



# Hate Speech in Political Discourse: A Case Study of UK MPs on Twitter

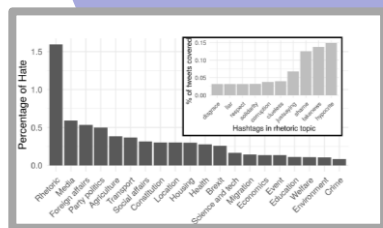
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on Hypertext and Social Media (ACM HT-2021)"*

- Twitter conversations between MPs and non-MPs during 2017.
- 2.5 Million tweets from 293k users and 553 MPs.
- We combined 18 widely-used hate speech detection tools.

## The dataset

- 25,000 tweets to MPs contained hateful language (1%).
- Tweets containing rhetorical hashtags such as #hypocrite, #fakenews or #justsaying were 6 times more likely to be labelled as hate.

## How much hate?

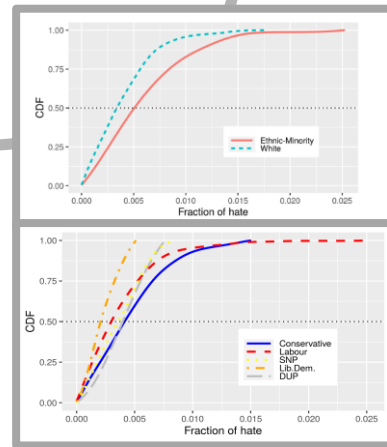
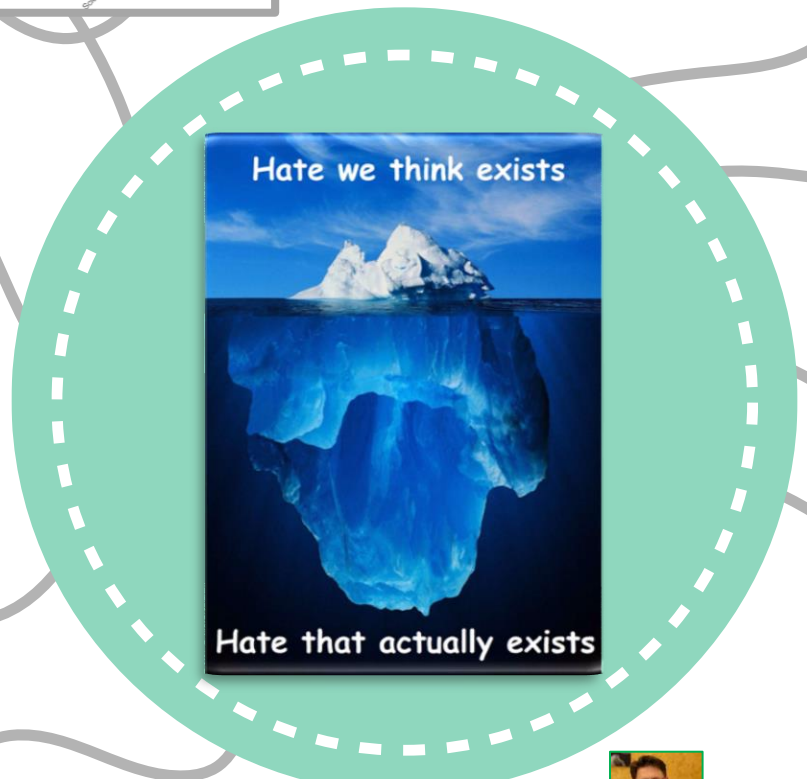
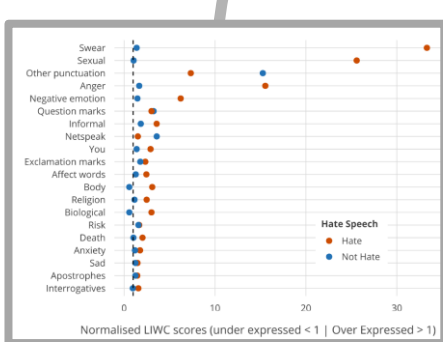


- We found that MPs are subject to intense 'Pile-on' hate.
- We had established that MPs get bursts of (un)anticipated attention on Twitter, caused by (un)planned incidents and controversies.

## When?

- MPs from ethnic minority backgrounds receive more hate than white MPs
- No statistically significant difference between male and female MPs
- Conservative MPs received more hateful tweets than other parties and Ministers received more than other MPs.

## Who?



Users	MPs					%Hate
	Conservative	Labour	S.N.P.	Lib.Dem.	D.U.P.	
Conservative	52.79	43.81	1.38	1.12	0.12	0 to 80
Labour	56.16	40.87	0.74	1.19	0.15	
S.N.P.	54.42	18.38	26.07	1	0	
Lib.Dem.	56.67	26.07	2.84	11.85	0	
D.U.P.	34.88	13.95	2.33	0	37.21	

Extent to which supporters of one party mentioned MPs of another. Supporters of Labour, the SNP and Lib Dems more likely to direct hateful comments towards Tory MPs than MPs from their own party but the opposite was true of Conservative and DUP supporters.

## Cross-party-mentions

Automatic classification may miss some of the nuance that can be obtained from careful manual analysis. Further research should focus on synthesising qualitative and quantitative approaches to obtain a more holistic understanding.

## Future Work

We acknowledge the support of **University of Surrey** (UK) via the QR Strategic Priorities Fund.

## Authors and Credits

## QR code for more details

