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Assistant Professor

Public Administration and Policy

Political Science

Background



University of Georgia

Assistant Professor

Public Administration and
Policy

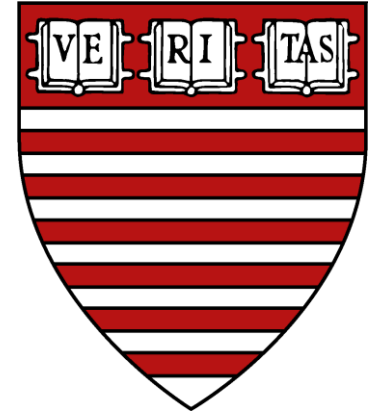
Political Science



UC Berkeley

Data Science Fellow, School of
Information, 2015-2016

PhD Political Science, 2013



Harvard Kennedy School

Democracy Fellow, 2013-2015

Research Interests

- Applied image analysis – computer vision/deep learning
- Applied text analysis – topic models, supervised machine learning.
- Experiments and causal inference.

Image as Data: A Computer Vision Framework for the Analysis of Political Images

- Development of a framework for political image analysis.
- Exploration of House of Representatives photographic “homestyles” – how they convey information to their constituents.

Data

300,000+
Facebook
images with
text posts for
accounts of
356 members
of the House
and Senate.



Image Experiment: Does who politicians pose with affect opinions about them?

Alone



Man



Woman



Af. American



Image Experiment: Does who politicians pose with affect opinions about them? **YES!**

Affects guess about ideology.

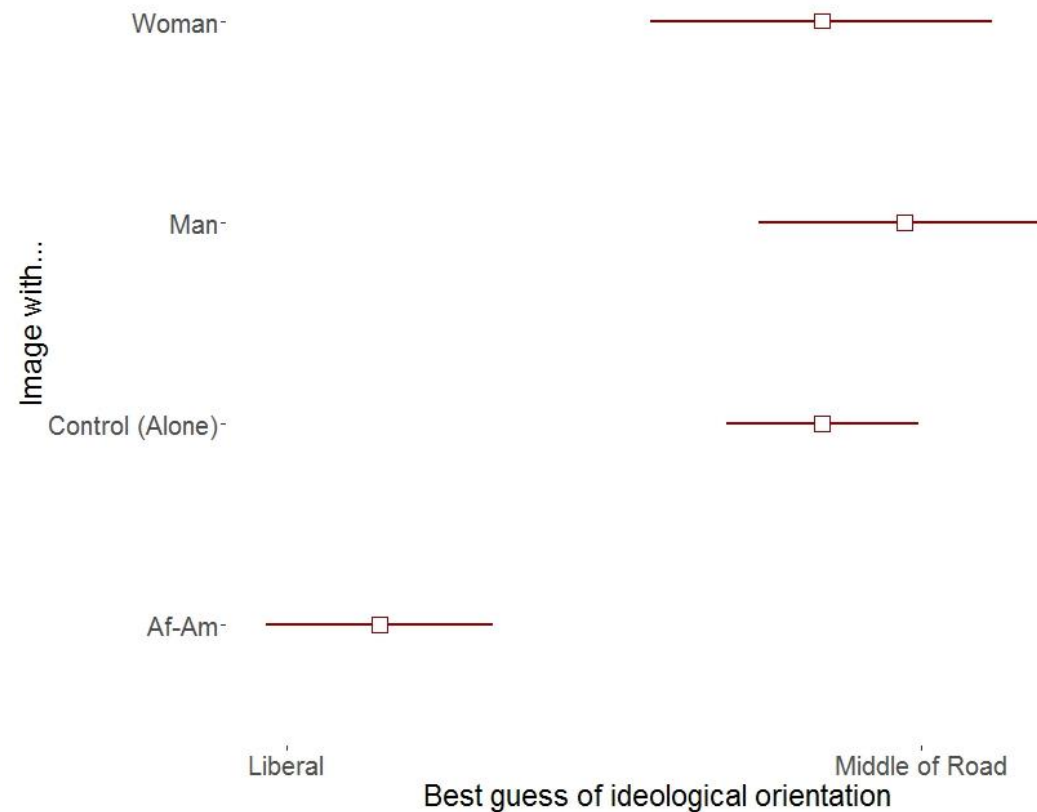


Image Experiment: Does who politicians pose with affect opinions about them? **YES!**

Affects guess about party.

