

Analyzing Social Media in China¹

Gary King²

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Harvard University

Peking University, 7/26/2017

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

²GaryKing.org

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Academic Papers

- Empirical Results:

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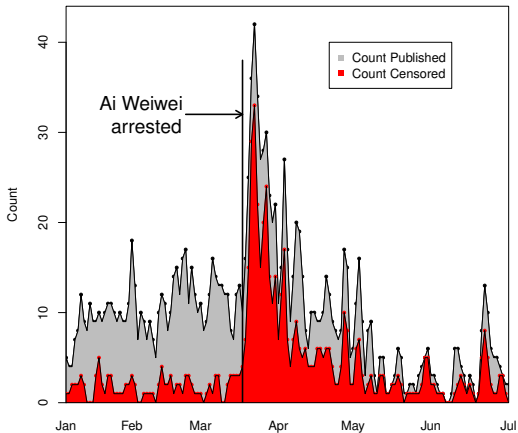
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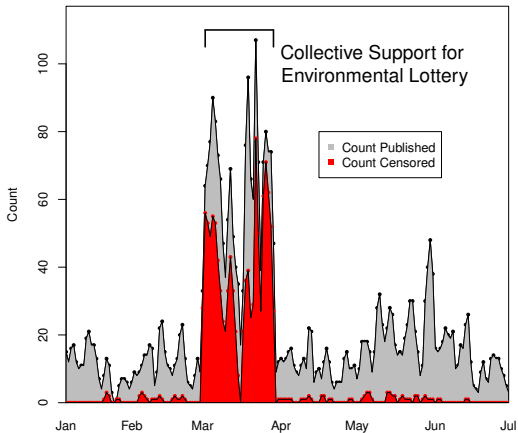
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 - Dissidents to be arrested; peace treaties to sign; emerging scandals
 - Disagreements between central and local leaders

Censorship Reveals Government Goals

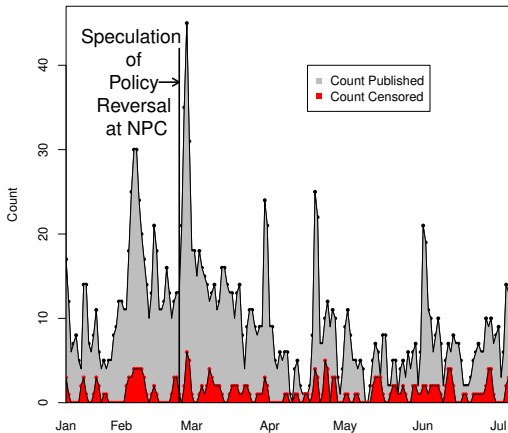
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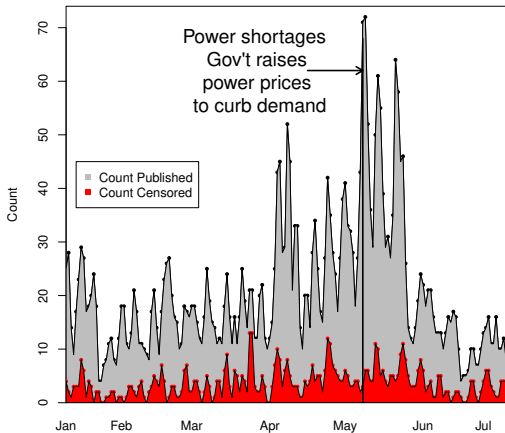
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Censorship Reveals Government Goals



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It's antisestablishmentarianism!

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Evidence? A few anecdotes; “no ground truth”; “no successful attempts to quantify” 50c party activity; even several analyses with made up dependent variables!

