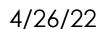
ML and News and Elon Musk and who owns our public spaces

Kenneth (Kenny) Joseph

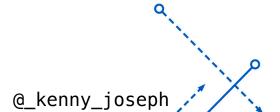


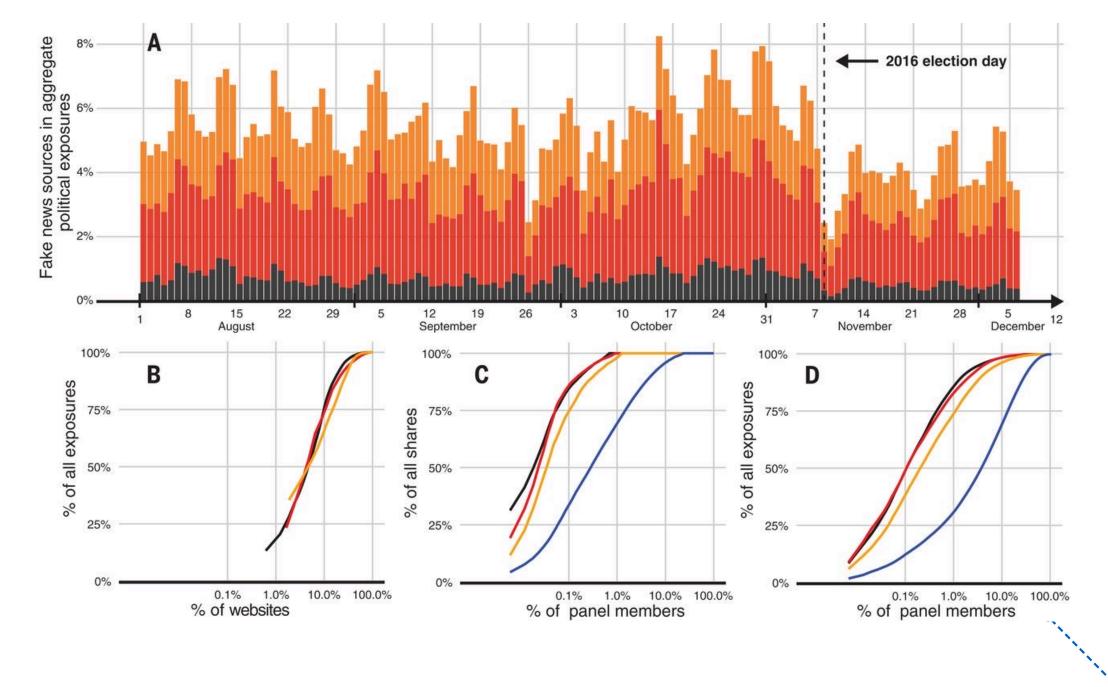


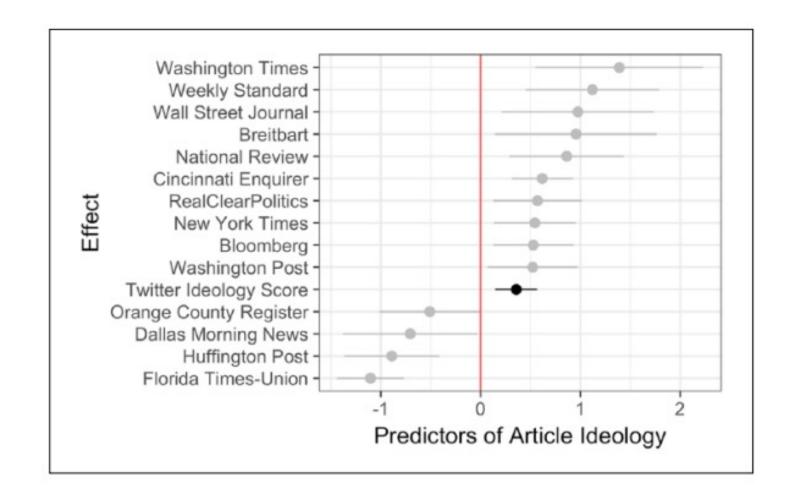
Hi

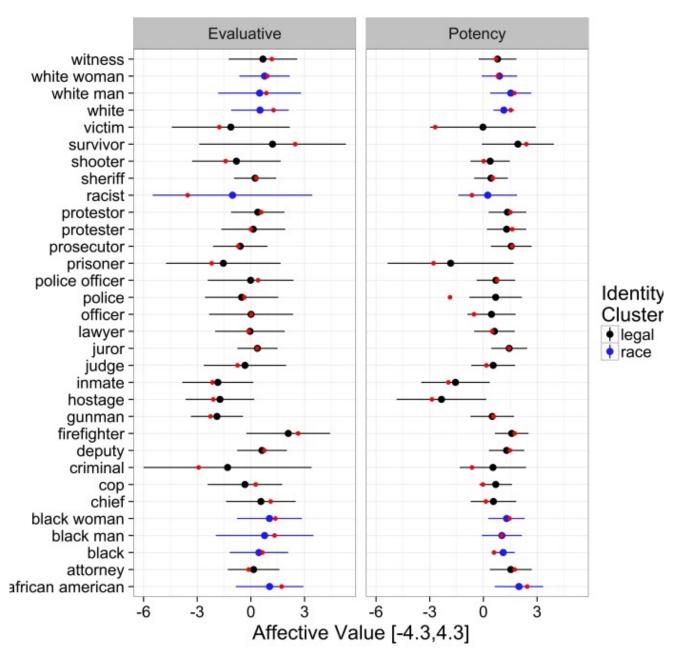
- I am Kenny
- I use computational methods to study people, and use people to study computational methods
- Most of my 20s was spent studying Twitter, with a heavy focus on how people use it to get information and express their biases (I know, yikes)











5

Some things to discuss

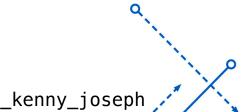
- (Why) should you care about Twitter?
- How do you think ML plays a role in these different scenarios?
- Do you think ML matters more than other things? If so, why? If not, what matters more?





Buying Twitter, Elon Musk Will Face Reality of His Free-Speech Talk

Tech's big shots have learned again and again that free speech isn't so simple. What happens when Mr. Musk owns Twitter?



Task #0 Today

- Hop into groups
- 10 minute discussion, 1 minute presentation
 - What does free speech mean?
 - What do you think free speech looks like on Twitter?
 - Where can "free speech" go wrong?
 - Which platform do you think is closest to "free speech"? How is that working out?

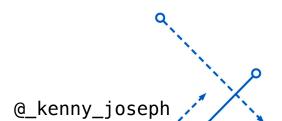




Task #1 today

- I am a startup tycoon. I therefore know everything and can solve all problems with the maths and VC funding
- Someone has told me that news is biased
- I have decided to solve this problem.
