

Reverse Engineering Chinese Government Information Controls¹

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Harvard College Summer Program for Undergraduates in Data Science, 6/11/2024

¹Based on joint work with Jennifer Pan (Stanford) and Margaret Roberts (UCSD)

²GaryKing.org

Research Products (details at GaryKing.org)

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- Scholarly Articles: on China

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- Scholarly Articles: Automated Text Analysis Methods
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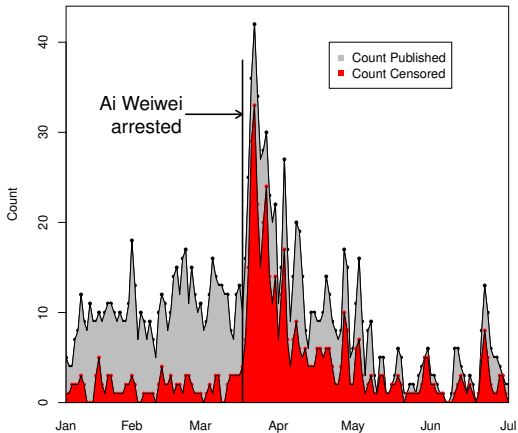
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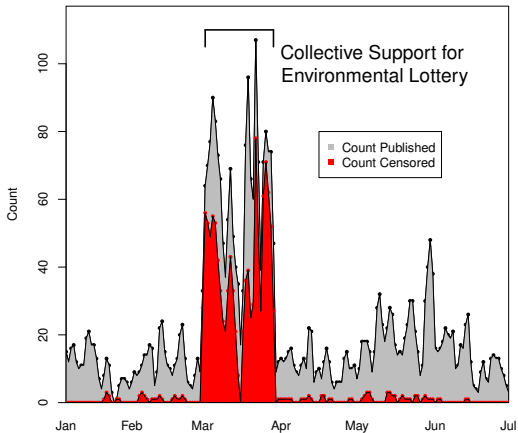
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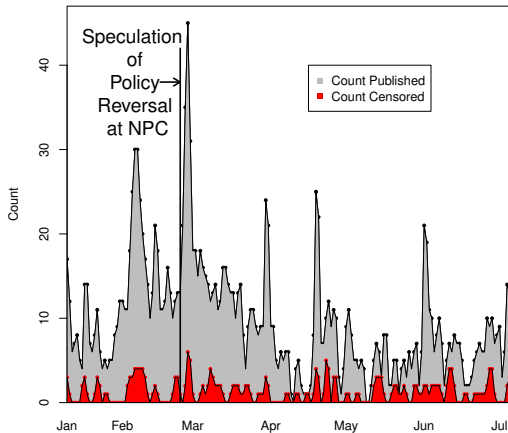
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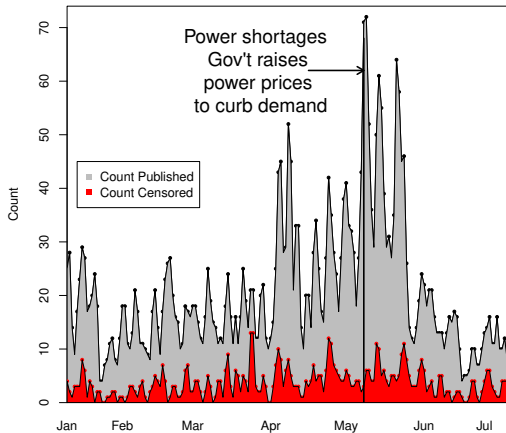
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It's antidisestablishmentarianism!

