

Social Media as Data in Migration Research

Workshop outline - Online version

Workshop Leaders: Priya Kumar (Ryerson University) and Stein Monteiro (Ryerson University)

9 - 9:15 AM Introduction (Stein Monteiro)

Why is social media data important for migration research?

A lot of immigration issues are being discussed on Social Media. Some examples include #MigrantCrises.

The Quebec Experience Program case analysis: On November 1, 2019, the Quebec government made drastic changes to the Quebec Experience Program, which was a popular route for international students to become permanent residents after graduation. Many people objected to this. On November 12th 2019, Quebec decided to suspend those planned changes. The announcement was made by Simon Jolin-Barrette (Quebec's Minister of Immigration) on his Facebook Page.

9:15 - 9:30 AM Use cases (Stein Monteiro)

I will briefly provide an overview of three papers by answering the following questions: how social media data was used to analyze the digital- and real-world? What tools were used? What were advantages and drawbacks from this methodology?

- 1) Ferra, Ioanna & Nguyen, Dennis (2017). #Migrantcrisis: "tagging" the European migration crisis on Twitter. *Journal of Communication Management*, volume 21 (4), pp. 411-426.
- 2) Ekman, Mattias (2019). Anti-immigration and racist discourse in social media. *European Journal of Communication*, volume 34 (6), pp. 606-618.
- 3) Marino, Sara (2015). Making Space, Making Place: Digital Togetherness and the Redefinition of Migrant Identities Online. *Social Media + Society*, volume 1 (2).

9:30 - 11:00 AM Netlytic and SocioViz Tools (Priya Kumar)

What are some tools that migration researchers can leverage to analyze and visualize public online conversations on social media?

Why is social network analysis important for migration research?

11 AM Distribute group assignments (Priya Kumar)

Participants will choose from a set of migration case studies, designed to help learners become comfortable with using Netlytic and Socioviz tools, including:

- How to capture publicly available posts and popular topics on social media
- Timelines of emerging themes being discussed
- Visualize and analyze online communication networks
- Think through ethical and human rights implications of Internet-based research.

Netlytic Video Tutorials: https://netlytic.org/home/?page_id=11280

Readings:

- 1) Leurs, K., & Smets, K. (2018). Five Questions for Digital Migration Studies: Learning From Digital Connectivity and Forced Migration In(to) Europe. *Social Media + Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305118764425>
- 2) Maria Gintova (2019). Understanding government social media users: an analysis of interactions on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Twitter and Facebook, *Government Information Quarterly*.

11 AM – 3 PM Lunch & group’s leave to complete the assignment

3- 4 PM Reconvene

Review the group assignments and discuss findings