- I hire your team to **build an unbiased news site** ("Elon Twitter")





Task (cont.)

- 1. Form teams
- 2. You have 20 minutes to step through the ML pipeline to:
 - Create a machine learning model that determines whether or not a particular piece of news is biased (or how it is biased, or how biased it is)
 - Determine how to use that algorithm to produce a set of 15 news articles that are shared via a list-serv to paying customers every morning
 - Develop a 1-3 minute pitch for your approach and why it will work

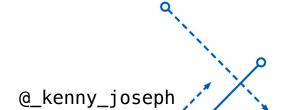




Some considerations

- I'm being deliberately vague about what "bias" is. But you may want to consider:
 - Political leaning
 - Spatial distribution
 - Gender
 - Topical content
 - Source of the article
 - Content of the article
 - ...
- Not restricted to the US!
- Some examples you might think about
 - https://knowherenews.com/
 - •





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Jan 28, 2019 - Unbiased news sources are rare, but they do exist. We've compiled a list of the best news websites that are free from censorship.

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What are the most empirically neutral, objective, nonpartisan and ...

168 answers

Feb 25, 2017 - Most of the **news** in the US is controlled by what is known as the big six * Comcast Corporation/NBC Universal * 21st Century Fox * Walt Disney Company ...

Which is the most **unbiased news** channel in U.S?

What is the most **politically unbiased news** source?