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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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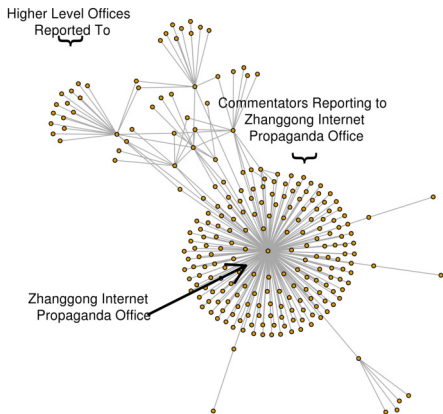
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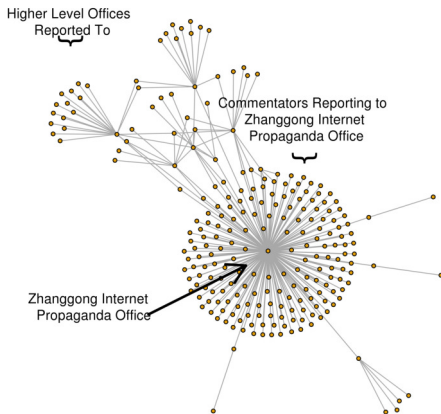
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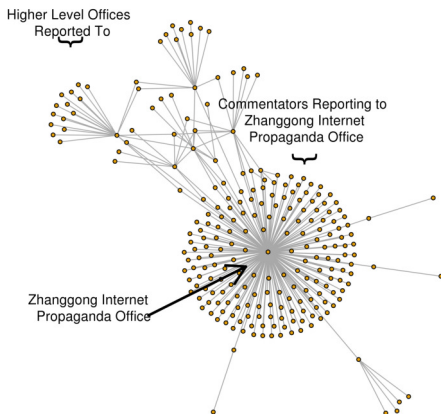


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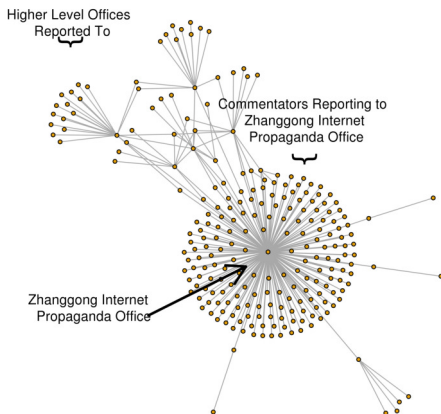
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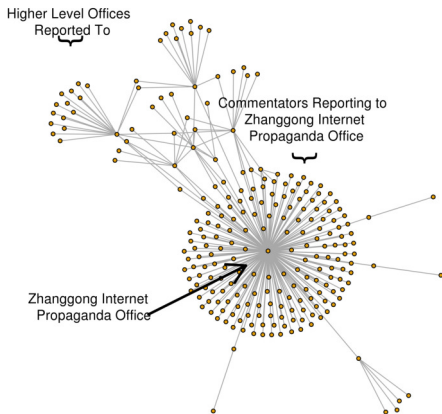
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 - **No evidence of 50c (or any piecemeal) payments;** probably part of their jobs

