Truth in the Age of Populism: In Defense of Commons

What is Populism?

- Benjamin Moffitt explains in his book "The **Global Rise** of **Populism**": It is ultimately a "style", with heavy reliance on "bad manners" to project authenticity;

- Jan-Werner Müller in **"What is Populism"** (2016: 1) : "Populists claim that they and they alone speak in the name of what they tend to call the 'real people' or the 'silent majority'. This claim to a moral monopoly of representation has two consequences that are immediately deleterious for democracy. Populists accuse all other political contenders of being illegitimate."

- Overlapping with **fascism,** but not necessarily the same.

What is Truth?

- **Socratic-Cartesian definition**: We were born with "truth", we can arrive at it through deductive reasoning;

- **Newtonian-positivist:** Truth is built upon empirically-verifiable facts, inductive reasoning;

- **Post-modernism:** There is no single "Truth", but "truths". Power shapes and is shaped by knowledge (Nietzsche; Foucault);

- **Conventional understanding**: verifiable facts on matters of inter-subjective importance, which are essential starting points for any rational exchange

- **Jurgen Habermas**: "Discursive rationality".

New Media as Commons

Social Media& Revolution

Tahrir Square

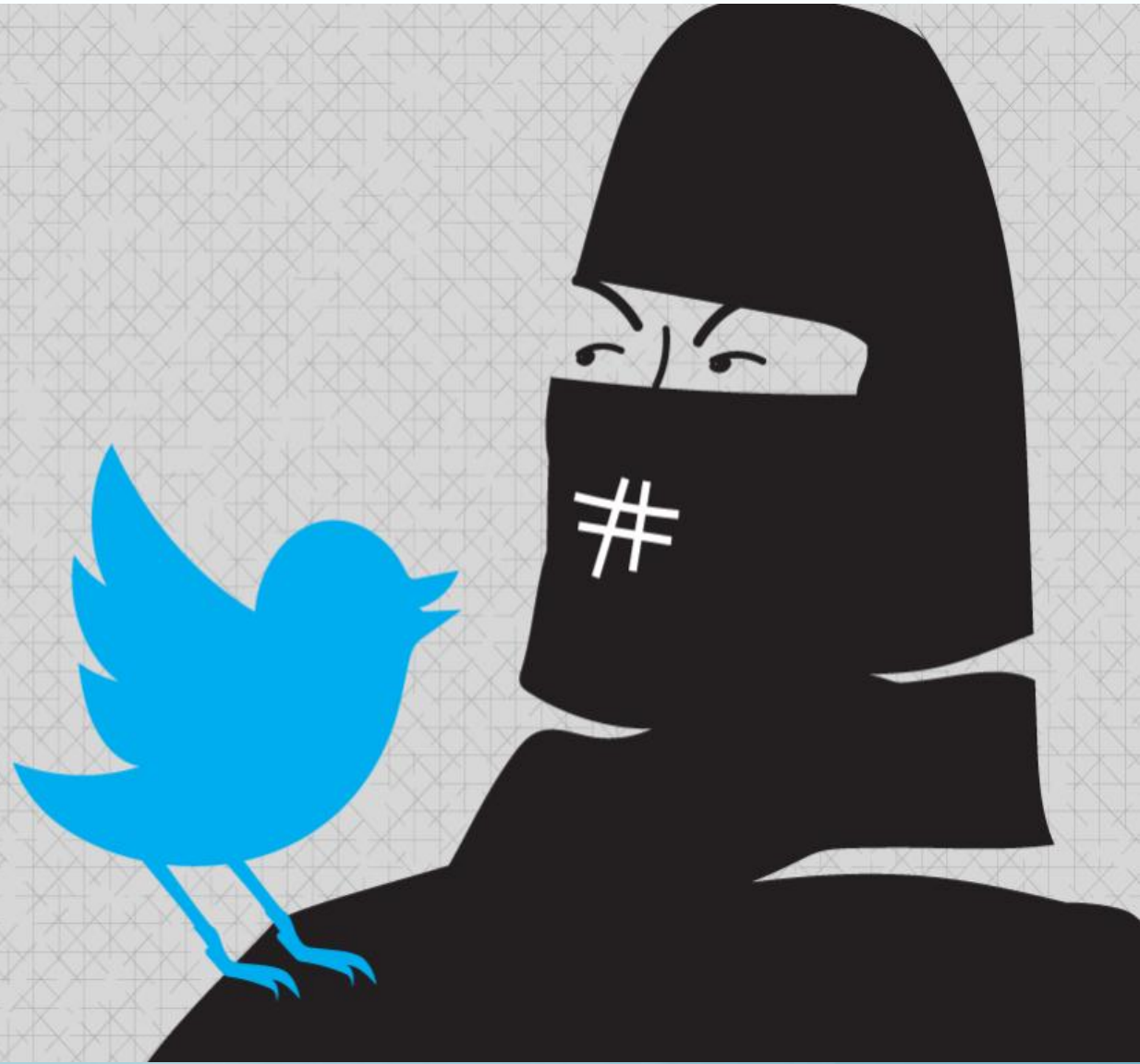# 6th October Bridge

ECONOMIC CONTROVERSIES

Z

HOW CAPITALISM FAILED THE ARAB WORLD

THE ECONOMIC ROOTS AND PRECARIOUS FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST UPRISINGS

RICHARD JAVAD HEYDARIAN
WITH A FOREWORD BY WALDEN BELLO

Twitter Devolutions

Fake News

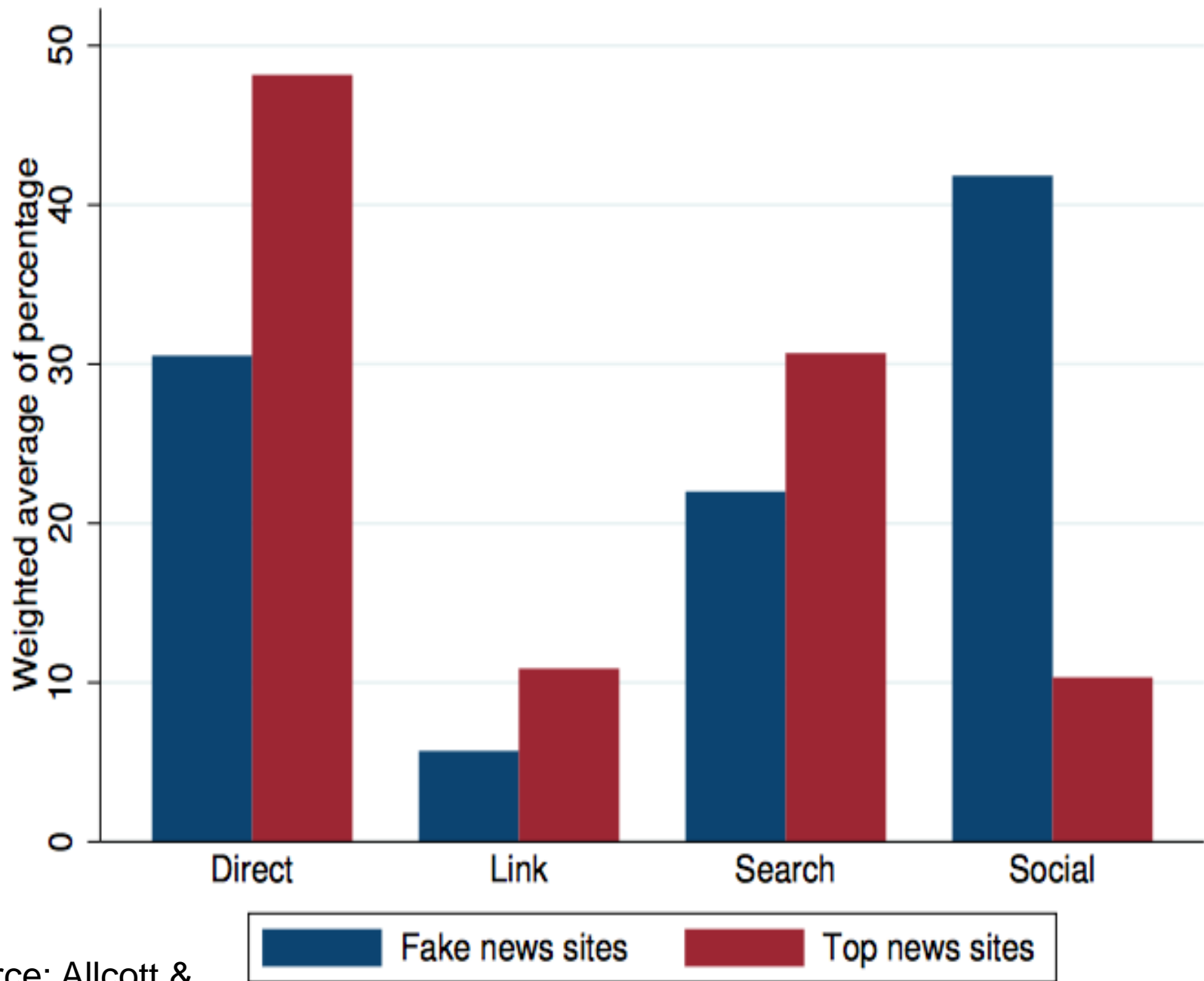# Top 5 Fake Election Stories by Facebook Engagement
(three months before election)

"Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement"
(960,000, Ending the Fed)

"WikiLeaks CONFIRMS Hillary Sold Weapons to ISIS... Then Drops Another BOMBSHELL! Breaking News"
(789,000, The Political Insider)

"IT'S OVER: Hillary's ISIS Email Just Leaked & It's Worse Than Anyone Could Have Imagined"
(754,000, Ending the Fed)

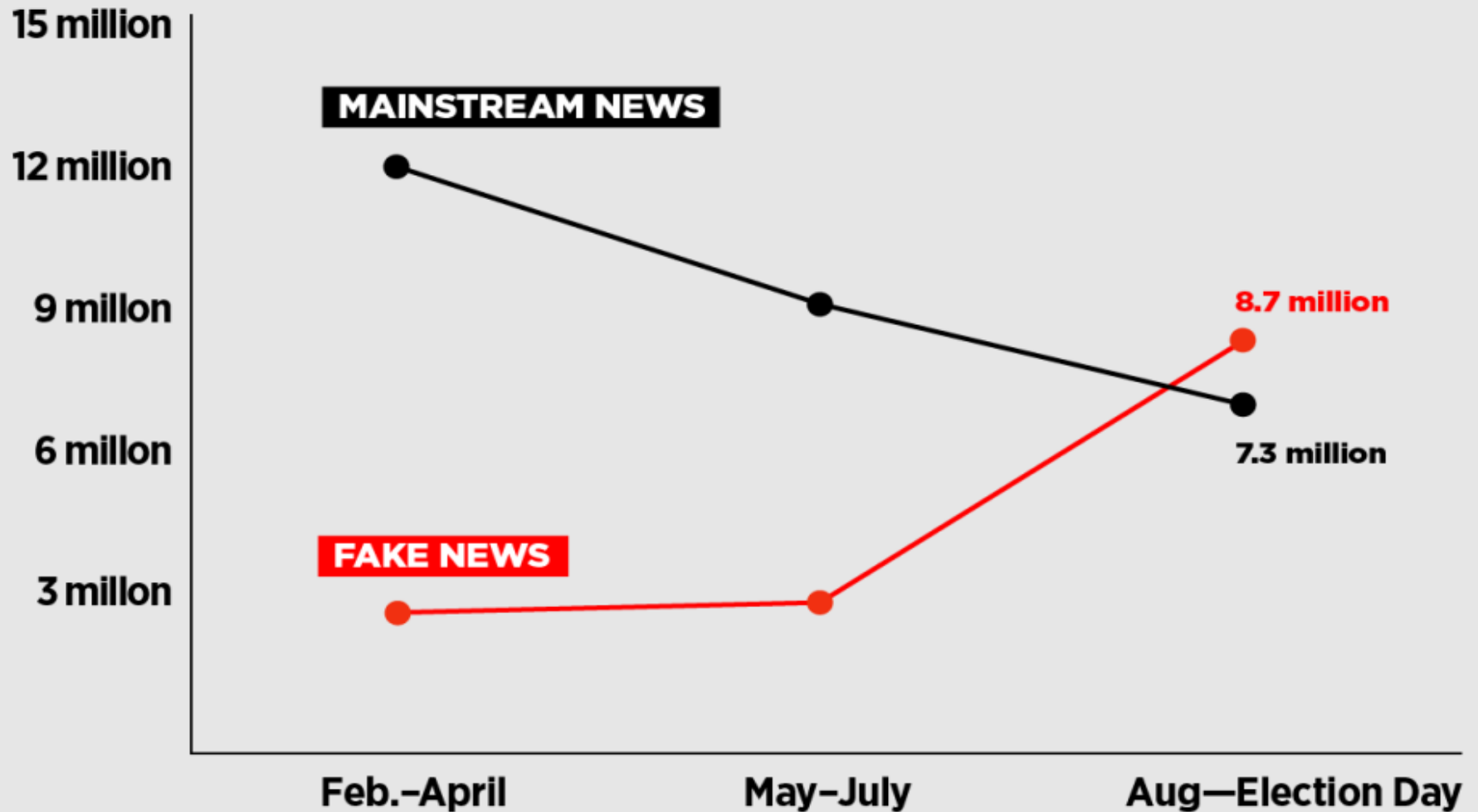"Just Read the Law: Hillary Is Disqualified From Holding Any Federal Office"
(701,000, Ending the Fed)