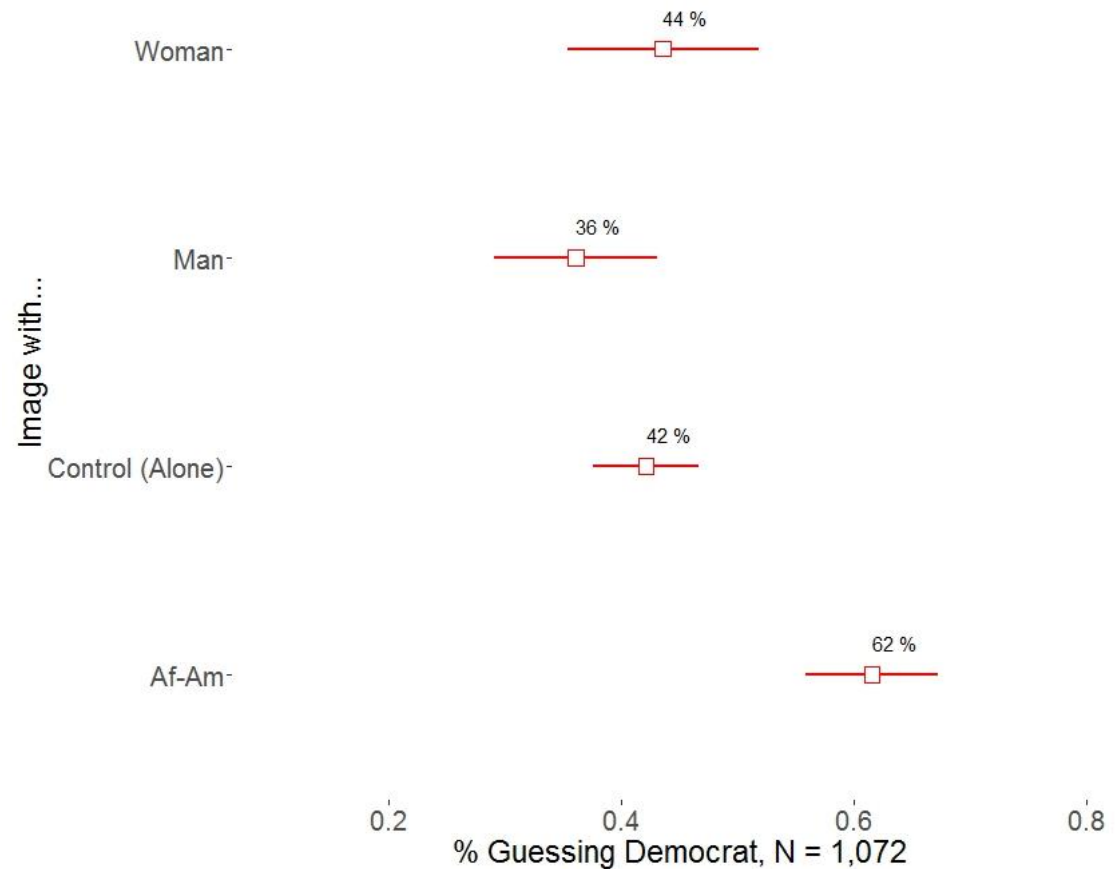


Image Experiment: Does who politicians pose with affect opinions about them? **YES!**

Affects whether respondents believe that politicians share their values.

