How the News Media Activate Public Expression and Influence National Agendas¹

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St. Louis Area Methods Meeting (SLAMM), Iowa State University, 4/20/2018

¹Based on joint work with Benjamin Schneer and Ariel White (*Science* 2017) ²GaryKing.org

Introduction

Research Design

Results

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Implications

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 - Estimands: different, of sometimes questionable relevance

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Our Approach: Let's Randomize

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 - Autocracies: Ignore criticism, but censor expression about collective action

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 - · Co- and cross-promote with outlets in same pack

Matched Pair Randomization

· Select pair of weeks: matched on similarity of predicted news

SEPTEMBER 2015							
		Wednesday				Sunday	
25	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	

Matched Pair Randomization

- Select pair of weeks: matched on similarity of predicted news
- One coin flip: which week is treatment and which control

SEPTEMBER 2015							
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
25	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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Research Design

- · Select pair of weeks: matched on similarity of predicted news
- One coin flip: which week is treatment and which control
 - Treatment week: publish & promote articles (usually Tuesday)

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday		Friday	Saturday	Sunday	(
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Treatment
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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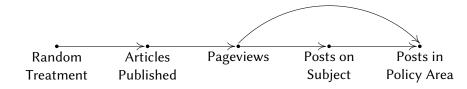
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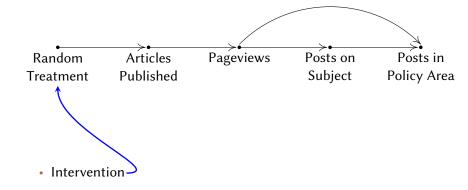
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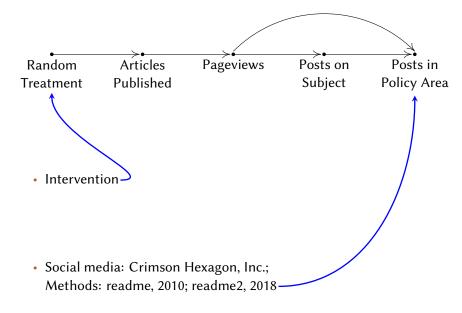
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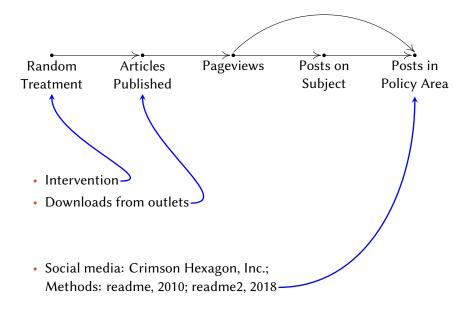
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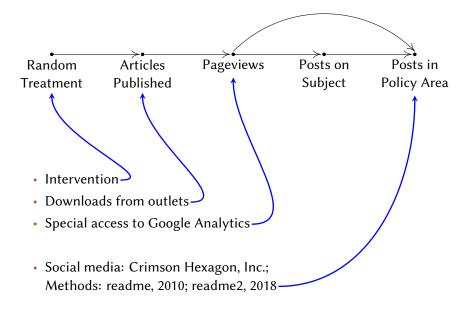
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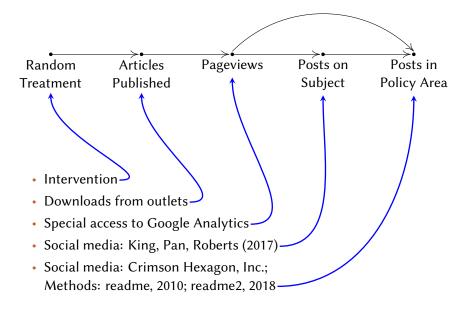












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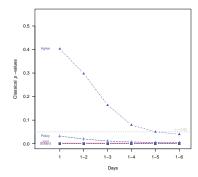
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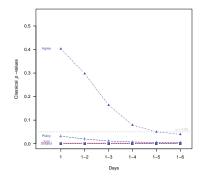
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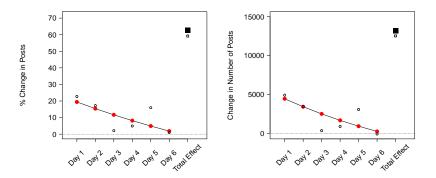
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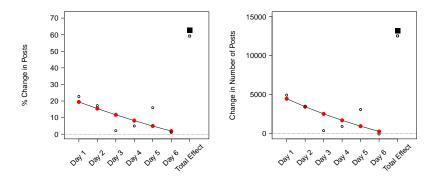


• Frequentist validation: extensive [non]parametric tests

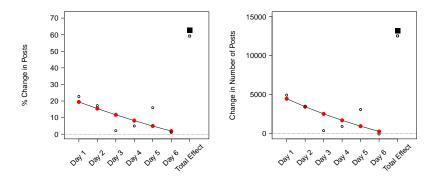
Main Causal Effect: Public Expression in Policy Areas

