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Selectivity in Blogosphere: the Potential for Exposure to Political Information in Non-Political Blogs

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Abstract

Some scholars have become concerned that the increased media choice online and greater potential for filtering media content may lead to greater selectivity, where individuals have a fragmented information diet by pursuing non-political or supporting partisan information at the expense of political or dissenting political viewpoints. Using manually coded content analysis, this study tests the selectivity hypotheses by analyzing blog posts. Particularly, unlike previous research on selectivity in blogosphere that solely focuses on political blogs with a simplistic operationalization of blog content, this study fills the gap in literature by analyzing the extent to which and how popular phrases in online spaces during the 2008 U.S. presidential elections are presented in political and non-political blogs. The findings reveal that, while relatively infrequent, political phrases do appear in non-political blogs and cross-ideological citations (e.g., right-leaning phrases are cited in left-leaning blogs) exist in blogosphere.

Introduction

The rise of information communication technologies (ICTs) with their potential to filter content raises important questions about their implications on political communication. Some scholars have begun to question whether ICTs facilitate a fragmented information diet (Prior, 2007; Sunstein, 2008). In particular, the concern about a fragmented information diet comes from two sources. First is interest-based selectivity. With the expansion of media choice, some have warned that individuals with little interest in politics can more easily avoid political information and are therefore less politically knowledgeable, while those interested in politics may consume more political information and become more politically informed (Prior, 2007; Tewksbury, 2003). Second, those who are interested in politics may avoid the reading of dissenting political opinions and favor materials that are closely aligned with their own ideological position. Consequently, the trend of selectivity may polarize audiences and society by depriving a “common diet” of information that is essential for a healthy modern democracy (Prior, 2007; Sunstein, 2001, 2007, 2008).

Blogs – regularly updated web pages consisting of posts in reverse chronological order (Bausch, Haughey, & Hourihan, 2002) – provide an important testing ground for these two claims about selectivity. Blogs provide individuals with an easy and inexpensive way to share their viewpoints on line, which may facilitate the afore-mentioned imbalanced information diet. On the one hand, the proliferation of different blog genres, including political and non-political blogs, may

keep those who are not interested in politics away from political blogs. On the other hand, in the domain of political blogs, prior research has shown that the links in each political blog tend to connect to other sites that share the same political views (e.g., Ackland, 2005; Adamic & Glance, 2005; Hargittai, Gallo, & Kane, 2008), suggesting that content of the political blogs may lack diversity. However, while earlier research about selectivity in blogosphere primarily focuses on political blogs, it remains unclear to what extent politically related issues are discussed in non-political blogs (Munson & Resnick, 2011; Wojcieszak & Mutz, 2009), and how the political issues are portrayed in blogs, compared to non-political issues.

To rectify this gap, this study addresses the question of selectivity by analyzing blog posts to see how political information is presented in the blogosphere through manually coded content analysis, as this approach is preferred for “analysis of everyday online discussions” (Vergeer & Hermans, 2008, p. 42). In particular, the sample of this study draws from a list of the 1,000 most frequently cited political and non-political phrases in online news media and blogs during the 2008 U.S. presidential election (Leskovec, Backstrom, & Kleinberg, 2009) to investigate the extent to which these popular political phrases appear in non-political blogs. Additionally, this study further looks at how these political phrases are engaged in blog posts – whether bloggers quote a phrase to support or oppose the stance of the phrase – in comparison to non-political phrases.

The availability of diverse media content is important, since exposure to diverse issues and views can increase the awareness of different viewpoints (Mutz & Martin, 2001), enhance the familiarity with legitimate arguments underlying different perspectives, and mitigate the tendency for people to attribute their views to the general population (Wojcieszak, 2008). However, with the unlimited number of media outlets available online, we are moving from a “low-choice” (e.g., relatively limited and centralized newspaper and television) to a “high-choice” media environment (e.g., millions of various types of blogs). Some scholars argue that the production of the media content and the consumption of the media content may alter along with the change in the media environment (Bennett & Iyengar, 2008; Prior, 2007).

In the blogosphere, the proliferation of blogs may motivate bloggers to provide specialized content in their blogs in comparison to traditional media, such as newspaper and television. In the middle of the twentieth century when the number of media outlets were relatively limited and centralized, content providers of newspaper and television tended to focus on the “lowest common denominator” in order to satisfy the majority of audiences. In the age of the Internet, with unlimited online spaces and resources in blogosphere competing for readers’ attention, bloggers usually target a niche market by providing specialized media content and by affiliating the blog with specialized genres or particular political ideology in order to attract more attention from audiences. Indeed, some empirical evidence shows that

the blogosphere (Lawrence, Sides, & Farrell, 2010) and political websites (Johnson, Zhang, & Bichard, 2011) appear to be more polarized than television news.