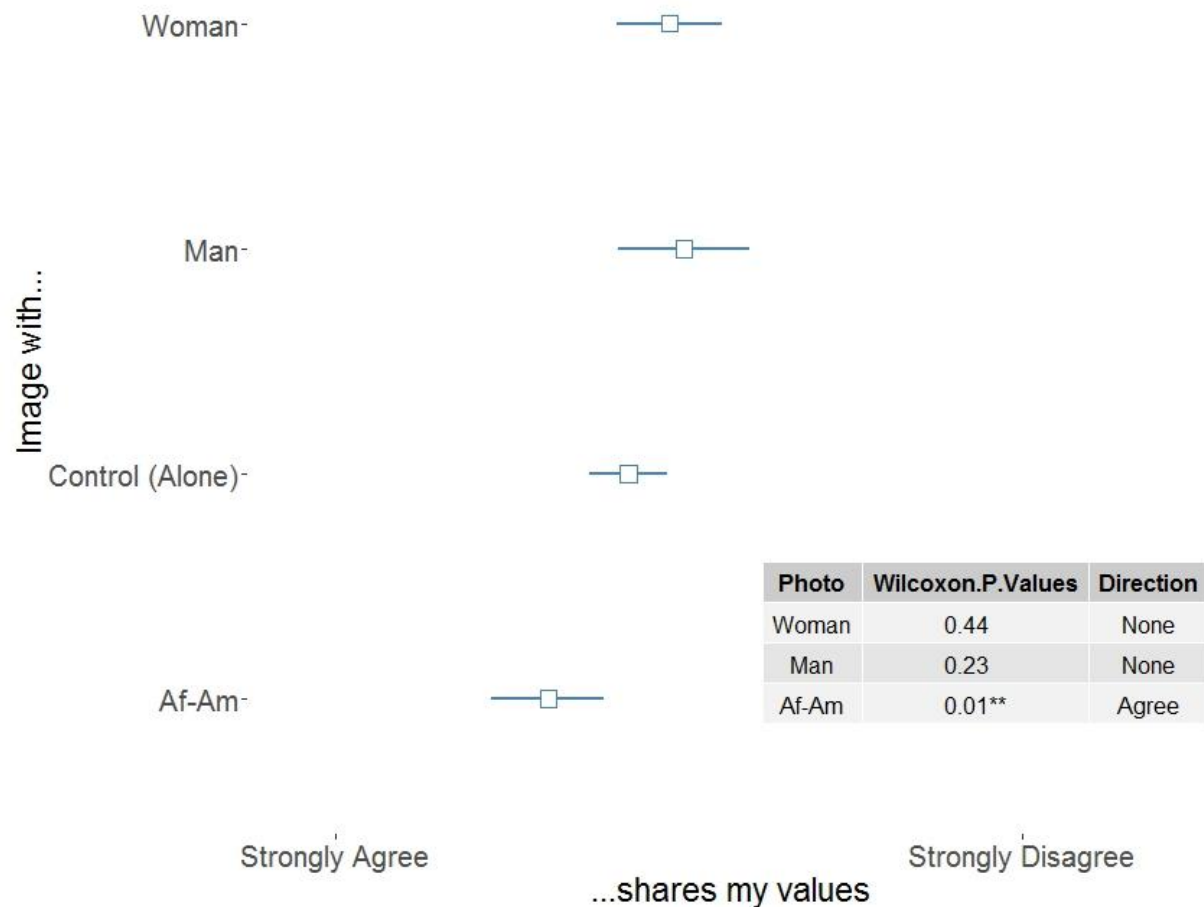
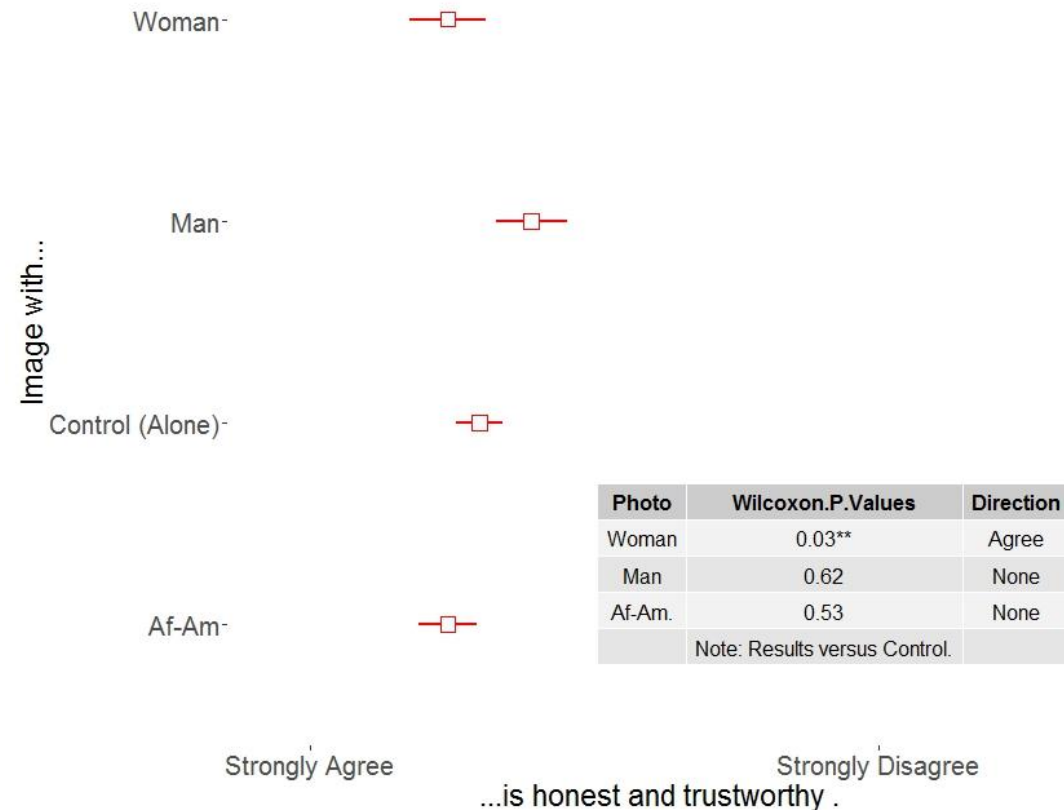


