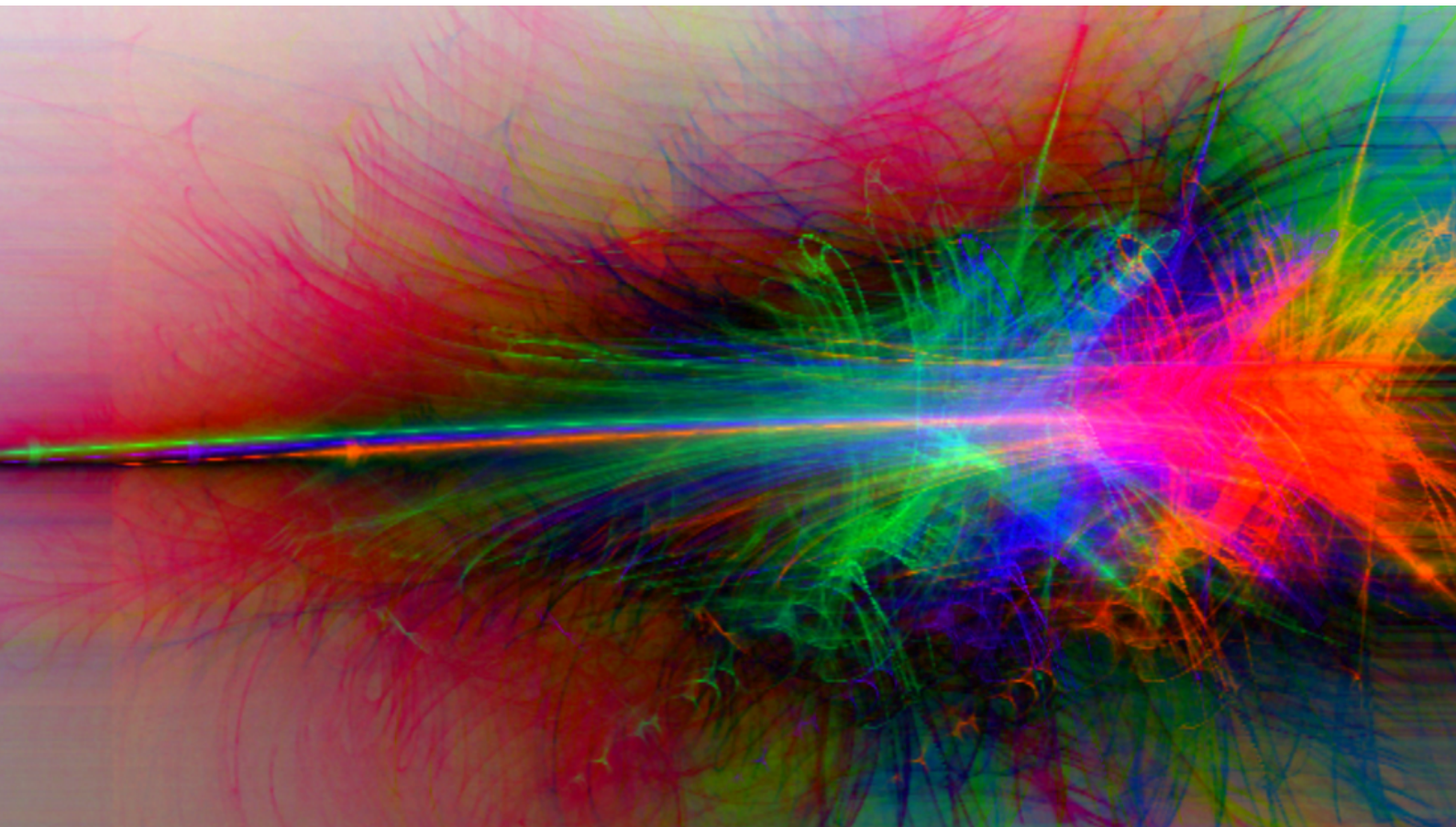




FOURTH REPORT

ONLINE # MEMORIES

MEMORY CONFLICTS IN SOCIAL MEDIA. TWITTER DATA ANALYSYS



Author

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With the advice of

HISMEDI - UNIVERSITY CARLOS III

Previous considerations

In this fourth report, corresponding to the second half of 2020, we continued the analysis of Twitter contents that relate the past and the present in the form of commemorations and anniversaries. The social significance surrounding these events, their reconstructions and attributions, are part of the sociology of our societies; they act as a catalyst for the conflicts that take place in a historical logic and they can be a double-edged sword in their resolutions. While many different agents and processes take part in the genesis of these uses, during recent years social networks have taken on a key role in the spread of the current debates accompanying these processes, as well as a space for transformation —as we have seen. For this reason, this project seeks to continue exploring these situations, entering its third year in 2021 with additional tools and perspectives to conduct these interpretations.

For this report, we can reveal some new information, and also share continuities that allow us to retrace the comparative and evolutionary perspective of some of these celebrations. On a European level, we have continued with the analysis of “Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes” (August 23rd), which is the second year it has been included in this report. We have also incorporated the “Day of Hispanicity” (October 12th), which although not an eminently European celebration —as it is only celebrated in the Spanish state—, it has a huge international impact on social networks, especially following #BlackLivesMatter and the iconoclastic phenomena that occurred in Europe and America against the statues of Columbus and other colonisers. The subversion of this memory and the appearance of opposing celebrations, such as the “Day of Indigenous Resistance” in Bolivia, or the challenge phenomenon, must be read as a social change with the rise of decolonial and activist movements. That is why we believe that the incorporation of this date can contribute many tools towards understanding this present. Finally, we have added the “Day of Remembrance for Victims of the Franco Regime” (October 31st) to the study. This new celebration seeks to establish a memory of the dictatorship, escaping the rhetoric of reconciliation and comparison; but to date it has a low social presence. Analysing it is an opportunity to determine the level of acceptance and socialisation of these initiatives outside the institutional framework during this embryonic stage.

In these preliminary considerations we cannot ignore the social and health context in which the world is currently immersed, and which evidently affects the use of social networks. This element undoubtedly affects the interpretation of data, as we saw in the previous report on “Europe Day”. The COVID-19 crisis has immersed Europe and the world in a wave of confinements, a rupturing of social relationships and trauma. It has profoundly affected our relationship with social networks, which have become much closer and even, at times, have become the only channel of socialisation. Since March there are more people online, seeking contact and social interaction, but there is also more information variety [1]. There has been an increase in the number of users, but also in the amount of time spent on social networks and the amount of Fake News. It has become a challenge for society to face, addressing information overload and the strict consumption of information [2].

Table I.

