LGBTQI+ people in the digital society

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# Solidarity and Outrage on social media

The most powerful form of online support is Online civic intervention (OCI): They comprise actions taken by ordinary cyber-users to fight disruptive and hate online behaviour (Porten-Cheé et al., 2021).

## Types:

Low-threshold OCI: through media platform tools (e.g., social buttons flagging). [Crawford & Gillespie, 2016: “flags”]

High-threshold OCI: the verbal and discursive form of user involvement commonly referred to as counterspeech or counternarrative.

Porten-Cheé et al. (2021) Do “Good Citizens” fight hate speech online? Effects of solidarity citizenship norms on user responses to hate comments, *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*, 18:3, 258-273, DOI: 10.1080/19331681.2020.1871149

Crawford, K., & Gillespie, T. (2016). What is a flag for? Social media reporting tools and the vocabulary of complaint. *New Media & Society*, 18(3), 410–428. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444814543163>



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# Solidarity and Outrage on social media

Sometimes the protest or outrage is organised through [hashtags](#) that project the voices of oppressed groups and help to develop political movements and social demands (Rebollo, 2021).

For example, the very well-know [#BlackLivesMatter](#).

Rebollo Díaz, C. (2021). *Tuiteando sobre refugiados : una comparación internacional de discursos, imaginarios y representaciones sociales*. [Tesis de doctorado, Universidad de Huelva].



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# Hate Speech Online & Conspiracy Theories

**Hate speech:** refers to the incitement and encouragement of hatred, discrimination or hostility towards an individual motivated by prejudice against that person **because of a particular characteristic, for example, their sexual orientation or gender identity.** (European Union Agency For Fundamental Rights (FRA), 2009)

Conspiracy theories are: "The belief that certain events or situations are **secretly manipulated behind the scenes** by powerful forces with **negative intent**".

They **scapegoat people and groups.**" (European Commission, 2022).



**LGBTBIQ+**

European Union Agency For Fundamental Rights (FRA) (2009): "Hate Speech and Hate Crimes against LGBT Persons". [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/1226-Factsheet-homophobia-hate-speech-crime\\_EN.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/1226-Factsheet-homophobia-hate-speech-crime_EN.pdf)  
European Commission (2022). Identifying conspiracy theories 10 infographics to counter conspiracy theories. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/fighting-disinformation/identifying-consp>



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## Hate Speech Online & Conspiracy Theories

- Criminalizes or suggests criminal conduct of LGTBQ+ people targeted to children [paedophilia]
- The association of sexual orientation with negative aspects, such as vices, child abuse, and others.
- People and institutions accused of grooming, developing hate and fear: conspiracy theory of grooming.
- Conspiracy theory on the threats that diversity or "gender ideology" pose to children and family classic model.
- Conspiracy theory on the threats that "trans" [ LGTBQ+ people] pose to children through "mutilation", "hormones", etc.



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## Objectives

- **To explore** different [viral, highly spread] **case studies** where **LGBTIQ+** people receive support or rejection in social media
- **To compare case studies** focusing on debates around them.
- **To identify main discourses, networks and communities**, looking for patterns in communication at disseminating support or hate.



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# Methods, Techniques and Sources

## Computational & Mixed methods

- Quantitative:
  - Descriptive, Content Analysis, Social & Semantic Network Analysis
- Qualitative:
  - Critical Discourse Analysis & Visual – Sociosemiotics
  - Narratives and Discourse Analysis

## Sources

- Primary data main source: Twitter
- Secondary data used to frame the cases [especially news & legislation]





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# Software and Programming Languages for the collection and analysis of different cases

- **Collection of data**
  - Rtweet, academictwitterR
  - Api Twitter v1 & v2
- **Preprocessing and Quantitative, Qualitative and Network Analysis**
  - Combining different strategies especially with the support of R, Python, Atlas ti and Excel
  - Different packages and libraries, for specific tasks, e.g. quanteda - quanteda.textstats - quanteda.textplots - stopwords - openxlsx - data.table - readr - stringr - tidytext - tidyverse - dplyr - ggplot2 - others



