

Polarization of Climate Politics Results from Partisan Sorting: Evidence from Finnish Twittersphere

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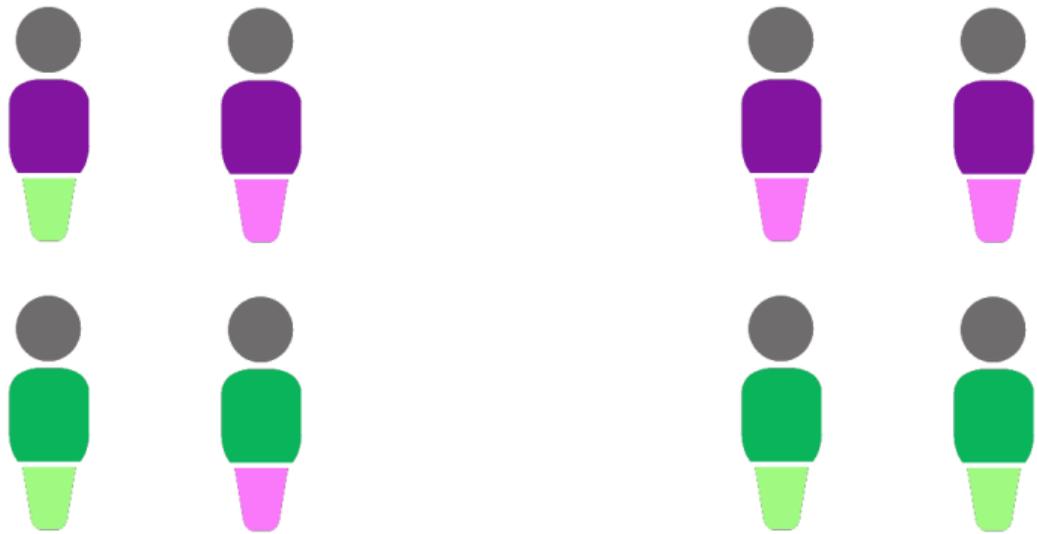
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Climate Change Politics and Polarization



The Importance of *Alignment* in Political Polarization



Alignment creates entrenched cleavages

Empirical Approach

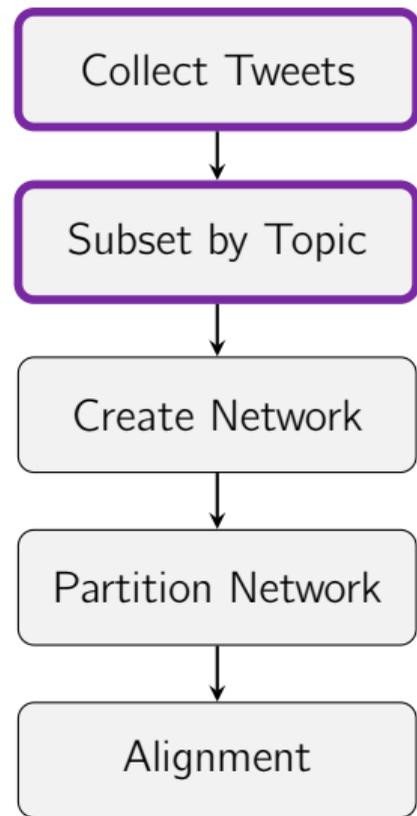
Twitter statuses/filter API with hashtags for 11 topics