Summary of compared samplings in the second half of 2020

	<i>Sampling dates 2019</i>	<i>Sampling dates 2020</i>
Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes	<i>19-26 August</i>	<i>19-26 August</i>
Day of Hispanicity	<i>1-16 October</i>	<i>1-16 October</i>
Day of Remembrance for Victims of the Franco Regime		<i>15-30 October</i>

[1] See: <https://www.rtve.es/noticias/20201116/pandemia-dispara-uso-internet-millon-mas-usuarios-alcanza-953-hogares/2056607.shtml>

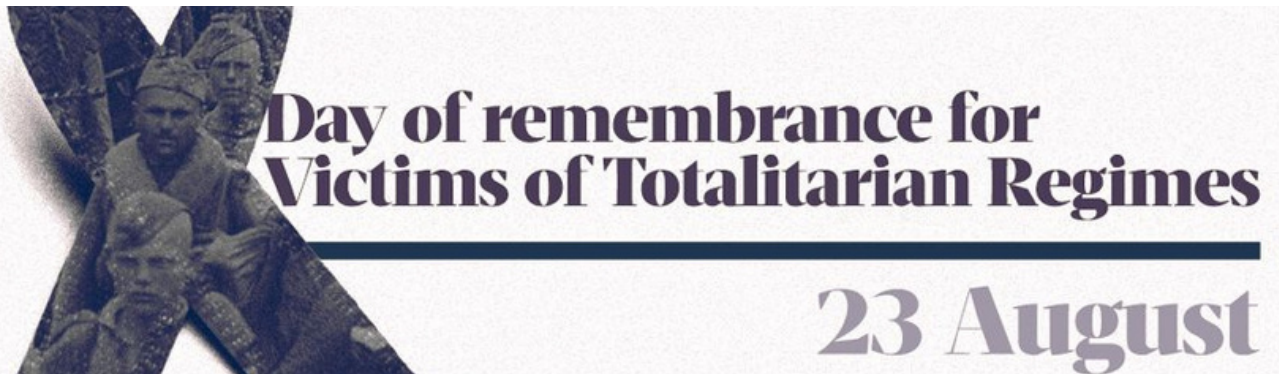
[2] See: <http://profesionaldelainformacion.com/contenidos/2020/may/salaverria-buslon-lopez-leon-lopez-erviti.pdf>

Methodology and sociological profile

For this section, we refer to the first report of this year. The methodology and the sociological profiles are maintained for the second half of the year and will be updated in the 2021 reports with the final data from 2020 [3].

[3] See: <https://europeanmemories.net/projects/online-memories/>

Individual readings



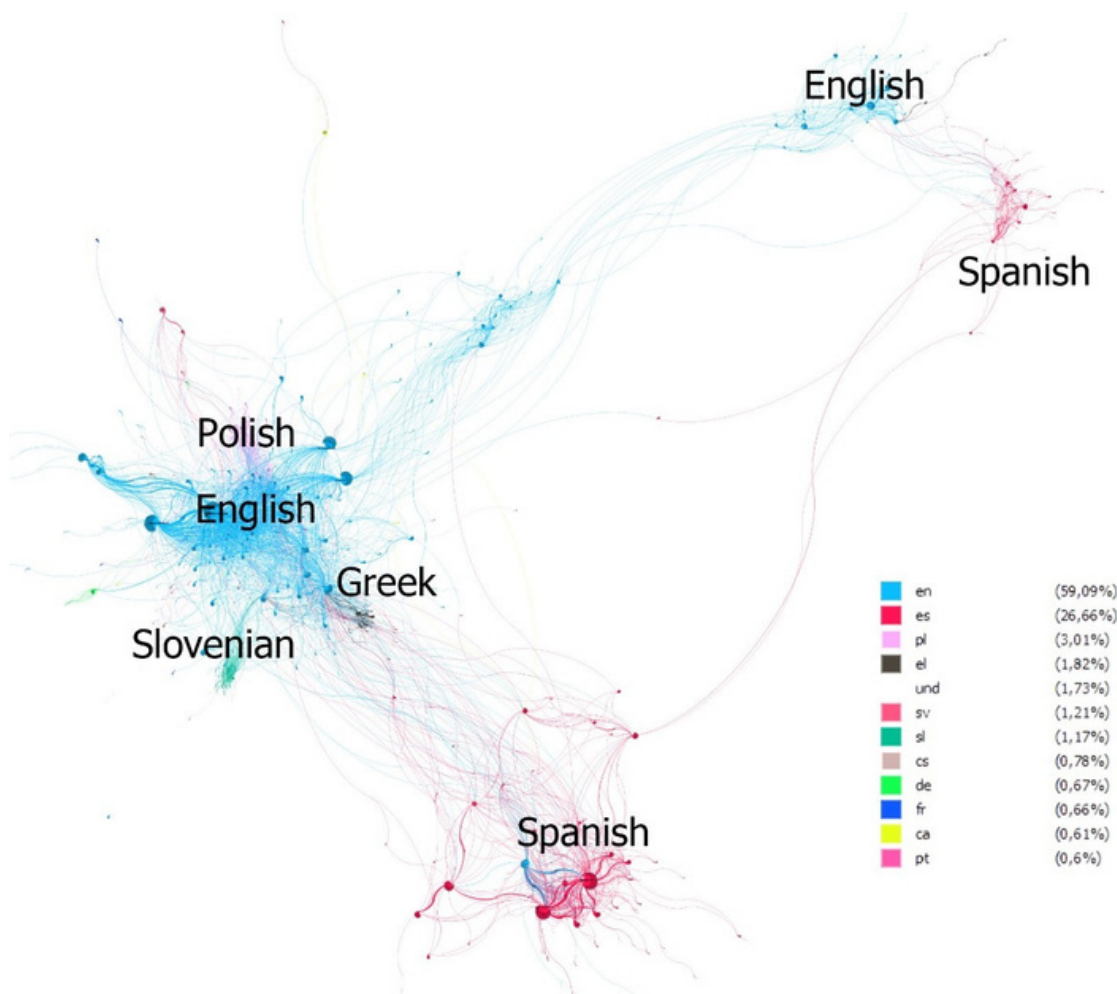
European Day of Remembrance for Victims of All Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes

As mentioned in the previous analysis, the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes is held on the August 23rd, the date of the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between the USSR and Nazi Germany in 1939. It is a very controversial celebration with a recurring debate about the political justifications legitimising it and because of the veiled comparison between communism and Nazism as political regimes. On a methodological level, the data for this analysis were obtained through a combination of webscraping and API monitoring, and they reveal a similar trend to 2019. Firstly, as a result of the reach, as it included a decrease in the number of contents generated. In 2019 a total of 4,527 tweets were recorded (with a reach of up to 23,054 through RT). In 2020, on the other hand, there were 3,993 (with a reach of up to 33,188 through RT). It is still, therefore, a celebration with a very reduced impact on social networks. Secondly, because there continues to be a hybridisation with other celebrations held that day, especially the Baltic Way, and on a secondary plane, with the anniversary of the Hong Kong revolts. Although compared to the previous year, changes were also observed. The first is the appearance of negationists of victims of Stalinism. The second is the reduction of the presence of profiles from Hong Kong demanding their “Baltic Way”. The third is a greater presence of Spanish profiles.

On this occasion, we have broadened the linguistic spectrum of the searches, aware of the relevance of this data in Eastern Europe. Tweets in Hungarian, Slovenian, Polish, Bosnian, Serbian and Czech have been included. However, it was detected that the majority of these communities interact and use English as a main language on social

networks. Therefore, there is a predominance of English (59.09%), used by Lithuanians, Poles, Canadians, Hongkongers and other profiles from the EU. The second language was Spanish (26.66%) used by users from Spain and Venezuela. The third language was Polish (3.61%), the fourth Greek (1.82%) and the fifth Slovenian (1.17%) [see graph 1]. Similarly, as we have pointed out, language is a barrier—in addition to the ideological barrier—in relations between communities. In fact, as shown in the graph, Anglophone users relate closely with Greeks, Slovenians and Poles; on the other hand, Spanish speakers relate little with the rest of the language communities.

