

BIG DATA REVEALS MADE UP DATA: (How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument)¹

Gary King²

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University of Texas at Austin, 9/7/2017

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

²GaryKing.org

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Papers

- Empirical Results:

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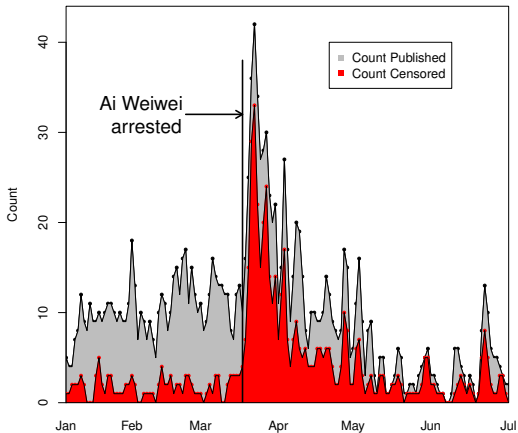
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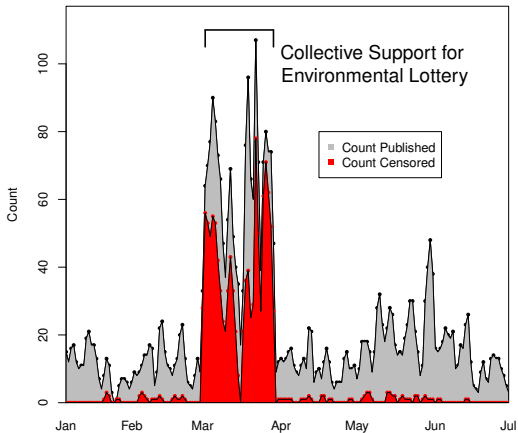
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 - Disagreements between central and local leaders

Censorship Reveals Government Goals

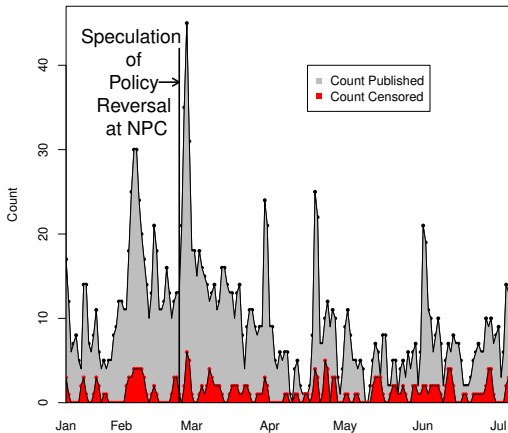
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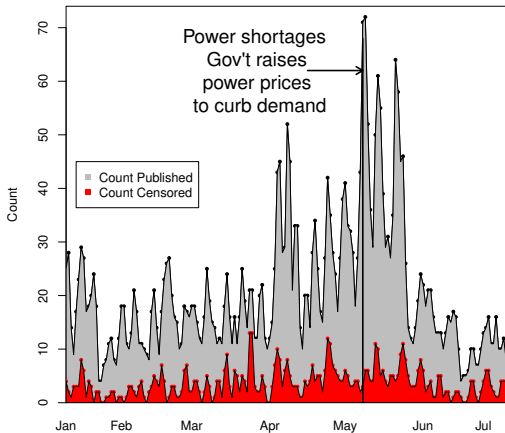
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It's antisestablishmentarianism!

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Evidence?

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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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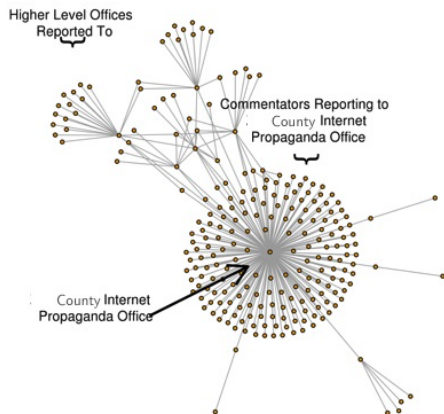
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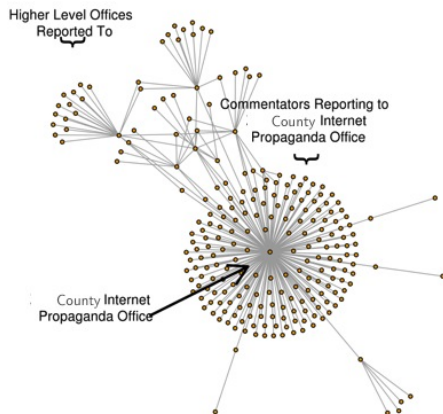
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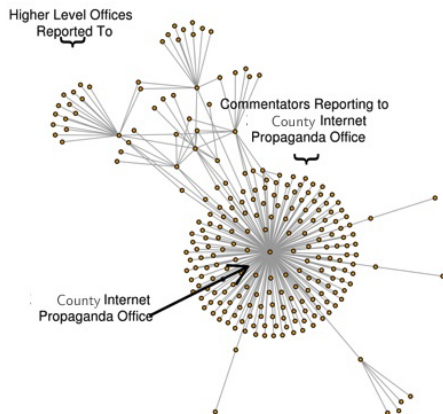


