

Reverse Engineering Chinese Government Information Controls¹

Gary King²

Institute for Quantitative Social Science
Harvard University

Harvard Weatherhead Center Distinguished Faculty Lecture in Global Affairs, 10/3/2018

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

²GaryKing.org

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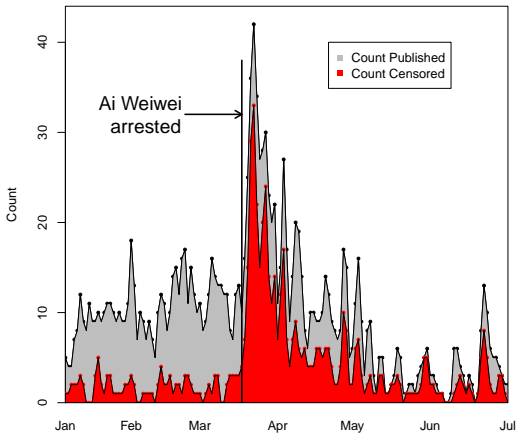
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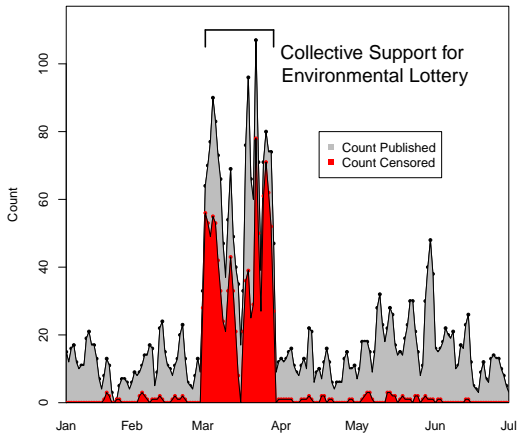
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 - Disagreements between central and local leaders

Censorship Reveals Government Goals

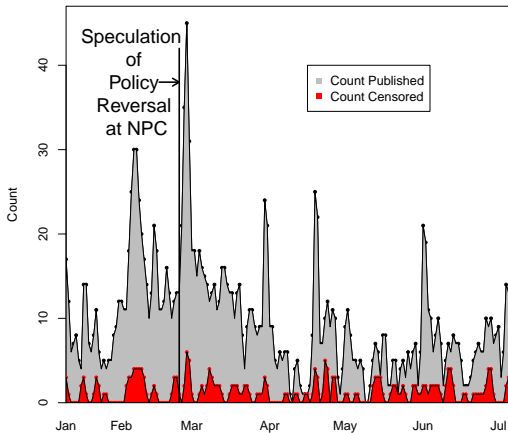
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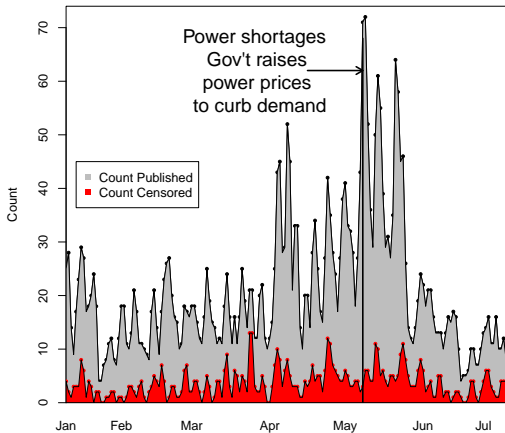
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Censorship Reveals Government Goals



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It's antidisestablishmentarianism!

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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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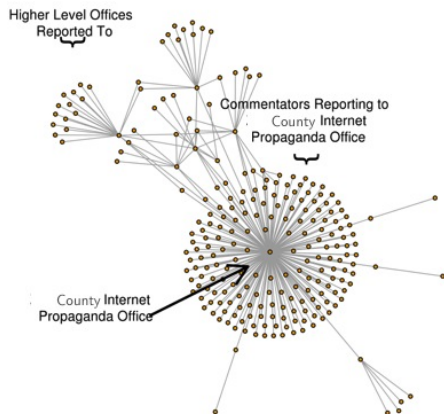
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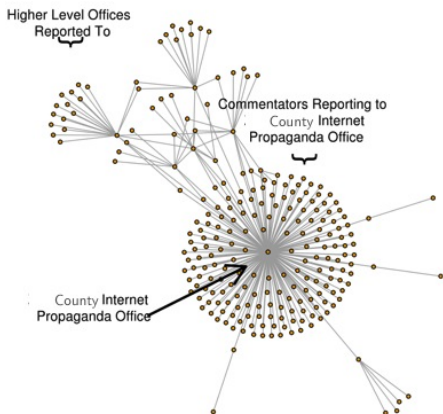
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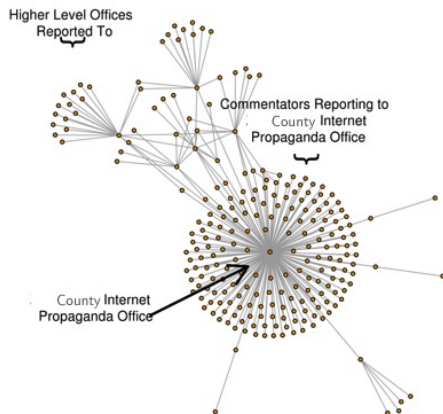