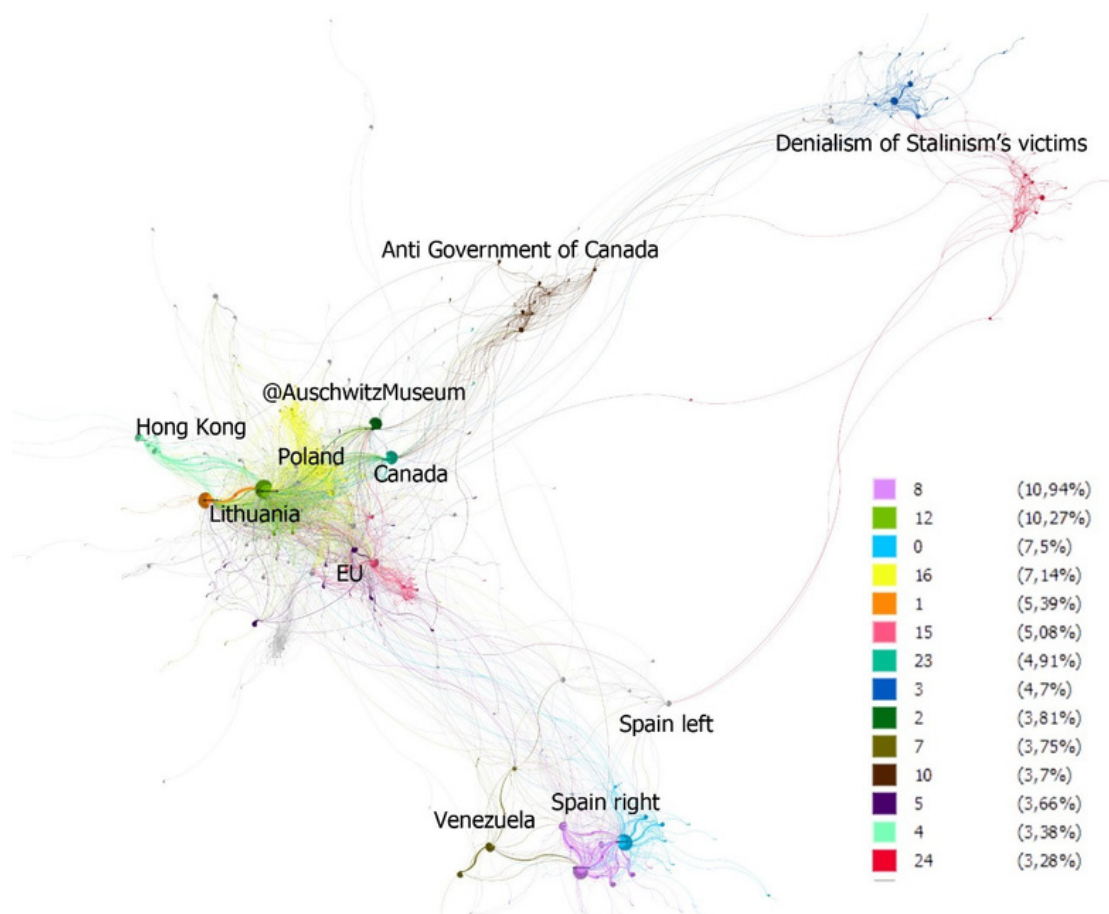
Graph 1. Distribution of linguistic communities



The organisation of this linguistic distribution also responds to similar communities, resulting in the segregation between two Spanish-speaking segments and two Anglophone segments.

Graph 2 shows three weakly connected zones demarcated at times by language and at times by ideology. The main zone (the left part of the graph) corresponds to a block of English-speaking communities supporting the celebration of the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Authoritarian Regimes, with profiles from Lithuania, Poland and other parts of the EU, as well as Canada and Hong Kong. Of these, the Auschwitz Memorial and the EU are the institutions generating content. Another block (bottom left part), also a support block, is made up of Spanish-speaking communities with users from Spain and Venezuela, with a notable presence of right-wing groups. The third group (upper right part) is separated by the ideology opposing the previous trends in defence of the celebration and they bring together profiles that use English and Spanish and deny the existence of victims of Stalinism. In the middle of both polarised segments we can observe small communities, which in the Anglophone part represent positions against the government of Canada and in the Spanish-speaking part represent the Spanish political left. The dissemination between identifiable communities has been very disperse, with almost 22.49% of the profiles belonging to isolated groups or groups which contained less than 3% of the participants. In the analysed graph, the communities are also very fragmented, with the largest one being a group of profiles from Spain with 10.94% of the profiles and another from Lithuania with 10.27%. The other groups have less than 10% of the users.

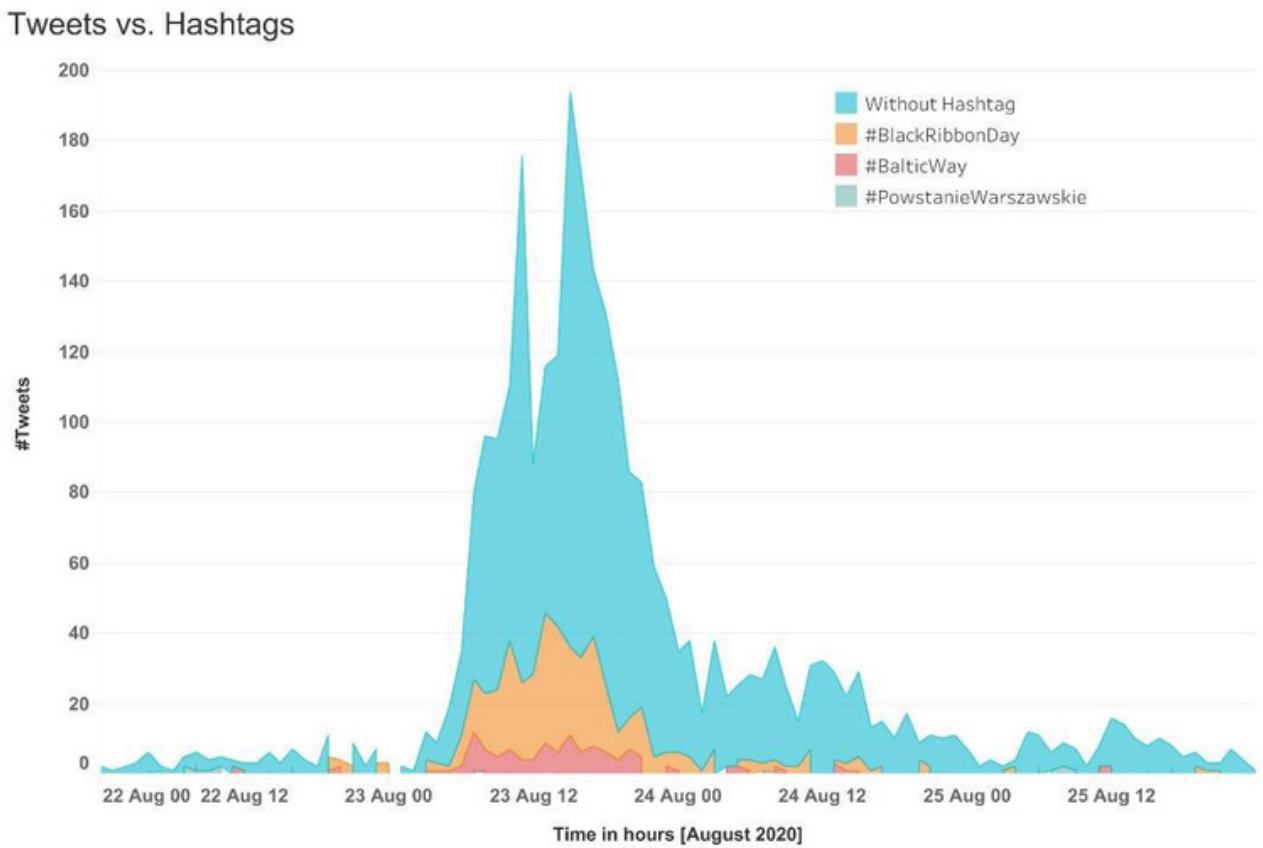
Graph 2. Distribution of ideological communities