Image Experiment: Does who politicians pose with affect opinions about them? **YES!**

Affects perceptions about honesty and trust.

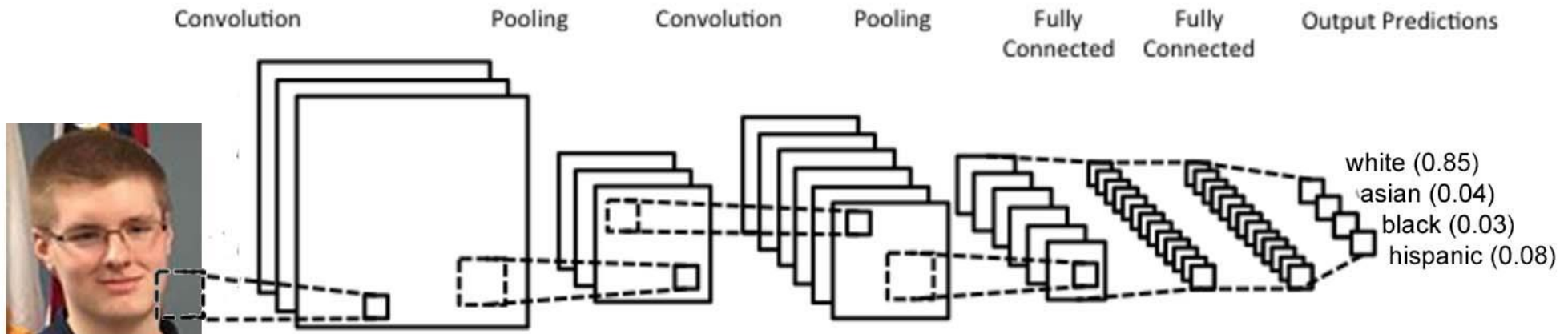


Do politicians use the people that they pose with in photos differently?

- Specifically, do Democrats and Republicans use race in photos differently?

Build convolutional neural network classifier to identify race in Congressional images

- Avg. cross-validated accuracy rates of **90%** for whites, **85%** for African-American, **75%** for Asian, **65%** for Hispanic.

