

# Digital Democracy: Research Infrastructure and Datasets

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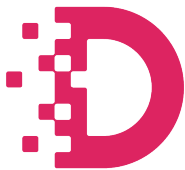
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Swiss Political Science Association

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# Political implications of digital technology

1. Political communication and opinion formation
2. State-citizen interactions (eGovernment)
3. Political participation (civic tech)

US tech companies call on France to abandon digital tax plans

Executives and lobbyists criticise measure but urge against retaliation

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Jeff Bezos says Amazon is writing its own facial recognition laws to pitch to lawmakers

The tech giant's hope is that federal lawmakers will adopt much of its draft legislation.

By Jason Del Rey | @DelRey | Updated

## The Cambridge Analytic affair reveals Facebook's "Transparency Paradox"

Sinan Aral, a professor at MIT, fears the fallout from could limit researchers' access to

Privacy concerns could derail unprecedented plan to use Facebook data to study elections

By Jeffrey Mervis | Sep. 24, 2019, 4:50 PM

EU plans sweeping regulation of facial recognition

Brussels explores rules to give citizens explicit rights over their data

## I Sold Political Ads for Google. Banning Them Won't Work.

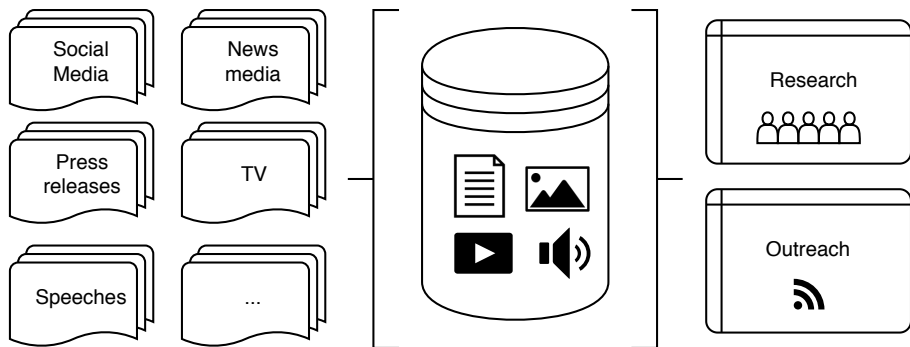
Tech companies can help fix what's wrong with digital political advertising. Instead, Twitter is declaring the problem insoluble.

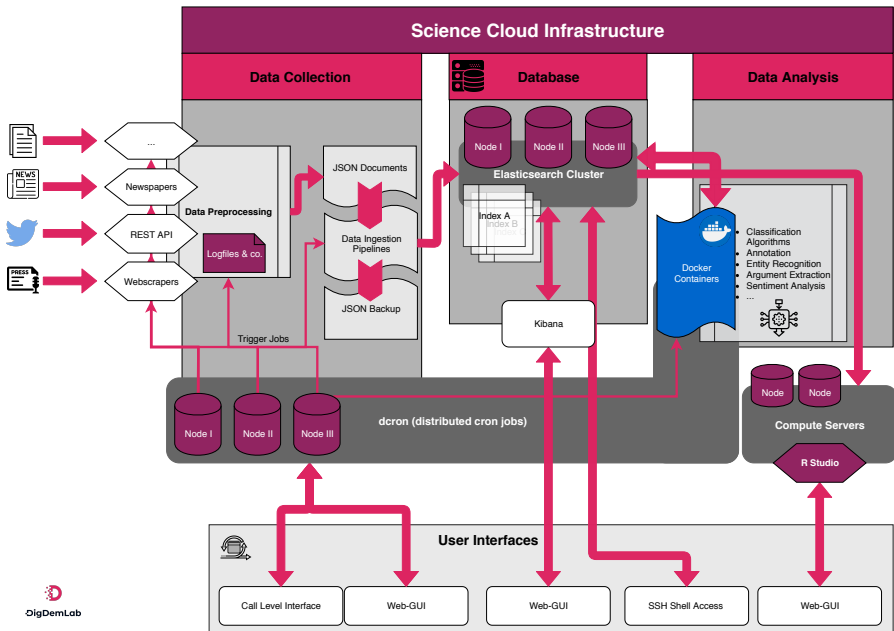
NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Jeffrey Webb

Worked in digital advertising at Google from 2011 to 2016

# An infrastructure for data collection and analysis

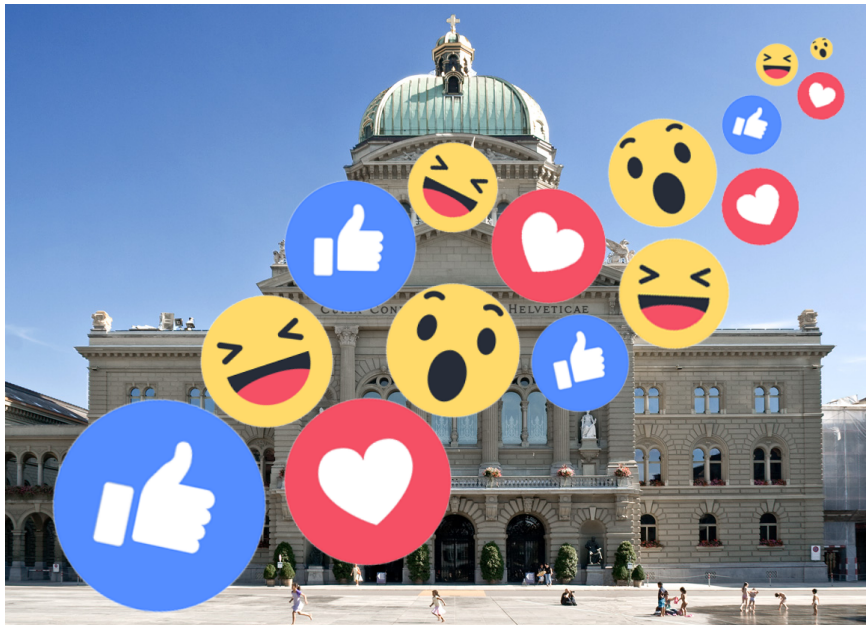




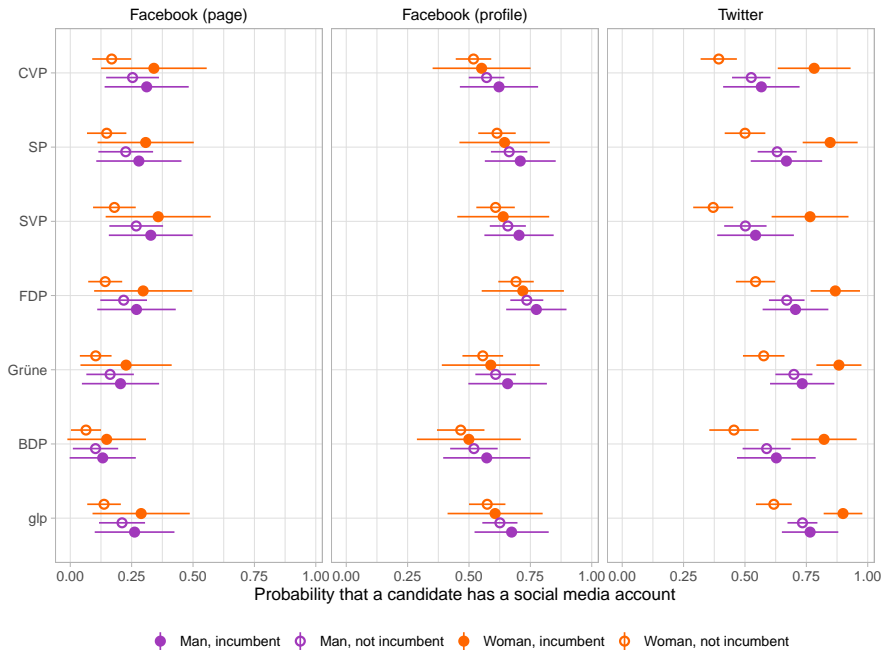
# Datasets

- **Social media:** 1 million tweets in the context of Swiss politics (1,500 users, January–October 2019); 20,000 Facebook posts from the public pages of 261 Swiss politicians (January–October 2019).
- **Newspapers:** over 10.3 million articles from 86 Swiss media (online and print) since 2012.
- **Press releases:** over 43,000 press releases from Swiss parties, government actors, and interest groups since about 2010 (depending on source).
- **Television:** complete transcripts of “SRF Arena,” Switzerland’s most important political show, 2010–2019 (about 450 shows).

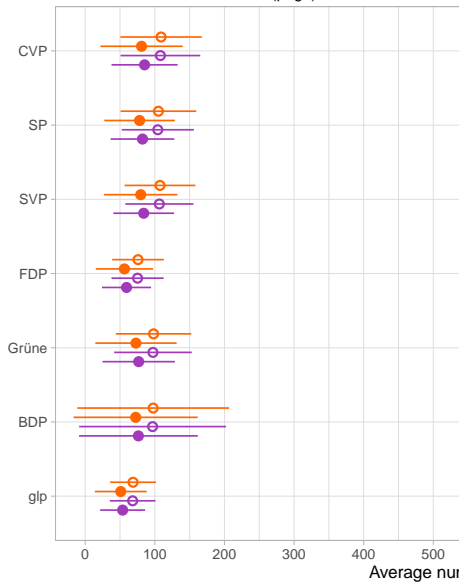
# Pilot study: Swiss national elections 2019



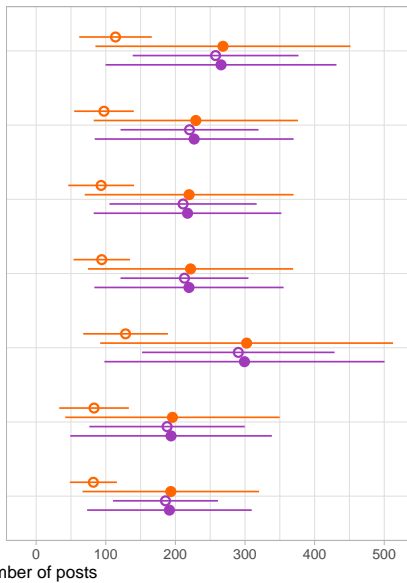




Facebook (page)

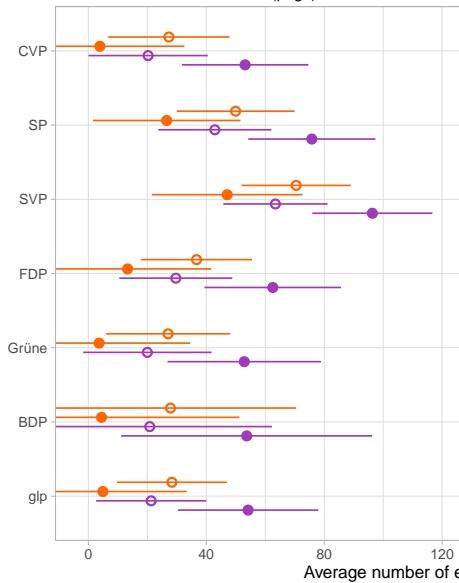


Twitter

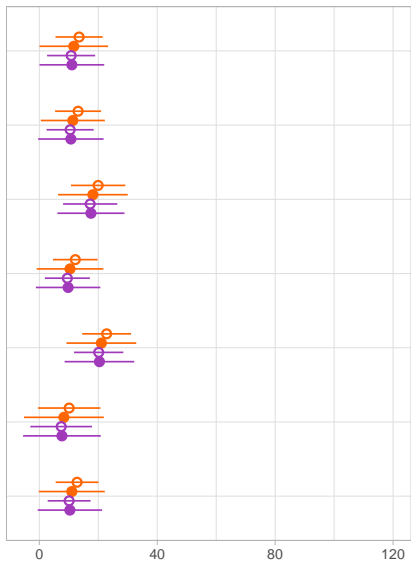


● Man, incumbent 
 ○ Man, not incumbent 
 ● Woman, incumbent 
 ○ Woman, not incumbent

Facebook (page)



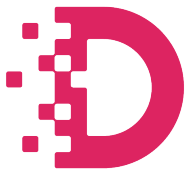
Twitter



● Man, incumbent 
 ○ Man, not incumbent 
 ● Woman, incumbent 
 ○ Woman, not incumbent

# Access to infrastructure and datasets

1. Secondary datasets (e.g. press releases, speeches): open
  - Must cite DigDemLab paper
  - May be listed as DigDemLab output
2. Primary datasets (e.g. SMD, social media) or infrastructure: restricted to fellows
  - Fellows can be resident or non-resident
  - Co-authorship with at least one co-PI
  - Must cite DigDemLab paper
3. Call for (non-resident) fellowships (international)
  - Access to primary datasets or infrastructure for joint project
  - Possibly with travel support for short-term visits



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