None	(50,49%)
BlackRibbonDay	(14,23%)
BalticWay	(13,74%)
OTD	(2,48%)
Venezuela	(1,86%)
Auschwitz	(1,46%)
Japan	(1,04%)
R2P	(0,84%)

The majority of the tweets did not include hashtags. The most frequent tag was #BlackRibbonDay present in 14.23% of the tweets. The second was #BalticWay with a presence of 13.74% and mainly representing the Lithuanian community, which interacts with the celebration through its own foundational historical event. The third was #OTD, an acronym of "On This Day".

Graph 3. Time distribution of the contents according to tags



In terms of contents, the 10 most shared messages throughout the day belong to the group reclaiming the celebration, among whom most notable are Spanish right-wing politicians, such as the president of the Assembly of Madrid, Juan Trinidad Martos, and the journalist and politician from the far-right party Vox, Hermann Tertsch.

Juan Trinidad Martos @juantri73

Hoy es el día europeo de las víctimas del nazismo y estalinismo.
Día para repudiar a quienes siguen defendiendo estas ideologías asesinas.

7:42 AM · Aug 23, 2020

3K 1.6K people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by [screenshot.guru](#) 1297438983897183776

Hermann Tertsch @hermanntertsch

Hoy es el Día Memorial de las víctimas de comunismo y nazismo.
Dos ideologías asesinas cuya esencia es el desprecio a la vida y a la libertad han de ser combatidas por igual. Vergüenza que los comunistas sean protegidos por el consenso socialdemócrata, en Cuba, Venezuela o España

ECR Party @ECRparty

Today is European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism in which we remember all of those who died across Europe at the hands of collectivist totalitarian regimes. Now more than ever we must keep up the fight for freedom in Europe. #BlackRibbonDay

EUROPEAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF STALINISM AND NAZISM

7:19 PM · Aug 23, 2020

1.9K 1.4K people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by [screenshot.guru](#) 1297614485224169604

We also find contents generated by European institutions, such as the EU Council account, the European Parliament and the ECR Party. And politicians from Canada (the member of parliament, Chrystia Freeland) and Venezuela (Tama Suju, Venezuelan opposition).

EU Council @EUCouncil

#BlackRibbonDay | Today is the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism.

We commemorate those who fell victim to totalitarian regimes and remember the EU values our society is built on: human dignity, freedom and fundamental rights.

8:25 AM · Aug 23, 2020

1.2K 839 people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by [screenshot.guru](#) 1297448746878047297

Tamara Suju @TAMARA_SUJU

Europa se celebra el día d las Víctimas d los Regimenes Totalitarios y Autoritarios. Europa alberga perseguidos y familiares d víctimas d la persecución y Crimenes d LH d #Venezuela #Nicaragua #Cuba #BoliviadeEvo #EcuadordeCorrea en Latinoamérica. Berlín recibe a Navalni de Rusia

Parlamento Europeo @parlamentoUE

Hoy conmemoramos el día de las víctimas de regimenes totalitarios para preservar la memoria de todas las personas que sufrieron deportaciones masivas y exterminio, al tiempo que promovemos los valores democráticos para reforzar la paz y la estabilidad en Europa #BlackRibbonDay

9:04 AM · Aug 23, 2020

498 542 people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by [screenshot.guru](#) 1297459835849226793



We can also identify related contents which reclaim the Baltic Way, such as the tweet by Linas Linkevičiuso (Social Democratic party of Lithuania), and the Hong Kong protests.



We also find tweets that oppose the comparison of memories of Nazism and communism. These tweets, in general, were generated by anonymous profiles and are notable for their institutional or political absence. This community represents a growing force that appeared in 2020 and that shows the open conflict and the interpretation problems which, since its beginnings, have accompanied this celebration.



Paco Arnau
@ciudadfutura

...

En resposta a [@ciudadfutura](#)

Putos cerdos que equiparan a los que montaron Auschwitz y a quienes lo liberaron. Abanderados del más repulsivo revisionismo histórico. Ojalá acaben donde les corresponde: en el basurero de la historia.

[Tradueix el tuit](#)

5:53 p. m. · 23 d'ag. de 2020 · Twitter for iPad

22 Retuits 57 Agradaments



Pdoro Ntno
@pasanchezprieto

...

El totalitarismo es un mito que equipara dos ideologías muy diferentes (el comunismo y el nazi-fascismo) e impide que se conozca el funcionamiento de los regímenes ultraconservadores europeos de mediados del siglo XX o el sistema político soviético.

[Tradueix el tuit](#)



José Manuel Rodríguez Uribes [@jmrdezuribes](#) · 23 d'ag. de 2020

Hoy es el Día Europeo de las Víctimas de los Regímenes Totalitarios. De extrema derecha o de extrema izquierda, tuvieron en común su desprecio hacia la vida, la libertad y la igual dignidad de todos los seres humanos. Fueron el horror de Europa, el Terror de Estado... Nunca más.





Day of Hispanicity 2019 and 2020

The analysis of the Day of Hispanicity is new in this report, and by including it we seek to further explore the social phenomena surrounding this date. As we have indicated, it is not an intrinsically European celebration, but it has implications and readings that go beyond the borders of the Spanish and American states amidst a debate about racism and colonial legacy [4]. Consequently, it can be relevant to understand the reach of movements such as #BlackLivesMatter, among other emerging movements. In this analysis we have collected data from 2020, but we have also retroactively collected data from 2019, and as such it will be a comparative reading that will show how the date takes on a new meaning in every context.

From the outset, the difference in the volume of contents generated online between one year and the next must be highlighted. While in 2019 there were 33,740 tweets (which reached an impact of 134,462 through RT), in 2020 there were 105,952 tweets (with a total reach of 594,954 through RT). This represents a threefold increase, and we must also bear in mind that as a result of a sampling error in 2020, the tweets that included the word “Hispanidad” without a hashtag were not tracked—which would probably have resulted in an even higher number [5]. Therefore, in this last year, the activity was much higher. The reason is probably

[4] October 12th is the date of Christopher Columbus’ supposed discovery of America. It became a national celebration from the end of the 19th century onwards in Spain, under the concept “Hispanicity”. Said celebration has since spread to the majority of the American republics, under different formulae, although Hispanicity was the most widespread—for example, in the United States it has been historically known as Columbus Day. During the Franco regime it became known as the “Day of the Race”. Currently in Spain it is the “National Feast Day” and in some Latin American countries the “Day of Indigenous Resistance” is celebrated, to oppose the historical glorification.