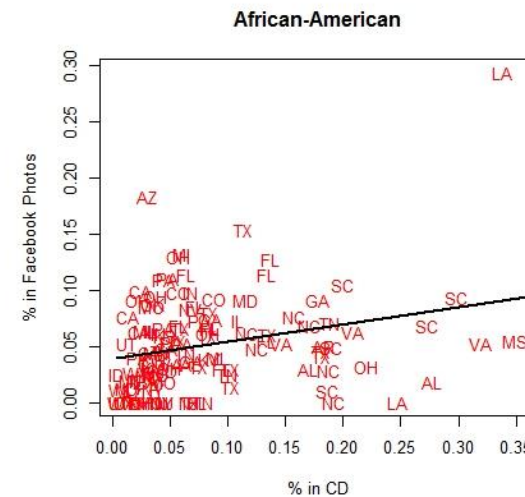
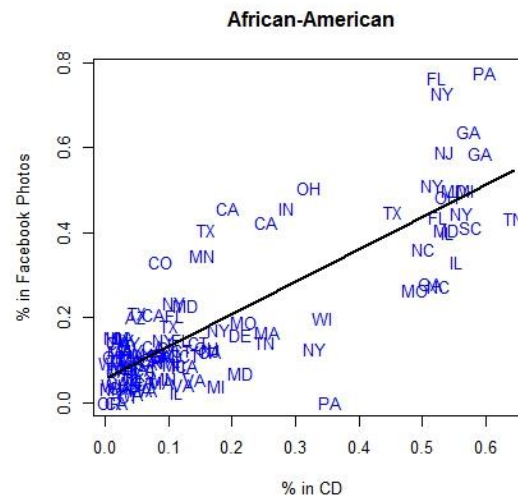
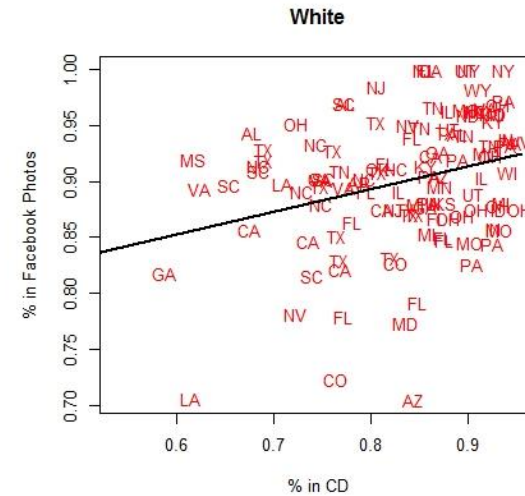
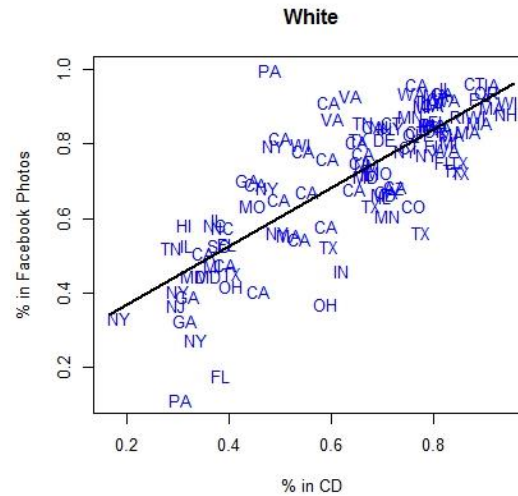


Explore strategic use of race in photographs posted by Democrats and Republicans

House members:
Congressional District Demographics

Vs

Facebook profile “demographics”



Text Analysis Projects

- Understanding political events through scalable, multi-mode, social action identification. (supervised machine learning, naïve Bayes)
- Putting your money where your statements are: using topic models to explore how changes in stated priorities reflect actual budgetary changes.

Understanding political events through scalable, multi-mode, social action identification.

- Construct a framework for identifying four types of social/political action.

