Reverse Engineering Chinese Government Information Controls¹

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Paul and Marica Wythes Center on Contemporary China, Princeton University, 10/11/2017

¹Based on joint work with Jennifer Pan (Stanford) and Margaret Roberts (UCSD) ²GaryKing.org



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- Computer-Assisted Keyword and Document Set Discovery from Unstructured Text (in press, AJPS)

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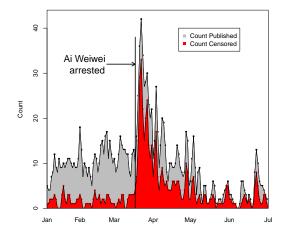
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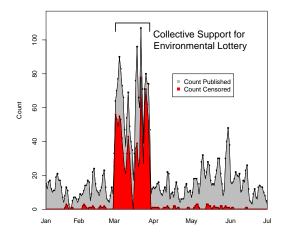
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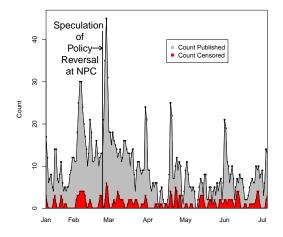
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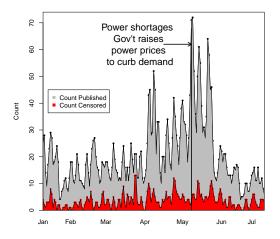
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 - Dissidents to be arrested; peace treaties to sign; emerging scandals
 - Disagreements between central and local leaders









Goal of China's 50c Party

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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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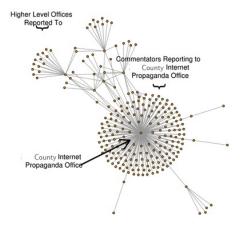
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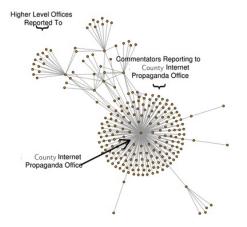
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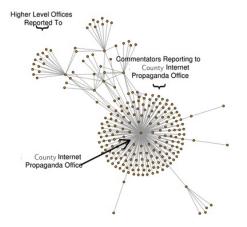
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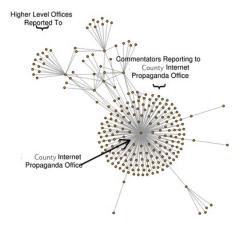




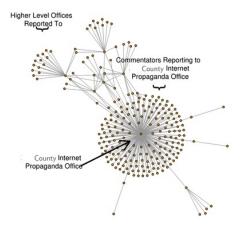
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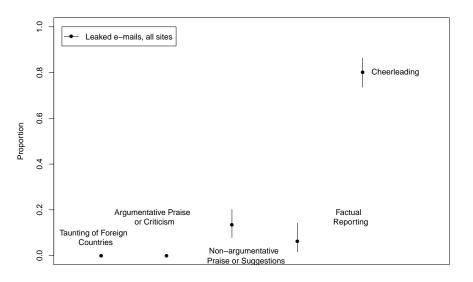
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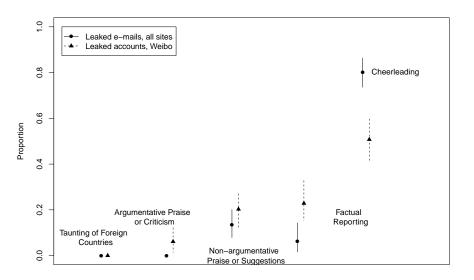
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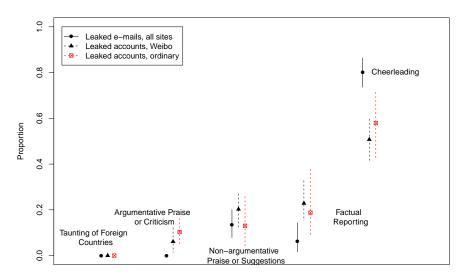
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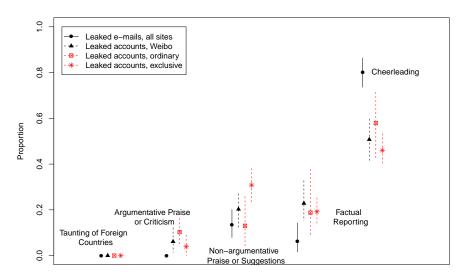
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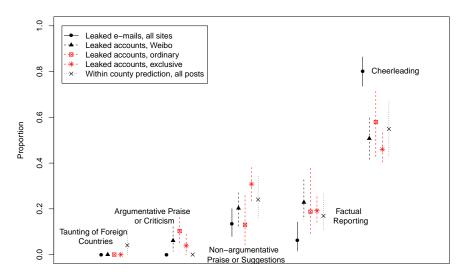
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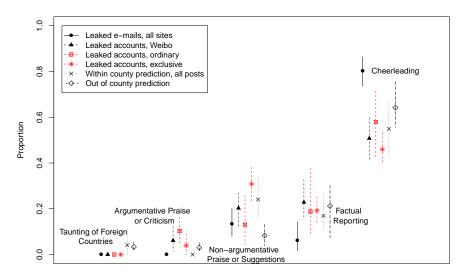












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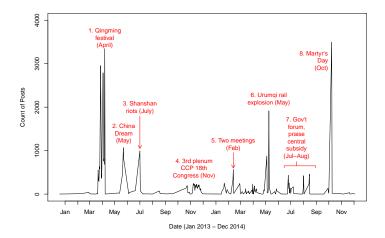
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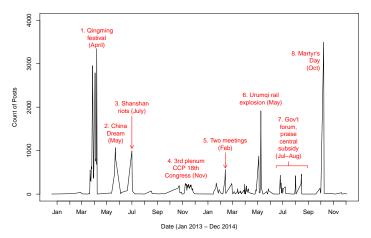
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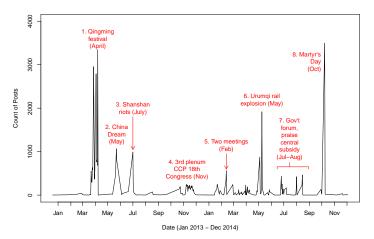


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A clear measure of government intent.

How Can We Validate 50c Party Membership Predictions?

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- Ask same question of random sample of known 50c (from Zhanggong)
- Ask same question of accounts known not to be 50c

50c Status

Origin

Percent Yes

50c Status	Origin	Percent Yes
Predicted 50c	Across China	



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Predicted 50c	Across China	59%
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- For future research:
 - When studied at scale, chinese government information controls leave big footprints.

For more information



GaryKing.org

JenPan.com

MargaretRoberts.net