

A methodology proposal to explore Facebook pages content using text mining



Objectives

- To build a strong framework for a deep content analysis on Facebook pages, as a good portion of 2000's historical narratives on contentious politics are being told on Social Network platforms like Twitter and Facebook.
- To offer social researchers an intuitive tool to investigate current social processes online (e.g.: political mobilization) using digital methods.

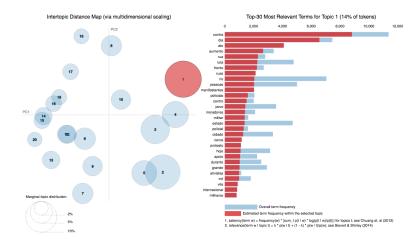
Methods

- Initial corpus = 99,921 posts from 46 pages of social movements and grassroots media in Brazil, for a core-period of 3 years (2013-2016)
- A set of procedures were applied to organize content by thematic, relevance and time:
 - ✓ identify the object of study and the problems to be investigated
 - ✓ define a method to collect data from Facebook and persist locally (users information is anonymized by default)
 - ✓ proceed an exploratory analysis to understand basic characteristics within the data and to remove noise
 - ✓ apply topic modeling to summarize the corpus
 - √ identify topic's representative terms and explore its context
 - √ identify key posts & events and explore

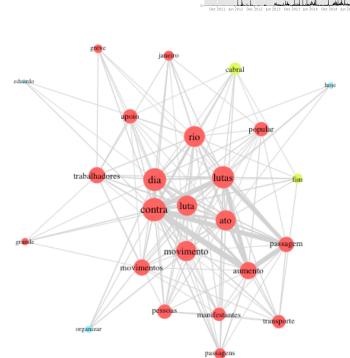


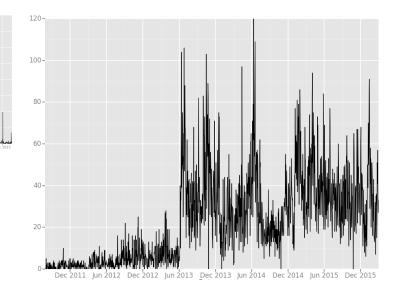
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Posts relevant posts

19h00: Os manifestantes do ato contra o aumento das passagens já ocuparm a Av. Rio Branco, na aflura da Reu do Rosário. O ato está cada vez mais chelo, e muitas pessoas que asem dos prédicino centro juntam-es ao protesto. Bandeiras de partidos políticos mistruam-es a bandeiras anarquistas e os ogritos de ordem seguem firmes. Erire des__ALDEIA RESISTE_l foortracoument

ATO CONTRA O AUMENTO DAS PASSAGENS NO RIO O que era pra ser uma pienária hoje no IFCS da UFRJ acabou se tornando um ato contra o aumento da passagem de ônibus_ que subiu para RS3_40. Cerca de mil manifestantes partiram_ entião_ do Largo de São Francisco até a Cinelândia_ no Centro. Da 9 ted outro ato e a juventude afirms_ Será matior_

Ato contra o aumento da passagem no Centro do Rio de Janeiro. Novas cenas de repressão policial contra os manifestantes na Central do Brasil. Em breve_mais informações!

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Manifestação no Centro do Rio acabou em confronto entre manifestantes e as tropas da repres Quando o ato chegou na ALERJ_ policiais iniciaram o tumulto. Algumas pessoas ficaram feridas



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Conclusions

Automated topic modeling helps to reduce the sense of fragmentation by grouping a massive amount of posts into a limited set of thematics. The technique is the starting point for a set of visual graphics:

- Topics can be seen in accordance to the similarity among them or along the time.
- Timelines show peaks of activity, indicating where to focus a deeper content analysis.
- Semantic networks are like aerial views on the topic or page vocabulary, helping to understand which particular terms have been used in correlation to each others.
- Relative clouds of words are effective to compare general vocabulary between two pages

Future work

This study in underway and is part of investigations at a PhD and a Masters levels. Next steps include to deepen the content analysis. The final outputs should include a web application where users can explore data sets from Facebook pages. The tool should automatize some procedures to support social researchers in the use of Facebook content as a source for social phenomena investigation.

Thank you!

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