# Computational History

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1 & 2 CSYS/MATH 300 and 303, 2021-2022 | @pocsvox

#### Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds | @peterdodds

Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center Vermont Advanced Computing Core | University of Vermont

























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Computational History

Statistics of

Surprise

Stories

Mechanics of Fame

Superspreading

Lexical Ultrafame

Turbulent times

Extras

Sociotechnical time series Adjacent Narratives

**Extras** Memory & Turbulence







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☑ On Instagram at pratchett\_the\_cat

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#### Outline

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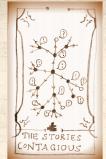












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# Fame by rank



Nature (2014): Most cited papers of all time

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# Word frequency:

## Brown Corpus $\ref{C}$ ( $\sim 10^6$ words):

rank	wor	d	% q
1	. th	e 6	.8872
2		of 3	.5839
3	. an	d 2	.8401
4	. t	0 2	.5744
5		a 2	.2996
6	. i	n 2	.1010
7	. tha	at 1	.0428
8		s 0	.9943
9	. wa	s 0	.9661
10	. h	e 0	.9392
11	. fc	r 0	.9340
12		it 0	.8623
13	. wit	h 0	.7176
14	. a	s 0	.7137
15	. hi	s 0	.6886

rank	word	% q
1945.	apply	0.0055
1946.	vital	0.0055
1947.	September	0.0055
1948.	review	0.0055
1949.	wage	0.0055
1950.	motor	0.0055
1951.	fifteen	0.0055
1952.	regarded	0.0055
1953.	draw	0.0055
1954.	wheel	0.0055
1955.	organized	0.0055
1956.	vision	0.0055
1957.	wild	0.0055
1958.	Palmer	0.0055
1959.	intensity	0.0055

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# Jonathan Harris's Wordcount:

A word frequency distribution explorer:



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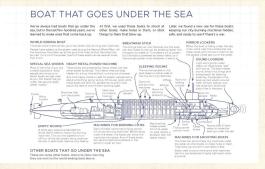






# 





Up goer five ☑

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### The everywhereness of algorithms and stories:



"On the Origin of Stories: Evolution, Cognition, and Fiction" (a) Cognition Boyd (2010). [3]



"The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human" **3**. by Jonathan Gottschall (2013). [10]



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## Algorithms, recipes, stories, ...



"The Code Economy: A Forty-Thousand Year History" a C by Philip E Auerswald (2017). [1]



"Algorithms to Live By" a 2 by Christian and Griffiths (2016). [6]



"Once Upon an Algorithm" 3 🗷 by Martin Erwig (2017). [9]

Also: Numerical Recipes in C<sup>[16]</sup> and How to Bake  $\pi$ <sup>[4]</sup>

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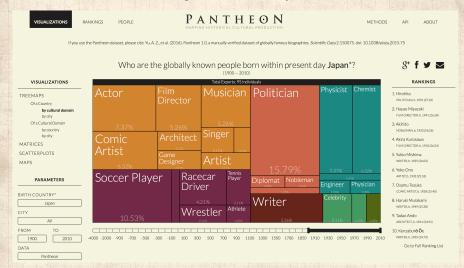
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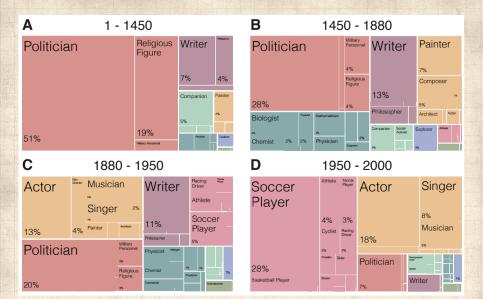




# The famous are storytellers—Japan:



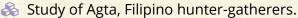
#### For people born 1950-



## Super Survival of the Stories:



The Desirability Storytellers 7, The Atlantic, Ed Yong, 2017-12-05.



- Storytelling valued well above all other skills including hunting.
- Stories encode prosocial norms such as cooperation.
- Like the best stories, the best storytellers reproduce more successfully.

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# The most famous painting in the world:



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# The dismal predictive powers of editors .....

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Twelve ...





# The completely unpredicted fall of Eastern Europe:



Timur Kuran: [12] "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989"

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## We understand bushfire stories:

- 1. Sparks start fires.
- 2. System properties control a fire's spread.
- 3. But for three reasons, we make two mistakes about Social Fires ...

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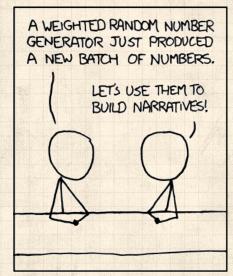








#### Reason 1—We are Homo Narrativus.



ALL SPORTS COMMENTARY

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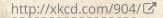
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# Reason 2—"We are all individuals."

Archival footage:

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Individual narratives are not enough to understand distributed, networked minds.





## Reason 3—We are spectacular imitators.

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BBC/David Attenborough.





# Mistake 1: Success is due to intrinsic properties

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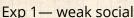


See "Becoming Mona Lisa" by David Sassoon





48 songs 30k participants





Exp. 2—strong social





"An experimental study of inequality and unpredictability in an artificial cultural market"

Salganik, Dodds, and Watts, Science, **311**, 854–856, 2006. [18] Pocs @pocsvox

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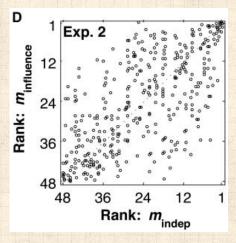
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# Resolving the paradox:



Increased social awareness leads to Stronger inequality + Less predictability. Pocs @pocsvox

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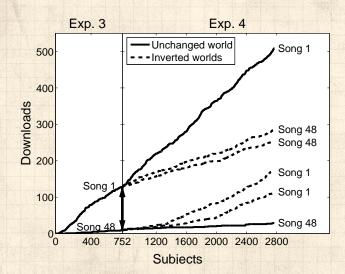
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# Payola/Deceptive advertising hurts us all:



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"Mistake" 2:

Seeing success is 'due to social' and wanting to say 'all your interactions are belong to us'



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#### "This is truly the last time, believe me"

#### The Washington Dost

Business + Acobrolo



14 years of Mark Zuckerberg saving sorry, not sorry By Geoffrey A. Fowler and Chiqui Esteban April 9, 2019

Do you trust Mark Zuckerberg?

From the moment the Pacebook founder entered the public eye in 2009 for creating a Harvard student hot-or-not rating site, he's been applopring. So we collected this abbreviated history of his public mea culpus.

It reads like a record on repeat. Zuckerberg, who made "move fast and break things" his slogan, says sorry for being naive, and then promises solutions such as privacy "controls," "transparency" and better policy

"enforcement." And then he promises it again the next time. You can track and promises in blue in the timeline below.

charges about the way Zuckerberg handles it. So as Zuckerberg prepares to apologize for the first time in front of Congress, the question that lingers is: What will be different this time:

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Robert Godwin Sr., and we have a lot of work - and we will keep doing all we can to prevent tragedies like this from happening."



While revealing a nine-step plan to stop nations from using Facebook to "problematic content" found so far is "relatively small."

"I care deeply about the democratic process and protecting its integrity, ... It is a new challenge for internet communities to deal with



After unveiling new terms of service that angered users. "Over the past couple of days, we received a lot

of questions and comments, ... Based on this feedback, we have decided to return to our previous terms of use while we resolve the

"We won't prevent all mistakes or abuse, but we currently make too many errors enforcing our policies and preventing misuse of our tools. .. This will be a serious year of self-

improvement and I'm looking forward to learning from working to fix our issues together.



data, and if we can't then we don't deserve to serve you. ... We will learn from this experience to secure our platform further and make our community safer for everyone going



have led the internet in building tools to give people the ability to see and control what they share



psychological tests on nearly 700,000 users without their knowledge.