"FBI Agent Suspected in Hillary Email Leaks Found Dead in Apparent Murder-Suicide" *(567,000, Denver Guardian)*

Source: BuzzFeed News

ENGAGEMENT REFERS TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES, REACTIONS, AND COMMENTS FOR A PIECE OF CONTENT ON FACEBOOK SOURCE: FACEBOOK DATA VIA BUZZSUMO

Source: Allcott & Gentzkow 2017

Total Facebook Engagements for Top 20 Election Stories

15 million

MAINSTREAM NEWS

12 million

9 millon

8.7 million

6 million

7.3 million

FAKE NEWS

3 millon

Feb.–April   May–July   Aug—Election Day

ENGAGEMENT REFERS TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES, REACTIONS, AND COMMENTS FOR A PIECE OF CONTENT ON FACEBOOK SOURCE: FACEBOOK DATA VIA BUZZSUMO

Source: BuzzFeed News

- **What's the Relevance to Us in the Philippines?**

International Number Ones
Because every country is the best at something
according to data

2016 edition

- Norway — **PIZZA EATERS**
- Sweden — **POP MUSIC**
- Finland — **NEWS MEDIA**
- Belgium — **CASHLESS PAYMENTS**
- Denmark — **START-UPS** / Estonia
- Iceland — **ELECTRICITY USE**
- Denmark — **WIND POWER**
- UK — **BILLIONAIRES**
- Netherlands — **WOMEN** / Latvia
- Ireland — **WORKING CONDITIONS**
- **COFFEE DRINKERS**
- **FASTEST WI-FI** / Lithuania
- **BEST PASSPORT** / Germany
- **ALCOHOL DRINKERS** / Belarus
- Austria — **PAID TIME OFF**
- **CURRENTS** / Poland
- Switzerland — **INNOVATION**
- **PORNSTARS** / Hungary
- **DASHCAMS** / Russia
- France — **WHISKEY DRINKERS**
- Italy — **KIWI FRUITS**
- **KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS** / Croatia
- Kazakhstan — **URANIUM**
- Mongolia — **VELOCIRAPTORS**
- Canada — **PERSONAL FREEDOM**
- Spain — **LGBT TOLERANCE**
- Greece — **CHEESE EATERS** / Bulgaria — **MATERNITY LEAVE**
- Iran — **CAVIAR**
- Kyrgyzstan — **WALNUT FORESTS**
- North Korea — **SOLDIERS**
- South Korea — **ICT**
- Portugal — **CORK**
- Turkey — **TWITTER CENSORSHIP**
- Afghanistan — **OPIUM**
- China — **JAILED JOURNALISTS**
- Japan — **HAUTE CUISINE**
- United States — **SPAM EMAILS**
- Georgia — **HOMOPHOBES**
- Israel — **MEDICAL RESEARCH**
- Iraq — **OIL WEALTH**
- Cuba — **DOCTORS**
- Mexico — **LEMONS**
- Puerto Rico — **RUM**
- Morocco — **ARGAN OIL**
- Jordan — **REFUGEES**
- Pakistan — **GAY PORN**
- Taiwan — **PATENTS**
- Guatemala — **CARDAMON**
- El Salvador — **LEAST POLICE**
- Honduras — **MURDER**
- India — **BANANAS**
- Philippines — **SOCIAL NETWORKING**
- Costa Rica — **WELLBEING**
- Venezuela — **CHEAPEST PETROL**
- Thailand — **RICE**
- Vietnam — **PEPPER**
- Panama — **BEST RETIREMENT**
- Suriname — **FORESTS**
- Singapore — **HEALTHIEST PEOPLE**
- Malaysia — **RUBBER GLOVES**
- Colombia — **HAPPINESS**
- Ecuador — **BIODIVERSITY**
- Brazil — **SUGAR**
- Libya — **FAT KIDS**
- Egypt — **HEAVY WOMEN**
- UAE — **MEN**
- Papua New Guinea — **DIVERSITY**
- Peru — **COCAINE**
- Niger — **CHILD BRIDES**
- Saudi Arabia — **ARMS IMPORTS**
- Indonesia — **COCONUTS**
- Bolivia — **BRAZIL NUTS**
- Chad — **HEALTHIEST DIETS**
- Sudan — **GUM ARABIC**
- Eritrea — **CHILD LABOUR**
- Yemen — **GENDER INEQUALITY**
- Fiji — **MAHOGANY**
- Sierra Leone — **MATERNAL MORTALITY**
- Nigeria — **SCRABBLE PLAYERS**
- Ethiopia — **UNDERWEIGHT CHILDREN**
- Liberia — **LOWEST PUBLIC DEBT**
- South Sudan — **OIL DEPENDENCY**
- Somalia — **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**
- Paraguay — **POSITIVITY**
- Côte d'Ivoire — **CASHEWS**
- Togo — **UNHAPPINESS**
- Uganda — **ENTREPRENEURS**
- Australia — **CYBER SECURITY INCIDENTS**
- Kenya — **BLACK TEA**
- Uruguay — **FARMLAND**
- Gabon — **SUN-TAILED MONKEYS**
- Congo — **COBALT**
- Rwanda — **WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT**
- Chile — **COPPER**
- Tanzania — **FEMALE WORKERS**
- New Zealand — **CHINOOK SALMON**
- Angola — **CHILD MORTALITY**
- Zambia — **FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS**
- Argentina — **HORSE MEAT**
- Madagascar — **VANILLA**
- Namibia — **CAR CRASHES**
- Zimbabwe — **LANGUAGES**
- Mozambique — **GRAPHITE**
- Botswana — **DIAMONDS**
- Swaziland — **HIV**
- South Africa — **PLATINUM**