What is your source for **unbiased news**?

Oct 18, 2016

Are there any truly centrist/neutral US **news sources** remaining on ...

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The most and least biased news outlets in America - Business ...

Jun 21, 2018 - Americans believe the vast majority of **news** on TV, in newspapers, on the radio, and on social **media** is biased, according to new polls.

Images for unbiased news sources

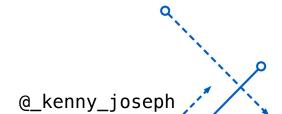


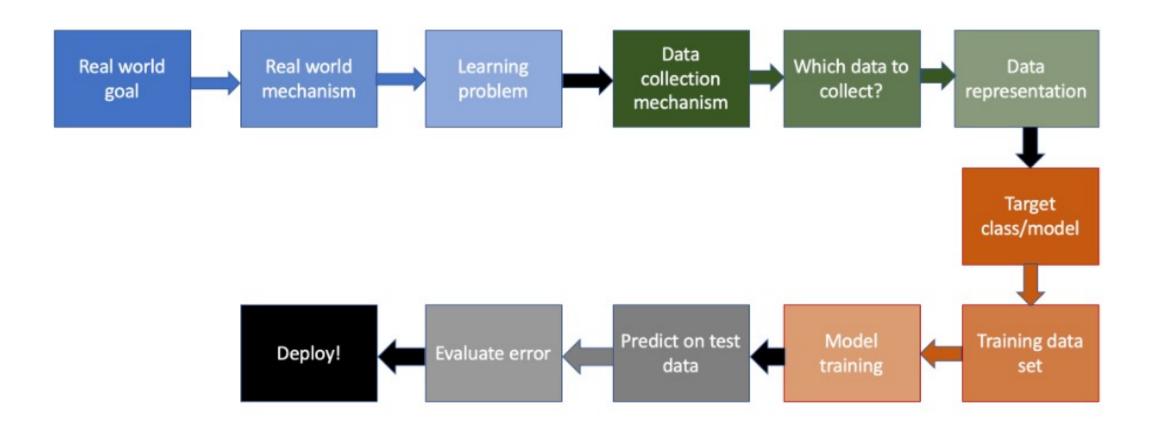






Search

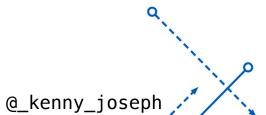




News, Truth and Bias

- Bias exists everywhere in the media, but in two forms
 - Reporting bias media organizations can be biased in the news that they produce
 - Content bias media organizations can be biased in the way that they cover
- Bias is different than falsification, or "fake news"
- But
 - Who gets to decide what is worth covering, and what isn't?
 - Is it even possible to cover "everything"? Would anyone come to your site?
 - Who gets to be the arbitrator of truth? The platform?
- Also the idea of "unbiased news" is relatively new







Casey Fiesler, PhD, JD, geekD

@cfiesler

Faculty @CUinfoscience by way of @gtcomputing & @vanderbiltlaw. Tech ethics/law, internet, fandom. I maxed out my stats in "geek." She/her. Opinions my own!

Boulder, CO S caseyfiesler.com Born February 16

Ⅲ Joined September 2010

@_kenny_joseph

Task #2 – Future thinking on News Media Tech

(2) Next, write three fictional headlines for news articles about tech ethics or policy that might appear in the news: (1) one year from now; (2) five years from now; and (3) twenty years from now. For each of these (in about 100 words each) explain why you think this is something that might happen in the future, and how it connects to current events and/or what you've learned in class.





Task #2 (cont.)

Individual Brainstorming

Pick any headline from this semester that you think represents negative consequences or an ethical problem. Write a new headline that would represent something having gone better (e.g., positive change in the world rather than negative consequences).

Examples:

<u>The Sneaky Way TikTok Is Connecting You to Real-Life Friends</u> = "TikTok's New Privacy Features Help You Manage Context Collapse"

White House technology policy chief says Al bill of rights needs 'teeth' = "Groundbreaking New Al Bill of Rights Will Have Significant Impact, Policy Experts Say"

What needs to happen for this to change?