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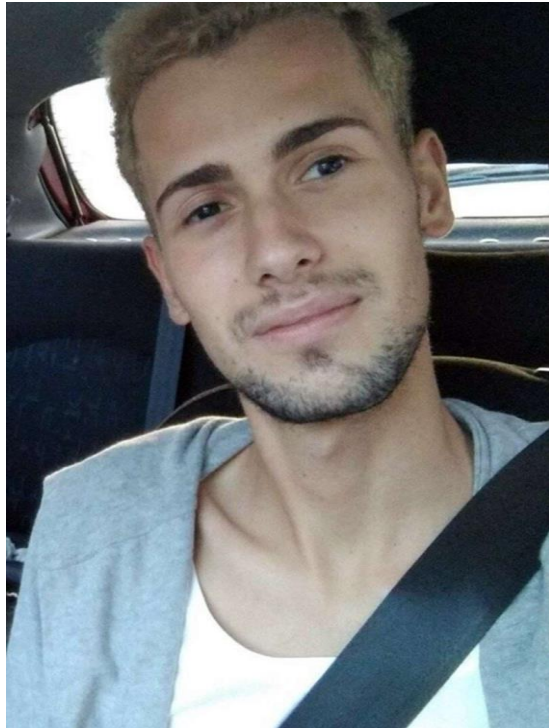
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# Support, solidarity and outrage: (I) #justiciaparaSamuel (July 2021)



He is not "dead", **my brother HAS BEEN KILLED**. A piece of life has been taken from me. Everything you know, the smallest detail, **please get in touch**  
[#justiceforsamuel](#)



Cabeza, L. (2021, July 7). Detenidas tres personas por la paliza al auxiliar de enfermería Samuel Luiz. *Columna Cero*. <https://columnacero.com/sociedad/61600/detenidas-tres-personas-por-la-paliza-a-samuel-luiz>



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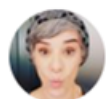


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## Support, solidarity and outrage: (II) #justiciaparaSamuel (July 2021)

May Samuel's murderers rot in jail! Each and every one of them. They must be found. A faggot is not the one who loves freely, a faggot is the one who murders someone with the "support" of 12 other people. Faggot and COWARD is what you are, murderers. [#justiciaparasamuel](#)

Spain 2021. Killed for being gay. [#justiciaparasamuel](#) "Hate speech precedes hate crimes".



Anabel Alonso Oficial @AnabelAlonso\_of

España 2021. Asesinado por ser gay. [#justiciaparasamuel](#) "Las palabras de odio preceden a los crímenes de odio".



La Rana Verde @LaRana\_Oficial\_

¡Qué los asesinos de Samuel se pudran en la cárcel! Todos y cada uno de ellos. ¡HAY QUE ENCONTRARLOS!

¡Maricón no es quién ama libremente, MARICÓN es aquel que asesina a alguien con el "apoyo" de 12 personas más!

Maricón y COBARDES es lo que sois ASESINOS [#justiciaparasamuel](#)



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# Semantic Network and Narratives through hashtags (III) #justiciaparaSamuel