Legend: **COMMODITY** | **PSYCHOLOGY** | **ECOLOGY** | **GASTRONOMY** | **ECONOMY** | **NICETY** | **HUMANITY** | **TECHNOLOGY** | **NASTY**

InformationIsBeautiful.net

- Digital in 2017: Filipinos spent **an average of 4 hours and 17 minutes** per day on social media sites such as Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter (Inquirer)

- In contrast: Japan saw only **40 minutes** spent per day on social media.
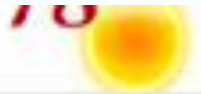
A SOCIAL NATION

#1 nation for the highest percentage of social web usage among top 50 Opera Mini user countries.

86% of all Opera Mini users and page views in Philippines are on social-networking sites.

Opera SMW report, June 2015

Not Satire

Pollen chunks

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Nelson Mandela Becomes First Politician To Be Missed

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Grisly Remains Of 15 Hobbits Discovered In Peter Jackson's Attic

Top-Selling Parenting Books

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About Us

Duterte Attracts More Investors As Bill Gates Invests $20 Billion In The Philippines

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Honest.

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Makibalita 24/7 | Philippine News Portal

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RELIABLE, RUGGED, DESIGN FOR INDUSTRIAL EMBEDDED FLASH STOR

SHOCKING

DeLima Buys $6 million Mansion in New York | Government to probe source of

Original Fake News: Orson Welles's radio adaptation of "The War of the Worlds.

