ICCP

The Issue Competition Comparative Project
2017-2018 Round

Twitter Dataset

Theoretical underpinnings and scope of the study

The electoral campaign of political parties and party leaders was studied by monitoring, collecting, and analysing their activity on Twitter in the month preceding the election date. This choice lays on the theoretical basis of the *press release assumption* (De Sio, De Angelis, and Emanuele 2017), according to which parties and party leaders use their Twitter communication also (and significantly) as a tool for communicating their issue priorities to the *media*, in fact acting as in a press release. As a result, official party Twitter feeds represent good sources for capturing parties' issue priorities (see also D'Alimonte, De Sio, and Franklin 2019).

Data collection and coding

Data collection

For each party in the 6 ICCP countries, the monitoring activity was carried out on the public profile of the party and on the public profile of the main frontrunners/leaders of the party (Table 1). In each country, the monitored period covered the last four months of the campaign.

Country	Party	Leader/Frontrunner	Party account	Leader account
Netherlands	PvdA	Lodewijk Asscher	@PvdA	@LodewijkA
Netherlands	VVD	Mark Rutte	@VVD	@MinPres
Netherlands	CDA	Sybrand van Haersma-Buma	@cdavandaag	@sybrandbuma
Netherlands	PVV	Geert Wilders		@geertwilderspvv
Netherlands	D66	Alexander Pechtold	@D66	@Apechtold
Netherlands	GL	Jesse Klaver	@groenlinks	@jesseklaver
Netherlands	SP	Emile Roemer	@SPnl	@emileroemer
Netherlands	SGP	Kees van der Staaij	@SGPnieuws	@keesvdstaaij
Netherlands	CU	Gert-Jan Segers	@christenunie	@gertjansegers
Netherlands	PvdD	Marianne Thiemen	@PvdD	@mariannethieme
Netherlands	50PLUS	Henk Krol	@50pluspartij	@HenkKrol
Netherlands	DENK	Tunahan Kuzu	@DenkNL	@tunahankuzu
Netherlands	FvD	Thierry Baudet	@fvdemocratie	@thierrybaudet
Netherlands	VNL	Jan Roos	@VoorNederland	@LavieJanRoos
UK	Conservative	Theresa May	@Conservatives	@theresa_may
UK	Labour	Jeremy Corbyn	@UKLabour	@jeremycorbyn

Country	Party	Leader/Frontrunner	Party account	Leader account
UK	Liberal Democrats	Tim Farron	@LibDems	@timfarron
UK	Scottish National Party	Nicola Sturgeon	@theSNP	@NicolaSturgeon
UK	UKIP	Paul Nuttall	@UKIP	@paulnuttalukip
UK	Green Party	Caroline Lucas	@TheGreenParty	@CarolineLucas
UK	Green Party	Jonathan Bartley		@jon_bartley
Italy	PD	Matteo Renzi	@pdnetwork	@matteorenzi
Italy	FI	Silvio Berlusconi	@forza_italia	@berlusconi
Italy	LN	Matteo Salvini	@LegaSalvini	@matteosalvinimi
Italy	FDI	Giorgia Meloni	@FratellidItalia	@GiorgiaMeloni
Italy	LEU	Piero Grasso	@liberi_uguali	@PietroGrasso
Italy	M5S	Luigi Di Maio	@Mov5Stelle	@luigidimaio
Italy	+Europa	Emma Bonino	@Piu_Europa	@emmabonino
Germany	CDU	Angela Merkel	@cdu	@RegSprecher[1]
Germany	CSU	Joachim Herrmann	@csu	@AndiScheuer[2]
Germany	SPD	Martin Schulz	@spdde	@martinschulz
Germany	Grünen	Katrin Göring-Eckardt	@die_gruenen	@goeringeckardt
Germany	Grünen	Cem Özdemir		@cem_oezdemir
Germany	FDP	Christian Lindner	@fdp	@c_lindner
Germany	Die Linke	Sahra Wagenknecht	@dielinke	@swagenknecht
Germany	Die Linke	Dietmar Bartsch		@dietmarbartsch
Germany	AfD	Alice Weidel	@afd_bund	@alice_weidel
Austria	SPÖ	Christian Kern	@SPOE_at	@kernchri
Austria	Liste Sebastian Kurz – die neue Volkspartei	Sebastian Kurz	@oevp	@sebastiankurz
Austria	FPÖ	Heinz-Christian Strache	@FPOE_TV	@HCStracheFP
Austria	FPÖ	Norbert Hofer		@norbertghofer
Austria	Grüne	Felipe Ingrid	@Gruene_Austria	@dieingrid
Austria	Grüne	Ulrike Lunacek		@UlrikeLunacek
Austria	NEOS	Matthias Strolz	@neos_eu	@matstrolz
Austria	NEOS	Irmgard Griss		@irmgardgriss
Austria	Liste Peter Pilz	Peter Pilz	@JaEsGeht	@Peter_Pilz
France[3]	Lutte Ouvrière	Nathalie Arthaud		@n_arthaud
France	Nouveau Parti Anticapitaliste	Philippe Poutou		@PhilippePoutou

