Intersectionality

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KARMASIK SISTEMLER VE VERI BILIMI CALISTAYI

Figure: **Black lives matter co-founder**
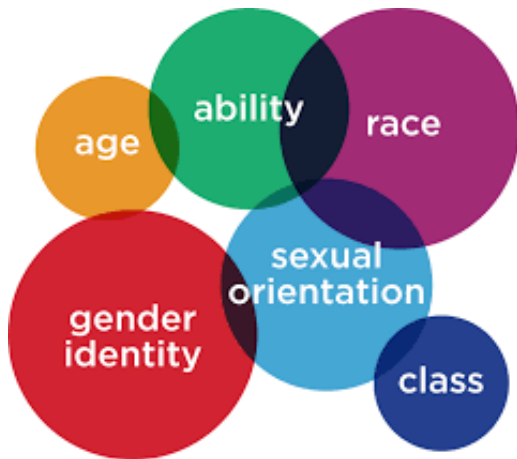
Dia-Pol

BLM: Origins

"I created #BlackLivesMatter with Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, two of my sisters, as a call to action for Black people after 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was post-humously placed on trial for his own murder and the killer, George Zimmerman, was not held accountable for the crime he committed."

BLM: Origins

"When you design an event based on the work of queer Black women, don't invite them to participate in shaping it, but ask them to provide materials and ideas for next steps for said event, that is racism in practice! It's also hetero-patriarchal. Straight men, unintentionally or intentionally, have taken the work of queer Black women and erased our contributions. Perhaps if we were the charismatic Black men many are rallying around these days, it would have been a different story, but being Black queer women in this society (and apparently within these movements) tends to equal invisibility and non-relevancy." (Garza, 2014)

Research question

Do the social media debates that include both Me Too and Black Lives Matter revolve around the demands and grievances of intersectional groups, or broader, more general themes (e.g., gender equality) on which more groups concur?

What is intersectionality?

The "dilemma" that sometimes ensues when social movements have to choose between centering subgroup identities and pointing to unifying messages to mobilize the larger African American community (Crenshaw 1989, 148).

Intersectionality & social movements

Collective identity matters especially because of the challenges that intersectionality poses (i.e., focus on subgroups or unifying messages to mobilize the larger African American community) to efforts at solidarity among social movements (Gamson, 1992).

Framing

Framing

Framing is the process whereby social movements construct and maintain ideas and meanings (Goffman, 1974; Snow & Benford, 1988). Social movements strategically use frames to garner support

Frame types (Snow & Benford, 1988)

* **Diagnostic frames** identify and construct a shared understanding of the problem that needs to be addressed
* **Prognostic frames** are about blame attribution and the articulation of possible solutions
***Motivational frames** incite people to engage in activities and create change
* **Black community** relates to the history, heritage, and culture of the Black community

Data

Data set I: Me too

Tweets including the hashtag **#MeToo**
Period: Jan. 01, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2021.

Number of tweets: 273,876

Data set II: Black Lives Matter

Tweets including the hashtag **#blacklivesmatter**
Period: Jan. 01, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2021.

Number of tweets: 269,963

Data collected using Twitter API v2

Tweets

Yeah let's keep talking about @MikeBloomberg and his racist policing philosophy. If #BlackLivesMatter 🤎, and they do!, then we MUST. End your campaign Mike! Activists will help you make that decision.
#BloombergIsRacist

Defund the Rosamond Police #BlackLivesMatter 🤎

Women need to speak up and support each other, it is about creating a real change in our country for us and for the coming generations. #Metoo 🧍
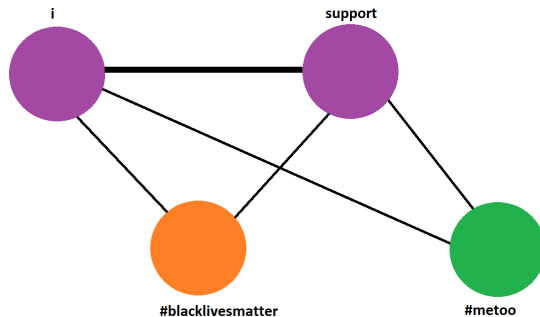
Cause that's how hard the fight for justice is for women.
#Weinstein #MeToo 🧍

Methodology

- Unit of analysis: tweets

- Approach 1: Construct a co-occurrence graph (nodes: words; weighted edges: co-occurrence in tweets.).