Notably, some scholars warn that specialized blog content may lead to two political consequences (e.g., Prior, 2007; Sunstein, 2008). First, specialized blog genres may keep those who are not interested in politics away from the political related blogs while pursuing information in non-political blogs, which in turn may widen the knowledge gap between people interested in politics and those who are not (Prior, 2007). For example, Prior's (2007) panel study demonstrated that entertainment fans without cable or Internet access learned more about politics over time than entertainment fans with access to new media. This finding suggests that when individuals are in a high-choice media environment, they can selectively pay attention to things they are interested in, while avoiding issues in which they are not interested. Similarly, Tewksbury's (2003) analysis suggested that over half of the Internet users do not access any public affairs information online, but seek out sports, financial, and entertainment websites. In their survey study, Wojcieszak and Mutz (2009) also found that over 90% of online discussion groups are "leisure online groups" – those revolving around socializing, sports, movies or TV shows, or hobby or interests. Thus, as empirical evidence shows, this line of research suggests that blog readers may be more likely to exercise interest-based selectivity in a high-choice media environment.

Second, in addition to interest-based selectivity, some argue that partisan bloggers may provide information reflecting their own political opinions without acknowledging information that may

challenge them, which in turn may lead to increased political polarization over time (e.g., Sunstein, 2001, 2007). Two important studies of prominent political blogs (Adamic & Glance, 2005; Hargittai, et al., 2008) conclude that the inter-blog networks exhibit homophily — the tendency to associate with those who are like oneself in social networks (Lazarsfeld & Merton, 1954; McPherson, Smith-Lovin, & Cook, 2001). Specifically, Adamic and Glance (2005) looked at top political blogs and their cross-linking by political affiliation during the 2004 presidential election, and found considerable fragmentation by ideological lines. Similar to Adamic and Glance's (2005) approach, Hargittai et al. (2008) also found similar linking patterns across left-leaning and right-leaning blogs with the same approach. Such findings suggest that partisan bloggers tend to provide links that share their political views rather than dissenting views, supporting Sunstein's (Sunstein, 2001, 2007) argument about fragmentation.

Political Information in Non-Political Blogs

However, while both types of selectivity – interest-based selectivity and partisan-driven selectivity – have garnered some empirical support, existing research on selectivity in the blogosphere have two shortcomings. First, while most past research conceives of political blogs as the primary places where individuals obtain political information, the incidental encounters of political information in non-political online spaces are left out (Munson & Resnick, 2011; Wojcieszak & Mutz, 2009). To be sure, some empirical evidence has illustrated that political discourse exists not only in political online spaces but also in non-political online spheres (e.g., Munson & Resnick, 2011; Wojcieszak & Mutz,

2009). Thus, it is important to take into account the possibility of incidental encounters of political information in non-political blogs, since blog readers may be exposed to political information in non-political blogs, which in turn may alleviate the level of interest-based selectivity.

Second, while the research that examines inter-blog networks (e.g., Adamic & Glance, 2005; Hargittai, et al., 2008) supports the partisan-driven selectivity, the way these studies operationalize blog content is limited. As noted, Adamic and Glance (2005) and Hargittai, Gallo and Kane (2008) looked at top political blogs and content analyzed the web links of conservative and liberal blogs in blogrolls – lists of links usually on the sidebar of blogs pointing to other blogs of interest – to see the extent to which the links were across the lines of political affiliations. However, since web links in the blogrolls are only one indicator of the types of content with which bloggers engage, it may be too simplistic to depend on such information to operationalize the concept of blog content (Hargittai, et al., 2008). Thus, it is essential to consider other aspects of blog content, such as blog posts, in order to obtain a more complete understanding of how political information with different political ideologies is presented in the blogosphere.

To fill the gap in the literature, this study employs a list of the most frequently cited phrases in online spaces during the 2008 U.S. presidential election from Leskovec, Backstrom, and Kleinberg's (2009) work and examines the prevalence of political phrases and non-political phrases in different types of blogs (i.e., political and non-political blogs), and the ways in which bloggers engage these different

types of phrases. Based on the literature reviewed above, we derive the following hypotheses and research questions about how political and non-political phrases are distributed in the blogosphere.

H1: Political phrases are more likely than non-political phrases to be posted in political blogs.

H1a: Political phrases can appear in non-political blogs.

RQ1: How are political phrases addressed in blog posts in relation to non-political phrases?

RQ2: How are cross-ideological citations (e.g., left-leaning phrases are cited in right-leaning blogs or right-leaning phrases are cited in left-leaning blogs) associated with level of disagreement?

Method

Sample

The sample of 100 frequently quoted phrases during the 2008 U.S. presidential election came from Stanford Large Network Dataset Collection (Leskovec, et al., 2009). Along with their study (2009), Leskovec, Backstrom and Kleinberg tracked quotes and phrases that appeared most frequently in online news and blogs from September 1st 2008 to August 31st 2009. In total they followed more than 172 million blog posts and news articles, coming from more than 1 million online sources which include news media sites that are part of Google News, and blogs and forums. From the massive dataset, a list of 1,000 most frequently appeared quotes or phrases in the news and blogs over time were generated.