[5] The tag #BlackLivesMatter was not included in the search criteria either. It generated related content—although not only about the celebration.

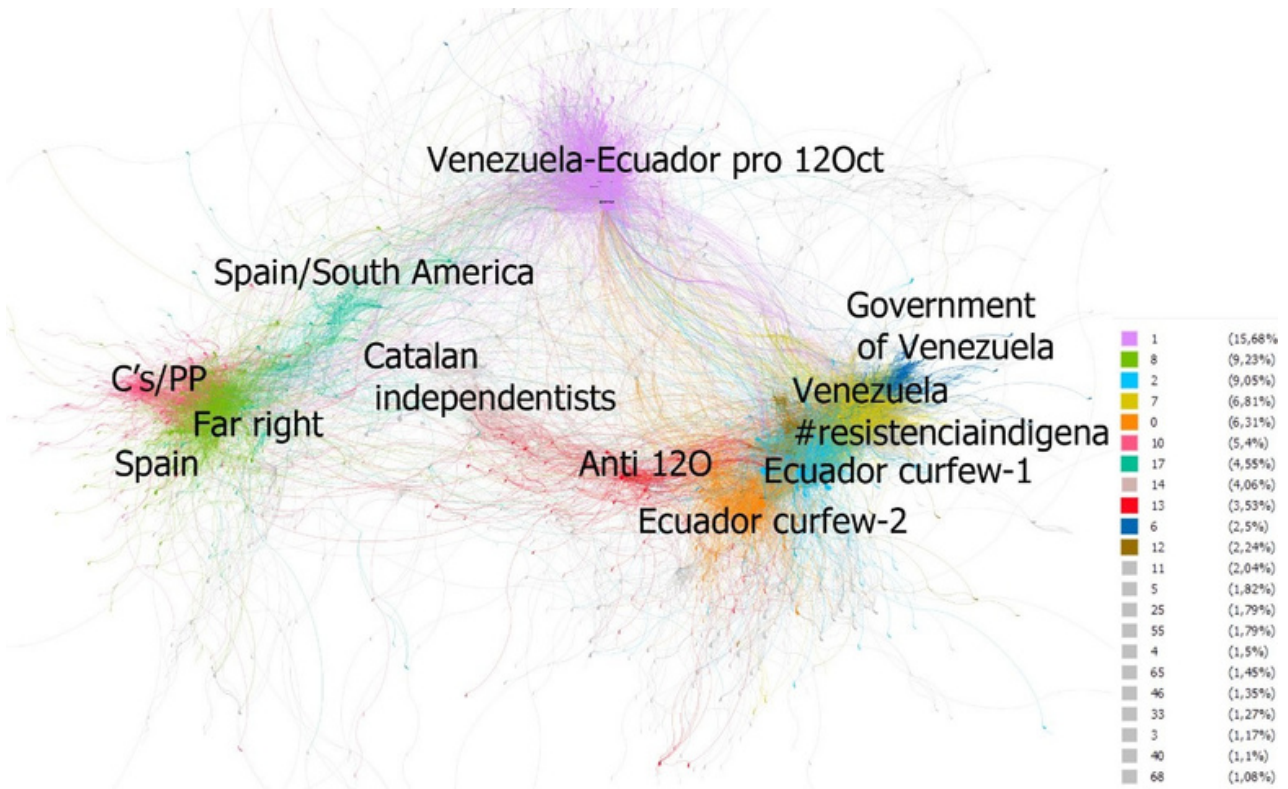
the different circumstantial events that accompanied the celebration. On dates close to the celebration of October 12th 2019, in Ecuador riots broke out in the protests against the removal of subsidies for fuels, decided in the framework of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Ecuadorian government declared a state of emergency with a curfew. This exceptional situation was reflected in the tweets on October 12th published on those dates. In Spain, during the military parade that is held every year on this date, a parachutist collided with a lamppost when performing manoeuvres. This incident gave rise to many jokes as well as support for the parachutist. On the contrary, in 2020, the celebration of October 12th was marked by the health crisis caused by COVID-19. Likewise, and in a cross-sectional manner, parallel celebrations have become institutionalised with a view to deviate the focus of the idea of Hispanicity and focus them on colonisation, with the “Day of Indigenous Resistance” [6] being the most notable, coinciding with October 12th both years.

Another difference between the two years is the cohesion of the communities. In 2019 they were more disperse, since the eleven largest groups represented 68.11% of the nodes in graph 1. However, in 2020, the thirteen communities identified represented 80.3% of the profiles. However, the polarisation between them is evident in both years, with some differences.

If we analyse the graph of communities from 2019, the largest community corresponds to profiles from Venezuela and Ecuador with 15.68%, followed by two communities of a similar size, 9.23% and 9.05%, corresponding to a Spanish far-right group and an Ecuadorian group. The polarisation occurs in the left-right axis, with opposing messages about accounts of Hispanicity. The largest zone (top part of the graph) corresponds to a group of Ecuadorian and Venezuelan profiles which are in favour of celebrating the Day of Hispanicity. On the left there are conservative Spanish profiles separated into two groups, one more radical than the other. On the bottom right part, from left to right, there are Venezuelan profiles that are close to the government, Venezuelan profiles supporting the indigenous resistance, Ecuadorian profiles tweeting about the curfew, an Ecuadorian group with a more varied discourse, a group against the celebration of the October 12th and a Catalan pro-independence group against the Day of Hispanicity.

[6] Official celebration in Venezuela and Nicaragua; in Argentina the “Day of Respect of Cultural Diversity” is celebrated, opposing the Day of the Race or of Hispanicity.

Graph 1. Communities of 2019



The messages most shared that day were in relation to the protests in Ecuador and used the tag #12Oct. The other highest number were those of the Venezuelan opposition reclaiming the Day of the Race or critics of Podemos in Spain.





We also find messages that criticise October 12th and claim indigenous resistance. Also, from the Catalan independence movement, since although the predominant language in 97% of cases was Spanish, Catalan also had a moderate presence of 2%.





María Noelia Aráuz
@noelia_arauz



Día de la resistencia indígena, negra y popular en Matagalpa.

Orgullosos de sus raíces indígenas!

#Nicaragua
#UnidosEnVictorias
#OctubreOrgulloNica

Tradueix el tuit



Ramon Raudales
@MonchoRaudales



Lo que vemos hoy en #Ecuador es el ejemplo de la #ResistenciaIndígena que sucedió hace mucho!

Gracias al pueblo indígena, por ser la cara de esa resistencia ante las imposiciones del exterior que tratan de arrebatar nos tierras y riquezas!!

