

How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument¹

Gary King²

Institute for Quantitative Social Science
Harvard University

Duke University, Machine Learning Seminar, 3/1/2017

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

²GaryKing.org

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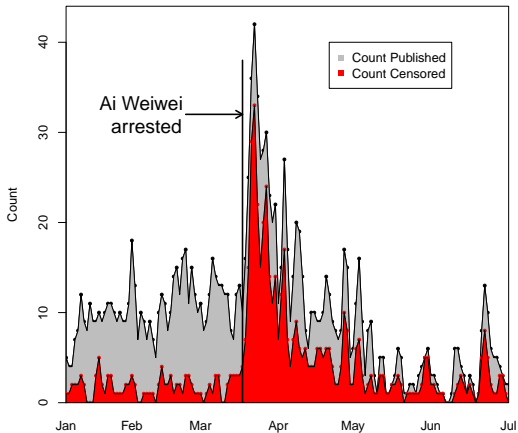
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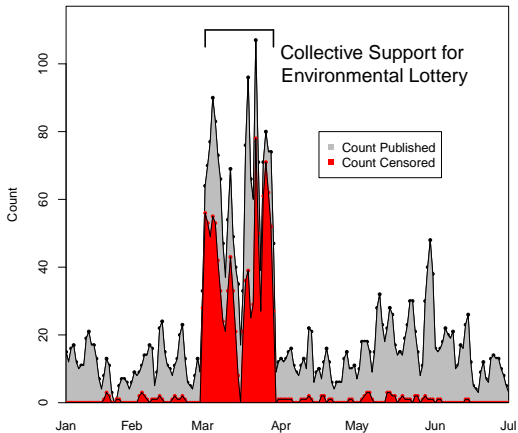
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Censorship Reveals Government Goals

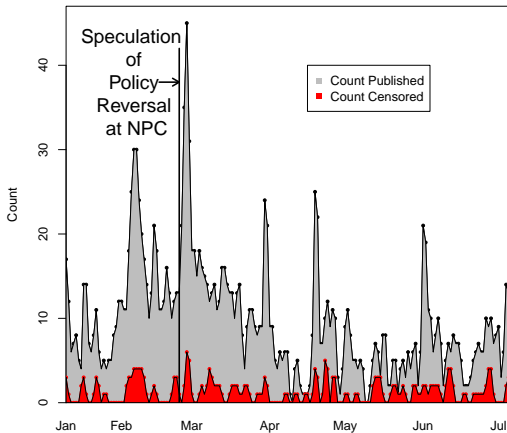
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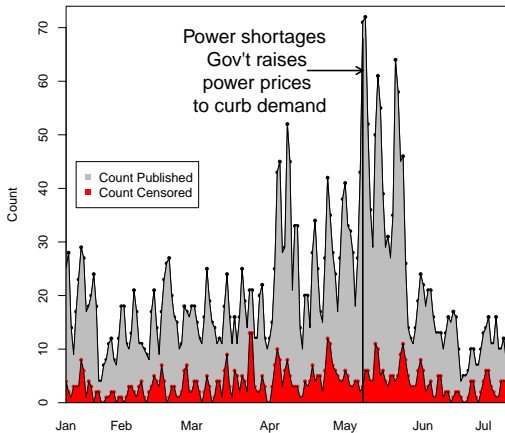
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Censorship Reveals Government Goals



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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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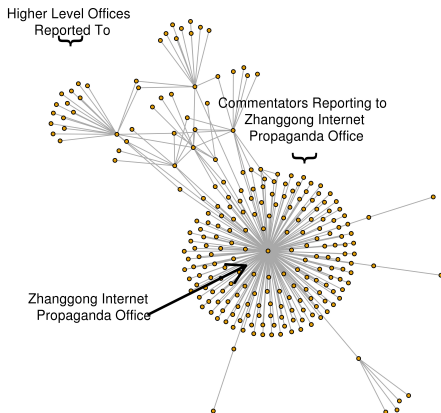
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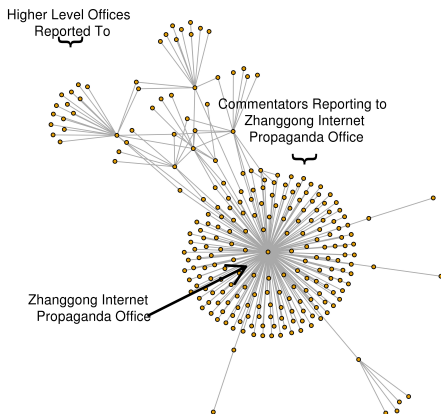
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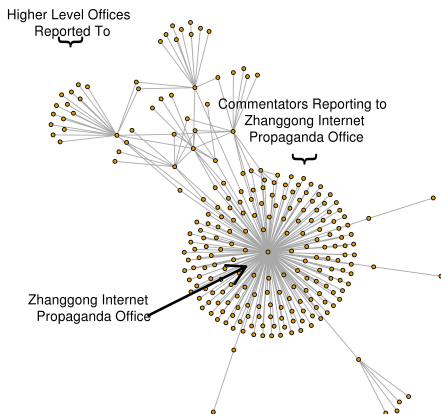