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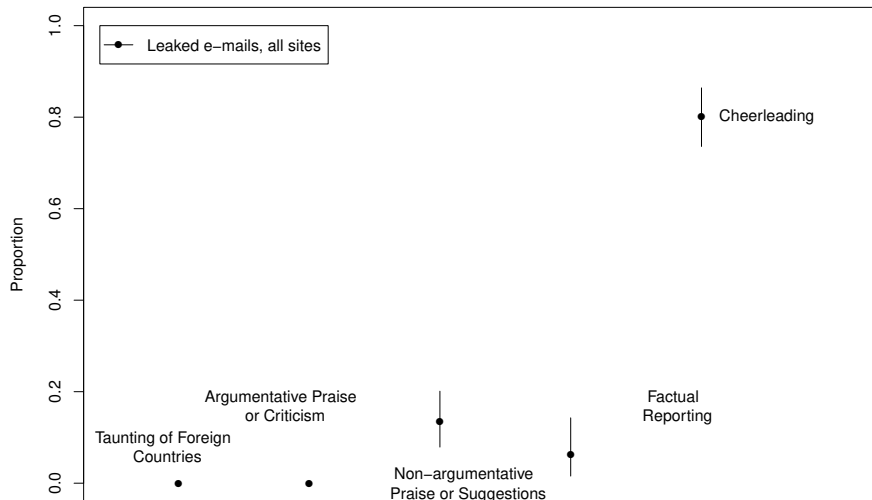
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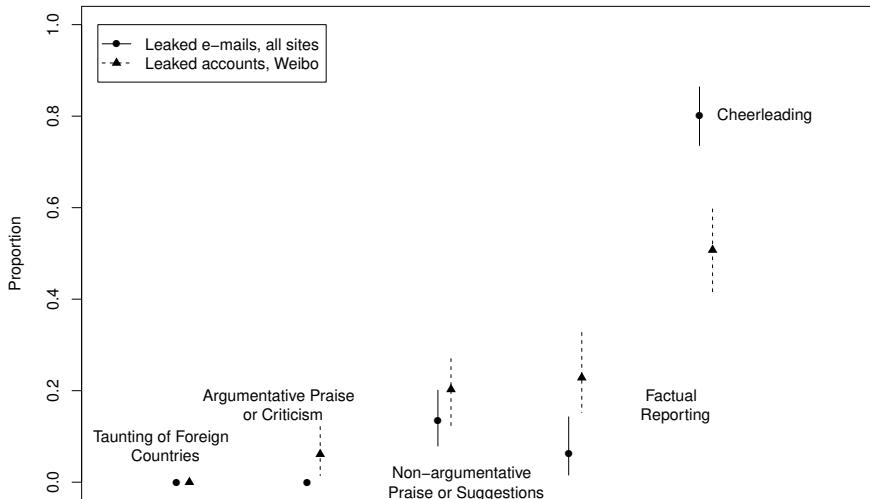
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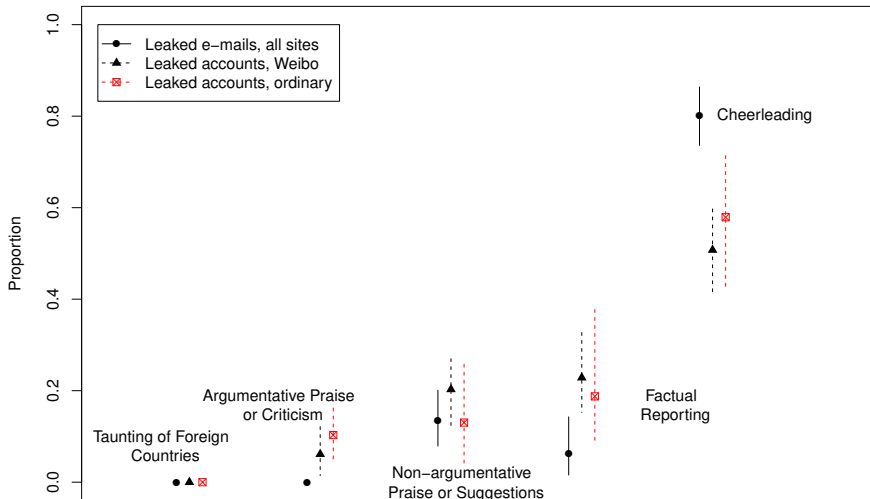