From the top 1,000 list, we further engaged in a multi-step process to arrive at our target of 100 frequently cited phrases in online spaces with a rough balance between political and non-political phrases. First, to determine whether a phrase in the top 1,000 list was political or non-political, two trained coders typed in the phrase in Google Search to see how the phrase were cited in news articles or blog posts. A phrase was viewed as a political phrase, if the context where the phrase appeared was related to U.S. politics, such as political campaign, government operation, and international political affairs. On the other hand, a phrase was coded as a non-political phrase, if the context where the phrase occurred was relevant to topics, such as economy, business, crimes, technology, entertainment, sports, and religion. Second, in order to ensure that the sample of the study consisted of both political and non-political phrases, a stratified sampling method was used to reflect the distribution of political and non-political phrases in the top 1,000 list. The final sample for this study consists of 100 phrases (See Appendix, Table A).

To further classify the political affiliation of each phrase in the sample, we checked the source of the information. If the source of the information was left-leaning (right-leaning), the phrase was considered as left-leaning (right-leaning). For example, if the source of the phrase or quote is Barack Obama, the president of the U.S., the phrase is viewed as left-leaning. The left-leaning phrases were assigned with value “1” ($N = 29$), right-leaning phrases with “2” ($N = 9$), neutral or political phrases without clear affiliation with “3” ($N = 5$), and non-political related phrases with “9” ($N = 57$).

Data Collection

To understand how phrases in the sample were engaged in the blogosphere, we used Google Blog Search to identify blog posts that contained the selected phrases. Google Blog Search service provides search results relevant to the search terms from millions of feed-enabled blogs (<http://www.google.com/blogsearch>). To collect the content of blog posts containing selected phrases from September 1st 2008 to August 31st 2009, we typed in search terms in the search field and sort results by “relevance.” We manually visited each result and recorded the top ten blog posts that contain the selected phrases.

Data Coding

Type of blogs

To determine whether the blogs where the article was posted were political or non-political blogs we visited each searched site to look for the following indications. First, we adopted the coding appendix consisting of a list of political blogs from Lawrence, Sides and Ferrell’s (2010) research. That is, if the name of a blog from the search results was included in their list of political blogs, it was considered as a political blog. The list of political blogs in their study (2010) was derived from the 2006 Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES), which contained a sample size of 16,145 respondents who were asked to write down names of blogs they read. Second, we checked the title of the blogs to see whether the title of the blog referred to politics or political partisanship. Third, we checked the blog’s introductory descriptions. Some bloggers wrote a short statement of the purpose of their blogs in the “Introduction” or “About Us” page, providing clues to type of blogs.

Fourth, we checked the categories of the posts in the blog. Some blogs provided categories of the posts, allowing blog readers to read articles by topics. If more than half of the categories of the articles in a blog were related to political issues, the blog was viewed as a political blog. Finally, we looked at the blogroll. If more than half of the links in the blogroll were political related, the blog was considered as a political blog. On the basis of the combination of the above mentioned indicators, non-political blogs were coded as 0 and political blogs as 1.

Political Affiliation of the Blog

For political blogs, we further looked for obvious indications of association to determine political affiliation for each blog. First, we checked the coding appendix from Lawrence, Sides and Ferrell's (2010) to classify whether a blog is left-leaning, right-leaning, or neutral/unclear. Second, we looked at the title of the blog to see if the blog was associated with any political partisanship, as some political blogs included some reference to their ideology or partisanship in the title of their blogs. Third, we checked the blogs' introductory descriptions to see if bloggers expressed their ideological beliefs in the introduction. Fourth, we checked the blogroll of the political blogs. If the number of left-leaning links in a blog outnumbered the number of right-leaning links, the blog was considered as left-leaning blog. Finally, previous written content of the blog was another clue for classifying the political affiliation of the blogs. Considering the combination of these indications, the left-leaning blogs were assigned with value "1," right-leaning blogs with "2," and neutral or political blogs without clear political affiliation were assigned with value "3".

Level of Disagreement to the Phrase

Before computing levels of disagreement of blog posts for the phrase, we first accessed the stance of the post toward the phrase. Two coders read the entire post and considered the purpose of using the phrase in the post. If the purpose of using the phrase was to challenge the claims made the phrase, it was coded as “disagreement (-1)”. On the other hand, if the purpose of using the phrase was to support the claims made by the phrase, it was considered as “agreement (1)”. If the purpose of using phrase was neither attacking nor supporting the position of the phrase, but used as a footnote of sorts, it was viewed as neutral (0)”. If the purpose of using the phrase was not clear, or the entire post was a copy of news article, it was coded as “others” (9).