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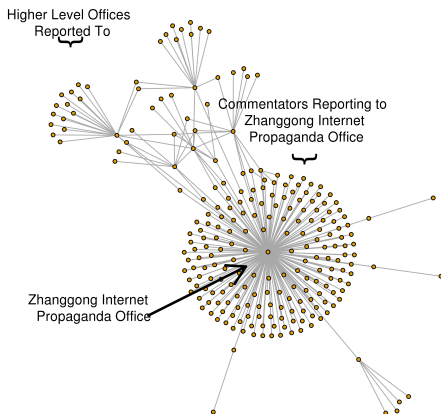
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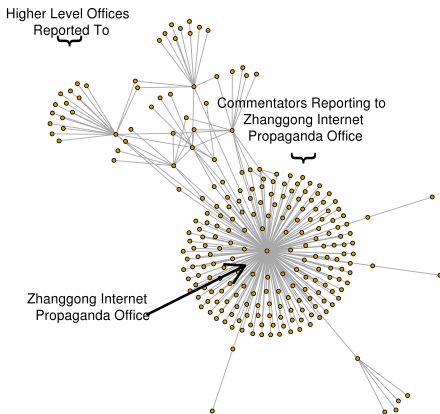
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 - **No evidence of 50c (or any piecemeal) payments;** probably part of their jobs