" It was my mistake, and I'm sorry. ... There's more we can do here to limit the information developers can access and put more safeguards in place to prevent abuse.

Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg on data leak: 'I am really sorry, we are late'

• 222 Comments

The Facebook ads Russians showed to different groups Faceback has said these ads were created by the interest

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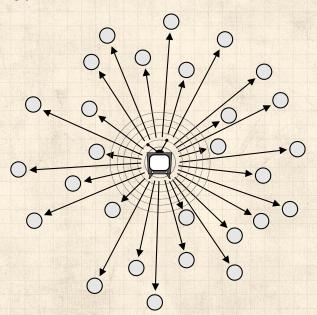
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# The hypodermic model of influence:



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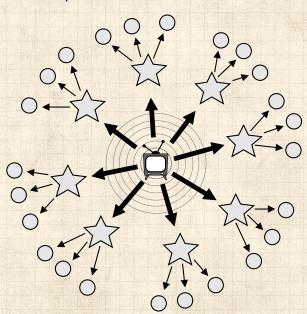
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# The two step model of influence: [11]



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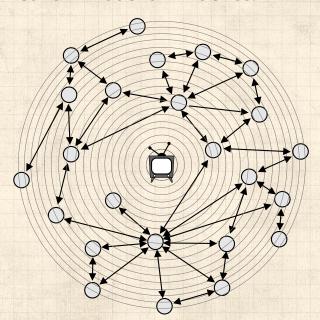








## The network model of influence:



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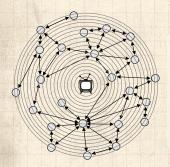
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### The network model of influence:



## How superspreading works:

Many interconnected, average, trusting people must benefit from both receiving and sharing a message far from its source.



"Influentials, Networks, and Public Opinion Formation"

Watts and Dodds, J. Consum. Res., **34**, 441–458, 2007. [19] PoCS @pocsvox

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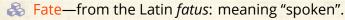
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### Etymological clarity:



Fate is talk that has been done. "It is written", fore-tell, pre-dict.

Destiny is probablistic.

Fame—from the Latin fāma: meaning "to talk."

Fame is inherently the social discussion about the thing, not the thing itself.

Renown :: Repeatedly named, talked about. Old French renon, from re- + non ("name").

Réclame . "Clamo"—Proto-Indo-European: "to shout" (again). Connected to "lowing".

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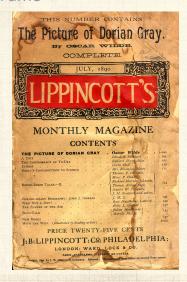
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#### Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray: Raw Fame



"There is only one thing in the world

worse than being talked about.

and that is

not being talked about."

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"Fame and Ultrafame: Measuring and comparing daily levels of 'being talked about' for United States' presidents, their rivals, God, countries, and K-pop" Dodds et al.,

https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.00149, 2019. [7]



"Computational timeline reconstruction of the stories surrounding Trump: Story turbulence, narrative control, and collective chronopathy" Dodds et al., . 2020. [8]

POTUSometer with the Smorgasdashbord: http://compstorylab.org/potusometer/

Available online at

Stories surrounding Trump: http://compstorylab.org/trumpstoryturbulence/ PoCS @pocsvox

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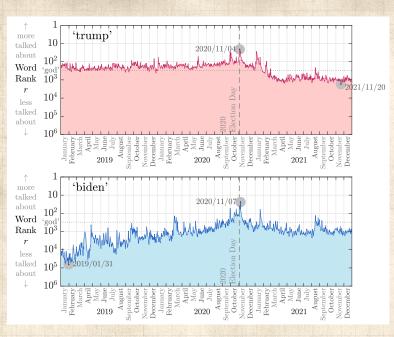
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# Ultrafame: Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition K-pop:



Vox (2019-04-17): BTS, the band that changed K-pop, explained &

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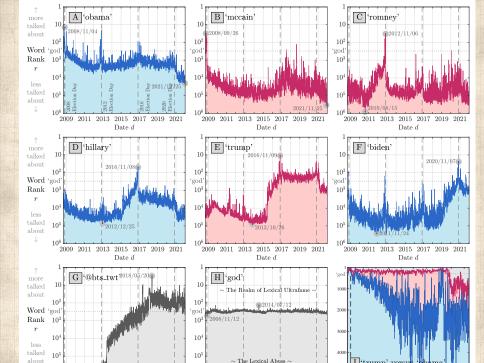
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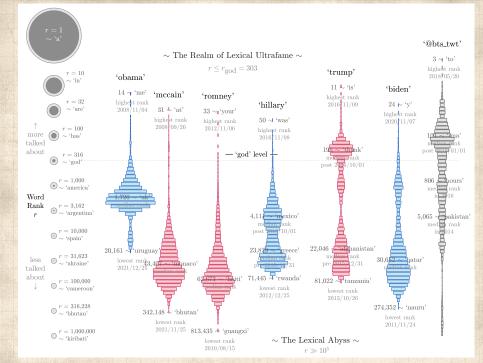












Ultrafame—Percentage of days per year ranked above 'god'

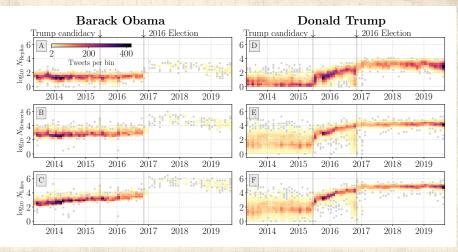
		Oltra	trame	-rercen	tage or	days p	er year	ranked	above	gou			
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
'barack' 1.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'obama' 54.4%	6.9%	0.5%	0.5%	2.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	2.2%	2.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
'@barackobama' 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'john' 3.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%
'mccain' 39.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'@senjohnmccain'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'mitt'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'romney' 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
'@mittromney'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'hillary'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'clinton' 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'@hillaryclinton'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
'donald'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.6%
'trump' 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	47.8%	98.6%	93.7%	92.3%	100.0%	10.2%
'@realdonaldtrump'   $0.0\%$	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	26.8%	41.4%	62.7%	90.2%	2.2%
'joe'   3.5%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.2%	0.6%
'biden' 1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.8%	6.1%
'@joebiden'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%	0.3%
'@bts_twt'   0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	8.5%	50.7%	100.0%	100.0%	98.9%	93.1%

Relative median rates of 'being talked about' in the 8 weeks (56 days) pre-election day:

'barack' 'obama' '@barackobama'	1000	2012   11   132   24		2020   13   71   17
'john' 'mccain' '@senjohnmccain'	[307] [757]	66 1 0	_	65 3
'mitt' 'romney' '@mittromney'	2	50 120 14	2   3   1	2   3   1
'hillary' 'clinton' '@hillaryclinton'	42	3   8   0	357 326 130	30   23   19
'donald' 'trump' '@realdonaldtrump'	4	5   3   4	178 656 219	135 1001 656
ʻjoe' ʻbiden' '@joebiden'	67	[]39  4  1	32   5   1	287 504 212
'@bts_twt' 'god'		484	166 362	380

