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# Echo Chambers and Political Polarization on Social Media

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**Echo Chambers and Political Polarization on Social Media**

Sathvik Palakurty

Bastos, M. T., Mercea, D., & Baronchelli, A. (2017). The Spatial Dimension of Online Echo Chambers. Retrieved from <http://arxiv.org/abs/1709.05233>

This paper studied the role of online interactions and geography. It is interesting that they connected the cyber-universe to the physical universe as many of these systems are actually blended in two mediums making cyber-physical systems. I could possibly use Brexit as a model system to answer the questions that I am answering however if I want to liken this to a past time of political polarization in the United States, the argument would be must stronger to use an American model system. I will investigate methods further.

Boudiny, K. (2013). "Active ageing": from empty rhetoric to effective policy tool. *Ageing and Society*, 33(6), 1077–1098. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X1200030X>

This piece defines the concept of "active aging" by surveying papers with this search term. It reduces the term "active aging" to "fostering adaptability, supporting the maintenance of emotionally close relationships and removing structural barriers related to age or dependency." It also draws a distinction between "active aging" and other aging terminology like "healthy ageing."

CLARKE, A., & WARREN, L. (2007). Hopes, fears and expectations about the future: what do older people's stories tell us about active ageing? *Ageing and Society*, 27(4), 465–488. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X06005824>

The methods of research for this involved interviewing people that are aging and states that their priorities shift from an "activity-driven goals" to existence based goals. I need to check to see if this impact voting numbers which can speak to the impact and significance of studying aging populations. Biological changes impact decisions to do or not to do carious tasks; it seems reasonable to me that this should also impact opinion.

COLEMAN, P. G., IVANI-CHALIAN, C., & ROBINSON, M. (2004). Religious attitudes among British older people: stability and change in a 20-year longitudinal study. *Ageing and Society*, 24(2), 167–188. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X03001636>

This paper is work product that uses the Southampton Ageing Project as a data source. I was very surprised that older people got less religious as time went on. The work did not test if the variance in religiousness was explained by aging or other societal factors. I should consider considering various factors that may affect variation in opinion.

Estes, C. L. (2017). The Politics of Ageing in America. *Ageing and Society*, 6, 121–134.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X00005699>

This was an interesting take on the political landscape surrounding aging. While I am interested in how aged people's political views are extremes of the spectrum, this article argues that they are the minority and hence lack representation. It goes on to say that the politics of America has led to the commodification of this population. I disagree with this statement.

Huey, L. (2015). This is Not Your Mother's Terrorism: Social Media, Online Radicalization and the Practice of Political Jamming. *Journal of Terrorism Research*, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.15664/jtr.1159>

Very informal article that does not take a data approach to this problem but rather pulls out specific examples of tweets in the radical sphere. Apparently, there is a term called "jihadi-cool" which is a compliment used in radical spheres. This article queried the search term "cool" with other radical terms which was an interesting approach.

Johnson, N. F., Zheng, M., Vorobyeva, Y., Gabriel, A., Qi, H., Velasquez, N., ... Wuchty, S. (2016). New online ecology of adversarial aggregates: ISIS and beyond. *Science (New York, N.Y.)*, 352(6292), 1459–1463. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf0675>

Neil Johnson gave a talk on this topic as well. They argue that the aggregation of little terrorist/radical factions follows a power law. After these networks get to a certain size, they break apart due to the algorithms of the social network being able to detect the network. This gives me the idea of considering phase transitions in terrorist networks. Do they oscillate between an active state and a covert state.

Kriesi, H. (n.d.). The organizational structure of new social movements in a political context. In D. McAdam, J. D. McCarthy, & M. N. Zald (Eds.), *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements* (pp. 152–184). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511803987.009>

This work lays out a framework for me to compare my findings to one from a different movement. I am particularly interested in the parallels that this work draws between the feminist movement and the counterculture movement.

NAUMANN, E. (2017). Do increasing reform pressures change welfare state attitudes? An experimental study on population ageing, pension reform preferences, political knowledge and ideology. *Ageing and Society*, 37(2), 266–294. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X15001129>

Author provides evidence through surveys that as the society ages, the increasing burden on working population pressures people to relax their opinions on increasing retirement age. This article supports another article that I read about aged populations being a commodity. After informed about the problems of aging on economy, surveyees also stated that they should decrease pensions.

Pew Research Center. (2018). Demographics of Social Media Users and Adoption in the United States | Pew Research Center. Retrieved from <http://www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheet/social-media/>

This outlines the increase in social media usage in the past couple of years. I can use this Pew Survey in the introduction of my paper. I will probably use one of the figures in this to introduce social media and its increasing prevalence in American society.

PLATTS, L. G., CORNA, L. M., WORTS, D., MCDONOUGH, P., PRICE, D., & GLASER, K. (2017). Returns to work after retirement: a prospective study of unretirement in the United Kingdom. *Ageing and Society*, 1–26. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X17000885>

This work fits into the concept of active aging. It shows the disparity between low socioeconomic status aged populations and high socioeconomic status aged populations as the populations that return to work are already richer to begin with. This speaks to rising inequality due to cost of healthcare.

SELWYN, N., GORARD, S., FURLONG, J., & MADDEN, L. (2003). Older adults' use of information and communications technology in everyday life. *Ageing and Society*, 23(5), 561–582. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X03001302>

This work reaffirms rationale for thinking that aged populations have differing opinions that the median of the population. The rest of the population is consuming different media than aged populations as they tend to interface less with the modes of communication that are commonplace in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thompson Henley-Putnam, R. L., & Biography, A. (2011). Radicalization and the Use of Social Media. *Journal of Strategic Security Perspectives on Radicalization and Involvement in Terrorism*, 4(4). <https://doi.org/10.5038/1944-0472.4.4.8>

The author argues that social media is the perfect place for radical voices. The author analyzes the Arab Spring but not from a data perspective. I am unsure if that data exists and is freely available to the public. The author provides some suggestions on how to prevent radicalization but does not suggest any changes to social media algorithms to promote non-radicalization.