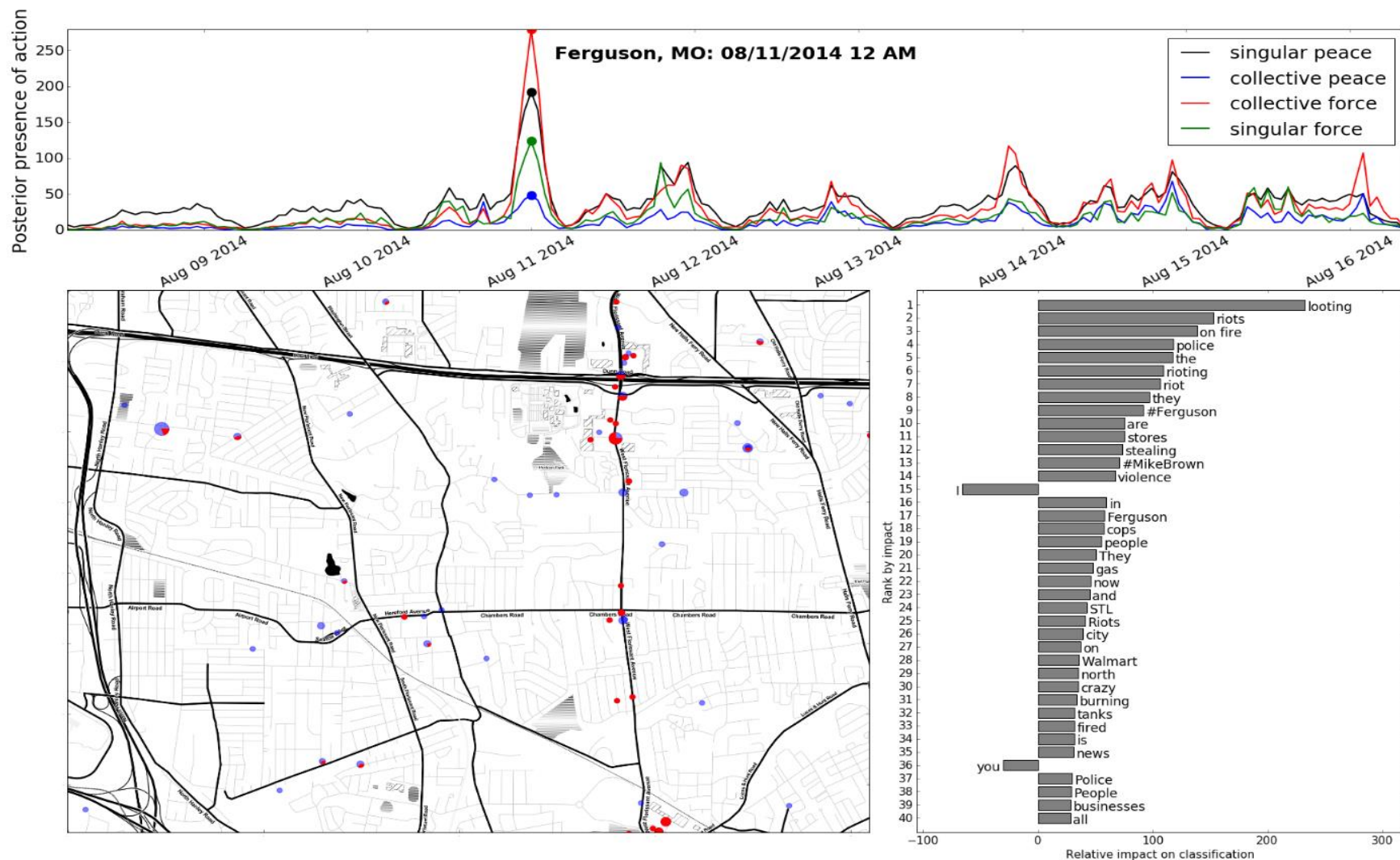
	PEACEFUL	FORCEFUL
SINGULAR	Individual actions/expressions of actions indicating peaceful intent. (e.g., expressions of empathy or support)	Individual actions/expressions of actions indicating peaceful or forceful intent. (e.g., violence between individuals)
COLLECTIVE	Collective actions/expressions of actions indicating peaceful intent. (e.g. peaceful activity among and between groups)	Collective actions/expressions of actions indicating peaceful or forceful intent. (e.g., violence among and between groups)

Understanding political events through scalable, multi-mode, social action identification.