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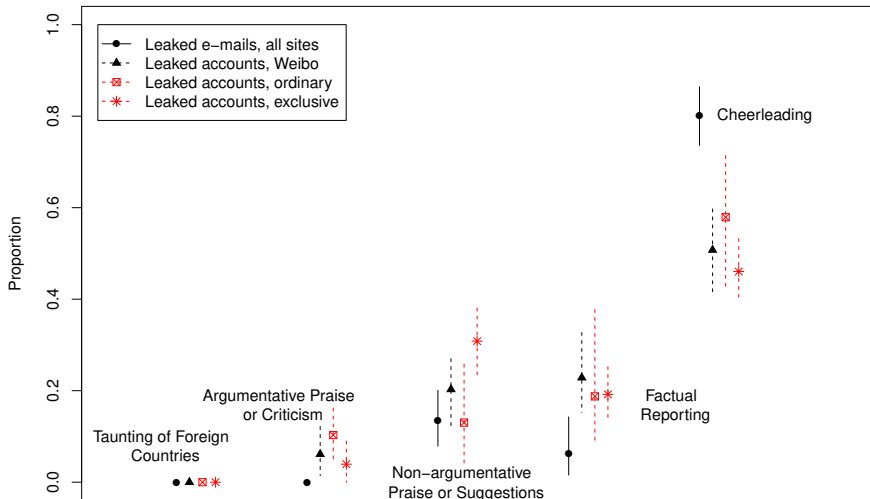
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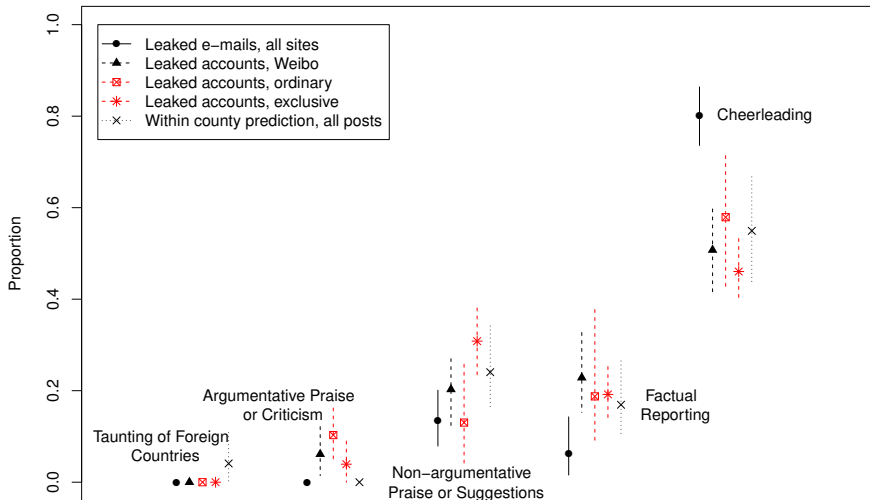
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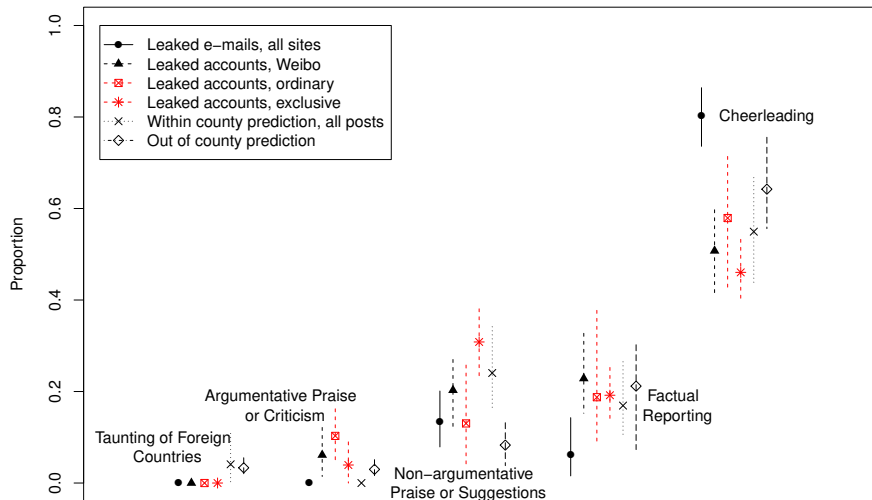
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Size of the 50c Party (in 2013)