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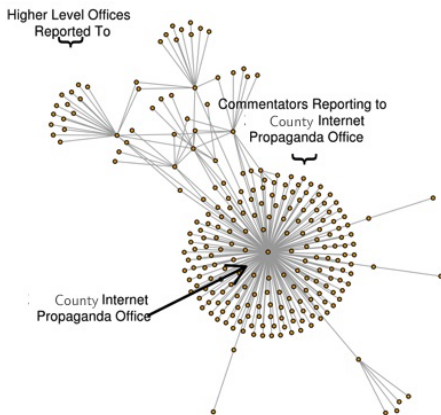
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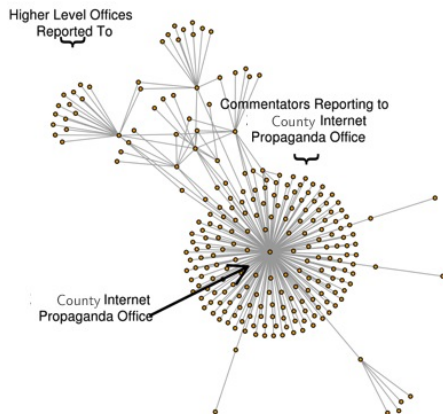
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 - **No evidence of 50c (or any piecemeal) payments;** probably part of their jobs

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Categories and Analyses of 50c Party Posts

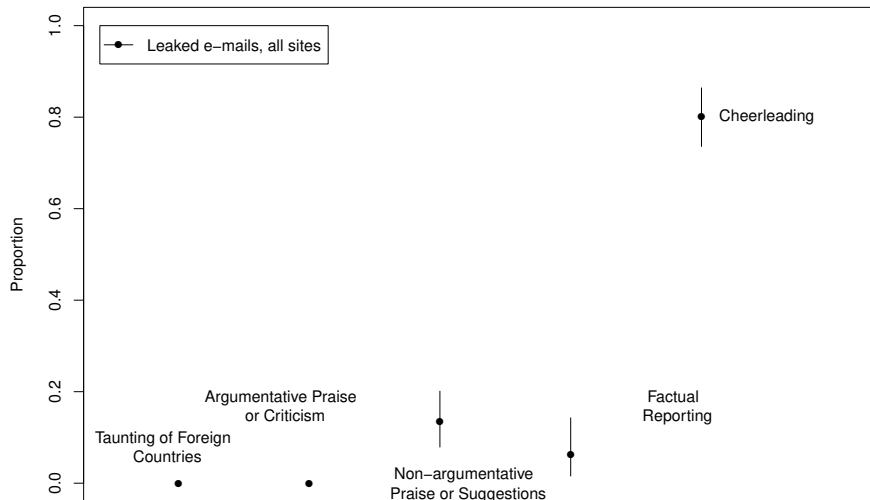
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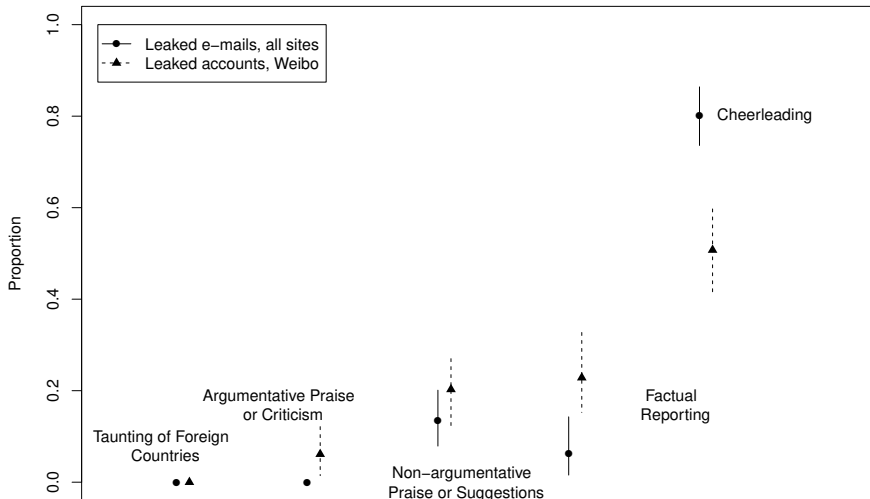
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Content of Leaked and Predicted 50c Party Posts