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- Does not argue; does not engage on controversial issues
- **Distracts**; redirects public attention from criticism and central issues to **cheerleading** and positive discussions of valence issues

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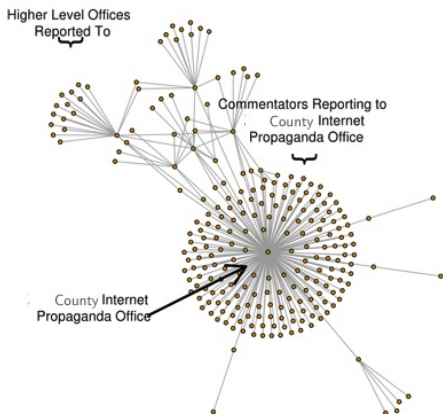
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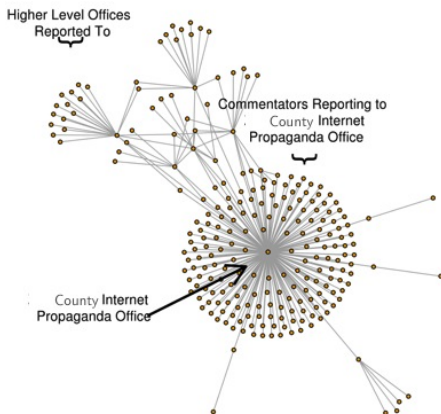
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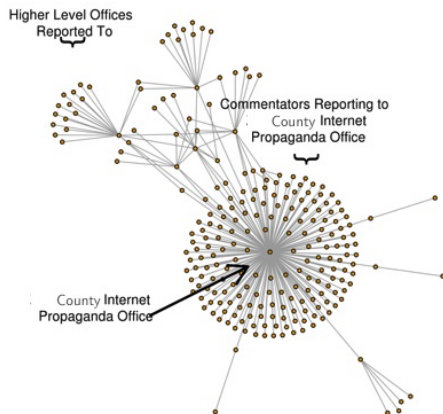


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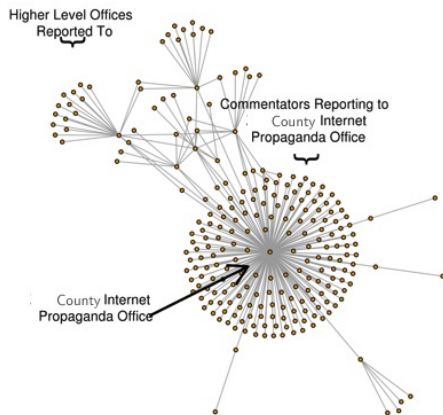
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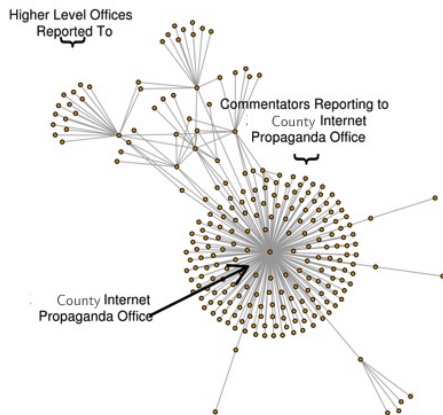
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 - **No evidence of 50c (or any piecemeal) payments;** probably part of their jobs