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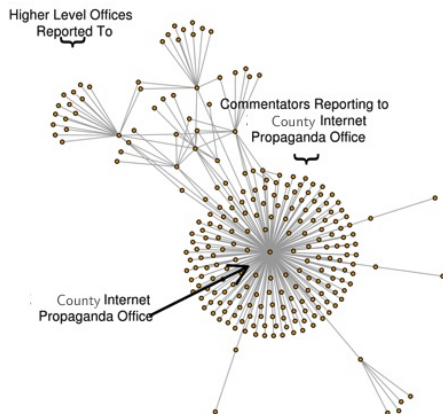
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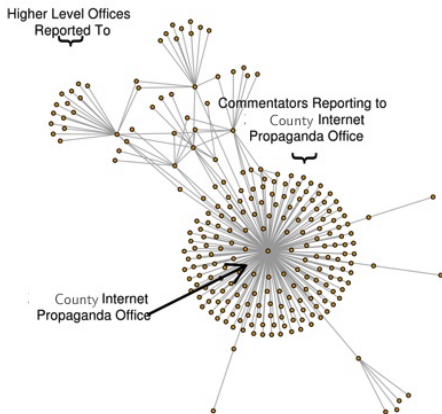
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 - **No evidence of 50c (or any piecemeal) payments;** probably part of their jobs

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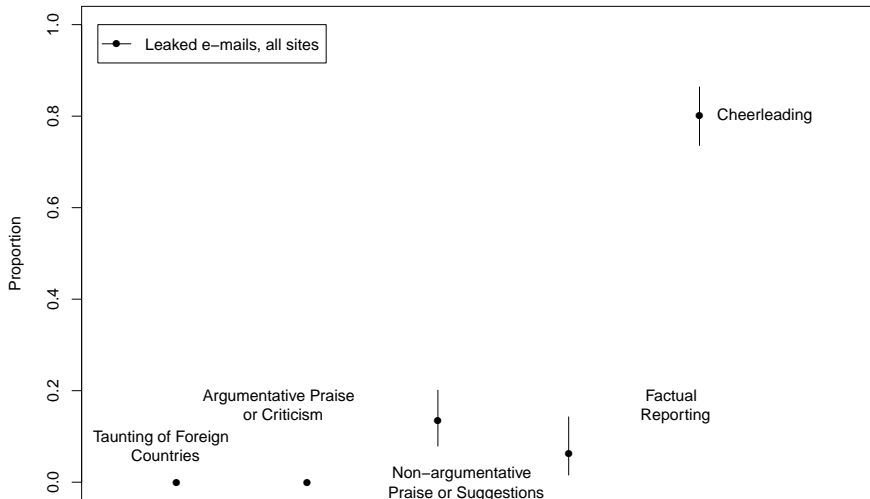
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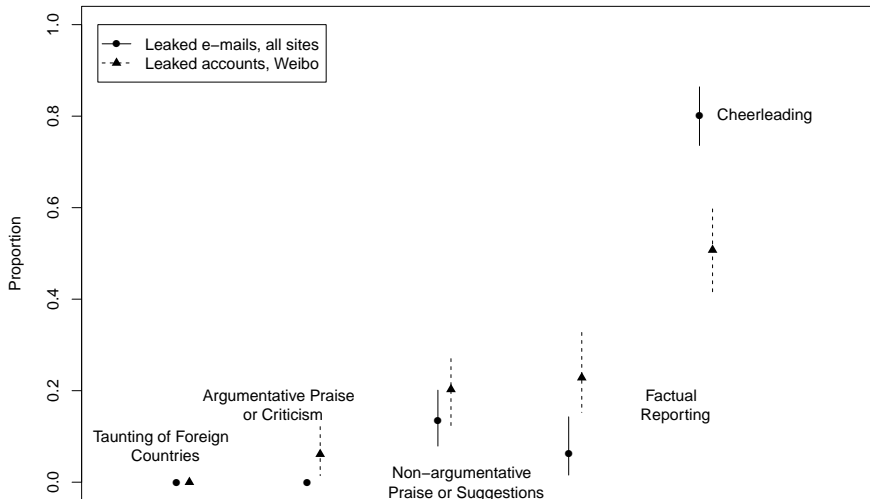
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Content of Leaked and Predicted 50c Party Posts