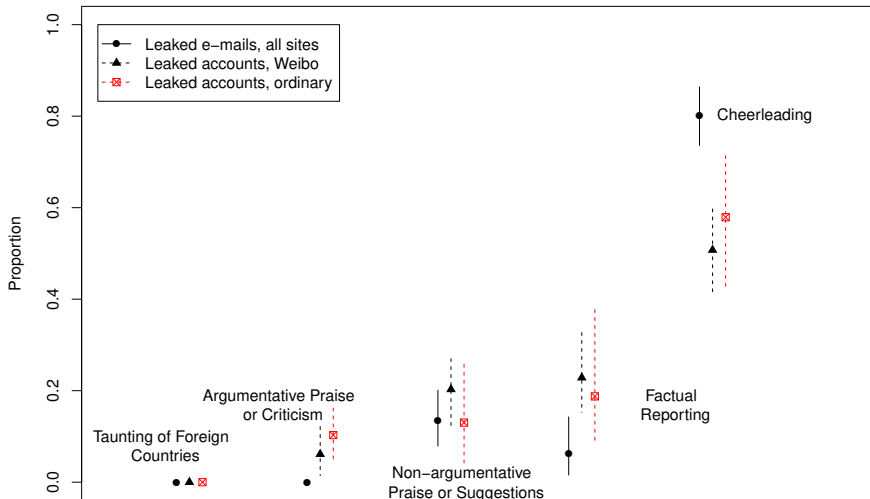
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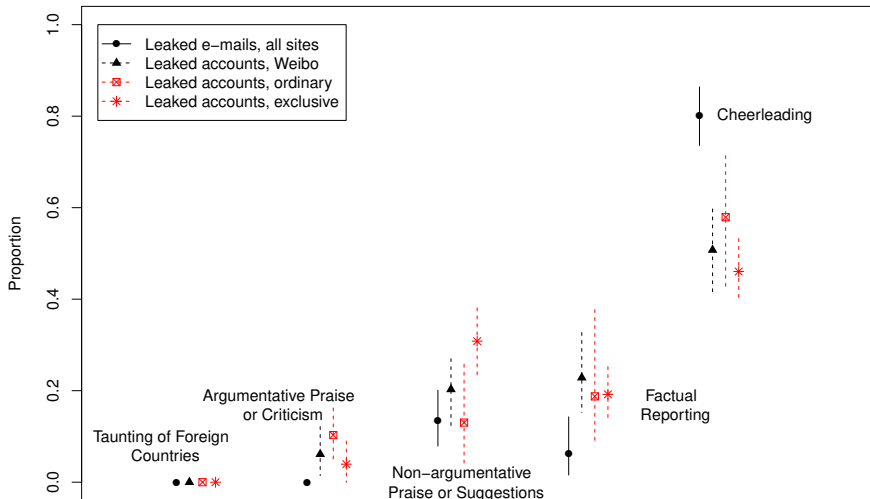
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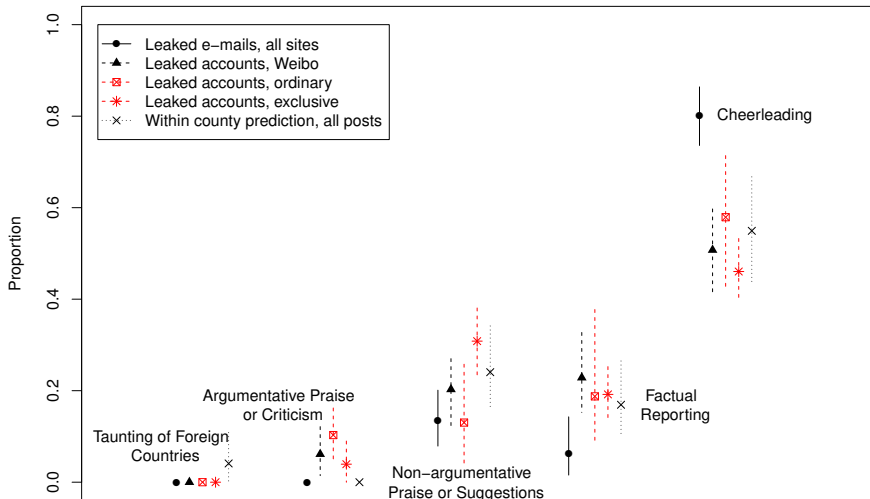
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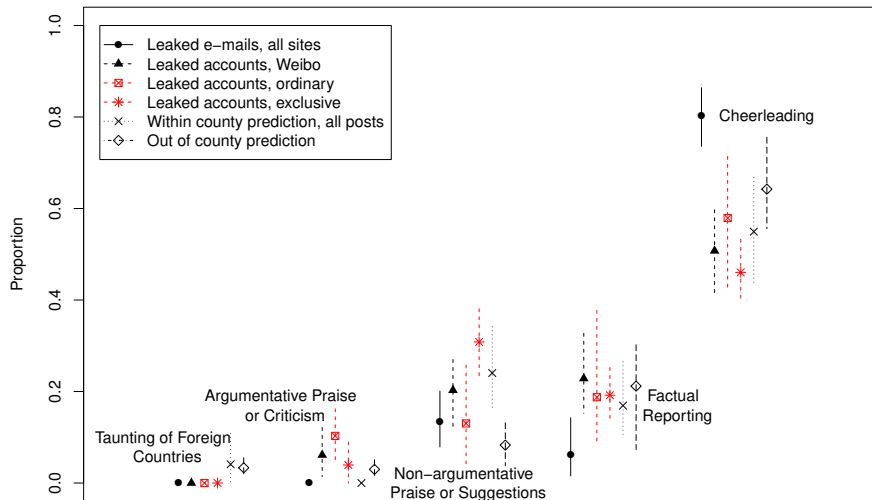
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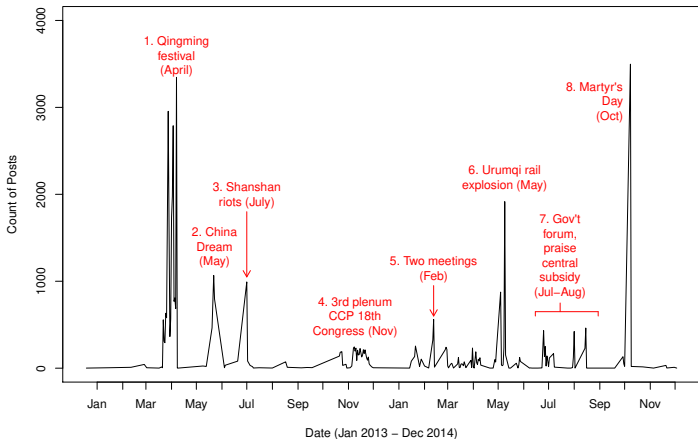
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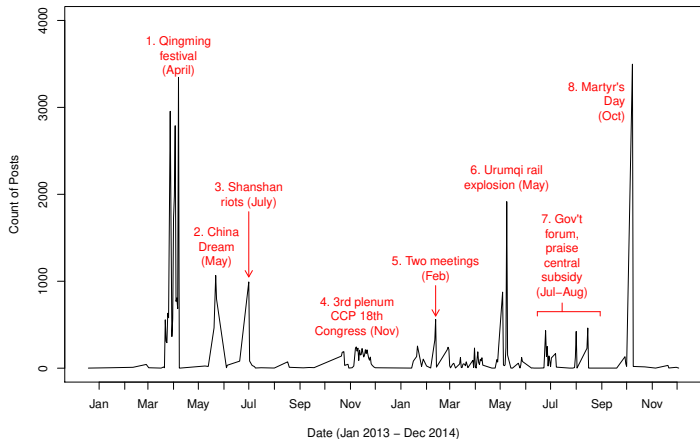
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 - 53% on government sites (a noticeable proportion of all)
 - 47% on commercial sites (1 of every 178 posts)

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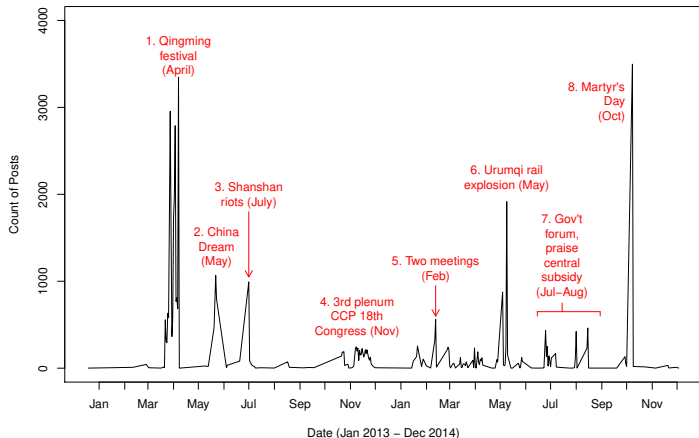


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Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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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
Predicted 50c	Across China	59%

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

Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
Predicted 50c	Across China	59%
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Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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not significantly different



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- For China:
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 - Stop collective action:

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For more information



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