[1] Angela Merkel did not have a Twitter account. Alternatively, we used the account of the official spokesman of the chancellor.
[2] Joachim Herrmann did not have a Twitter account. Alternatively, we used the account of Andreas Scheuer, who was the Secretary General of the CSU.
[3] In France we used the Twitter account of political leaders/frontrunners only, given the presidential nature of the elections.

Country	Party	Leader/Frontrunner	Party account	Leader account
France	La France Insoumise	Jean-Luc Mélenchon		@JLMelenchon
France	Parti Socialiste	Benoît Hamon		@benoithamon
France	La République En Marche!	Emmanuel Macron		@EmmanuelMacron
France	Les Républicains	François Fillon		@FrancoisFillon
France	Debout La France	Nicolas Dupont-Aignan		@DupontAignan
France	Front National	Marine Le Pen		@MLP_officiel
France	Solidarité et Progrès	Jacques Cheminade		@JCheminade
France	Union Populaire Républicaine	François Asselineau		@UPR_Asselineau
France	Résistons	Jean Lassalle		@jeanlassalle

Table 1: List of parties, leaders/frontrunners, and Twitter accounts by country.

Selection and cleaning

1) Retweets were excluded, on the grounds that they are reactions to choices of other actors, thus not configuring as the best indicator of the strategic issue priorities of the party;

2) Replies to tweets, or any tweets starting with '.@' were excluded;

3) Tweets only containing links were excluded.

Coding

Party tweets have been coded following a standard procedure. In each country, two independent coders have assigned all issue-related tweets to one of the (positional or valence) issue statements tested in the country CAWI survey.

Tweets related to more than one issue have been assigned to the prevailing issue, or to the first issue mentioned in the tweet.

Tweets on issues not included in the original list were classified as "other issues".

Remaining non-classified issues were classified as "non-issue content".

Dataset structure

The Twitter dataset is structured in such a way that the unit of analysis is represented by a party-issue combination dyad (i.e. parties * issues). That is, each party appears as many times as the number of issues analysed in any single country (see country codebooks for the list and codes of single issues). Each dyad contains information on both parties and issues.

Variables are best read as belonging to three sections:

General issue information

Variable name	Variable label	Description
study	Study (country/year)	
party	Party (abbreviated)	Abbreviation of party name
issue_id	Issue ID	(within-country) unique issue identifier
issuetype	Issue type (Positional/Valence)	Issue type: Positional or Valence
dim	Dimension (CULTural/ECONomic)	Dimension: Cultural or Economic
issue	Issue (short description)	Short description of the issue
posgoal_l	Rival goal (on the issue) assigned to classical left-wing orientation	Rival goal (on the issue) assigned to classical left-wing orientation

Variable name	Variable label	Description
posgoal_r	Rival goal (on the issue) assigned to classical right-wing orientation	Right-wing positional goal
priority	Systemic issue salience	The salience of the issue is measured by the level of issue salience emerging from the CAWI survey study. The variable is calculated as follows: • Respondent priority on the (selected) goal is recoded as 1 for "high" priority", 0 for "low" priority and 0.5 for "average" priority; • The average value of such recoded values is calculated, so that the actual value corresponds to the proportion of respondents who rate an issue as "high" priority, with respondents reporting "average" priority counted as half. NOTE: for positional issues, this variable is calculated across both goals, so that it yields an overall salience, across both supporters of one goal and supporters of the rival goal.