Next, disagreement-to-agreement ratios (DA ratios) were computed to determine the level of disagreement between blog posts and each phrase. The DA ratio is based on the number of disagreement (D) and agreement (A). The ratios are calculated as follows:

$$DA = \frac{D - A}{D + A}$$

where D = number of disagreement, showing that a phrase was challenged by the blog post, and A = number of agreement, meaning that the phrase was supported by the blog post. The DA ratios run from -1 to 1. The closer the figure is to -1, the lower the level of disagreement of the blog posts toward the cited phrase. On the contrary, the closer the figure is to 1, the higher the level of disagreement.

Level of Cross-Ideological Citations

In order to compare level of cross-ideological citation for political phrases, we calculate C-S ratios that tell us about the level of cross-ideological citations. These ratios are based on the number of cross-ideological citation (C) and same-ideological citation (S). The ratios are calculated as follows:

$$CS = \frac{C - S}{C + S}$$

where C = number of cross-ideological citation, meaning that a left-leaning (right-leaning) phrase was engaged in a right-leaning (left-leaning) blogs, and I = number of same-ideological citation, that is, a left-leaning (right-leaning) phrase was cited in a left-leaning (right-leaning) blog. Similar to AD ratios, CS ratios run from -1 to 1. The closer the figure is to -1, the lower the level of cross-ideological citation. On the contrary, as the figure gets close to 1, the higher the level of cross-ideological citation.

Results

The differences between political phrases on the one hand, and non-political phrases on the other, comport closely with our expectations (H1 and H1a) that while political phrases are significantly more likely than non-political phrases to be posted in political blogs ($t(94) = -8.18, p < .01$), political phrases do appear in non-political blogs. As shown in Figure 1, for political phrases, on average, 63% of the searched results containing these political phrases are political blogs, while 37% of the searched results are non-political blogs. On the other hand, for non-political phrases, there is only about 19% of the searched blogs where the non-political phrases occur are political

blogs, while 81% of the searched results are non-political blogs. Thus, H1 and H1a are supported.

[Figure 1 is about here]

RQ1 is further concerned about how the political phrases and non-political phrases are presented in the blog posts – the extent to which the blog posts support or challenge the cited phrases. Results show that political phrases are significantly more likely than non-political phrases to be challenged by the blog posts ($t(94) = -2.66, p < .01$). As noted, to demonstrate the extent to which blog posts agree or disagree with the cited phrases, DA ratios are calculated. The closer the figure of DA ratios is to 1, the higher the levels of disagreement of blog posts toward the cited phrases. As illustrated in Figure 2, political phrases cited in blog posts tend to be engaged in a slightly negative manner, such as challenging the stance of the phrase ($M = .09; SD = .41$), while non-political phrases used in the blog posts are engaged in a positive fashion ($M = -.13; SD = .42$).

[Figure 2 is about here]

To investigate the situations where the blog posts disagree with the political phrases, this study examines how levels of disagreement are related to levels of cross-ideological citations (e.g., left-leaning phrases are used in right-leaning blogs) (RQ2). Findings show that levels of disagreement between the blog posts and political phrases are positively and significantly related to levels of cross-ideological citations ($r = .43, p < .01$). In other words, the higher the levels of cross-ideological citations for a political phrase, the higher the levels of disagreement between the blog post and the political phrase. Interestingly, among all political phrases, right-leaning phrases are

significantly more likely than left-leaning phrases to be cited in opposite-ideological blogs ($t(35) = -2.86, p < .01$). In particular, as shown in Figure 3, right-leaning phrases show a greater level of cross-ideological citations ($M = .13, SD = .22$) than left-leaning phrases ($M = -.20, SD = .33$) based on the CS ratios.

[Figure 3 is about here]

Discussion

This study investigates how frequently cited political and non-political phrases during the 2008 presidential elections are presented in blogs. Results show that while political phrases are more likely than non-political phrases to appear in political blogs, political phrases do exist in non-political blogs (H1 and H1a). For example, Barack Obama's comments about educational reforms (i.e., Despite resources that are unmatched anywhere in the world we have let our grades slip our schools crumble our teacher quality fall short and other nations outpace us.) appear not only in political blogs, but also in non-political blogs, such as personal blogs. Such findings suggest that the hypothesis about interest-based selectivity (Prior, 2007) may be partially supported. That is, while those who are not interested in politics can keep themselves away from political blogs, they may happen to encounter political information in other non-political blogs they visit. Further investigation is needed to understand how likely it is that readers may expose themselves to political information they encounter in non-political blogs.