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 - Taunting of foreign countries (prevailing view)
 - Argumentative praise or criticism
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 - Factual reporting (our evidence)
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- Separate analyses — from Zhanggong to China:
 - 1 Leaked Zhanggong 50c posts: 43,797 posts
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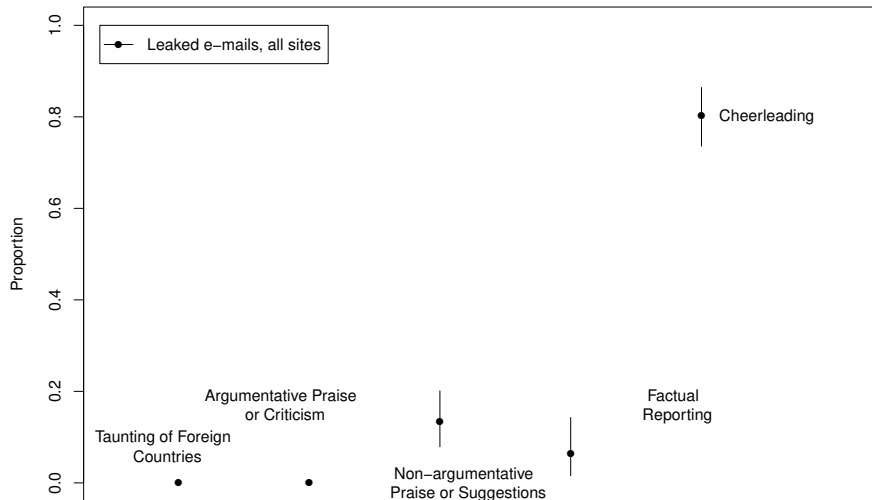
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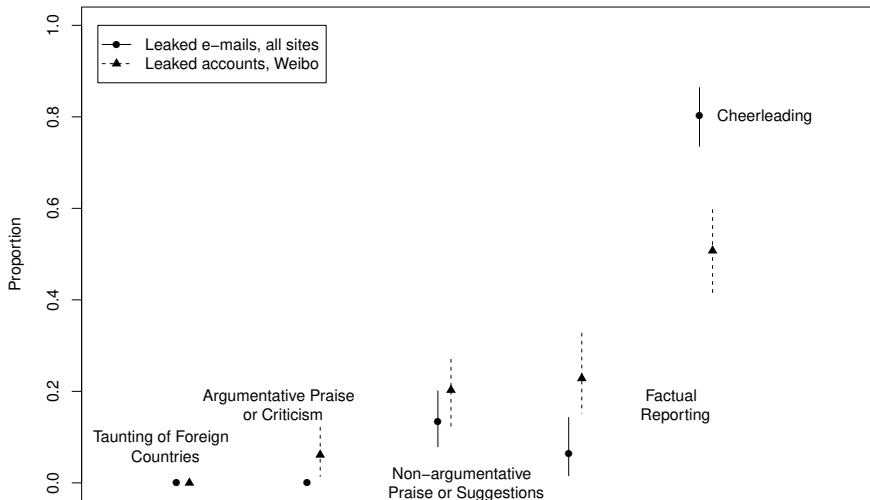
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Content of Leaked and Predicted 50c Party Posts