Twitter data

Variable name	Variable label	Description
count	Number of tweets on issue	Absolute count of tweets the party dedicated to the issue
partytotal	Total party tweets	Total number of issue-related party tweets
partytotpos	Total *positional* party tweets	Total number of party tweets dedicated to positional issues.
partytotval	Total *valence* party tweets	Total number of party tweets dedicated to valence issues.
partyshare	Share of party tweets dedicated to this issue	Proportion of party tweets the party dedicated to the issue, over the total of issue-related tweets

Issue yield theory-related data

Alongside the information relating to the activity of the parties on Twitter, the dataset includes data that is specific of each party-issue combination, which is aggregated from the public opinion (CAWI) component of the study. This information aims at capturing the strategic potential that the party sees associated to the issue, according to issue yield theory (De Sio and Weber 2014, see 2019 for more details).

IMPORTANT NOTE: for positional issues, all the information contained in these variables refers to only *one* of the two rival goals defined over each issue. In particular, this information concerns the goal that presents to the party the higher value of Issue Yield[4] (briefly: HIY goal). In short, it is assumed that – of the two rival goals that define a positional issue – a party will see strategic potential in the goal with the *higher* issue yield, not in the rival goal with a *lower* issue yield. The HIY goal is reported in the LR

[4] To remind, issue yield summarizes the extent to which a goal provides both internal party unity and widespread support at large (De Sio and Weber 2014).

variable (see below); all subsequent variables are then related to this goal. For valence issues, this note does not apply, as all variables apply to the only shared goal that is presented to respondents.

Variable name	Variable label	Description
LR	Orientation (Left/Right) of the goal with a higher issue yield (HIY) for the party	*HIY goal*: Whether the HIY goal for that party on that issue corresponds to the left-wing or to the right-wing goal;
p	Party size in survey sample (0-1)	Size of party in the survey sample. The variable ranges from 0 (0% of the sample declare an intention to vote for the party) to 1 (100% of the sample declare an intention to vote for the party)
support	Whole sample: goal support (HIY goal support, for pos issues)	Proportion of the whole sample that supports the goal identified as HIY goal for [party] on [issue]; for valence issues, this concerns the single shared goal defined on the issue, and it is assumed as 1
within	Within-party: goal support (HIY goal support, for pos issues)	Proportion of [party] supporters that supports the goal identified as HIY goal for [party] on [issue]; for valence issues, this concerns the single shared goal defined on the issue, and it is assumed as 1; (same as *support*, but only calculated among supporters of [party])
cred	Whole sample: Party credibility on goal (on HIY goal, for pos issues)	Proportion of the whole sample that deems [party] credible to achieve the goal identified as HIY goal for [party] on [issue]; for valence issues, this concerns the single shared goal defined on the issue
intcred	Within-party: Party credibility on goal (on HIY goal, for pos issues)	Proportion of [party] supporters that deems [party] credible to achieve the goal identified as HIY goal for [party] on [issue]; for valence issues, this concerns the single shared goal defined on the issue (same as *cred*, but only calculated among supporters of [party])
cwiy	(Credibility-weighted) Issue Yield for goal (for HIY goal, for pos issues)	Summary Issue Yield index that expresses the electoral potential that the goal identified as HIY goal for [party] on [issue] offers to [party] (De Sio and Weber 2014). In this dataset, *cwiy* contains a refined version of the index, which – by being weighted by credibility – allows a full generalization even to

Variable name	Variable label	Description
		valence issues. This version is introduced in De Sio and Weber (2019).
cwiyrank	Issue Yield cross-party ranking	Cross-party rankings for *cwiy* on that goal. It contains 1 if the party has the top-ranking *cwiy* on that goal, 2 if the party has the second-best ranking, etc.

References

D'Alimonte, Roberto, Lorenzo De Sio, and Mark N. Franklin. 2019. 'From Issues to Goals: A Novel Conceptualization, Measurement and Research Design for Comprehensive Analysis of Electoral Competition'. *West European Politics*.

De Sio, Lorenzo, Andrea De Angelis, and Vincenzo Emanuele. 2017. 'Issue Yield and Party Strategy in Multiparty Competition'. *Comparative Political Studies*: 0010414017730082.

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