Issues

climate
immigration
social security
economic policy
education

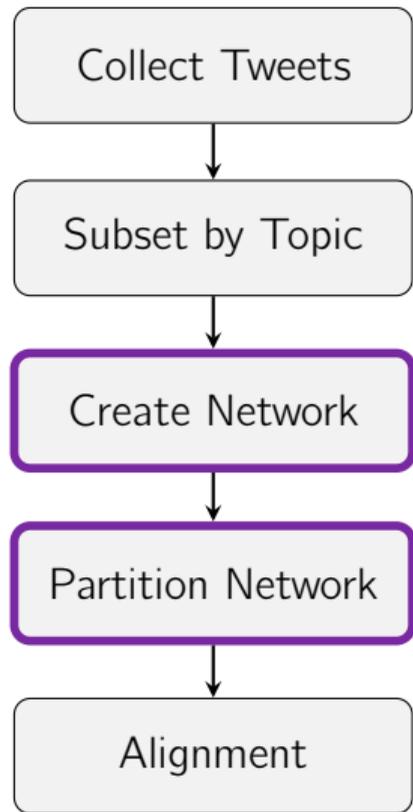
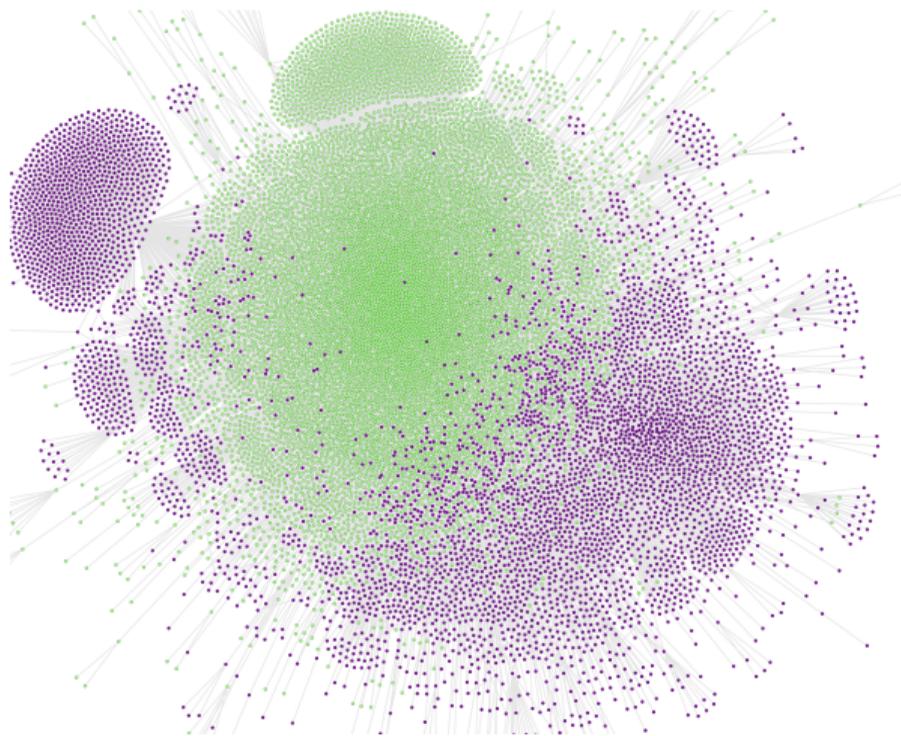
Parties

Social Democrats
Finns Party
National Coalition
Green Alliance
Centre Party
Left Alliance