- What is impact on our politics?
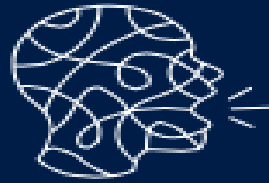
Troops, Trolls and Troublemakers: A Global Inventory of Organized Social Media Manipulation

Samantha Bradshaw, *University of Oxford*
Philip N. Howard, *University of Oxford*

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OXFORD

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Figure 1: Organizational density of cyber troops, 2017

In this figure, countries with many kinds of organizations (governments, political parties, civil

Table 1: Strategies, tools and techniques for social media manipulation

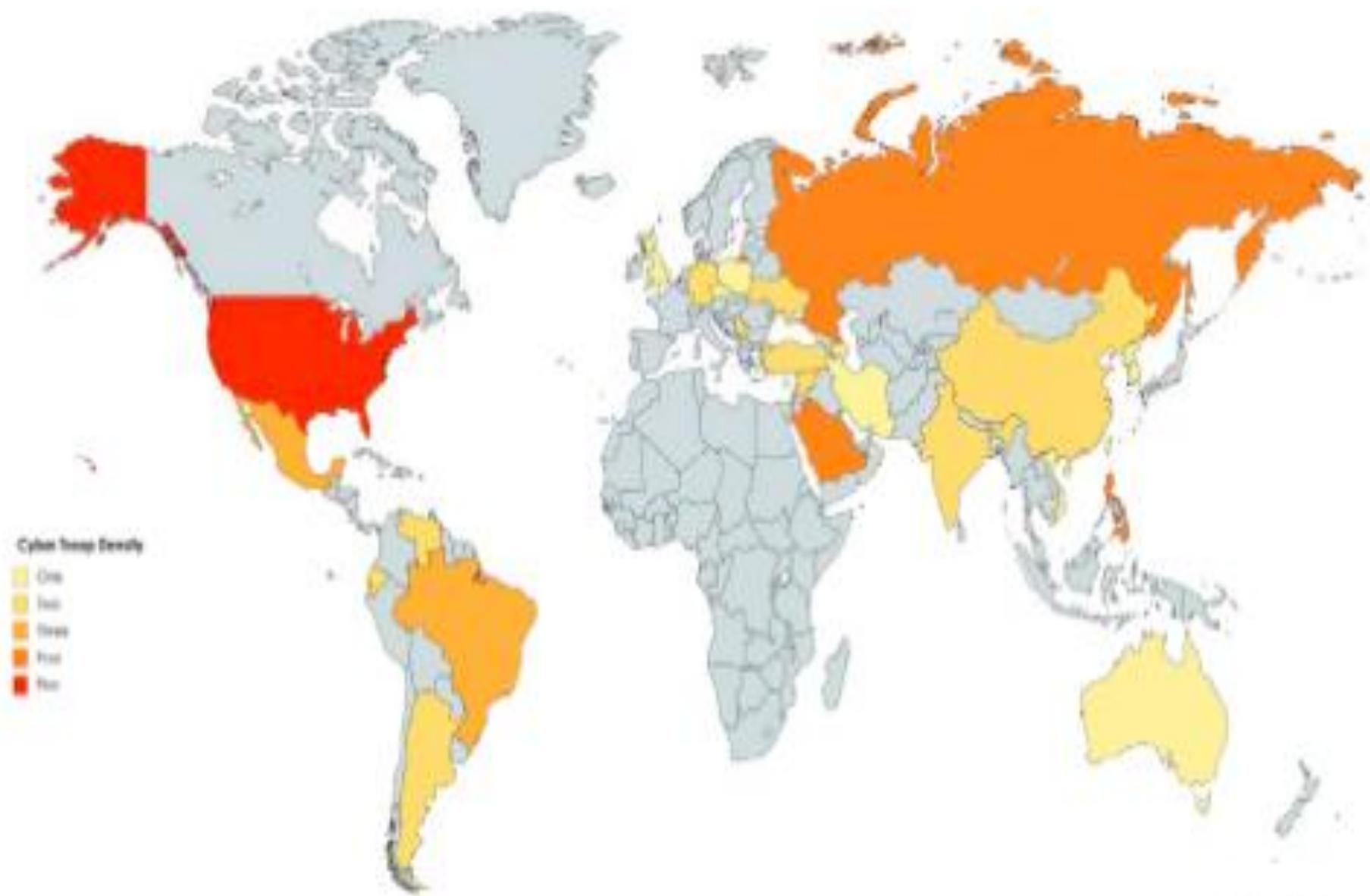| Country	Messaging and valence		Communication strategy		
	Social media comments	Individual targeting	Fake accounts	Government websites, accounts or applications	Content creation
Argentina	+/-	Evidence found	Automated	..	..
Australia	+/-	..	Automated	..	..
Azerbaijan	+/-/n	Evidence found	Automated	..	..
Bahrain	-	Evidence Found	Automated, Human	..	..
Brazil	+/n	Evidence found	Automated, Human, Cyborg	..	Evidence found
China	+/-/n	..	Human	..	Evidence found
Czech Republic	n	..	..	..	..
Ecuador	+/-	Evidence found	Automated, Human	Evidence found	..
Germany	+/-	Evidence found	Automated	Evidence found	Evidence found
India	+/-	..	..	..	Evidence found
Iran	+/n	..	Automated	..	Evidence found
Israel	+	..	..	Evidence found	Evidence found
Mexico	+/-	Evidence found	Automated, Human, Cyborg	..	Evidence found
North Korea	+/-	..	Human	..	..
Poland	-	Evidence Found	Human	..	..
Philippines	+/-	Evidence found	Automated	..	..
Russia	+/-/n	Evidence found	Automated, Human	..	Evidence found
Saudi Arabia	+/n	..	Automated	..	..
Serbia	+/-	..	Human	..	..
South Korea	+/-	Evidence found	Automated, Human	..	..
Syria	+	Evidence found	Automated	..	..
Taiwan	+/-/n	Evidence found	Cyborg, Human	Evidence found	Evidence found
Turkey	+/-	Evidence found	Automated, Human	Evidence found	..
United Kingdom		Evidence found	Human	Evidence found	Evidence found
Ukraine	+/-	..	Human	Evidence found	..
United States	+/-/n	..	Automated, Human, Cyborg	..	Evidence found
Venezuela	+	..	Automated, Human	Evidence found	..
Vietnam	+	..	Human	..	Evidence found