#EcuadorEnResistencia

Tradueix el tuit



TaniaSandinista i 8 usuaris més

8:06 p. m. · 12 d'oct. de 2019 · Twitter for Android

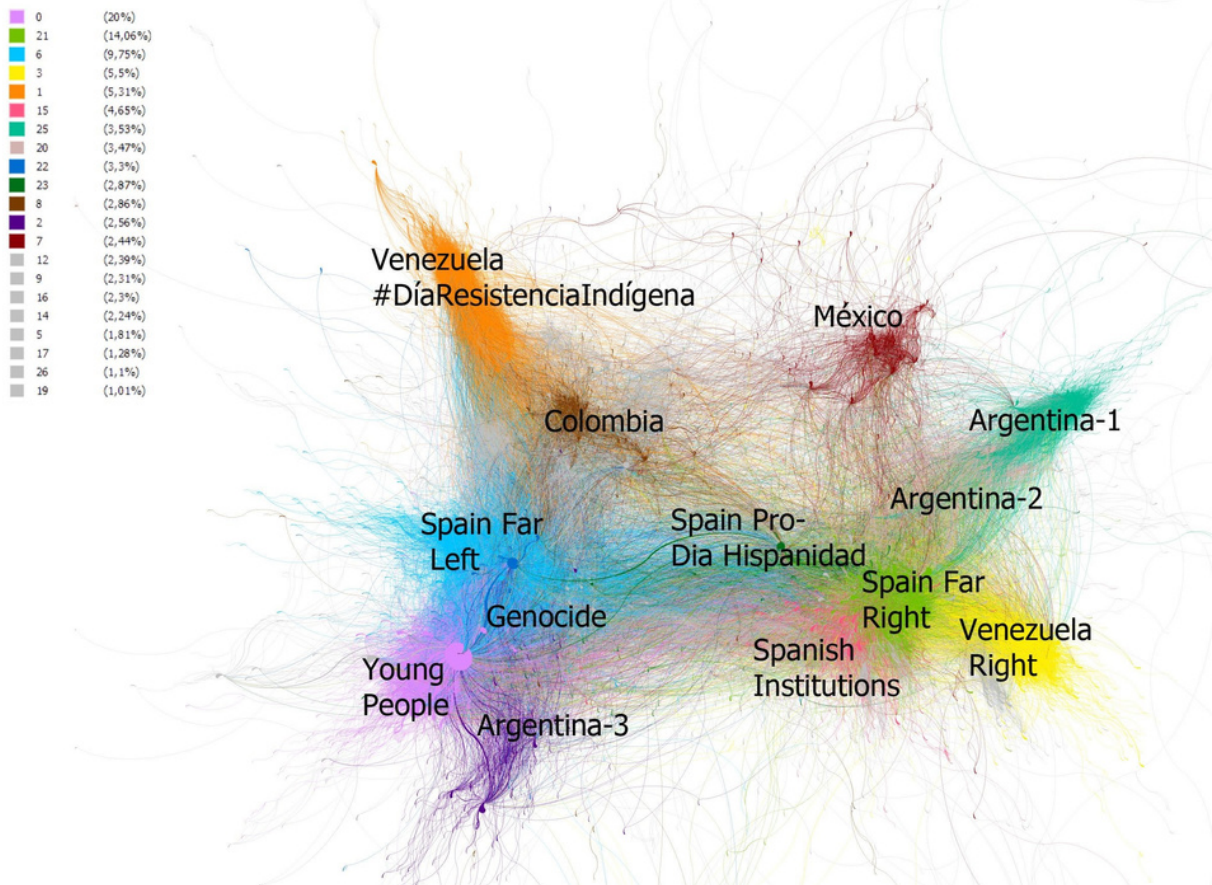
280 Retuits 8 Tuits amb cita 356 Agradaments

There was also satire and memes surrounding the incident of the parachutist who collided with a lamppost during the Spanish military parade, with the tag #Diadelafarola spreading.



Video showing a group of people, mainly pro-independence, singing the song "la farola" (the lamppost) as a satire of the occurrence.

In 2020, on the other hand, despite the similar polarisation between the communities, there were more connections and dialogues between them, probably as a result of the higher volume of information generated. In graph 2, the three largest groups are from Spain, the largest (20%) mainly represents young people against messages from VOX. They are followed by a radical right-wing group (14.06%) and another "radical" left-wing group (9.75%). The rest of the groups are from Latin American countries and to a lesser extent Spain.



Graph 2. Communities of 2020.

The graph shows various zones connected to a central group which denied that the conquest of America by Spain was a genocide. The communities located on the left issued messages against the celebration of the Day of Hispanicity and those on the right, apart from group Argentina-1, were in favour of this celebration. The most overwhelming messages against the celebration of the Day of Hispanicity were from a group of various countries, which compared it to genocide, and which used the tag #nadaquecelebrar —the previous year this group mainly used #resistenciaindigena. The use of multimedia and of striking explicit drawings in the form of memes also increased. An increase in the trend to use the quote to criticise a message was also observed. This trend will increase with the new Twitter interface which favours the quote over the RT. Lastly, it is important to highlight that this year there was a decrease in Spanish, which reduced to 91%, with the use of Catalan and English increasing moderately.

Among the messages in favour of the celebration, there are diverse stances. The Spanish right-wing stance reclaims the heroic deed of colonisation and the celebration of the day despite the health restrictions in the second wave of COVID-19. We also find messages from the Venezuelan opposition in favour of the celebration.

VOX @vox_es

La #EspañaViva se siente orgullosa de su pasado y de pertenecer a una gran Nación.

Hace 528 años, Colón descubre América y se inicia la Hispanidad, la mayor obra de hermanamiento realizada por un pueblo en la Historia de la humanidad.

¡Feliz #12deOctubre!



10:50 a. m. · 12 oct. 2020

Alvise Pérez @Alvisepf

Resulta que este #12deOctubre, pese a los bloqueos y controles, no estamos siendo tan pocos.

Somos la sociedad civil.
¡Viva España!

#OrgullososDeSerEspañoles



David Molina @DavidA_Molina

¡Vivan nuestros místicos ancestros indígenas;
¡Vivan nuestros poderoso ancestros hispanos!
¡Viva hispanoamérica toda!
¡Gloria a Venezuela!

#Hispanidad #Venezuela #12octubre

#LibertadONada

Tradueix el tuit

Alvise Pérez @Alvisepf

Utilizan el miedo para robarnos el #12Octubre.

Ante la mayor crisis económica e institucional de la historia de nuestra nación, salgamos a la calle y reivindicemos el único lugar del mundo al que podemos llamar hogar.

Frente a Palacio Real
Lunes 12 -11.30AM
¡Allí nos vemos!



Within this favorable stance, but moderately and in reference to the National Day of Spain, we find institutional messages from the Government of Spain. Far from the subject of Hispanicity, the government issued messages about the COVID-19 pandemic which, without question, defined the political agenda of the year.

PSOE @PSOE


Nuestro país se enfrenta al mayor reto desde el restablecimiento de la democracia.

Hemos vivido momentos terribles. Hemos logrado ponernos en pie.

Lo hacemos, además, con la entrega y admirable vocación de servicio nuestros servidores públicos.

#12deOctubre 🇪🇸
¡España puede!

Tradueix el tuit




025 32,3m visualitzacions

Pedro Sánchez @sanchezcastejon

Este #12deOctubre, diferente por la pandemia, recordemos más que nunca lo que somos. Una España solidaria, abierta, plural, que progresa sin dejar a nadie atrás. Avancemos unidos por el bien común, con ilusión para ganar nuestro futuro. Feliz Fiesta Nacional 🇪🇸.