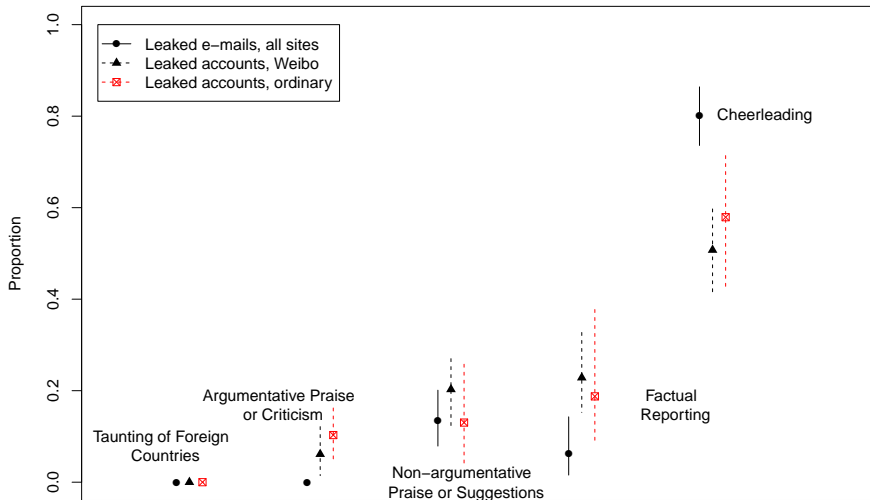
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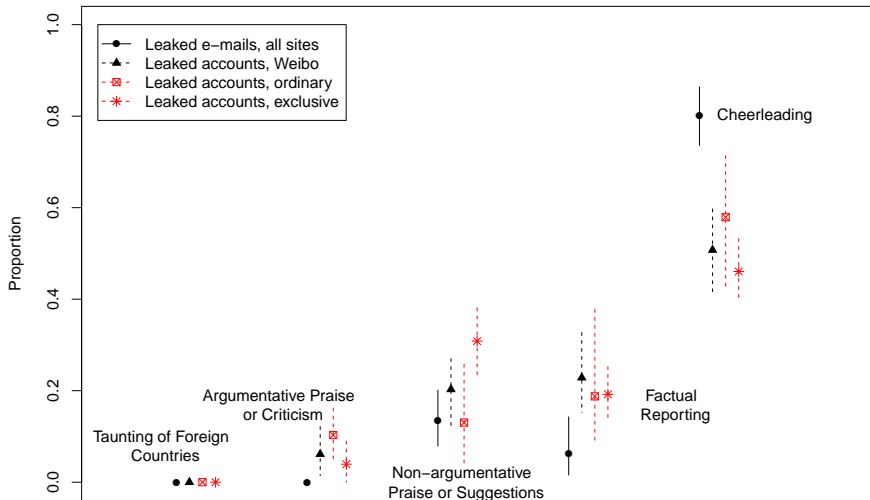
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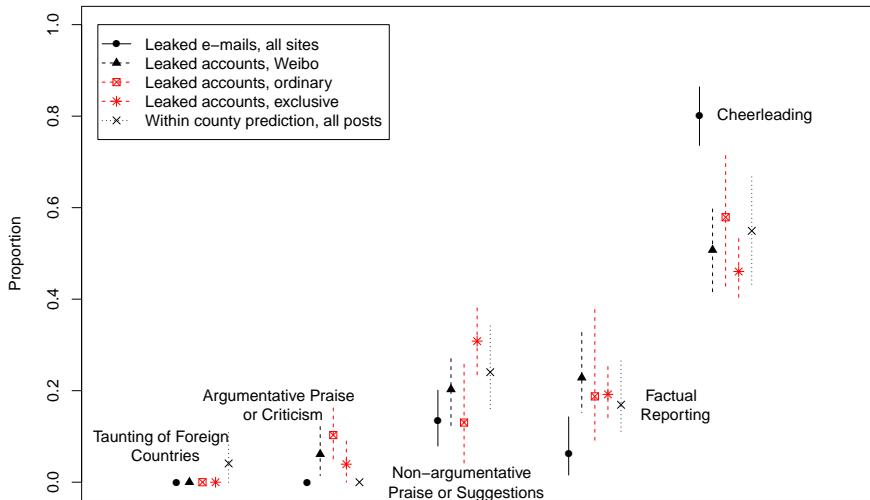
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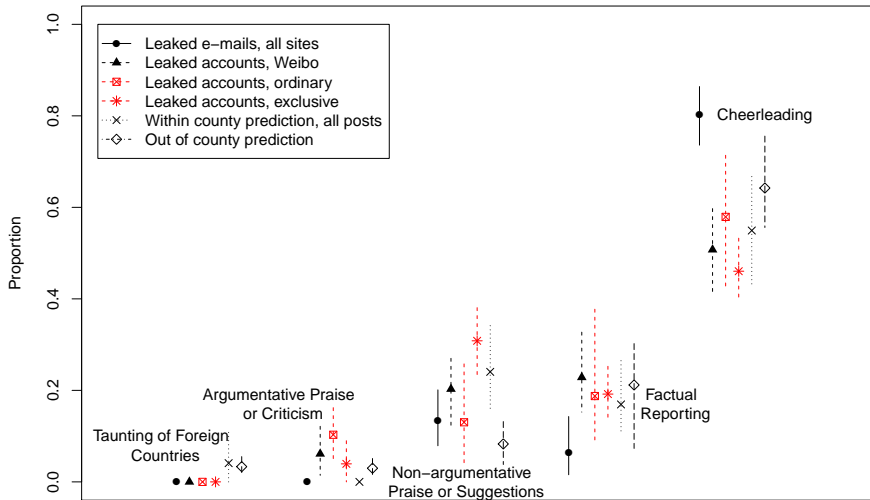
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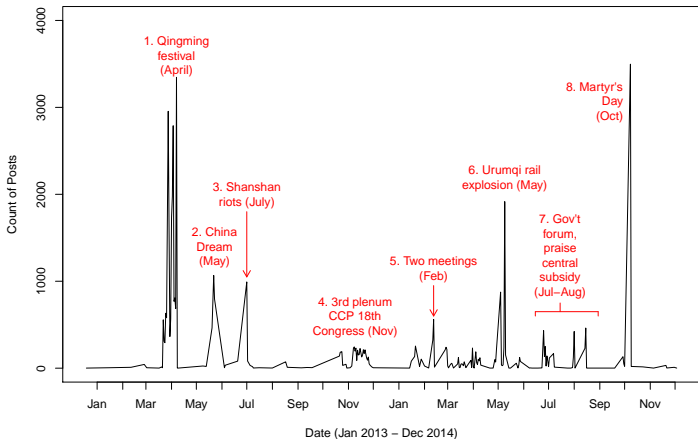
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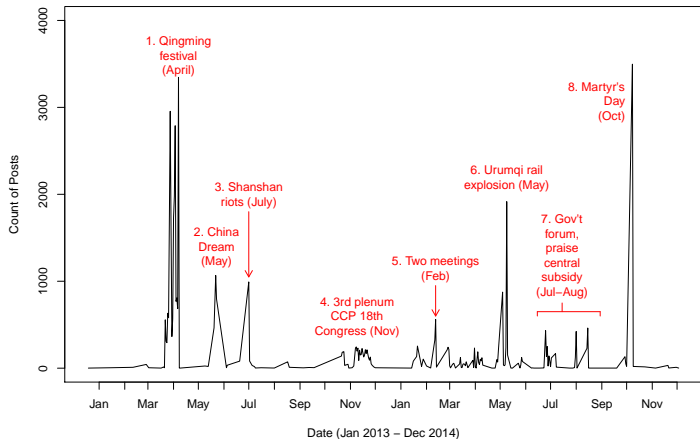
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 - 47% on commercial sites (1 of every 178 posts)

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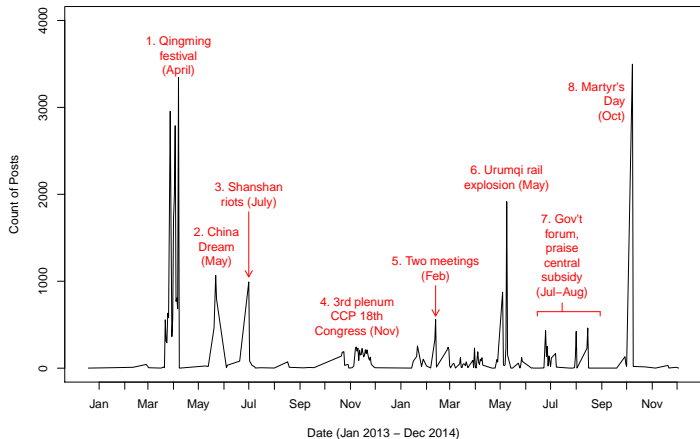


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Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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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	

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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50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
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Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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

50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
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not significantly different



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For more information



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