Table 2: Organizational forms

Country	Government	Politicians and Parties	Civil Society	Citizens	Private Contractor	Number of Forms
Argentina	Ministry of Communication President's Office	Republican Proposal Party	..	..	..	2
Australia	..	The Coalition	..	..	..	1
Azerbaijan	..	..	IRELI, the IT Academy	..	..	1
Bahrain	National Cyber Crime Unit	..	..	..	..	1
Brazil	..	Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB), Worker's Party (PT)	..	Evidence Found	Agencia Pepper / no.bot	3
China	State Internet Information Office, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Public Security, Communist Party	..	..	Evidence Found	..	2
Czech Republic	Centre Against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats	..	..	..	..	1
Germany	Cyber-Kommando der Bundeswehr	Alternative for Germany (AFD)	..	..	..	2
Ecuador	Ministry of Strategic Sectors President's Office	..	..	..	Ribeney, Percera and Ximah Digital	2
India	..	Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	..	Evidence Found	..	2
Iran	Revolutionary Guard, Supreme Council of Cyberspace	..	..	..	..	1
Israel	Israel Defence Force Prime Minister's Office	..	Israel Under Fire	..	..	2
Mexico	..	Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)	..	Evidence Found	Andreas Sepulveda	3
North Korea	United Front Department and Reconnaissance General Bureau	..	..	..	..	1
Poland	..	Evidence Found	..	..	Evidence Found	1
Philippines	..	The Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan	Evidence Found	Evidence Found	Nic Gabunada	4

Table 3: Organizational budget, behavior and capacity

Country	Year of earliest report	Budget information (USD)	Organizational behavior	Staff capacity	Capacity building
Argentina	2012	..	..	35-40	..
Australia	2013	..	..		..
Azerbaijan	2011	..	Clear hierarchy and reporting structure, coordination across agencies	50,000	Training is provided
Bahrain	2013	..		..	..
Brazil	2010	3m	Clear hierarchy and reporting structure, coordination across agencies, integrated with campaign and party organization	..	Extended use, beyond election day
China	2011	..	Clear hierarchy and reporting structure, coordination across agencies	2,000,000	Training is provided, reward system
Czech Republic	2017	..	Coordination across agencies	20	..
Ecuador	2014	Multiple contracts to private companies, estimated at 200,000	..	..	..
Germany	2016	..	..	<300	..
India	2013	..	..	..	..
Iran	2012	..	..	20,000	..
Israel	2013	..	..	400	Reward system
Mexico	2017	600,000	Informal, liminal teams	..	limited
North Korea	2013	..	..	200	Training is provided, reward system
Poland	2015	..	Some coordination across teams	..	Training is provided
Philippines	2016	200,000	Liminal membership, but some coordination across teams	400-500	..

