Echo Chambers and Political Polarization on Social Media

Sathvik Palakurty

University of Miami, sathvik.palakurty@miami.edu

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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.


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.”


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.

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.


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 radial spheres. This article queried the search term “cool” with other radical terms which was an interesting approach.


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.


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.

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.


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.


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.


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 21st century.


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.