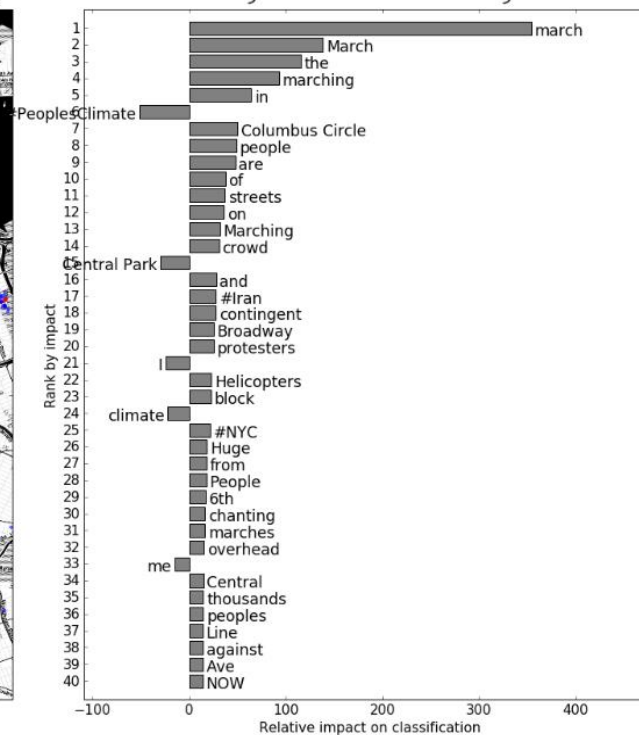
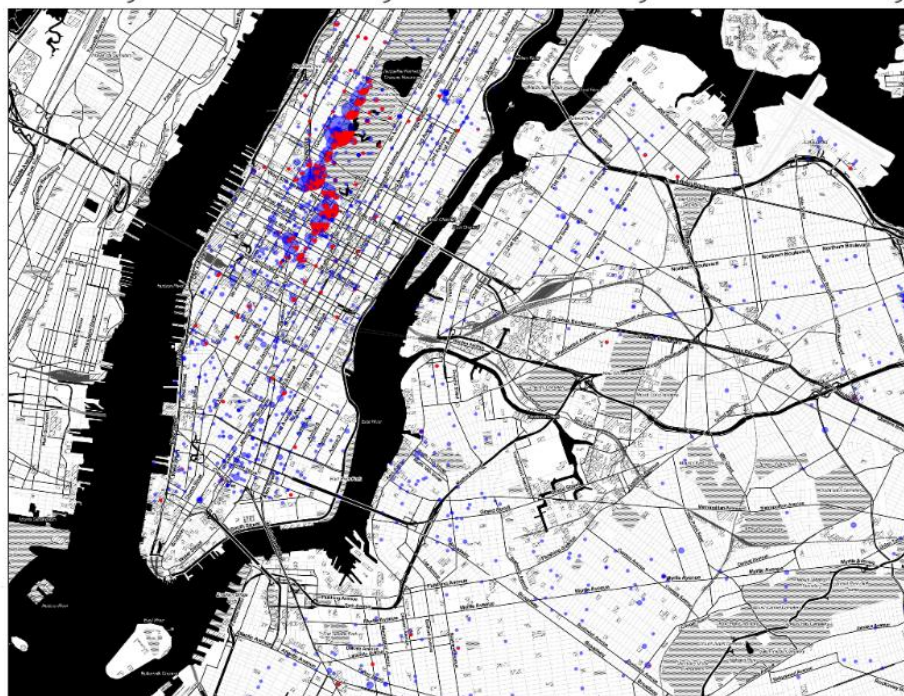
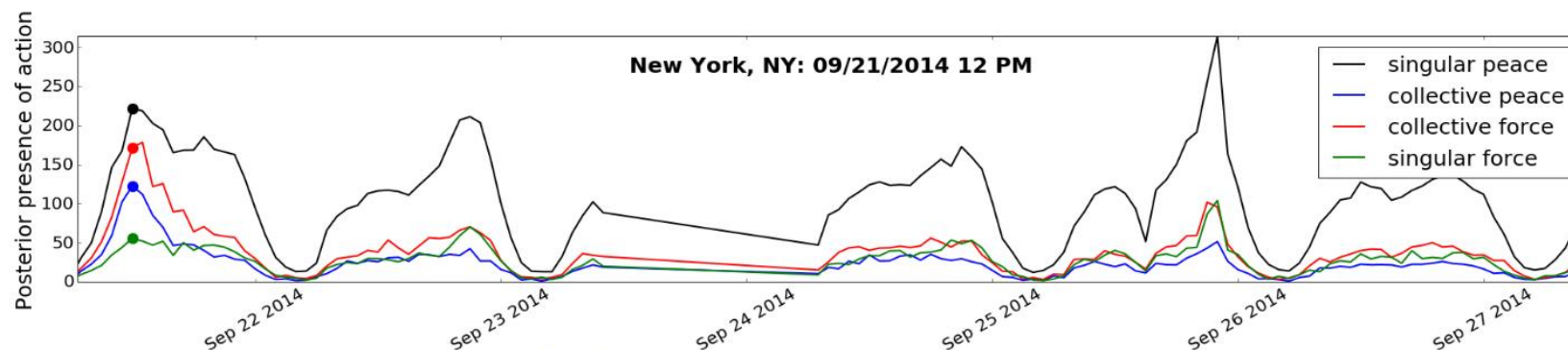
- Using 600 million + geocoded Tweets collected between April 1st, 2014 and April 30th, 2015.
- Use Associated Press image metadata to “filter” protest related Tweets.
- Train “adept” Bayes classifier to identify different types of social/political actions.