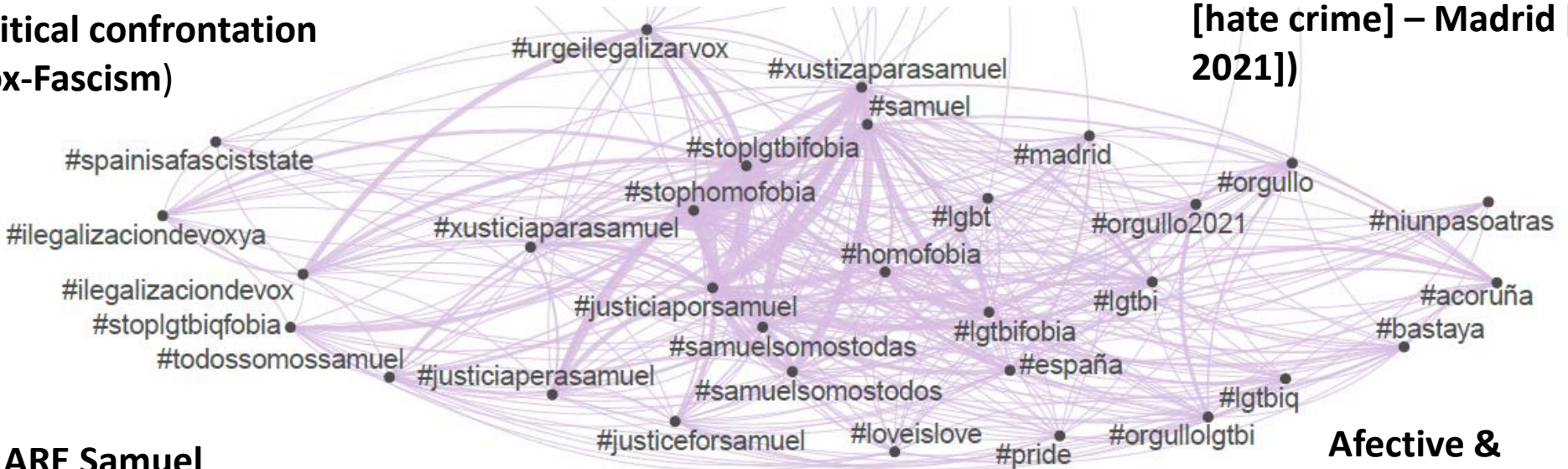
343.780 total & 30.081 organic tweets

Political confrontation (Vox-Fascism)

Stop LGBTIQ+ phobia

Justice

Geographic Identity (La Coruña [hate crime] – Madrid [orgullo 2021])



All of us ARE Samuel (Identities – Sense of belonging to a group or community)

Afective & Sexual Freedom Pride



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# #Gaysper: Contranarratives: Answering hate speech with humour (April, 2019)

**Strategy: Cultural reappropriation of the insult to counteract hate speech**  
(Zaera, Tortajada & Caballero, 2021)



<https://www.publico.es/tremending/2019/04/29/gaysper-el-fantasma-igtbi-creado-por-vox-que-se-ha-convertido-en-su-mayor-pesadilla/>

Zaera Bonfill, A., Tortajada Gimenez, I., & Caballero Galvez, A. A. (2021). The reappropriation of the insult as queer resistance in the digital universe: The gaysper case. *Investigaciones Feministas*, 12(1), 103-113. doi:10.5209/infe.69684



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## After knowing the Election Results

# #Gaysper & General Elections in Spain



Unas horas después...



10:32 p. m. · 28 abr. 2019

[Leer toda la conversación en Twitter](#)

40,8 mil Responder Compartir

[Leer 139 respuestas](#)

<https://twitter.com/davidpareja/status/1122599387371397120>

## Empowerment & Identity

Me encanta Gaysper y me encanta como el colectivo lgbt se adueña de los insultos y ataques hacia la comunidad, demostrando que somos fuertes y que no podrán con nosotros



1:00 p. m. · 29 abr. 2019

<https://twitter.com/Chemzih/status/1122817865843970049>



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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casper\\_the\\_Friendly\\_Ghost](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casper_the_Friendly_Ghost)

Become a new Gay icono, and new sign of identity and strength for the LGTBQ+ people

# From Casper, the friendly Ghost, to the new saga



[https://www.diariodesevilla.es/sociedad/gaysper-fantasma-LGTiB-Vox-Meme\\_0\\_1350165368.html](https://www.diariodesevilla.es/sociedad/gaysper-fantasma-LGTiB-Vox-Meme_0_1350165368.html)