Instead of studying the distribution of different types of phrases (i.e., political and non-political)

in blogosphere in a vacuum, we further investigate the context in which political and non-political phrases appear. The findings reveal that types of phrases are associated with levels of agreement. In particular, when citing political phrases in blog posts, bloggers are slightly more likely to challenge the political phrases rather than supporting the phrases (RQ1). In contrast to political phrases, non-political phrases are more likely to be engaged in a positive manner in the blog post. While the overall findings suggest that political phrases are more likely to be challenged by bloggers in the posts than non-political phrases, it is worth noting that the levels of disagreement vary from phrase to phrase within each category. For instance, in the category of non-political phrases, while 80% of the searched blog posts agreed with the phrases came from the Bible (i.e., We love him because he first loved us), 70% of searched blog posts disagreed with Pope Benedict XVI's comments about HIV prevention (i.e., You can't resolve it with the distribution of condoms). To reconcile the discrepancy within the category of blogs, a more nuanced account of types of phrases is needed to better understand how bloggers engage with different types of issues.

To further explain the nature of disagreement on cited political phrases in political blogs, findings show that levels of disagreement between the blog posts and the phrases are positively related to cross-ideological citations (RQ2). In other words, when partisan bloggers cite political phrases across ideological lines, they tend to disagree with the stance of the political phrases. Particularly, right-leaning phrases are more likely to be cited in left-leaning phrases than the other way around. Indeed, the existence of cross-ideological citations disagrees with Sunstein's views that

the political blogosphere is polarized (2008). Instead, such findings seem to be consistent with Benkler (2006) and Woodly's (2008) arguments that bloggers engage the views of those with dissimilar beliefs, although the networks among bloggers may be homophilic.

The findings from this study shed new light on our understandings of how political information in relation to non-political information is presented in different types of blogs by examining blog posts. However, it is important to recognize that this study has some limitations, some of which open up new directions for needed research in the future. For one, using content analysis, this study is not able to address the impacts of the blog posts on readers' information seeking behaviors. Thus, future investigation should examine the effects of various blog contents on readers' reactions to the posts. Another area in which greater nuance is needed is to provide a more nuanced account of types of phrases to examine their effects on fragmentation. Furthermore, although it is impossible to draw a representative blog sample due to the lack of a complete blog list, spam blogs, and access-to-restricted blogs, future research would improve the issues about sampling by using multiple blog aggregators or indexing services to sample blogs that contain selected phrases (Li & Walejko, 2008).

Concluding Remarks

Encountering oppositional views cultivates an informed citizen and is perceived as a central element for a healthy deliberative democracy (Habermas, 1989; Mutz, 2006). However, the explosion of "new media," has challenged such a principle and raised concern about a fragmented

information diet, namely keeping away from political information (interest-based selectivity) or avoiding dissenting political information (partisan-driven selectivity). This study investigates the selectivity hypotheses by content analyzing the extent to which and how top political and non-political phrases in online spaces during the 2008 U.S. presidential elections are presented in blogosphere. As findings reveal that incidental encounters of political information in non-political blogs and cross-ideological citations do exist, this study contributes our overall understandings of the phenomenon of fragmentation in the blogosphere.

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Figure 1

Proportion of Political Phrases and Non-Political Phrases Cited in Political Blogs (%)