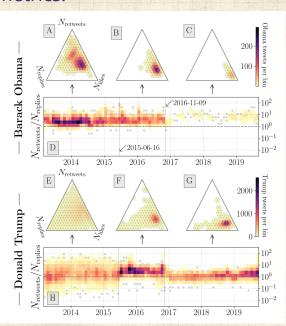
Relative median rates of 'being talked about' per year: 'barack' 150 'obama' 897 '@barackobama' 10 'john' 405 'mccain' 579 '@senjohnmccain' | 0 'mitt' 5 'romney' 3 '@mittromney' ĺт İ1 'hillary' 28 'clinton' 62 '@hillaryclinton' 0 'donald' 11 'trump' 7 '@realdonaldtrump' | 0 'joe' 157 'biden' 72 '@joebiden' | 0 '@bts\_twt' | 0 T123 'god' 666 

# Ratiometrics:



<sup>&</sup>quot;Ratioing the President: An exploration of public engagement with Obama and Trump on Twitter," Minot et al.,  $2020 \begin{bmatrix} 13 \end{bmatrix}$ 

# Ratiometrics:



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## Extras

Memory & Turbulence

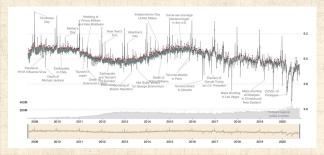
## References





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# Emotional turbulence:





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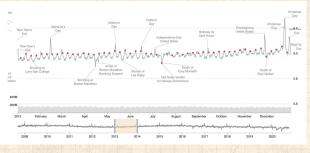
# Extras

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# Emotional turbulence:





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# Extras

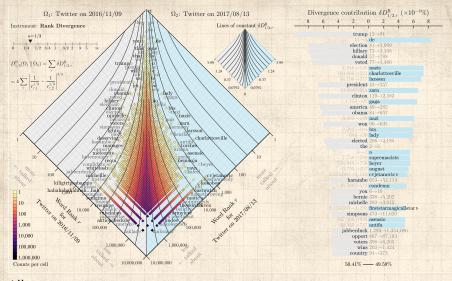
Memory & Turbulence

#### References

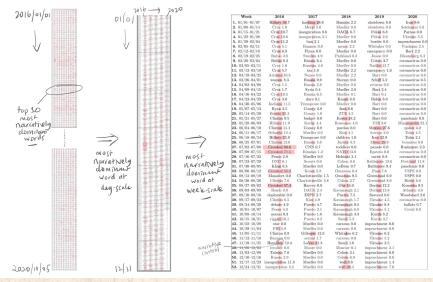




http://hedonometer.org/♂



Allotaxonometry—
the comparison of complex systems:
http://compstorylab.org/allotaxonometry/



http://compstorylab.org/trumpstoryturbulence/

Week	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1. 01/01-01/07	Hillary 34.7	hacking 28.6	Bannon 2.2	shutdown 0.0	Iran 9.6	Georgia 14.7
2. 01/08-01/14	Cruz 1.0	Mervl 5.0	Mueller 0.0	shutdown 0.0	Soleimani 5.9	Capitol 0.1
3. 01/15-01/21	Cruz 10.7	inauguration 0.6	DACA 6.7	Pelosi 6.8	Parnas 0.0	Capitol 0.1
4. 01/22-01/28	Cruz 10.6	inauguration 3.1	Mueller 0.0	Pelosi 2.6	Ukraine 5.5	insurrection 0.0
5. 01/29-02/04	Cruz 11.2	ban 2.1	Mueller 0.0	border 0.0	impeachment 0.0	Greene 0.0
6. 02/05-02/11	Cruz 5.1	Bannon 0.0	memo 2.3	Whitaker 0.0	Vindman 2.5	insurrection 0.0
7. 02/12-02/18	Cruz 6.9	Flynn 0.0	Mueller 0.0	emergency 0.0	Barr 2.2	Capitol 0.0
8. 02/19-02/25	Rubio 3.8	Sweden 4.9	Parkland 0.3	Jussie 0.0	Bloomberg 6.3	Capitol 0.0
9. 02/26-03/04	Rubio 9.2	Russia 6.4	Mueller 0.0	Cohen 3.7	coronavirus 0.0	Capitol 0.0
10. 03/05-03/11	Cruz 1.0	Russian 4.8	Mueller 0.0	Nadler 13.7	coronavirus 0.0	insurrection 0.0
11. 03/12-03/18	Cruz 5.7	tax 1.8	Mueller 2.2	emergency 1.6	coronavirus 0.0	Biden 0.0
12. 03/19-03/25	Arizona 16.8	Nunes 0.0	Mueller 2.2	Barr 0.0	coronavirus 0.0	Biden 0.0
<ol> <li>03/26-04/01</li> </ol>	women 8.3	Russia 9.9	Stormy 0.0	Schiff 5.2	coronavirus 0.5	Capitol 0.0
14. 04/02-04/08	Cruz 1.5	Russia 2.8	Mueller 0.0	returns 0.0	coronavirus 0.0	Matt 0.0
15. 04/09-04/15	Cruz 1.7	Syria 0.4	Mueller 2.0	Barr 2.4	coronavirus 0.0	Capitol 0.0
<b>16.</b> 04/16-04/22	Cruz 10.5	Russia 0.5	Mueller 0.1	Barr 0.1	coronavirus 0.0	Capitol 0.0
17. 04/23-04/29	Cruz 3.0	days 0.1	Kanye 8.0	Biden 6.0	coronavirus 0.0	audit 0.0
<b>18.</b> 04/30-05/06	Indiana 11.5	Trumpcare 0.0	Mueller 0.0	Barr 0.0	coronavirus 0.0	Chency 0.0
19. 05/07-05/13	Ryan 2.5	Comey 2.8	Iran 6.6	Barr 0.0	coronavirus 0.0	Cheney 0.0
20. 05/14-05/20	Bernie 25.3	Comey 1.0	ZTE 4.5	Barr 0.0	coronavirus 0.0	Cheney 0.0
21. 05/21-05/27	Clinton 9.5	budget 0.0	Korea 18.2	Barr 0.0	pandemic 0.0	Weisselberg 0.0
22. 05/28-06/03	Hillary 11.9	Kathy 4.4	Roseanne 4.0	USS 3.0	Minneapolis 32.1	reinstated 0.0
23. 06/04-06/10	Clinton 11.1	Comey 0.8	pardon 0.0	Mexico 27.6	police 4.2	McGahn 0.0
24. 06/11-06/17	Orlando 12.4	Mueller 0.0	Kim 4.1	foreign 2.0	Tulsa 4.5	DOJ 0.0
25. 06/18-06/24	Hillary 23.9	Trumpcare 0.0	children 1.0 Justice 8.3	Iran 12.9	Tulsa 2.1	Capitol 0.0
26. 06/25-07/01 27. 07/02-07/08	Clinton 13.0 Crooked 80.6	Russia 5.8 CNN 0.7	toddlers 0.0	Moon 29.9	bounties 0.0 Rushmore 2.3	Organization 0.0
28. 07/09-07/15	Crooked 71.5	Russian 1.2	NATO 13.0	parade 0.0 Epstein 0.0	coronavirus 0.0	Weisselberg 0.0 CPAC 0.0
29. 07/16-07/22	Pence 2.9	Mueller 0.0	Helsinki 3.1	racist 0.8	coronavirus 0.0	vaccinated 0.0
30. 07/23-07/29	DNC 6.1	Scouts 0.0	Cohen 0.0	Baltimore 13.6	Portland 11.8	Jan 0.0
31. 07/30-08/05	Khan 6.5	Mueller 0.0	LeBron 0.7	Baltimore 9.4	pandemic 0.0	Capitol 0.0
32. 08/06-08/12	Crooked 55.2	Korea 5.8	Omarosa 0.4	Paso 7.6	USPS 0.0	Rosen 0.0
33. 08/13-08/19	Manafort 0.0	Charlottesville 1.5	Omarosa 9.5	Greenland 6.9	USPS 0.0	Taliban 0.0
34. 08/20 <del>-</del> 08/26	Clinton 7.6	Charlottesville 3.8	Cohen 2.7	Greenland 8.0	Biden 6.6	Taliban 0.0
35. 08/27-09/02	Crooked 57.4	Harvey 0.0	Ohr 14.0	Dorian 12.2	Kenosha 9.5	Taliban 0.0
36. 09/03-09/09	Bondi 0.0	DACA 2.4	Kavanaugh 2.1	Dorian 12.6	Atlantic 4.8	Afghanistan 0.0
37. 09/10-09/16	deplorable 0.0	ESPN 2.7	Puerto 7.5	flavored 0.0	Woodward 2.6	Milley 0.0
38. 09/17-09/23	Clinton 6.5	Kim 4.9	Kavanaugh 1.7	Ukraine 4.5	coronavirus 0.0	Eastman 0.0
39. 09/24-09/30	debate 4.9	Puerto 4.7	Kavanaugh 9.5	Ukraine 6.8	ballots 0.7	audit 0.0
40. 10/01–10/07	Pence 4.9	Puerto 2.1	Kavanaugh 6.8	Ukraine 5.1	Covid 1.4	Bannon 0.0
41. 10/08–10/14	sexual 0.3	Puerto 1.8	Kavanaugh 4.3	Kurds 8.2	COVID 1.4	Jan 0.0
<b>42.</b> 10/15-10/21	rigged 10.1	Puerto 0.2	Saudi 5.3	Kurds 3.7	Biden 8.2	Powell 0.0
<ol> <li>43. 10/22–10/28</li> </ol>	star 0.0	Mueller 0.0	caravan 0.0	impeachment 0.0	Biden 9.2	Jan 0.0
<b>44.</b> 10/29-11/04	FBI 5.9	Mueller 0.0	caravan 0.0	impeachment 0.0	Biden 10.0	Youngkin 0.0
45. 11/05-11/11	Clinton 0.9	Gillespie 12.0	Whitaker 6.2	Ukraine 6.2	votes 3.4	infrastructure 0.0
46. 11/12-11/18	Bannon 0.0	sexual 1.7	caravan 0.0	Ukraine 5.2	Dominion 23.2	Christie 0.0
47. 11/19-11/25	Hamilton 12.4	LaVar 21.3	Saudi 1.6	Ukraine 3.5	Sidney 0.1	Rittenhouse 0.0
48. 11/26-12/02	recount 0.0 Taiwan 7.8	Moore 0.0	Moscow 0.1 Cohen 2.1	impeachment 3.1	votes 24.1	Waukesha 0.0 Meadows 0.0
49. 12/03-12/09 50. 12/10-12/16	Russia 2.9	Mueller 0.0 Mueller 0.0	Cohen 6.9	impeachment 0.0 impeachment 0.0	Georgia 20.2 vaccine 11.1	Meadows 0.0
	inauguration 11.8		wall 9.8	impeachment 0.0	vaccine 11.1 vaccine 15.4	Manchin 0.0
	inauguration 3.2	Mueller 0.0	wall 20.4	impeachment 7.6	Election 60.2	Brandon 0.0
Om. 15/54-15/01	mauguration 3.2	mucher 0.0	wan 20.4	unbeaciment 1.0	Diccion 00.2	Dianaon 0.0