#ParaMíEspañaEs

Tradueix el tuit



1:53 155,8m visualitzacions

12 de octubre, día de la Fiesta Nacional.

8:32 a. m. · 12 d'oct. de 2020 · Twitter Media Studio

However, there were many opposing messages, critical of the subject of colonisation and of glorifying Hispanicity, and in favour of the colonised people. Messages shared from Spain, especially by left-wing and pro-independence groups, and Latin America — more hegemonic, apart from the Venezuelan and Argentinian right. The references to the terms genocide, indigenous resistance, destruction of monuments and criticism of the right for its attitude to the pandemic, were constant. Therefore, their narratives mixed the present context with the historical wave of opposition to the date, especially from 1992 onwards, with the 500-year anniversary of the colonisation.

ervantes 2.0 @eldelquijote

Hoy, #12deOctubre, celebramos que un puñado de españoles sanguinarios y ultracatólicos cometieron el mayor genocidio de la historia. En este hilo os contaré la verdad sobre la conquista de América y de cómo fueron exterminados los nativos.
#NadaQueCelebrar #DiadelaHispanidad



2:22 PM · Oct 12, 2020

8.5K 5K people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by [screenshot.guru](#) 13190800941792120

Sara @putasbroken

Proximo tuit: he cogido coronavirus puto 8M gracias pedro sanchez

Alvise Pérez @Alvisepf
Resulta que este #12deOctubre, pese a los bloqueos y controles, no estamos siendo tan pocos.
Somos la sociedad civil.
¡Viva España! 🇪🇸
#OrgullososDeSerEspañoles



10:56 AM · Oct 12, 2020

18.8K See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Tweet captured by [screenshot.guru](#) 13160722879033738

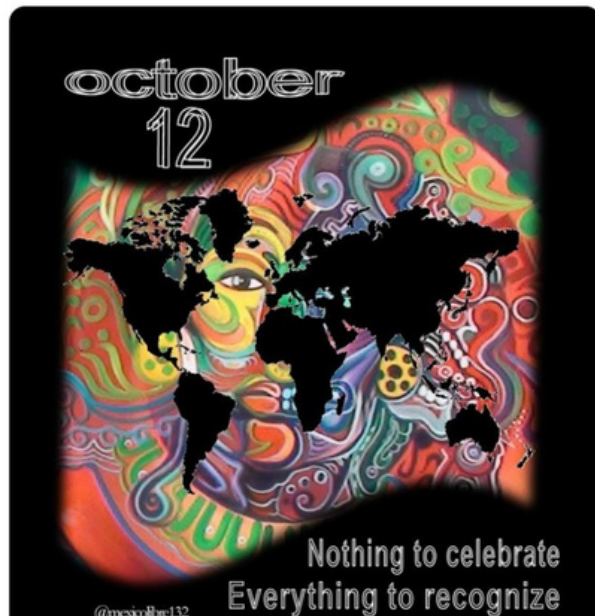


Alia | Awake
@GeorgeMickNat

I'm not taking this holiday, I'm going to work as normally as I don't have anything to celebrate today. I won't celebrate a genocide, I won't celebrate slavery, I won't celebrate the death of thousands of people for land and gold (the one you stole from them)

#NadaQueCelebrar

Tradueix el tuit



VTV CANAL 8
@VTVcanal8

Nueva semana de Cuarentena Radical comienza este 12 de Octubre con Día de la Resistencia Indígena

#EnCombateContraElCovid19

vtv.gob.ve/nueva-semana-c...

Tradueix el tuit



1:51 a. m. · 12 d'oct. de 2020 · TweetDeck

aida naib
@aidanaib

#12Oct Res a celebrar, molt a combatre! #resacelebrar



1:53 a. m. · 12 d'oct. de 2020 · Twitter Mob App

There were also numerous references to #BlackLivesMatter, using Columbus Day (in the USA) which is also celebrated on October 12th, and which was widely opposed on the streets. This phenomenon, which started with the death of George Floyd at the hands of the police, triggered a protest movement against institutional racism which, ultimately, concentrated its actions on the statues of conquerors in the public space. October 12th represented a battle space within the logics of this antiracist movement.

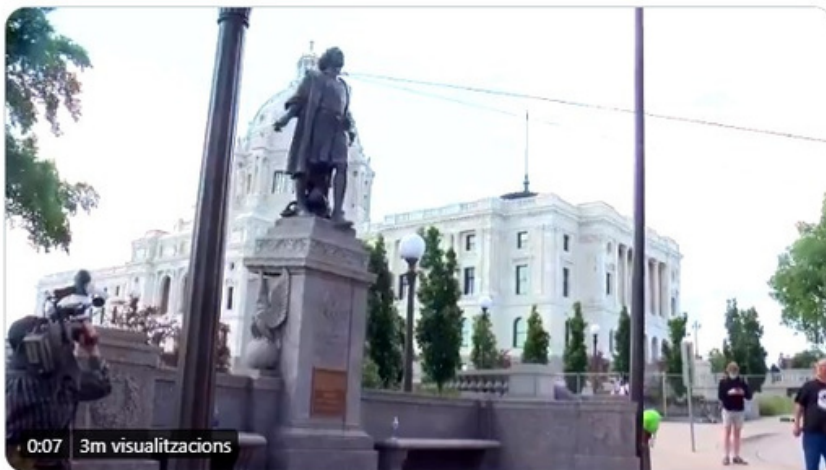


Based Belgium 🇧🇪
@based_belgium



In 2020, 33 'Christopher Columbus' statues have been taken down by jealous Losers, and Domestic Terrorists of #Antifa and #BlackLivesMatter who are envious about our Great and Superior European Civilization!
#ColumbusDay