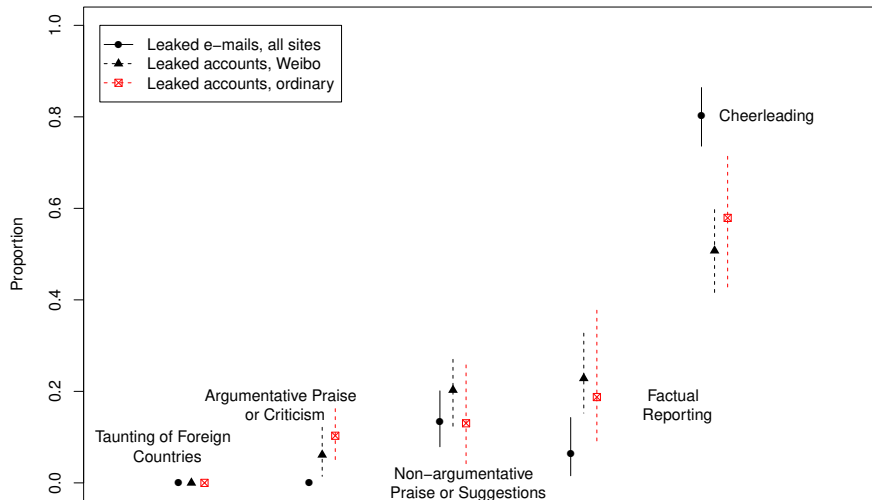
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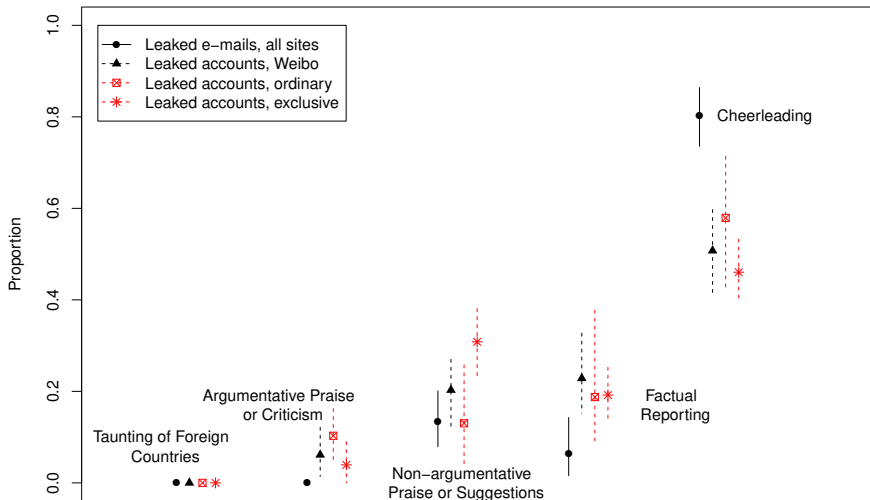
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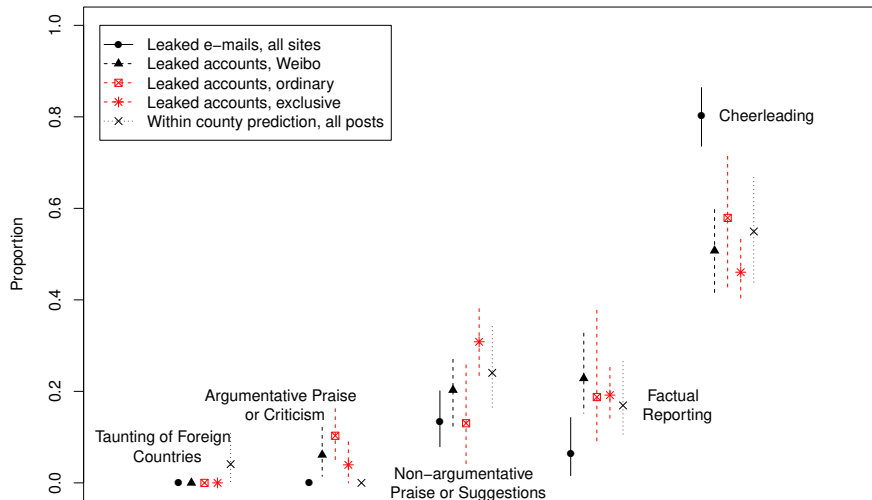
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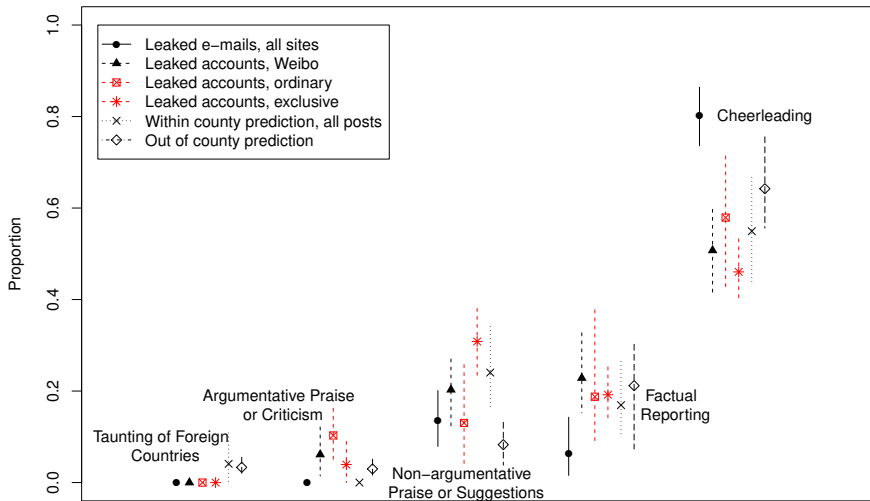
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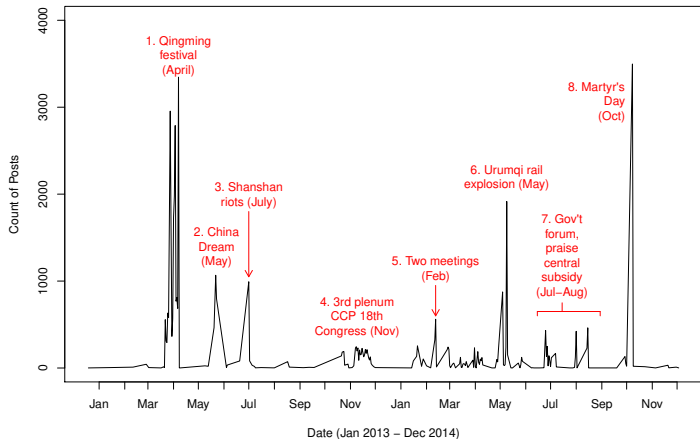
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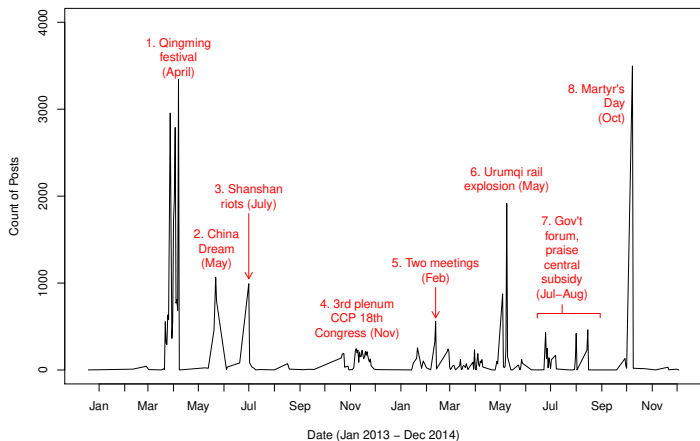
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 - 47% on commercial sites (1 of every 178 posts)