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Week	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1. 01/01-01/07	Hillary Clinton 32.7	plant in 85.1	Steve Bannon 5.7	the government 0.0	a war 6.6	in Georgia 20.2
<ol><li>01/08-01/14</li></ol>	Trump rally 0.0	Meryl Streep 6.6	shithole countries 0.0	the border 1.0	impeachment trial 0.0	the Capitol 0.0
3. 01/15-01/21		Frump's inauguration 0		Cohen to 0.0	impeachment trial 0.0	the Capitol 0.0
<ol> <li>4. 01/22–01/28</li> </ol>	Megyn Kelly 4.9	executive order 0.0	the FBI 5.6	the government 0.0	impeachment trial 0.0	the Capitol 0.0
<ol> <li>01/29-02/04</li> </ol>	Ted Cruz 19.7	travel ban 1.6	the FBI 9.4		impeachment trial 0.0	the Capitol 0.0
<ol><li>6. 02/05-02/11</li></ol>	New Hampshire 19.5	travel ban 1.1	military parade 0.0		Alexander Vindman 0.0	
7. 02/12-02/18	Ted Cruz 15.7	Michael Flynn 0.0		national emergency 0.0		the Capitol 0.0
8. 02/19 <del>-</del> 02/25		Frump administration 0		Jussie Smollett 0.0	Bernie Sanders 13.6	the Capitol 0.0
9. 02/26-03/04	vote for 4.4	to Russia 22.0	Hope Hicks 0.0	Michael Cohen 5.3	the coronavirus 0.0	the Capitol 0.0
10. 03/05-03/11	Ted Cruz 2.4	travel ban 0.0	Stormy Daniels 0.0	Tim Apple 0.0	the coronavirus 0.0	voted for 0.0
11. 03/12 <del>-</del> 03/18	Trump is 0.1	Meals on 0.0	Stormy Daniels 0.0	New Zealand 17.9	the coronavirus 0.0	Lara Trump 0.0
12. 03/19-03/25	Lyin' Ted 66.2		Cambridge Analytica 0.		the coronavirus 0.0	the border 0.0
13. 03/26-04/01	Trump is 0.0	Freedom Caucus 20.8	Stormy Daniels 0.0	Mueller report 0.0	the coronavirus 0.0	Matt Gaetz 0.0
14. 04/02 <del>-</del> 04/08	Ted Cruz 3.9	Susan Rice 0.3	National Guard 0.0	tax returns 0.0	the coronavirus 0.0	Matt Gaetz 0.0
15. 04/09-04/15	New York 19.3	in Syria 0.2	Michael Cohen 0.0	sanctuary cities 5.3	the coronavirus 0.0	Matt Gaetz 0.0
16. 04/16-04/22	Ted Cruz 28.1	turnout for 0.0	Michael Cohen 2.4	Mueller report 0.0	the coronavirus 0.0	Maxine Waters 0.0
17. 04/23-04/29	Trump rally 0.0	tax plan 0.0	the Korean 0.0	Mueller report 0.0	the coronavirus 0.0	Liz Cheney 0.0
18. 04/30-05/06	Ted Cruz 5.5	health care 0.0	Stormy Daniels 0.0	Mueller report 0.0	treated worse 0.0	Liz Cheney 0.0
19. 05/07-05/13	Paul Ryan 2.0	James Comey 6.7	the Iran 9.0	tax returns 0.0	tested positive 0.0	Liz Cheney 0.0
20. 05/14-05/20	Hillary Clinton 26.5	Saudi Arabia 12.5	are animals 0.0	Lindsey Graham 0.0	the pandemic 0.0	Kevin McCarthy 0.0
21. 05/21-05/27	Hillary Clinton 24.8	Saudi Arabia 8.2	the FBI 23.3	Nancy Pelosi 12.5	a mask 6.3	the January 0.0
22. 05/28-06/03	Trump University 3.4		Samantha Bee 4.4	John McCain 0.0	photo op 0.0	Memorial Day 0.0
23. 06/04-06/10	Hillary Clinton 18.6	James Comey 0.2	Justin Trudeau 8.5	with Mexico 39.2	Left Democrats 75.1	Jean Carroll 0.0
24. 06/11-06/17	Trump is 0.0	obstruction of 12.6	their parents 0.0	the FBI 8.5	in Tulsa 7.4	Trump DOJ 0.0
25. 06/18-06/24	Hillary Clinton 20.6	Karen Handel 16.6	their parents 3.4	need soap 0.0	in Tulsa 2.2	the Capitol 0.0 rump Organization 0.0
26. 06/25-07/01	Hillary Clinton 20.5	Fake News 37.6	Supreme Court 3.7 Frump administration 0	Jean Carroll 0.0	Mount Rushmore 3.9	Ashli Babbitt 0.0
27. 07/02-07/08 28. 07/09-07/15	Crooked Hillary 82.8 Crooked Hillary 73.3	Trump Jr 0.0	Supreme Court 7.9	Jeffrey Epstein 0.0	Roger Stone 0.0	the Capitol 0.0
29. 07/16-07/22	Mike Pence 6.8	Secret Service 0.0	in Helsinki 1.7	a racist 0.0	in Portland 0.0	Tom Barrack 0.0
30. 07/23-07/29	Crooked Hillary 79.6		Walk of 0.0	Elijah Cummings 27.2		the Capitol 0.0
31. 07/30-08/05	Khizr Khan 0.0	Maxine Waters 0.0	enemy of 22.2	El Paso 11.1	the election 3.4	the Capitol 0.0
32. 08/06-08/12	Hillary Clinton 10.5	North Korea 5.7	Space Force 11.1	El Paso 7.7	Social Security 0.0	overturn the 0.0
33. 08/13-08/19			security clearance 0.0	New Hampshire 26.5	the USPS 0.0	the Taliban 0.0
34. 08/20-08/26	Hillary Clinton 19.1	Joe Arpaio 3.5	Michael Cohen 4.3	Prime Minister 28.7	Joe Biden 5.9	the Taliban 0.0
35. 08/27-09/02	Crooked Hillary 61.8	Hurricane Harvey 0.1	John McCain 0.2	Hurricane Dorian 9.6	Joe Biden 2.7	the Taliban 0.0
36. 09/03-09/09	in Detroit 0.0	to end 0.0	Brett Kavanaugh 7.6	the Taliban 3.0	Joe Biden 3.4	Robert E 0.0
<b>37.</b> 09/10-09/16	tax returns 0.0	white supremacist 0.0		Dan Bishop 37.7	Joe Biden 13.3	the Taliban 0.0
38. 09/17-09/23	Trump Jr 0.0	North Korea 12.8	Blasev Ford 0.0	a foreign 6.4	Supreme Court 7.3	to overturn 0.0
39. 09/24-09/30	Hillary Clinton 7.5	Puerto Rico 5.2	Brett Kavanaugh 15.7	mpeachment inquiry 0.	0 Supreme Court 5.7	debt ceiling 0.0
40. 10/01-10/07	Mike Pence 8.9	Puerto Rico 2.6	Supreme Court 6.9	Adam Schiff 13.3	Walter Reed 5.7	the debt 0.0
41. 10/08-10/14	sexual assault 0.0	Puerto Rico 2.2	Kanve West 0.0	the Kurds 11.3	Biden is 26.5	the January 0.0
42. 10/15-10/21	Hillary Clinton 19.9	families of 0.0	Saudi Arabia 6.6	the Kurds 3.8	Joe Biden 12.1	the January 0.0
<b>43.</b> 10/22-10/28	Hillary Clinton 11.7	Myeshia Johnson 0.0	the bombs 0.0	World Series 0.0	Joe Biden 10.1	Alec Baldwin 0.0
44. 10/29-11/04	Hillary Clinton 6.5	Twitter employee 0.01	birthright citizenship 0.	0the impeachment 0.0	Joe Biden 12.6	in Virginia 0.0
45. 11/05-11/11	Trump wins 0.0	mental health 0.0	Jim Acosta 0.0	pro quo 8.1	the election 2.2	infrastructure bill 0.0
46. 11/12-11/18	Steve Bannon 0.0	ban on 0.0	president who 0.0 i	mpeachment inquiry 0.	0 the election 7.5	Chris Christie 0.0
47. 11/19-11/25	Mike Pence 24.3	Roy Moore 0.0	Saudi Arabia 2.5	quid pro 1.3	the election 6.7	Kyle Rittenhouse 0.0
<b>48.</b> 11/26-12/02	popular vote 17.4	Native American 0.1	Trump Tower 2.5	Hong Kong 0.0	voter fraud 32.2	Donald Trump 0.0
<b>49.</b> 12/03–12/09	Air Force 18.2	Roy Moore 3.5	campaign finance 0.0	to impeach 7.7	in Ge <mark>orgia 12.9</mark>	Donald Trump 0.0
<b>50.</b> 12/10-12/16	of State 7.6	of sexual 0.0	Michael Cohen 7.8	articles of 0.0	the election 9.0	Mark Meadows 0.0