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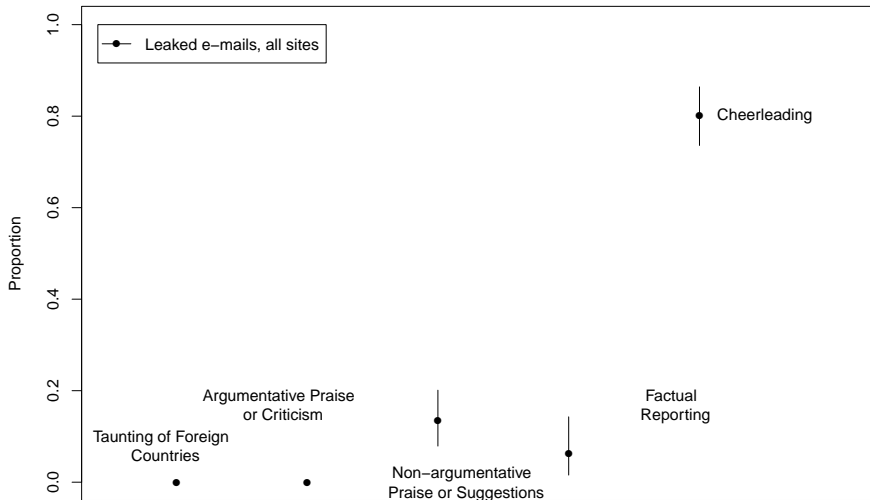
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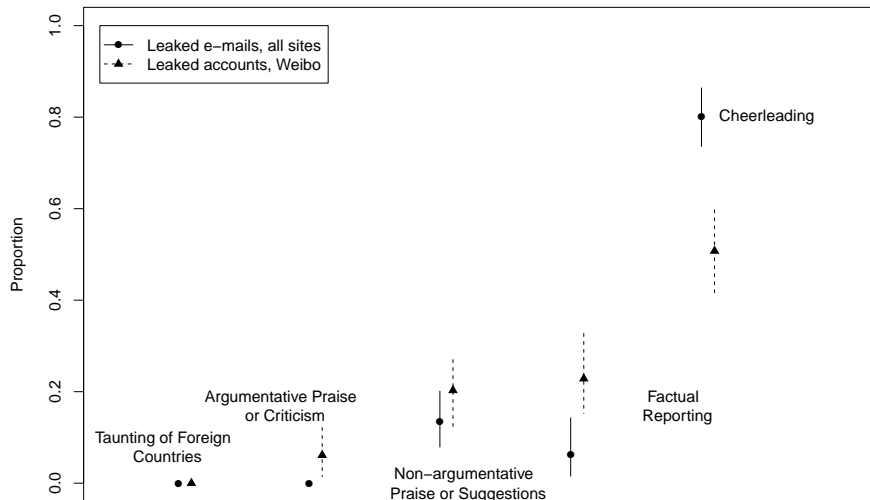
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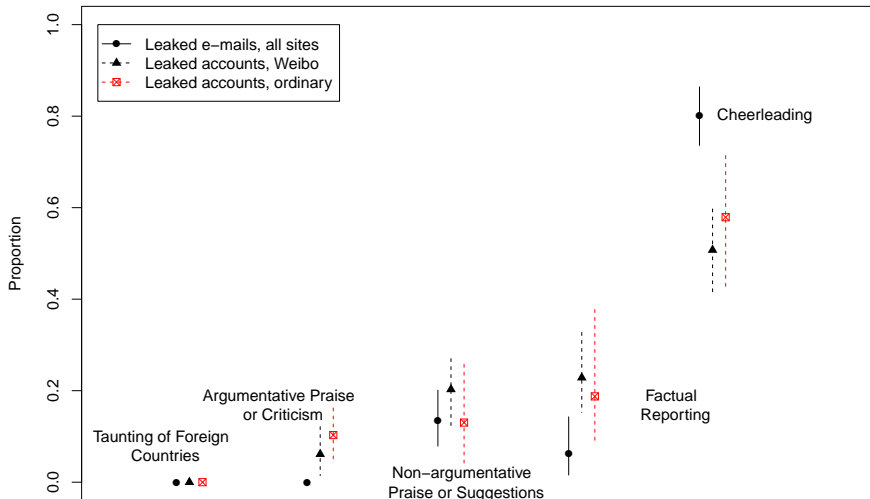
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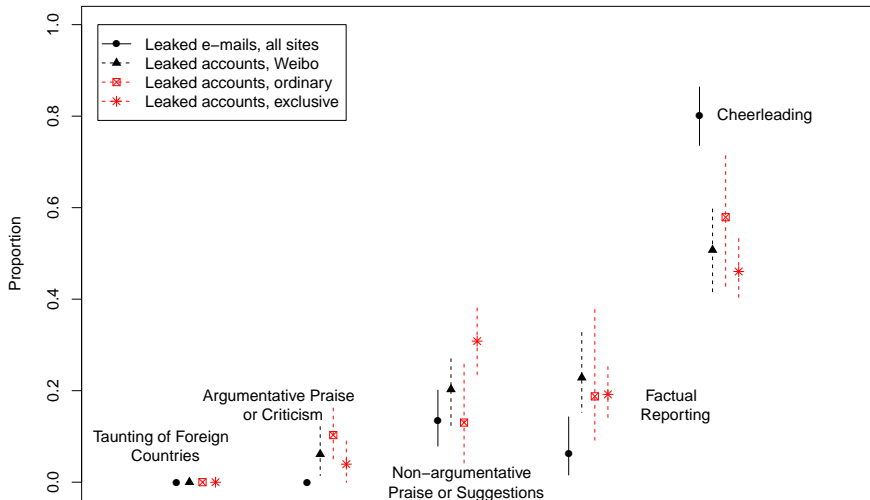
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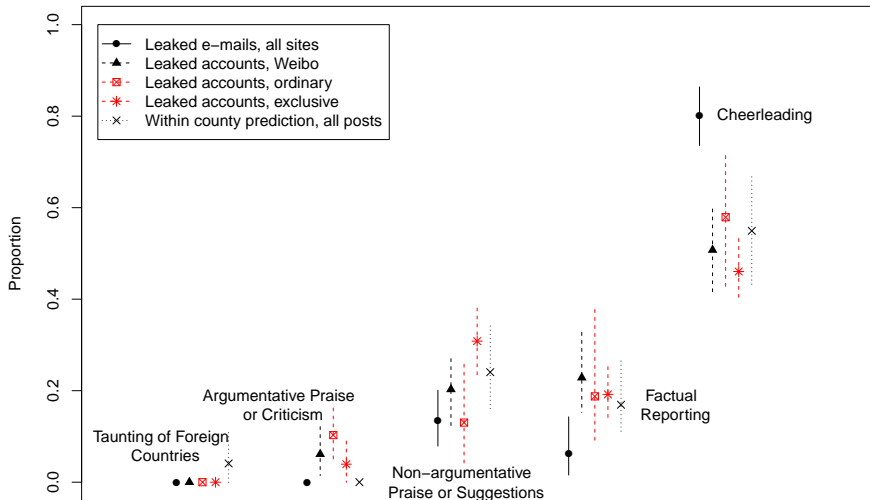
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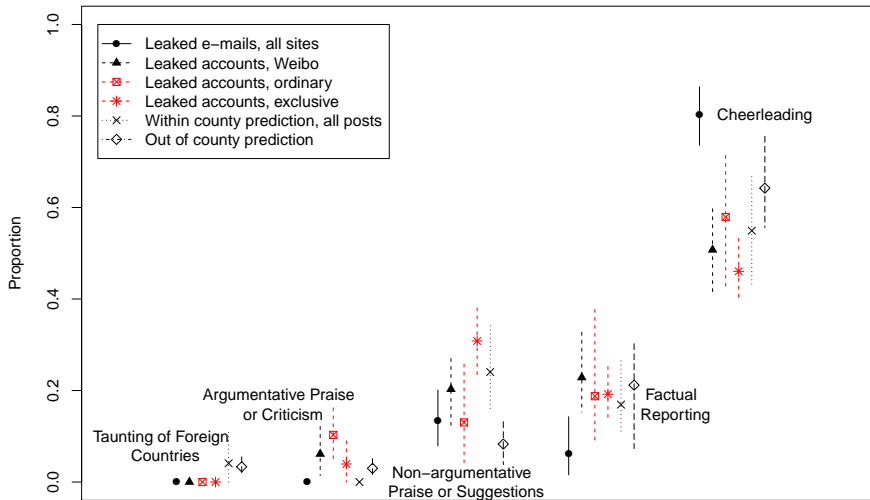
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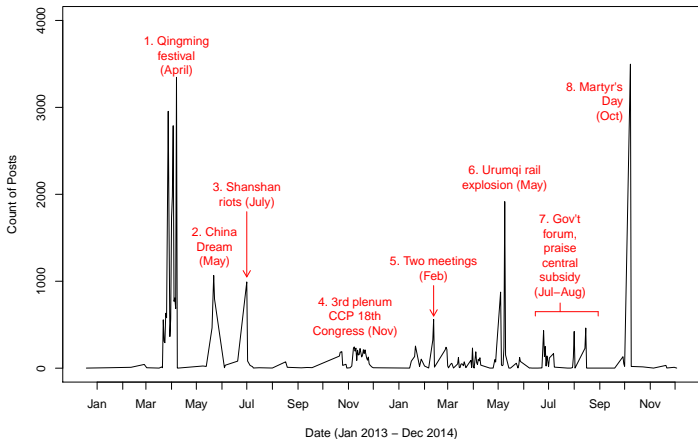
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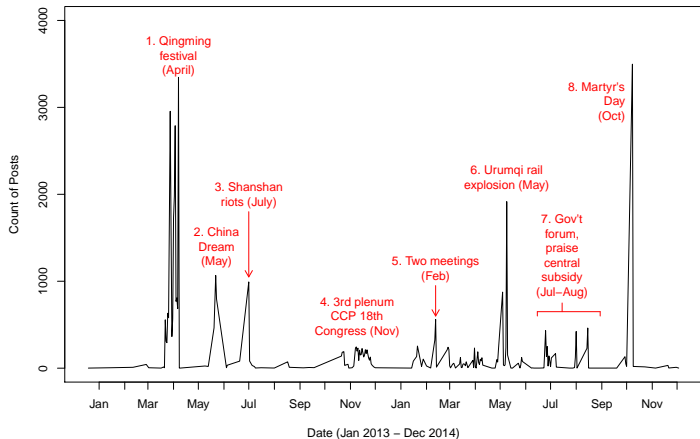