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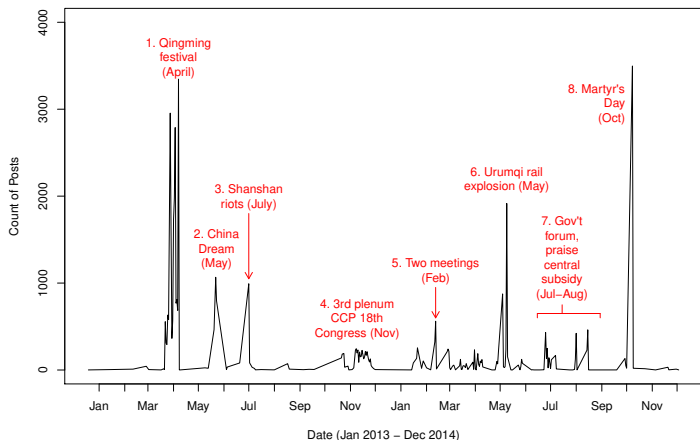


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Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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50c Status

Origin

Percent Yes

Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
Predicted 50c	Across China	

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50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
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Known "Not" 50c	Random sample	

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50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
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not significantly different



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- ≈ posing a survey question to the government, “Do you agree with our results?” And the government, effectively said: “yes”
- Why would they do this?
 - Editorial: “Chinese society is generally in agreement regarding the necessity of ‘public opinion guidance’ ” — a testable hypothesis!
 - Supportive comments on the nationalist website: 82%
 - Supportive posts on (more representative) Weibo: 30%
 - Results indicate: figures are accurate, the regime has a problem

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For more information



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