51 12/17=12/22 Floritoral Collage 5.8 tay bill 0.0 the wall 12.7 Christianity Today 8.1 election frond 12.9 the Capital 0.0

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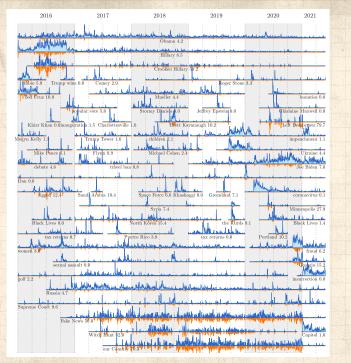
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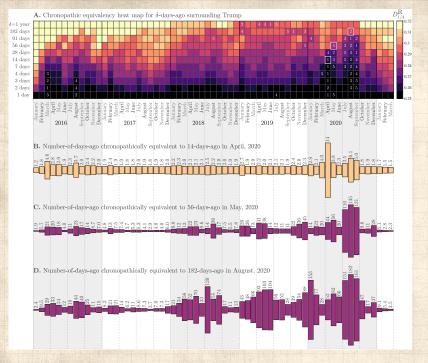
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# Understanding the Sociotechnocene—Stories:

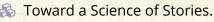


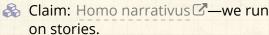
xkcd.com/904/



Transactor (1)







"What's the John Dory?"

🐒 "They've lost the plot/thread"

Narrative hierarchies and scalability of stories .

Research: Real-time and offline extraction of metaphors, frames, plots, narratives, conspiracy theories, and stories from large-scale text.

Research: The taxonomy of human stories.