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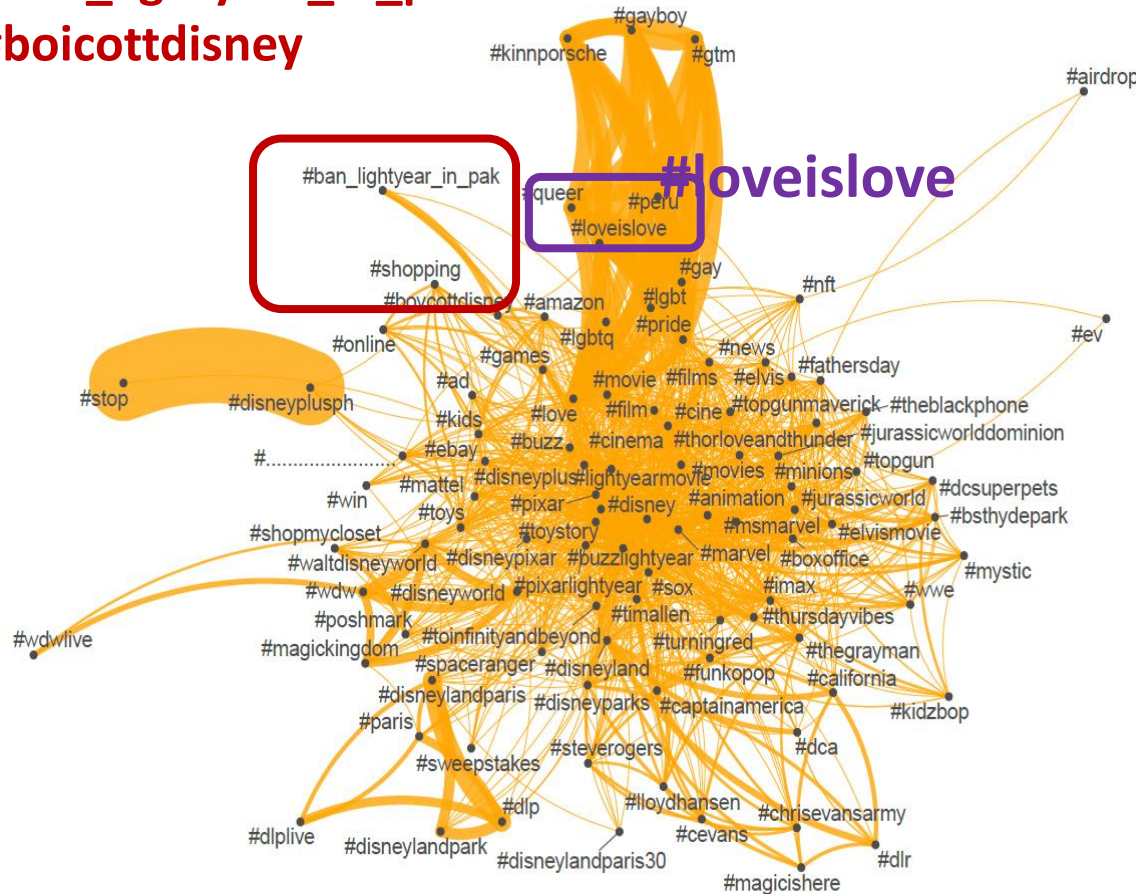
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# Lightyear & Lesbian Kiss (June, 2022)

**#ban\_lightyear\_in\_pak**  
**#boicottdisney**



Informador.MX (23 de junio de 2022). Lightyear: Escena LGBT+ de la película no es la única polémica de Disney | El Informador



Reneeliveshere  
@reneeliveshere

The new disney lightyear movie sexualizes toys to children and is the textbook definition of grooming. **#boicottdisney**. Stop the moral decay of this country.

[Traducir Tweet](#)

10:00 p. m. · 17 jun. 2022





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# #Lightyear Examples

As Pakistan is Islamic Republic, & this movie is on foreign agenda of Anti-Islamic values, plus violating constitution of Pakistan (Pakistan Penal Code 1860: Article 292, 294, 377, Part II 37), this movie should be Banned ☹ in Pakistani Cinema @reportpemra #ban\_lightyear\_in\_pak

Can't afford my children watching gay movies ffs! This needs to be banned. #Lightyear #ban\_lightyear\_in\_pak

Do not take your impressionable children to this Satanic Agenda - #SatanicAgenda #Lightyear #boycottLightyear #boycottdisney #TheNewEra Lightyear' same-sex couple is part of an evolution at Pixar - The Washington Post <https://t.co/ZEH5gX6VM5>

This pedophile grooming agenda must cease - this is Disney not Queer as Folk!! I've seen the end of the tunnel - it is DARK - like LEGALIZE it - DARK boycott Satanic Agenda Disney! - #Lightyear #Boycottlightyear #boycottdisney #SatanicAgenda #TheNewEra <https://t.co/45zeS4VgyM>

#Disney Disaster: United Arab Emirates Bans Pixar's 'Lightyear' over Lesbian Kiss #boycottdisney <https://t.co/36TQq4t5iD> via @BreitbartNews



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## Discussion & Conclusions

Common patterns were found through different case studies in terms of communities of support and rejection of LGBTQ+ people: **love is love, pride...**

Online narratives maybe represent what can be found today in society.

- On the one hand, we found **solidarity and outrage** as a form of support of the LGTBQI+ community, the use of **humour and cultural appropriation** as a counter-narrative to hate speeches,
- On the other hand, **emotional discourses of rejection** associated with danger or risks for minors (grooming, lobby LGBTQI+, gender ideology, etc.) not only of individuals but also of **institutions and companies** that defend advances in equality and Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda.