

# Supplementary Material

## Using Twitter to Track Immigration Sentiment During Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Francisco Rowe<sup>1\*</sup>, Michael Mahony<sup>1</sup>, Eduardo Graells<sup>2</sup>, Marzia Rango<sup>3</sup>, Niklas Sievers<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Geographic Data Science Lab, Department of Geography and Planning, School of Environmental Sciences, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom

<sup>2</sup> Big Data Analytics and Visualisation, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Barcelona, Spain

<sup>3</sup> Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), International Organization for Migration, Berlin, Germany

\*Corresponding author: Francisco Rowe ([F.Rowe-Gonzalez@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:F.Rowe-Gonzalez@liverpool.ac.uk)) ORCID: 0000-0003-4137-0246

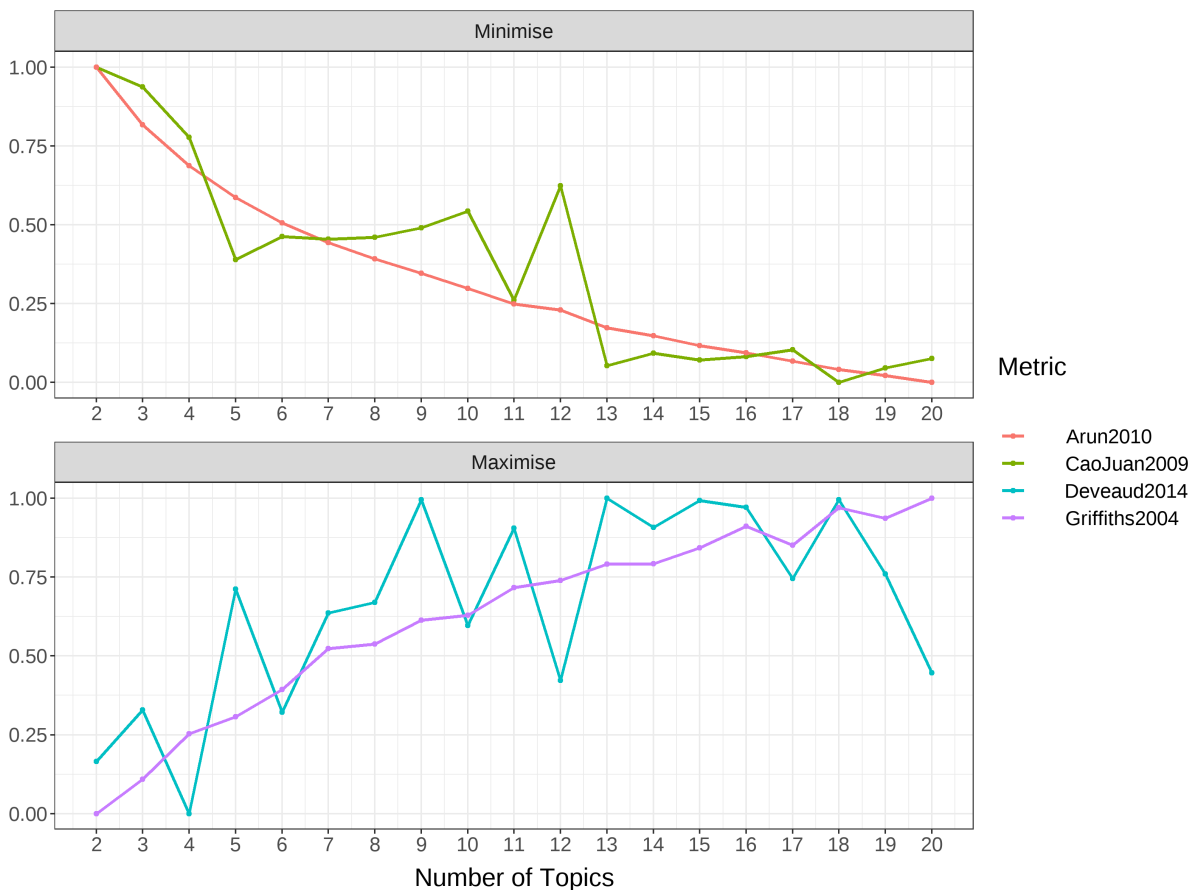
## Supplementary Tables

**Supplementary Table 1.** List of search terms used for our tweet data collection. Keywords, hashtags and Twitter user accounts were used. Twitter user accounts are not reported for confidentiality and privacy purposes.