To be built: Storyscopes—improvable, online, interactive instruments. PoCS @pocsvox

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\*ding!\*



☑ On Instagram at pratchett\_the\_cat 🗷

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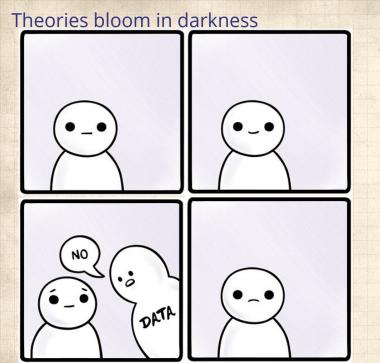
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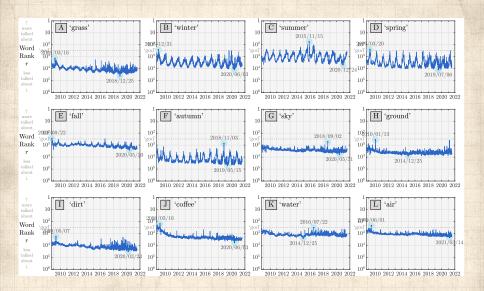
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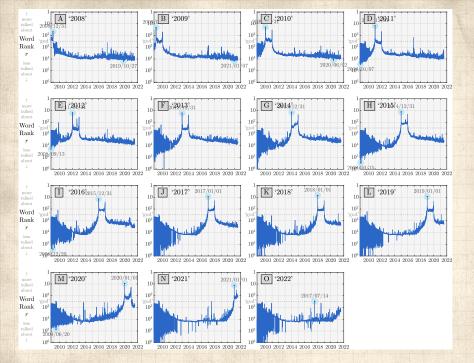
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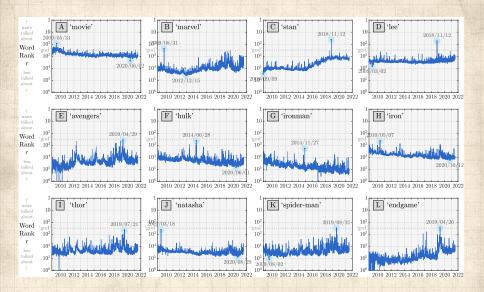
memory a randomena