- Approach 2: Topic modeling with GSDMM[1] on both datasets for number of topics (k) = 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 75.

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[1]Gibbs Sampling Dirichlet Multinomial Mixture is a topic model for short texts.

Network analysis

- Nodes: Words

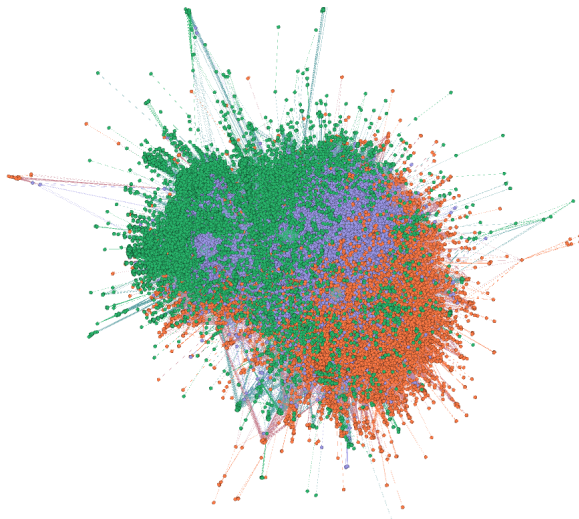- Edges: Weighted relation for co-occurrence of words in tweets.

Tweet 1:

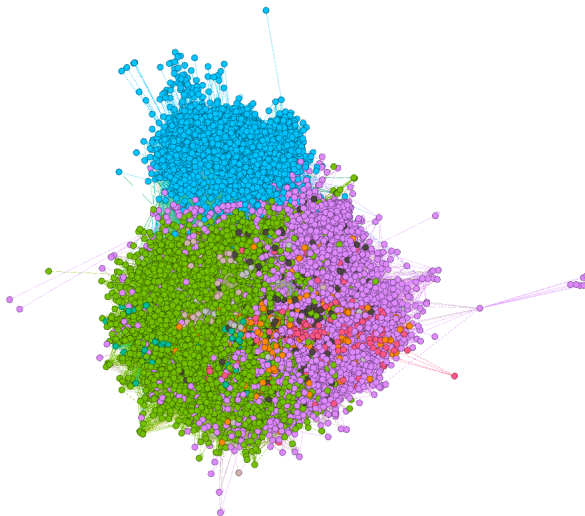I SUPPORT #BlackLivesMatter

Tweet 2:

i support #MeToo

Network of #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo datasets

Network of #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo datasets

Id	Degree ⌄	Eigenvector Centrality
#blacklivesmatter	22934	1.0
#metoo	21197	0.942431
amp	6873	0.422297
de	6344	0.300279
black	5165	0.345557
#blm	4543	0.312351
women	3894	0.285265
people	3696	0.283363
la	3288	0.181181
movement	3057	0.246894
sexual	2915	0.238012
en	2895	0.161744
like	2877	0.243889
que	2405	0.132653
white	2401	0.215133
police	2396	0.213674

Network of the common nodes

Network of the common nodes

Label	Degree ⌄	Eigenvector Centrality
#metoo	12217	1.0
#blacklivesmatter	12113	0.994766
amp	5447	0.642754
black	4356	0.564772
women	3498	0.497917
people	3287	0.49582
#blm	3280	0.486244
movement	2814	0.44915
sexual	2583	0.426475
like	2560	0.440376
de	2555	0.278658
white	2182	0.39963
one	2099	0.404082
police	2072	0.388132