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- Number of 50c Posts in China: 448 M

Size of the 50c Party (in 2013)

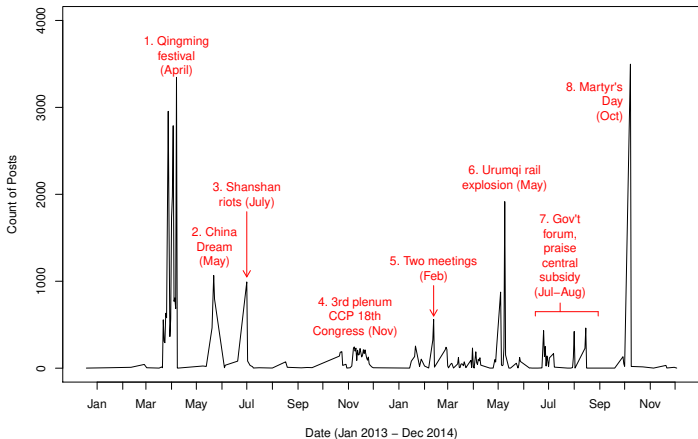
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 - 53% on government sites (a noticeable proportion of all)

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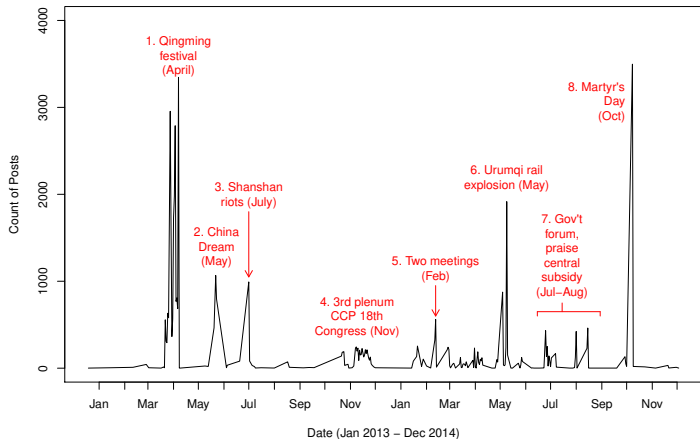
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 - 53% on government sites (a noticeable proportion of all)
 - 47% on commercial sites (1 of every 178 posts)

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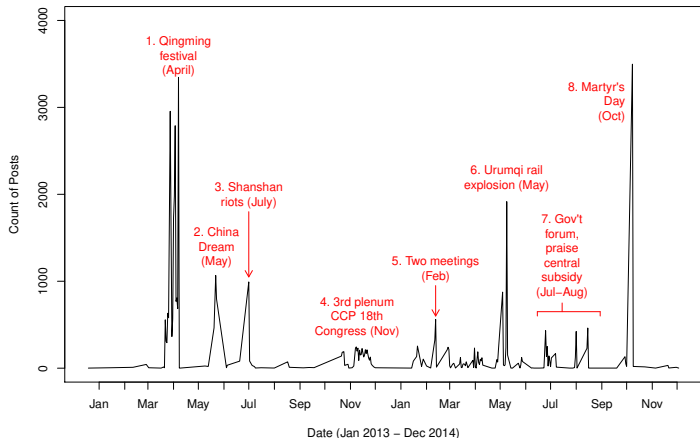


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- Coordinated bursts, many for events with collective action potential
- A clear measure of government intent.

How Can We Validate 50c Party Membership Predictions?

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 - Ask same question of random sample of *known* 50c (from Zhanggong)

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 - Ask same question of random sample of *known* 50c (from Zhanggong)
 - Ask same question of accounts *known not to be* 50c

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	

Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
Predicted 50c	Across China	59%

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Known 50c	Leaked Zhanggong Archive	

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Known 50c	Leaked Zhanggong Archive	57%

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Known "Not" 50c	Random sample	

Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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not significantly different



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 - Supportive comments on the nationalist website: 82%

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 - Supportive comments on the nationalist website: 82%
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 - Grievances (allowed)

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 - Arguments never end arguments; but distraction does

For more information



GaryKing.org



JenPan.com



MargaretRoberts.net