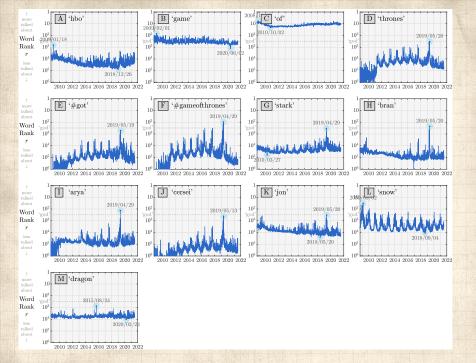


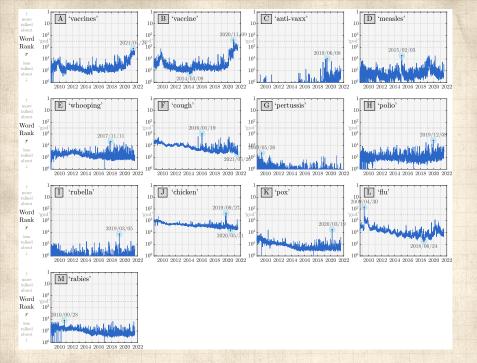


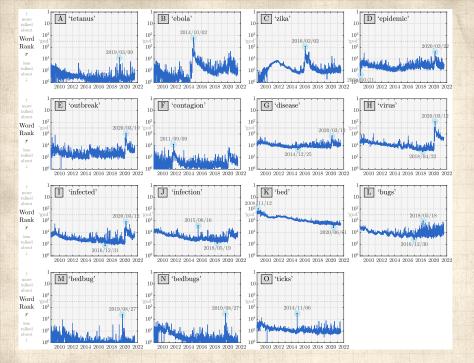


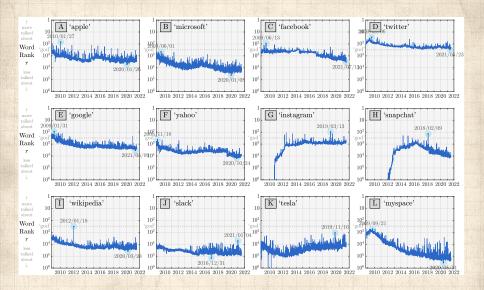


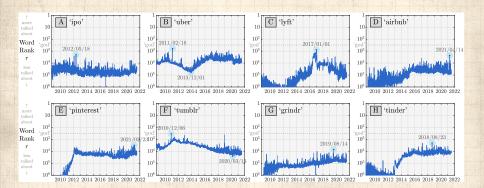


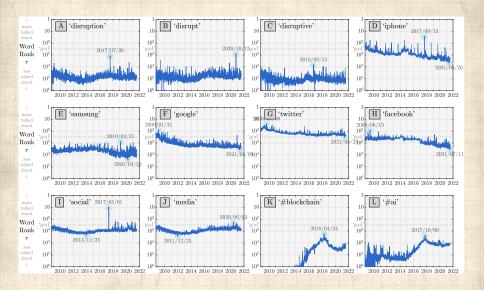


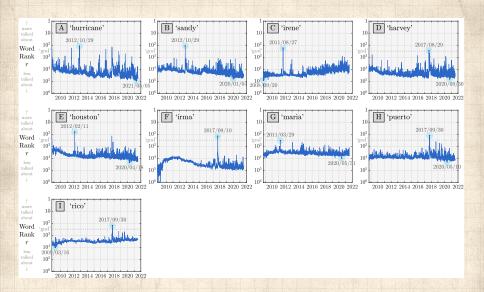


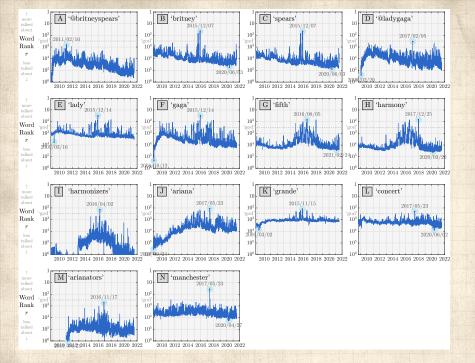


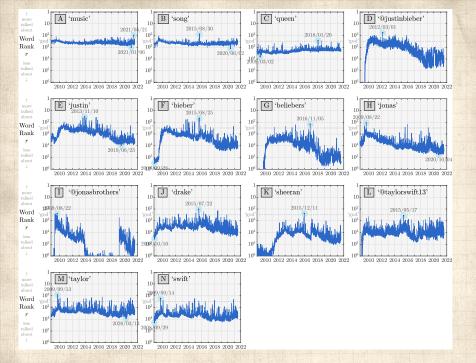


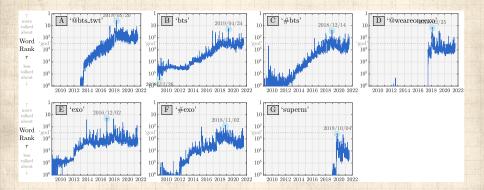


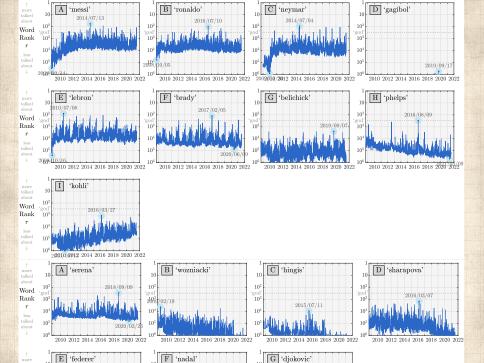


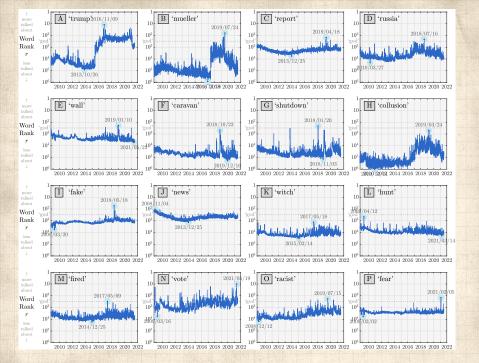


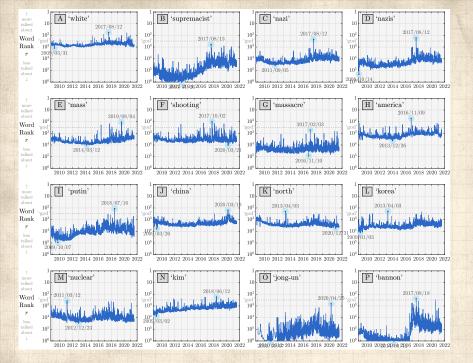


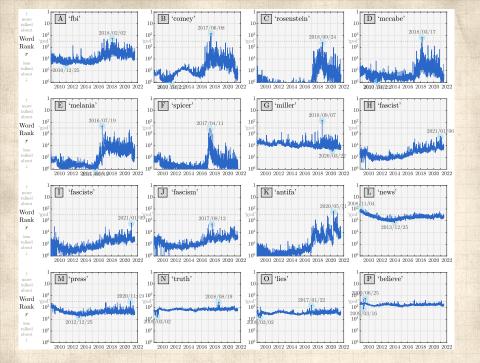


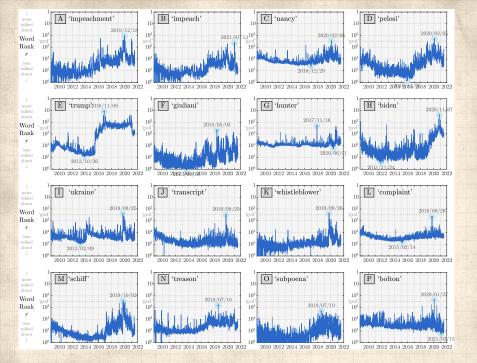


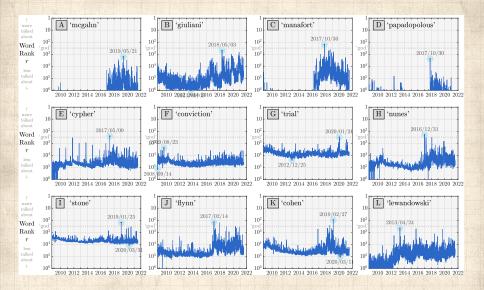


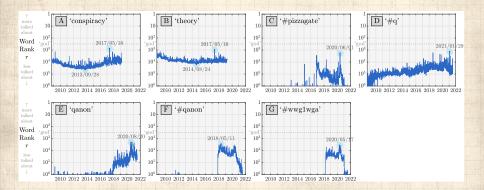


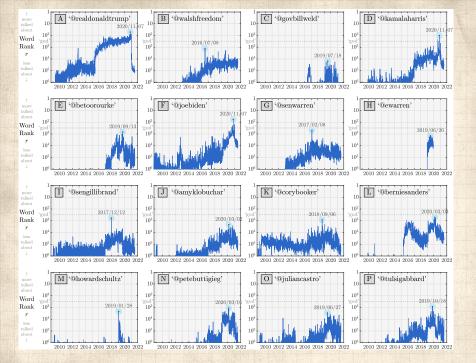


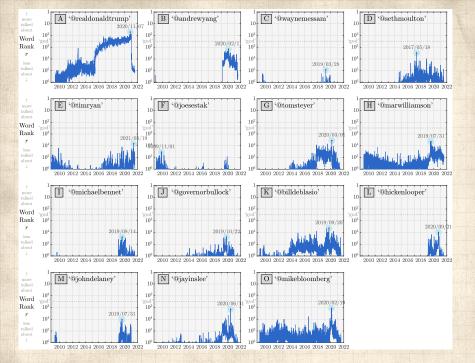


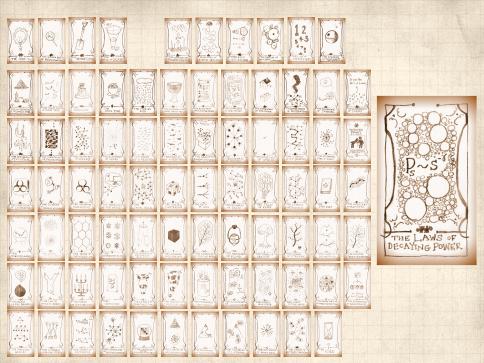


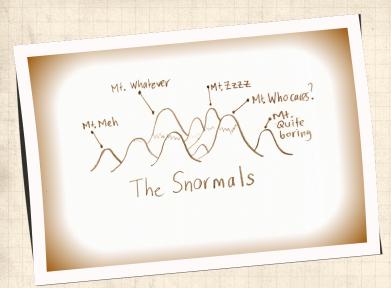












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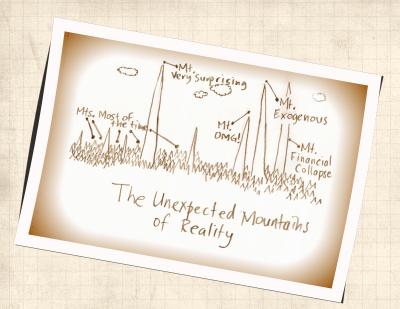
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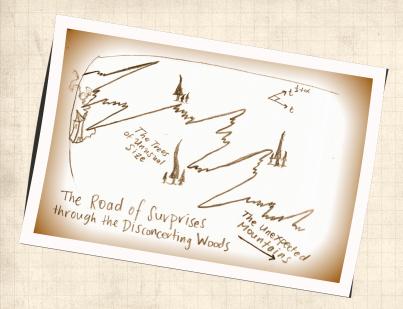
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### The long tail:



Money ≡ Belief

# Two questions about wealth distribution in the United States:

- 1. Estimate the percentage of all wealth owned by individuals when grouped into quintiles.
- 2. Estimate what you believe each quintile should own, ideally.
- 3. Extremes: 100, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 20, 20, 20, 20, 20

"Building a better America—One wealth quintile at a time" Norton and Ariely, 2011. [15]

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#### Wealth distribution in the United States: [15]

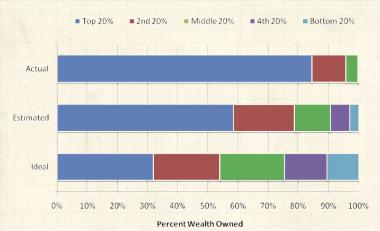


Fig. 2. The actual United States wealth distribution plotted against the estimated and ideal distributions across all respondents. Because of their small percentage share of total wealth, both the "4th 20%" value (0.2%) and the "Bottom 20%" value (0.1%) are not visible in the "Actual" distribution.

"Building a better America—One wealth quintile at a time" Norton and Ariely, 2011. [15]

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#### Wealth distribution in the United States: [15]

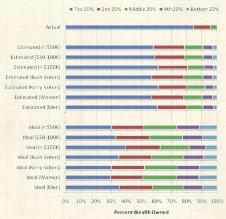


Fig. 3. The actual United States wealth distribution plotted against the estimated and ideal distributions of respondents of different income levels, political affiliations, and genders. Because of their small percentage share of total wealth, both the "4th 20%" value (0.2%) and the "Bottom 20%" value (0.1%) are not visible in the "Actual" distribution.

Aside: The 1% framing may be effective but makes no sense.

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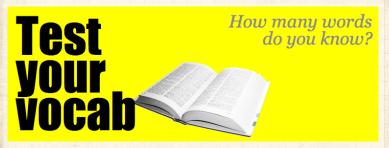
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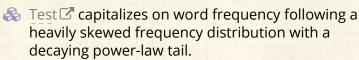
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My, what big words you have ...





This Man Can Pronounce Every Word in the Dictionary ☑ (story here ☑)

& Best of Dr. Bailly C

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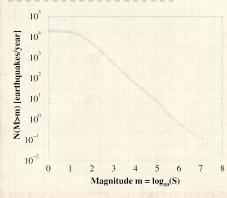
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## The statistics of surprise:

Gutenberg-Richter law





Log-log plot



Base 10



Slope = -1

 $N(M > m) \propto m^{-1}$ 



From both the very awkwardly similar Christensen et al. and Bak et al.:

"Unified scaling law for earthquakes" [5, 2]

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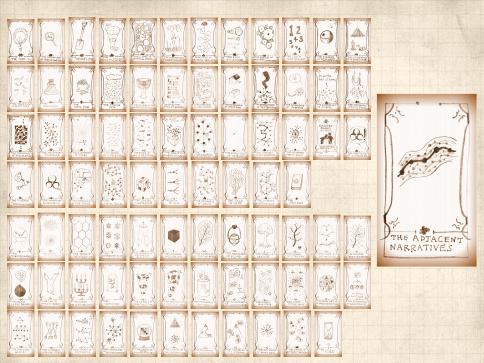
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Adjacent narratives — why mistruths and conspiracy theories @ exist and flourish:











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### Why adjacent narratives exist and untrue stories flourish:

1/4. A real story is never recorded and retold completely

- Impossible to record every detail.
- Recording entails compression to scale of medium (narrative hierarchy).
- Story logic will be favored, and seemingly irrelevant aspects discarded.



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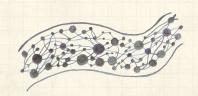


# Why adjacent narratives exist and untrue stories flourish:

# 2/4. The infinitude of adjacent stories will afford "better" stories

Better = More engaging, more motivating to spread, more durable under spreading.

Better stories exist for truthful recorders and retellers (journalists).



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### Why adjacent narratives exist and untrue stories flourish:

3/4. The infinitude of adjacent stories means "better" stories exist for those who would disinform

- Adjacent stories may be truth-limited and/or falsehood-bearing.
- There may exist adjacent stories that conform to a world view/ideology.
- Even the seemingly non-adjacent must have some plausibility (Pizzagate).

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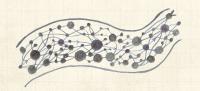
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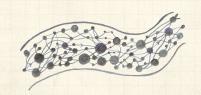




### Why adjacent narratives exist and untrue stories flourish:

#### 4/4. Character is the short cut to story

- The barely implausible can be believed if the character can make it so.
- A believe-to-be evil character can do anything.
- Iterate between character and story to make the character fixed.



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# Things that spread quickly:





+ News + Conspiracy Theories ...

buzzfeed.com ♥:

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#### The boiled-down essence of stories:

#### The three fundamental events of (non-clone) life:

- Hatchings, Matchings, and Dispatchings.
- Stories encode survival algorithms.
- Survival algorithms are for both individuals and groups.
- Stories are dynamic paths of the true, the possible, the unlikely.
- The unifying theme of existence is existence.

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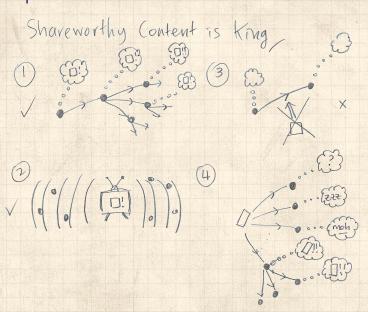
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Deference





### Deep fame:



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#### Shareworthy Content is "King":

- 1. Build entities/messages/stories that have intrinsic and social value out in the Social Wild.
- 2. Advertise but lay off the social interactions.
- 3. Just keep trying and be trustworthy.
- 4. Of course it can all go wrong and be used for any purpose: good, stupid, bad, evil, ...
- 5. Essential implication: Billions of people can be harmoniously wrong.
- 6. Beware the evil, payola version.
- 7. Challenge: What's the societal vaccine for conspiracy theories?

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## Fame: Zipfian rank-frequency plots

#### George Kingsley Zipf:

Noted various rank distributions have power-law tails, often with exponent near -1 (word frequency, city sizes, species numbers, ...)

Zipf's 1949 Magnum Opus ♂:



"Human Behaviour and the Principle of Least-Effort" **3**. 
by G. K. Zipf (1949). [20]

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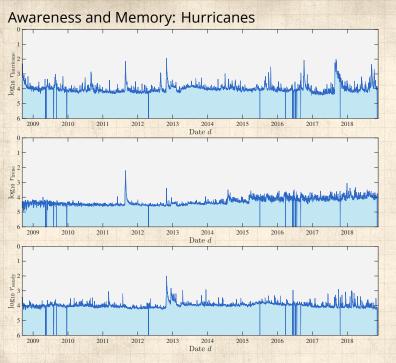
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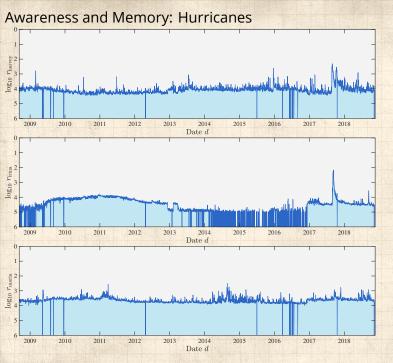
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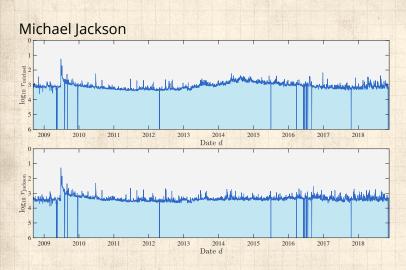
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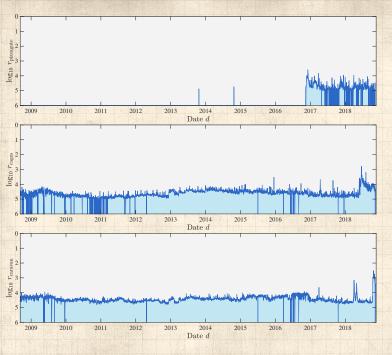
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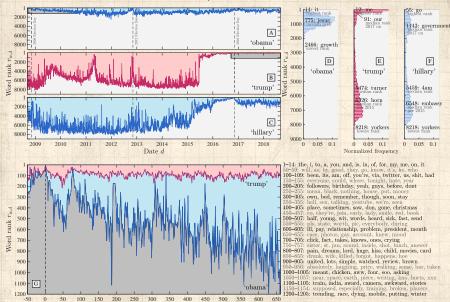
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#### Lexical fame of POTUSes and possible POTUSes:



Number of days d relative to Election Day

Story turbulence: memory: 0.98 1 day 0.96  $\langle r_{\rm S} \rangle$ 0.94 0.92 3 years 0.9 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2010 date 0.99 0.98 0.96 0.96 0.9 1095 730 365 182 91

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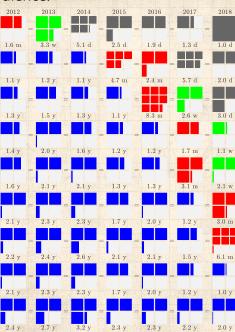
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#### Story turbulence:



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