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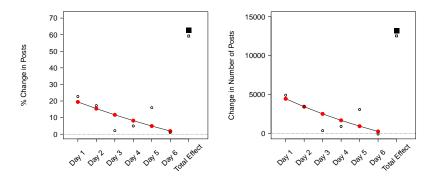




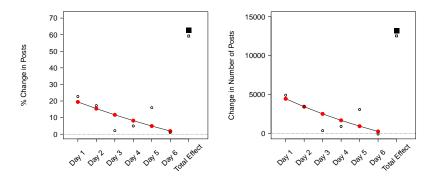
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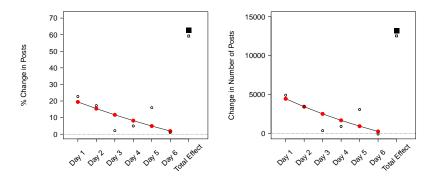
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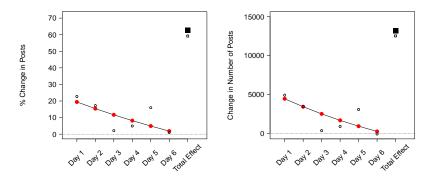
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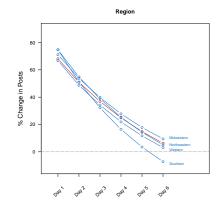
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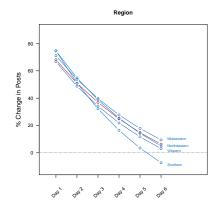


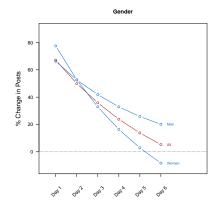
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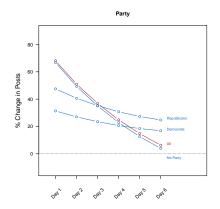


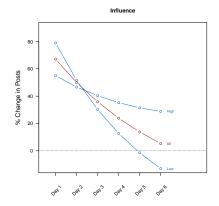
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- Context: 3 small media outlets have huge effect on the national conversation



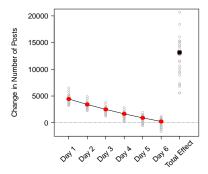




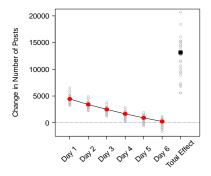




Jackknife Estimation on Policy Area Effects

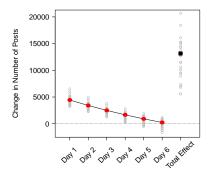


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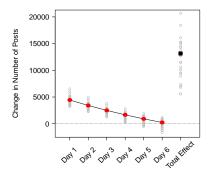
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- · Results: no dominant outlet; high heterogeneity

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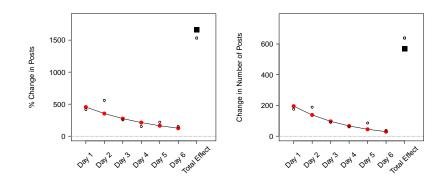
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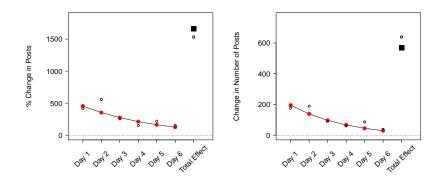
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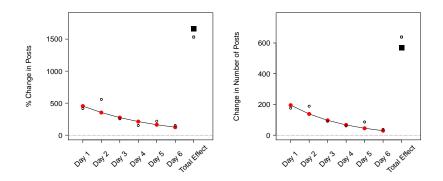
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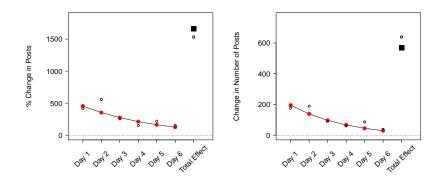




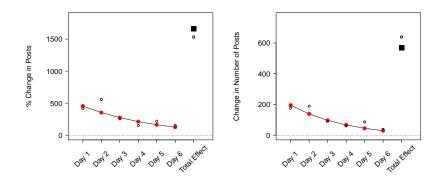
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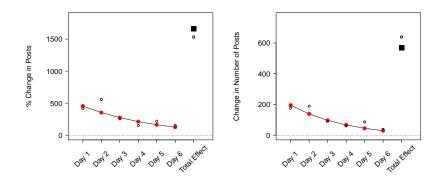
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Other Supporting Analyses

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For more information: GaryKing.org/media

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 - (perhaps with policy fixed effects)