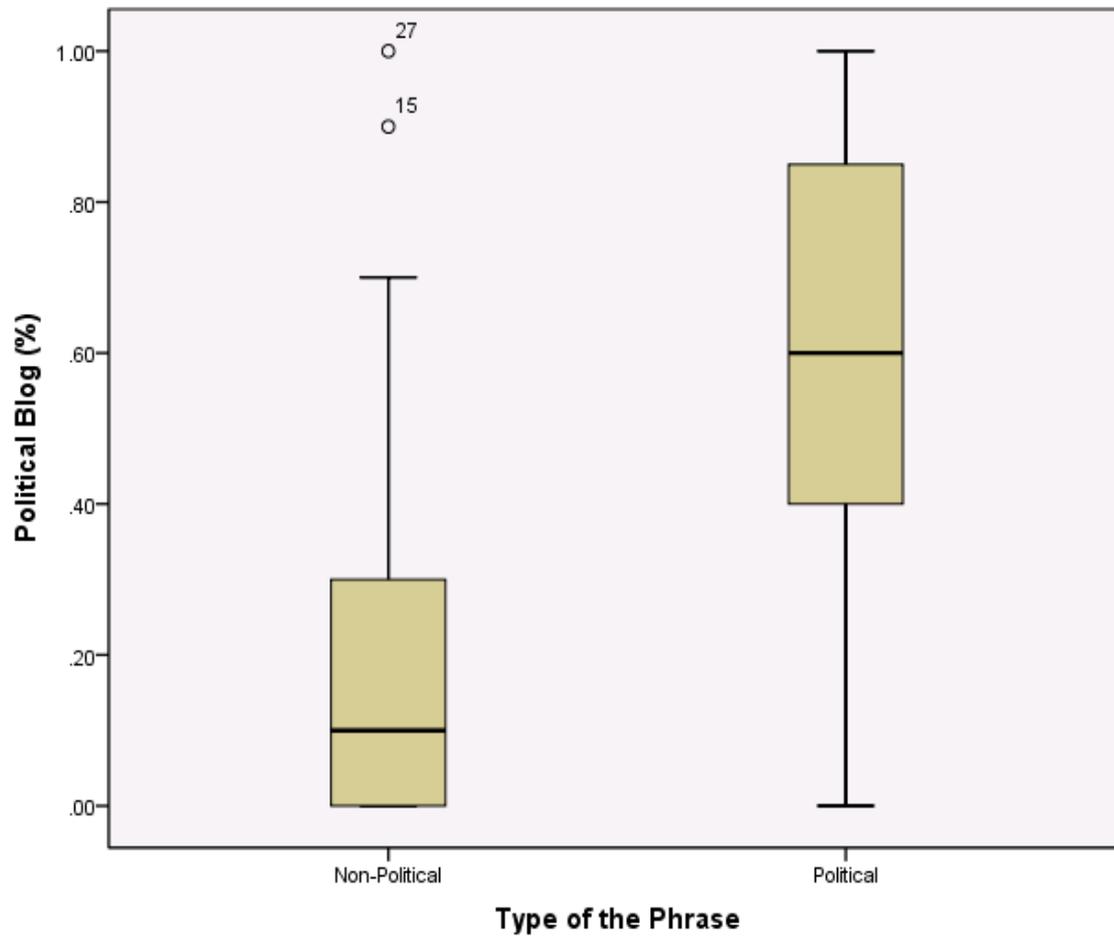


Figure 2

Levels of Disagreement (DA ratios) between Blog Posts and Phrases by Phrase Types (Political and Non-Political Phrases)