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 - 53% on government sites (a noticeable proportion of all)
 - 47% on commercial sites (1 of every 178 posts)

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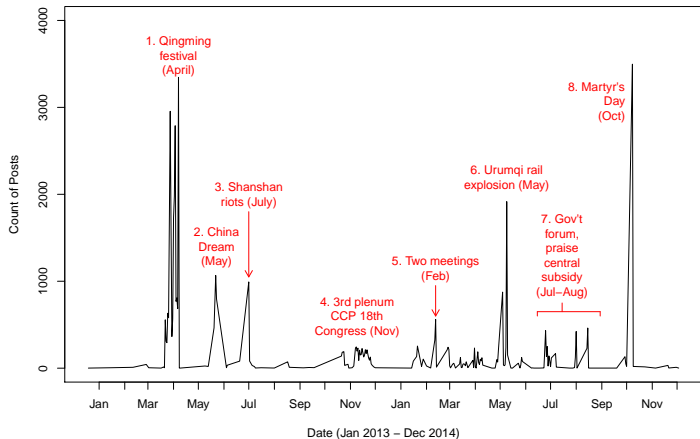


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- Coordinated bursts, many for events with collective action potential
- A clear measure of government intent.

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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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Survey Validation of 50c Party Membership Predictions

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not significantly different



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For more information



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