Countries	Categories	Search Terms	
United Kingdom	Terms	immigrant, immigration, migrant, migration, "asylum seeker", refugee, "undocumented worker", "guest worker", "EU worker", "non-UK workers", "foreign worker", (human smuggling), (human trafficking), illegals, foreigner, "illegal alien", "illegal worker", islamophob, sinophob, "china flu", "kung flu", "china virus", "chinese virus", shangainese	
	Accounts	37	
	Hashtags	Positive	#RefugeesWelcome, #MigrantsWelcome, #LeaveNoOneBehind, #FreedomForImmigrants, #illegalmigrantsUK, #LondonIsOpen, #EndHostileEnvironment, #FamiliesBelongTogether
		Neutral	#Pritiuselless, #migrationEU, #immigration, #migration, #immigrant, #migrant, #immigrate, #migrate, #refugees, #Nigel Farage, #ImmigrationReform
	Event	#Moria, #CampFire, #closethecamps	
United States	Terms	immigrant, immigration, migrant, migration, "asylum seeker", refugee, "undocumented worker", "guest worker", "foreign worker", (human smuggling), (human trafficking), illegals, foreigner, "illegal alien", "illegal worker", islamophob, sinophob, "china flu", "kung flu", "china virus", "chinese virus", shangainese	
	Accounts	37	
	Hashtags	Positive	#RefugeesWelcome, #MigrantsWelcome, #LeaveNoOneBehind, #FreedomForImmigrants, #illegalmigrantsUSA, #KillTheImmigrationBill, #ImmigrantsMakeAmericaGreat, #NoWall, #NoWallEver, #NoBan, #FamiliesBelongTogether, #stopICEcold, #EndRemainInMexico
		Neutral	#ICE, #immigration, #migration, #immigrant, #migrant, #immigrate, #migrate, #refugees, #ImmigrationReform
	Event	#Moria, #closethecamps, #divestfromdetention	
Spain	Terms	migraci, migrante, refugiad, migratorio, refugiada, discrim, extranjer, xenof, racista, deporta, legal, patriota, racismo, invasores, musulman, islamofobia, marroqui	
	Accounts	36	
	Hashtags	Positive	#InmigracionNolnvasion, #nomasdiscriminacion, #conlosrefugiados, #nohayserhumanoilegal, #multicultural, #bienvenidosaespana, #enddeportaciones
		Neutral	#Extranjeria, #Inmigración, #Nacionalidad, #inmigrantes, #migrantes, #migración, #todossomosmigrante, #redmigrante, #migraciónlaboral, #leydemigración, #leydemigraciones, #migracionysalud, #migracionyeducacion, #migracionytrabajo, #migracionyeconomia, #soymigrante, #soymigranteandalucia
	Event	#Moria, #closethecamps, #divestfromdetention	
Italy	Terms	immigrato, immigrati, "richiedente asilo", "richiedenti asilo", "persona irregolare", "persone irregolari", migrante, migranti, straniero, stranieri, rifugiato, rifugiati, "vittima di tratta", "vittime di tratta", "minore non accompagnato", "minori non accompagnati", "traffico di migranti", sbarco, sbarchi, clandestino, clandestini, illegale, illegali, profugo, profughi, "immigrato abusivo", "immigrati abusivi", invasione, zingaro, zingari, negro, negri, negre, sporco, sporchi, scimmia, scimmie, extracomunitario, extracomunitari	
	Accounts	59	
	Hashtags	Positive	#portiaperti, #apriamoiporti, #aprireiporti, #accoglienza, #bastarazzismo, #fatelientrare, #SeaWatch, #SeaEye, #Openarms, #TuttiFratelli, #3ottobre, #restiamoumani, #regolarizzazione, #corridoioumanitari, #solidarieta, #dirittodiasilo, #ioaccolgo
		Neutral	#DecretoSicurezza, #decretoimmigrazione, #migranti, #migrazioni, #immigrati, #immigrazione, #SAR, #searchandrescue, #stranieri, #richiedentiasilo, #asilo, #rifugiati, #integrazione, #ONG, #iussoli, #decretiSalvini, #razzismo, #cittadinanza, #MareNostrum, #reinsediamento, #rimpatri, #Mediterraneo, #RegolamentoDublino, #hotspot, #tratta
	Event	#Moria, #Etienne, #Abou, #Lesbo, #WillyMonteroDuarte, #WillyMonteiro	
Germany	Terms	migrant, migranten, migrantin, migrantinnen, migrierende, migration, asylbewerber, asylbewerberin, asylbewerbende, flüchtling, flüchtende, flüchtlinge, "ausländische arbeiter", "ausländische arbeiterin", "ausländischer arbeiterinnen", gastarbeiter, gastarbeiterin, gastarbeiterinnen, "ausländische arbeitskräfte", "ausländische arbeitskraft", "illegale arbeiter", "illegale arbeiterin", "illegale arbeiterinnen", "illegal arbeitende", ausländer, ausländerin, ausländerinnen, zigeuner, zigeunerinnen, "kung flu", kanacken, kanacke, kanackin, kanackinnen	
	Accounts	64	
	Hashtags	Positive	#RefugeesWelcome, #MigrantsWelcome, #LeaveNoOneBehind, #FreedomForImmigrants, #BerlinsOpen, #familyreunion, #wirschaffendas, #TogetherForRescue, #blacklivesmatter, #RescueFamily, #FightForSolidarity, #FreeTheShips, #WirHabenPlatz, #SafePassage, #FlattenTheBorders, #NotMyEU, #ShameOnYouEurope
		Neutral	#migration, #immigration, #immigrant, #migrant, #flüchtling, #Asylrecht, #EUmigration, #Seenotrettung, #Migrationspakt, #MigrationPact, #Migrationspaket, #Rückführungspatenschaft, #Asylreform
	Event	#Moria, #flüchtlingscamps, #campsschliessung, #MoriaStory, #dreizehntausend, #luventa, #SeaWatch3, #Libyen, #RefugeesGR	

## Supplementary Figures

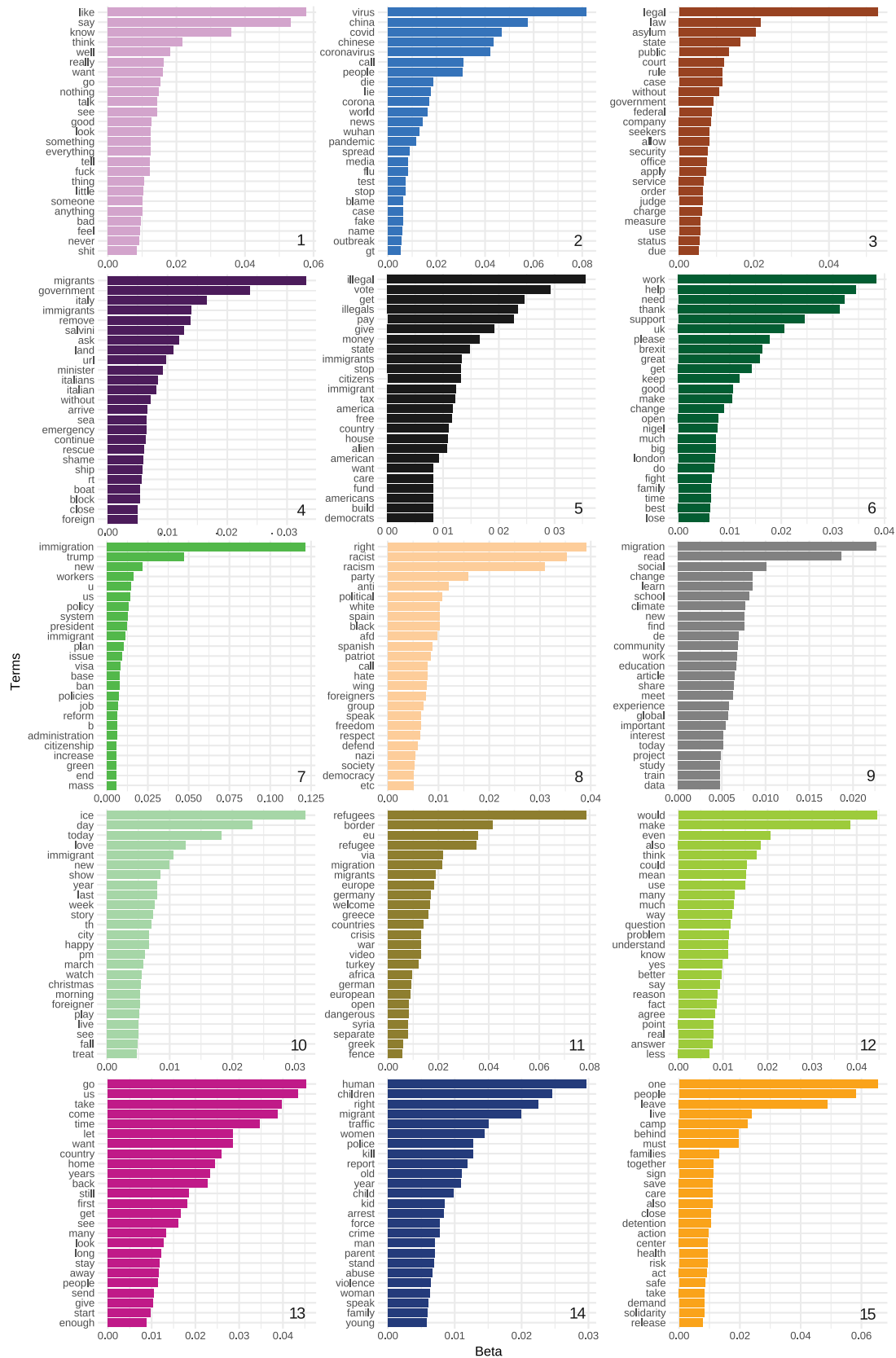
**Supplementary Figure 1.** Measures of model fit to assess the optimal number of topics based on distinctive clusters of tweets (Juan et al. 2009; Arun et al. 2010; Deveaud et al. 2014; Griffiths et al. 2004). Measures were normalised to one. When selected the number of topics for our model, we aimed to select the parsimonious solution. This required balancing the greater detail offered through more specific clusters with a higher number of clusters, as well as the ease of interpretation in having fewer clusters. We ran models for a range of solutions from two to 20 topics, comparing performance across four metrics which capture different aspects of model fit. A 15 topic solution was selected as the optimal solution. As described in Section 3.3. further analysis were conducted and topics were collapsed into 12 thematic areas.



### References

- Arun R, Suresh V, Veni Madhavan CE, Narasimha Murthy MN. 2010. On finding the natural number of topics with latent dirichlet allocation: Some observations. In *Advances in knowledge discovery and data mining*, Zaki MJ, Yu JX, Ravindran B, Pudi V. (eds.). Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 391–402.
- Deveaud R, SanJuan E, Bellot P. 2014. Accurate and effective latent concept modeling for ad hoc information retrieval. *Document numérique* 17, 1: 61–84.
- Griffiths TL, Steyvers M. 2004. Finding scientific topics. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 101, suppl 1: 5228–5235.
- Juan C, Tian X, Jintao L, Yongdong Z, Sheng T. 2009. A density-based method for adaptive LDA model selection. *Neurocomputing — 16th European Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks 2008* 72, 7–9: 1775–1781.

Supplementary Figure 2. Top 25 frequent terms by topic.



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Per cent of tweets by topic, by positive and negative sentiment scores. Negative refers to scores < -0.05. Positive refers to scores above 0.05.