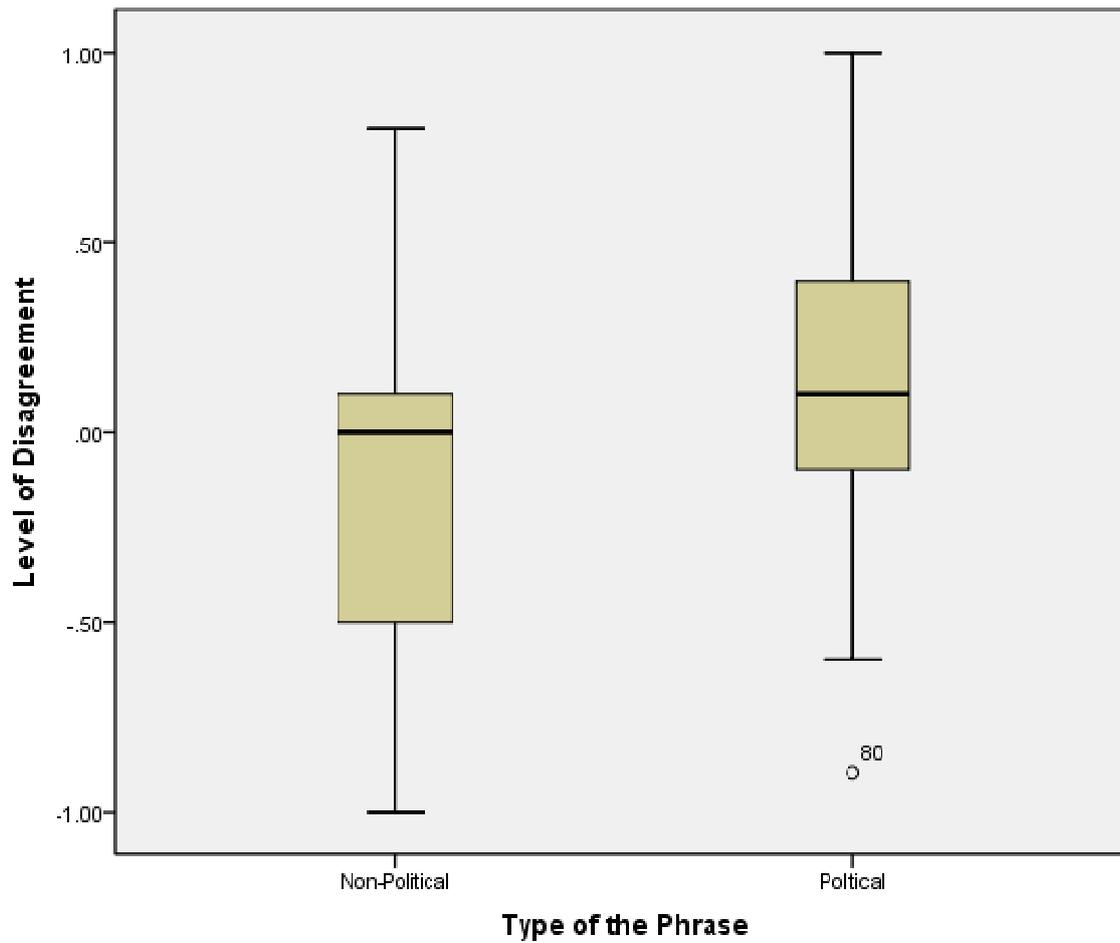
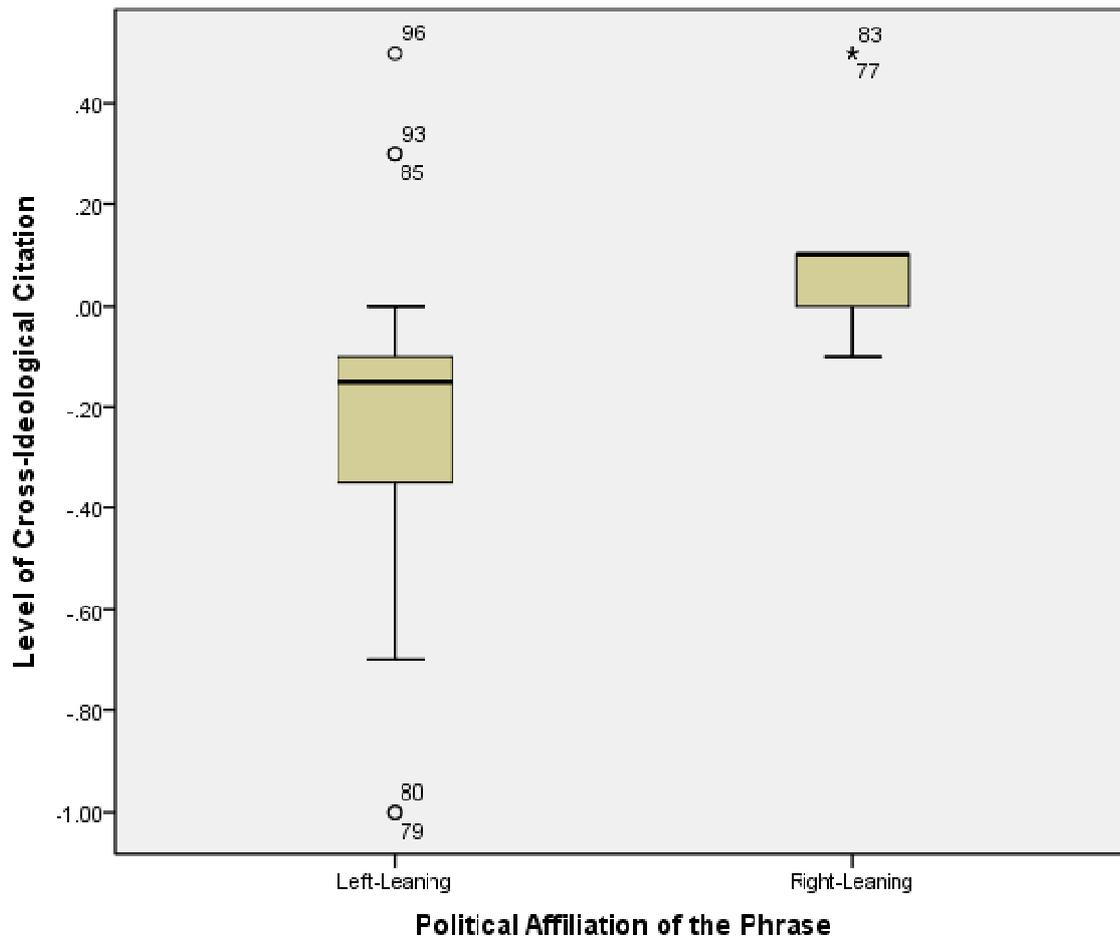


Figure 3

Levels of Cross-Ideological Citations (CS ratios) by Political Affiliation of the Phrases (Left-Leaning and Right-Leaning Phrases)



Appendix:

Table A

List of Phrases Included in the Analyses

No.	Phrases
1	Hopefully people are going to be held accountable
2	A drunken American soldier had come out of his garrison
3	My own shortcomings the faults in the conduct of my private life
4	The war to end all wars
5	Some seemingly hell bent on tearing down our nation
6	We can't afford to make perfect the enemy of the absolutely necessary
7	The way to lead is not to raise taxes and put more money and power in hands of Washington politicians
8	Conspiracy to murder kidnap maim and injure persons abroad
9	What is required now is for this country to pull together confront boldly the challenges we face and take responsibility for our future once more
10	Looking at places where we can have constructive dialogue
11	Violations must be punished words must mean something
12	The cartels increasingly recruit law enforcement officers on both sides of the border
13	In a manner that is consistent with our values and our ideals
14	We were not I repeat were not told that waterboarding or any of these other enhanced interrogation methods were used
15	This is a crisis that was caused by white people with blue eyes
16	What I did was a natural response to the occupation
17	Every country will be treated the way it treats us in the future america will be the one mourning and crying
18	They're the worst of the worst
19	Now we've got to get better swimmers
20	I loved it this season when the girls went crazy for me
21	Who are irreversibly prevented from being or becoming participating citizens an obvious example is not guaranteeing health services to patients with dementia
22	She was a wonderful person
23	m s paro y m s recesi n (FYI More unemployment and more recession)
24	In economics there is no free lunch
25	One of the darkest moments of our lives