Network of the common nodes

Label	Modularity Class ∧
#metoo	1
amp	1
black	1
women	1
people	1
movement	1
sexual	1
like	1
white	1
one	1
us	1
get	1
men	1
via	1
lives	1
time	1
would	1
man	1
know	1
new	1
see	1
need	1
support	1
racist	1

Label	Modularity Class ∧
#blacklivesmatter	0
#blm	0
#blacktwitter	0
#covid19	0
#racism	0
#blackhistorymonth	0
#love	0
#georgefloyd	0
#coronavirus	0
#lgbtq	0
#women	0
#alllivesmatter	0
#resist	0
#equality	0
#policebrutality	0
#biden	0
#vote	0
#bidenharris	0
join	0
check	0
#breonnataylor	0
#justice	0
#antifa	0
#blackexcellence	0

- **What is Topic Modelling?** An algorithm that sorts a set of documents into (abstract) topics.

- **Why GSDMM?** Because GSDMM is specifically designed to be used for collections of short documents. Since our documents are tweets, GSDMM works best for our purposes.

Classifying topics for $k = 10$

Cluster	Labelling clusters
0	BLM & racism dominated, also features MeToo
1	Self-care & health with occasional BLM-related themes
2	Sexual abuse and speaking up about it
3	The Tigray War rape incidents and victims
4	irrelevant
5	me too and BLM together
6	gender, identity issues, progressive ideas (e.g., feminism)
7	India, the United States government
8	BLM demands, Black culture, and business
9	popular radio station in Kenya and child/sex abuse

Classifying topics for $k = 50$

	Labelling clusters
0	Me too & social media
1	Me too & foreign states
5	BLM & social media
9	**BLM & Me too**: sexual abuse: diagnostic framing
12	Me too & domestic abuse: diagnostic framing
16	BLM: diagnostic framing (grievances)
26	BLM & US politics: foreign states and cities
28	Me Too & US government
32	**BLM & Me Too**: sexual assault; diagnostic & prognostic framing
35	**BLM, Me Too,** race, & gender: diagnostic & prognostic framing
37	BLM, health issues, & intersectionality: diagnostic & prognostic fra
38	**BLM**, **Me Too**, women, feminism: diagnostic framing
41	**BLM & Me Too**: feminism

Dive into cluster #35: *BLM & Me Too*

- #MeToo (140,026), #blacklivesmatter (129,954), black (25,885), people (24,968), women (23,052), movement (21,830)

- like (17,706), sexual (14,687), police (13,512), one (13,341), white (12,516), us (11,961), #blm (11,364)

- know (9,998), time (9,723), say (9,654), support (8,986), see (8,670), right (8,588), still (8,403), men (8,173), man (8,092), lives (7,942), justice (7,916), matter (7,266), stop (7,247), woman (7,126), racist (7,032), please (7,012)

- biden (6,980), years (6,315), rape (6,265), racism (6,248)

Dive into cluster #37: *Intersectionality, medicine, & South Africa*

- #blacklivesmatter (874)

- gems (396), heatherhedera (384), #cmscares4u (347), cmscares4u (345)

- medical (271), healthza (240), #medicalschemes (231), #medicalaidracialprofiling (207), #blackjoy (203)

- #blacktranslivesmatter (165), breathe (158), newzroom405 (155), presidencyza (153), #resist (152), #peaceisachoice (152), #putdownyourguns (152), #globalconsciousness (146)

- unhumanrights (96), usembassysa (96), #humanity (93)

Conclusion

- Many clusters featuring BLM, MeToo, or BLM & MeToo with a focus on race and gender-related grievances

Conclusion

- Many clusters featuring BLM, MeToo, or BLM & MeToo with a focus on race and gender-related grievances

- But intersectionality is never the predominant theme

- Activists provide support to both BLM and MeToo, but attention is on broad themes (e.g., race, rights, equality) instead of the grievances of intersectional groups (e.g., rights of the blacktransgender)

Future steps

- Run bi-gram and three-gram analyses

- Run a bot detection algorithm on these datasets and see whether bots distort results

- Run a time series analysis on the BLM & MeToo datasets

Thank you for listening!