Baby Boomers Most Likely to See Political Posts on Facebook That Support Their Own Views

Among those who pay attention to posts about government and politics on Facebook, % who say these posts are ... in line with their own views

- ■ Always/most of the time
- ■ Some of the time
- ■ Not too often
- ■ Doesn't see opinions

	Always/most of the time	Some of the time	Not too often	Doesn't see opinions
Millennial	18%	64%	14%	4%
Generation X	21	65	12	1
Baby Boomer	31	54	12	3
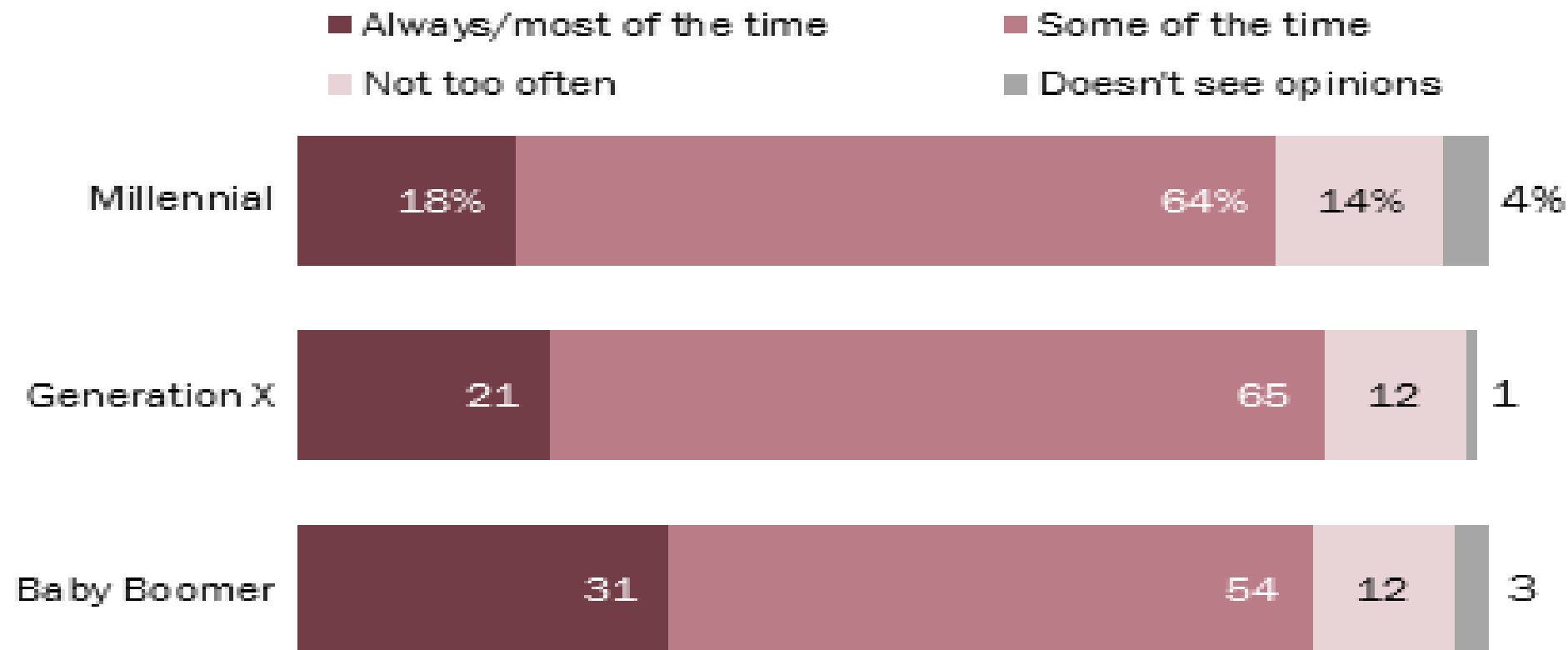
American Trends Panel (wave 1). Survey conducted March 19-April 29, 2014. Q33e. Numbers may not add up to 100 because of rounding.

Solutions….

Proper Regulation

- Facebook: "world's biggest publisher without attendant responsibilities."

- Government regulation: Ban and punish fake news vendors, depending on the gravity of its impact;

- Models: Effective filtering out of fake news during the French and upcoming German elections;

- *"**Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty**."* – Thomas Jefferson

Source: history.com