26 We remain resolved to halt the rise of piracy in this region
27 Til death do us part late nite catechism 3
28 This site may harm your computer
29 Its failure could have resulted in a 1930s-style global financial and economic meltdown with
catastrophic implications for production income and jobs
30 It is believed he suffered cardiac arrest in his home however the cause of his death is
unknown until results of the autopsy are known
31 Chemistry look what you've done to me
32 Far worse than the great depression
33 But I see people all the time 40 50 miles offshore
34 But much more needs to be done
35 Carnal intercourse against the order of nature
36 The most trusted man in America
37 We love him because he first loved us
38 What I understand is that he offered himself as the hostage
39 It doesn't seem to be serious
40 Where do we go from here
41 An integral part of the show
42 This is a shocking invasion of the governor's privacy and a violation of law
43 Increase our taxes down the line and saddle future generations with debt
44 If you're happy and you know it
45 Hopefully mitigation efforts will have a big impact on future cases
46 For god so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life
47 It's annoying a little embarrassing but it's not a big deal
48 And in the case of the Japanese they usually commit suicide before they make any apology
49 As a sole proprietor it is very important to me
50 Will continue to live on in each and every one of you
51 When they talk about 50 000 that's a little higher number than I had anticipated
52 One speech is not going to solve all the problems in the middle east
53 Do equal right to the poor and to the rich
54 Be wary of accepting government largess it doesn't come free
55 Some initial reaction from the supreme leader that indicates he understands the Iranian
people have deep concerns about the election
56 This is something that all of us will swallow hard and go forward with
57 What I did was wrong period

58 The most dangerous place in the world
59 A crisis is a terrible thing to waste
60 I think that these suicide bombings are unfortunately in a tragic way a signal that the
rejectionists fear that Iraq is going in the right direction
61 With this provocative act north Korea has ignored its international obligations rejected
unequivocal calls for restraint and further isolated itself from the community of nations
62 We are functioning from a different set of views on many critical items of policy
63 These aren't just steps to pull ourselves out of this immediate crisis these are the long-term
investments in our economic future that have been ignored for far too long
64 What I think we know separate and apart from this incident is that there's a long history in
this country of African-Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement
disproportionately
65 Israel can determine for itself it's a sovereign nation what's in their interest and what they
decide to do relative to Iran and anyone else
66 I am pleased that our nato allies pledged their strong and unanimous support for our new
strategy
67 There may be some comparable opportunities in Afghanistan and in the Pakistani region
68 In the name of god amen
69 On the field there isn't a player that was as tough as him especially at the quarterback
position
70 The result was I warned everyone and lo and behold here we are i don't know what caused
his death but I feared this day and here we are
71 Don't let the sun go down on me
72 Things are going to get worse before they get better
73 The world would be a better place without you
74 There's still great fragility in the financial systems but we think that we are moving in the
right direction
75 Where the streets have no name
76 By any measure this downturn represents by far the deepest global recession since the great
depression
77 I cannot adequately express how sorry I am for what I have done
78 I hate those mother those f Jewish b I would like to get destroy a synagogue
79 Despite resources that are unmatched anywhere in the world we have let our grades slip our
schools crumble our teacher quality fall short and other nations outpace us
80 Fort sumpter sic was attacked by the rebels on the above date

81 Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press
82 Longed for certain connections and attachments with another person that I really lacked I
believe growing up
83 I will never leave you nor forsake you
84 we have determined that the pictures taken are fine
85 I think you can all imagine their joy and what a happy moment that was for them
86 Right now critical parts of our financial system are damaged
87 I want to be your friend
88 Did I suggest that it was ok for her 14-year-old daughter to be having promiscuous sex no
89 It's not really one of those goals you set as a little boy but man it's been quite a career and
quite a month
90 The weight of this crisis will not determine the destiny of this nation
91 I first would like to thank god who has brought me through I would like to thank my family
in heaven and those who are with me today
92 I never thought I'd be able to say that
93 Star wars episode iii revenge of the sith
94 It's time for me to get back home to hank
95 The day of reckoning has arrived
96 Ron silver died peacefully in his sleep with his family around him early Sunday morning
97 How do they justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the company afloat
98 Turning point in our pursuit of global economic recovery
99 You can't resolve it with the distribution of condoms
100 We may not be able to reverse

Source: Stanford Large Network Dataset Collection

(<http://snap.stanford.edu/data/memetracker9.html>, retrieved on October, 13th 2011).