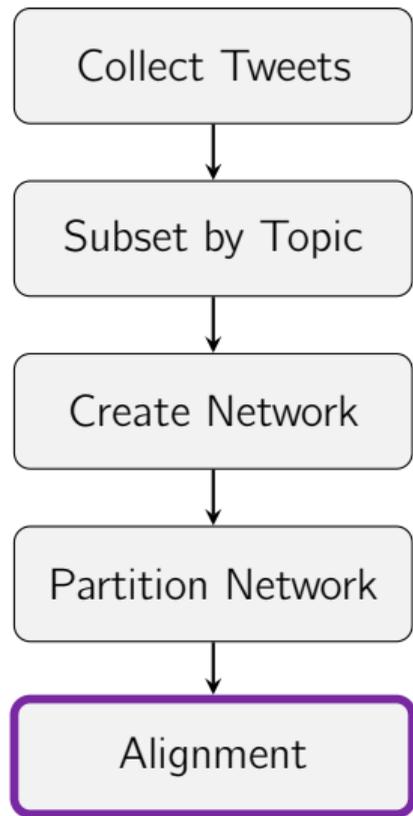
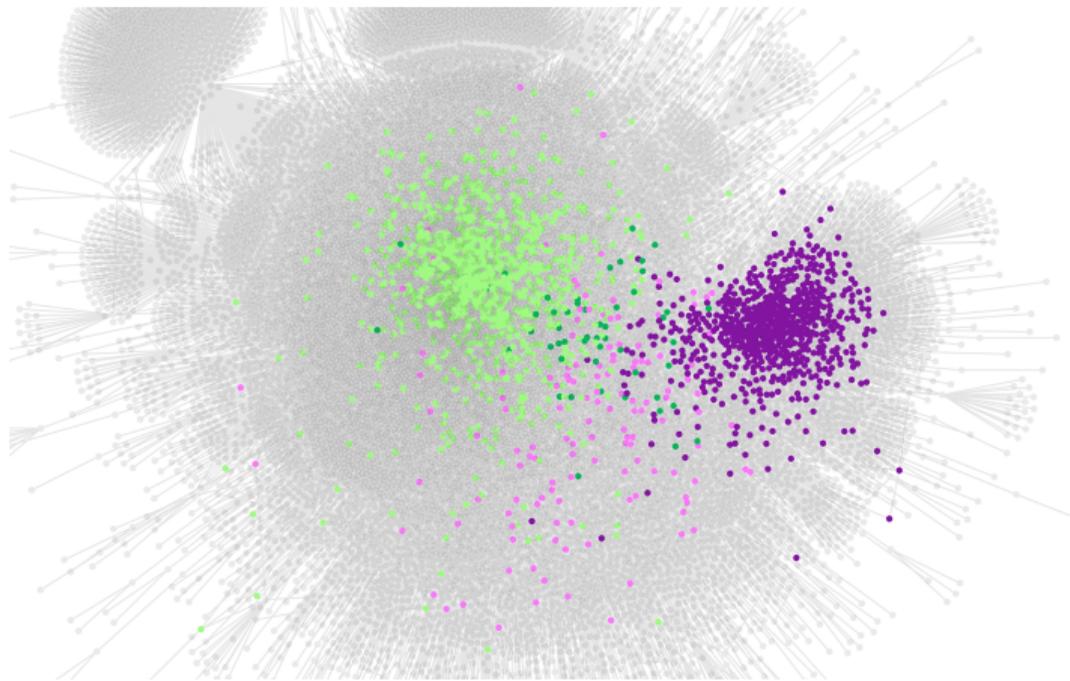
Empirical Approach

Two groups with the lowest inter-group agreement



Empirical Approach

Subset topic-pairs to node-aligned multiplex networks

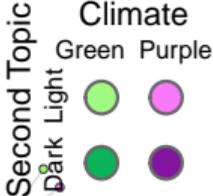
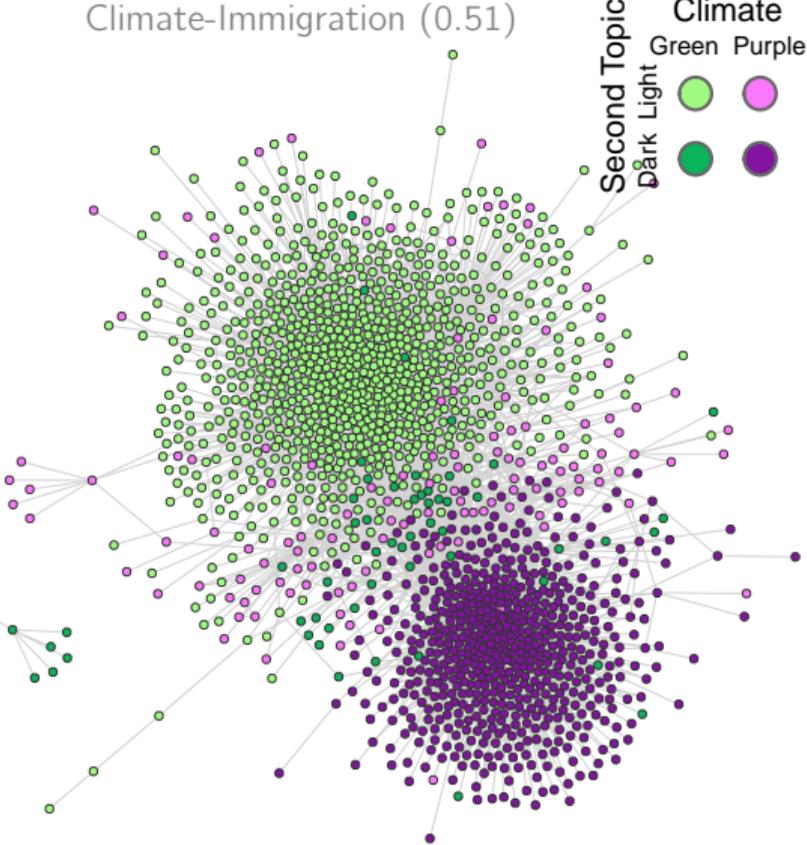