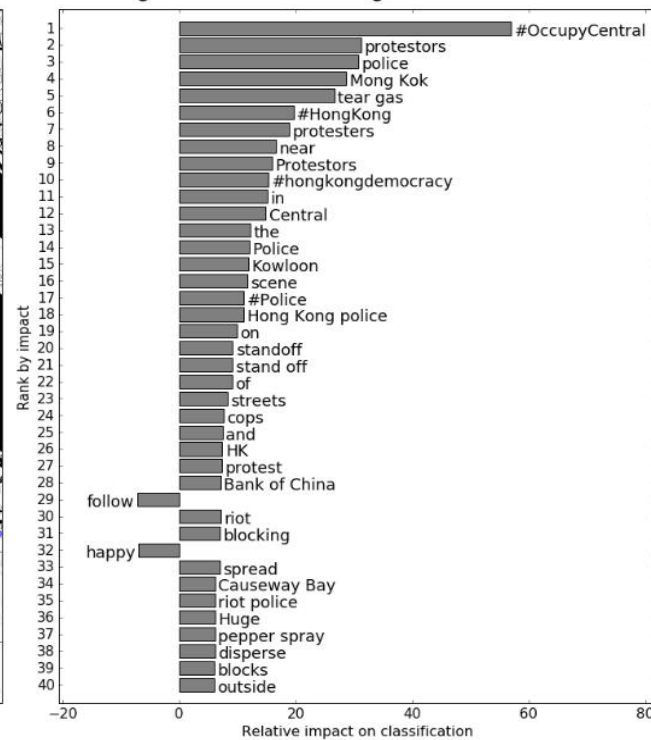
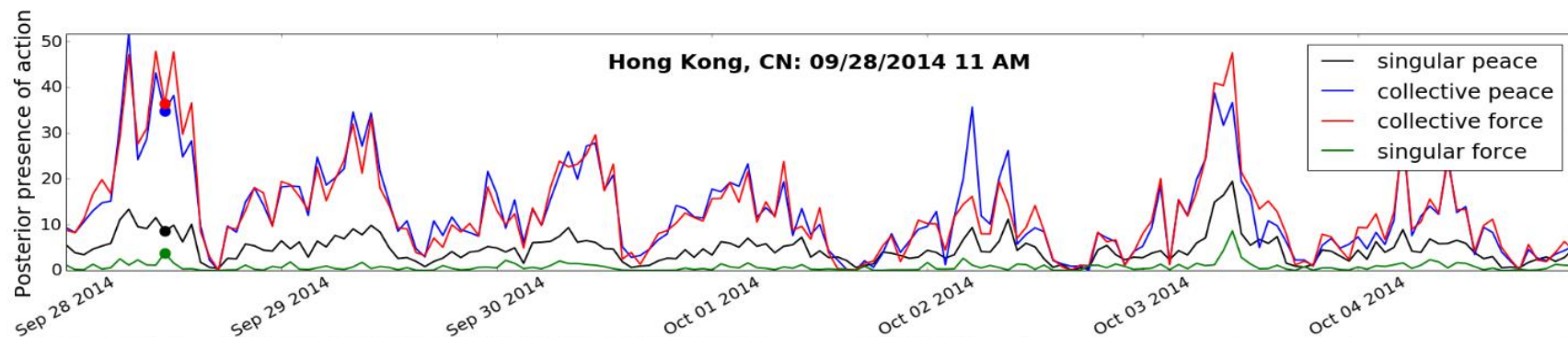
Ferguson protests, 08/11/2014



NYC climate change protests 05/21/2014



Hong Kong “occupy” protests 09/28/2014



NYC climate change protests...