Alignment Examples

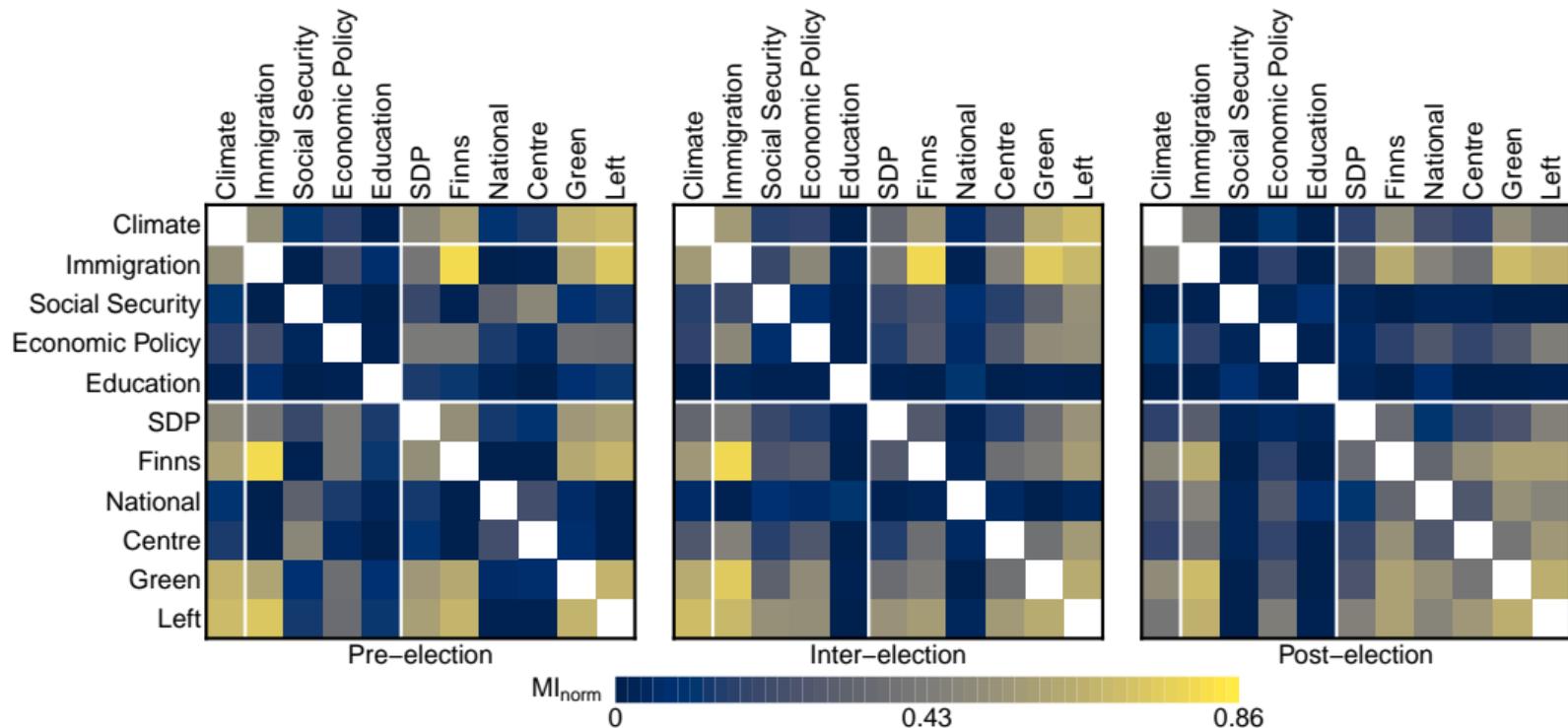
Climate-Economic Policy (0.16)



Climate-Immigration (0.51)



Results: Topic Alignment



Findings

- ▶ Climate politics is aligned with the partisan politics of the new populist-universalist divide that is increasingly common
- ▶ The immigration issue, in particular, is strongly aligned with climate politics
- ▶ Overall, alignment-based polarization is localized to specific political domains

Chen et al. "Polarization of Climate Politics Results from Partisan Sorting: Evidence from Finnish Twittersphere." <https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.02706>

The slides are available at https://tedhchen.com/assets/pcnet20_slides.pdf

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