Tradueix el tuit



0:07 3m visualitzacions
0:27 a.m. · 12 d'oct. de 2020 · Twitter Web App



Your Average Scientist @feliza_irma · 12 d'oct. de 2020



Fuck your Día de la Raza 🇮🇹
Fuck your Columbus Day 🇺🇸
Fuck your Thanksgiving 🇨🇦

#October12
#IndigenousLivesMatter
#BlackLivesMatter
#Downwiththeestablishment





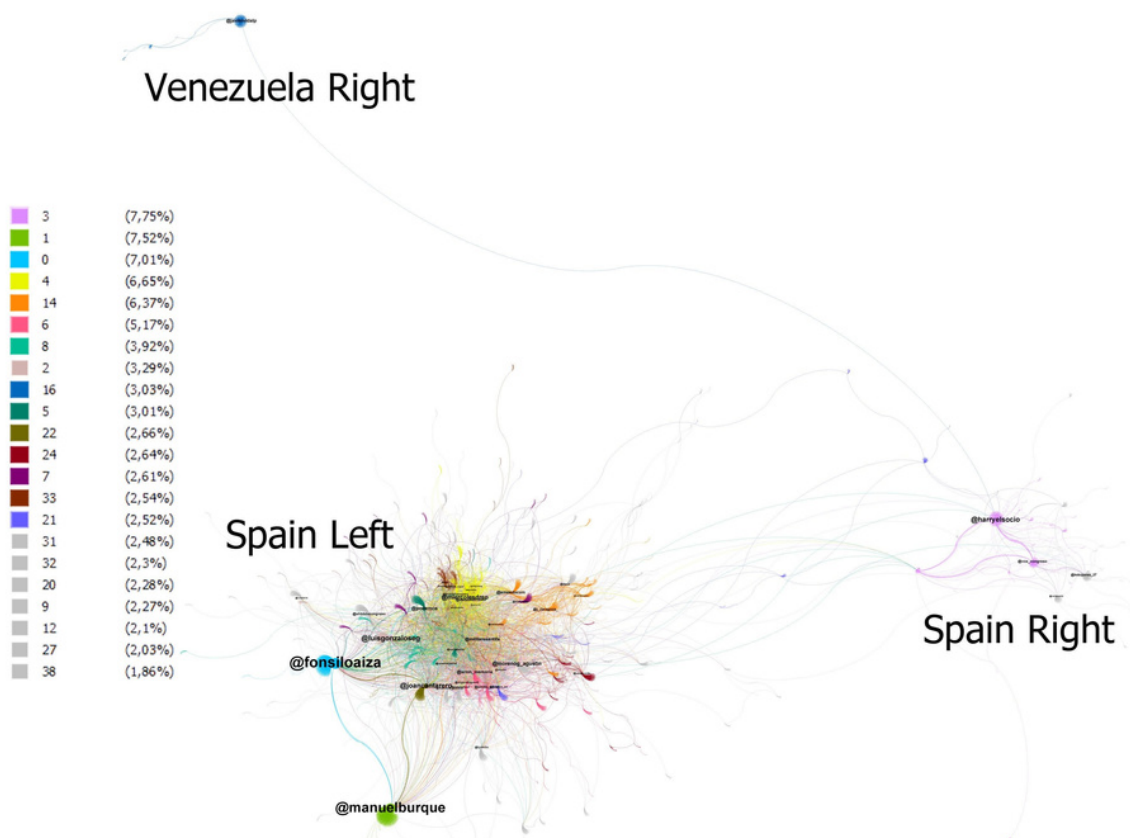
Day in Remembrance of the Victims of the Franco Regime

At the beginning of 2020, the coalition government of PSOE and Unidas Podemos agreed to declare October 31st as a day of remembrance for all the victims of the Franco Regime and May 8th to recognise victims in exile [7]. This year, however, there has been little institutional support and the event went by unnoticed, as least on social media. The creation of a celebration needs institutional support, although fundamentally it needs support from the people. As we have seen on previous occasions, in European celebrations such as Europe Day, the institutional initiative is not sufficient if there is no sentiment of reference. A key example is April 14th, also analysed previously, which, despite being a popular and extraofficial celebration, receives huge support from citizens. In short, the future of this celebration will depend on two elements: on the focus given to it by the media and the intuitions and popularity it has among the people.

If we focus on its development this year on Twitter we can observe that there was little content creation, which meant we had to widen the search parameters and include the term "franquismo". Despite this, only 5,411 tweets were recorded (with a reach of 23,802 through RT). Moreover, dissemination through communities was very disperse. The fifteen largest groups represent 66.69% of the nodes, the rest are groups with less than 2.5% of the users. In the graph analysed, the communities are also very fragmented, with the three largest ones being a group of profiles from the far-right and two from the left (graph 1). The dominant language was Spanish (98%). However, we must also consider that words in Catalan, Basque and Galician were not included in the search parameters.

[7] https://elpais.com/politica/2019/12/30/actualidad/1577736147_473600.html

Graph 1. Distribution of communities.



The graph shows three weakly connected zones, demarcated at times by geography and at times by ideology. The large part (lower left part of the graph) corresponds to a group of Spanish profiles with a left-wing ideology. The second group corresponds to far-right profiles (situated on the right of the graph). In the upper left part there is an opposition group from Venezuela proposing a transition in their country like that which occurred in Spain, from the Franco Regime to democracy. The majority of the tweets (85.75%) did not include hashtags (Fig. 4) which reveals that there was no organisation around the commemoration of this day. The hashtags that appeared are not related to the celebration of the day.

None	(85,73%)
0	(1,26%)
10añosMarcelino	(1,13%)
FelizLunes	(0,83%)
LaRepúblicaUne	(0,57%)
EcharAFelipeVI	(0,55%)
franquismo	(0,5%)
FelizDomingo	(0,5%)
DerechaSinConciencia	(0,41%)
Libros	(0,36%)
Franco	(0,35%)
España	(0,35%)
oximoron	(0,29%)
Dictadura	(0,25%)
ElDesafíoETA	(0,23%)

Fig 1. Distribution per tag.

If we focus on the contents, we can affirm that they were disperse and disjointed. There was no unifying initiative or previous socialisation, and consequently the majority of the tweets that day were related circumstantially —by referring to Francoism— but not directly.

Fonsi Loaiza @FonsiLoaiza

Ónega fue subdirector del diario Arriba de la Falange. Era responsable de escribir todos los editoriales. Alabó los últimos fusilamientos del franquismo y el día de la muerte de Franco escribió: "¡Oh, capitán!, ¡Mi capitán! Así sólo mueren los grandes hombres de la civilización"

Atresmedia Comunicación @atresmediacom
 Fernando Ónega, ganador del Premio #Ondas2020 a la trayectoria profesional

¡Muchas felicidades maestro! 🎉

ondacero.es/noticias/comun...



10:43 AM · Nov 2, 2020

2K likes, 1.4K people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by screenshot.guru 1322214018043467234

Joan Cantarero @JoanCantarero

El vigilante nazi identificado en redes antifascistas por exaltación del franquismo el pasado 12-O en Benimaclet, acostumbra a amenazar e insultar periodistas, especialmente mujeres, como Elisa Beni @Elisabeni o Cristina Fallarás @LaFallaras @JoanCantarero @publico_es



8:43 AM · Nov 2, 2020

458 likes, 537 people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by screenshot.guru 132218389008302832

Agustín Moreno @MorenoG_Agustin

Esto si que es Justicia Poética:
 El Aeropuerto de Alicante-Elche llevará el nombre de Miguel Hernández cuyos versos el alcalde de Madrid, Martínez Almeida, retiró de un memorial de los fusilados por el franquismo.
 Hoy se cumplen 110 años de su nacimiento.



El Aeropuerto de Alicante-Elche llevará el nombre de Miguel He...
 Dos ministros y varios representantes de las instituciones valencianas rinden homenaje al escritor de Orihuela leyendo su...
elpais.com

7:28 PM · Oct 30, 2020

882 likes, 370 people are Tweeting about this

Tweet captured by screenshot.guru 1322269116160281166

José Manuel Amoedo / @AmoedoCom

- ✓ ➔ Después de la conducta violenta de grupos de extrema derecha de esta noche pasada
- ✓ ➔ Condenar rotundamente estos actos vandálicos
- ✓ ➔ Esto se convierte en ! !
- ✓ ➔ La Pandemia del franquismo y la antiespañola

nuevatribuna.es/opinion/juan-a... vía @Nuevatribuna



La pandemia del franquismo y la antiespaña
 Hay que abrir espacios constituyentes que acaben con la hegemonía cultural de la derecha derivada del pacto de la ...
nuevatribuna.es

11:48 AM · Nov 1, 2020

295 likes, See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Tweet captured by screenshot.guru 1322069120401972226

The institutions did not refer to it, apart from a tweet by Podemos which does not directly refer to the celebration.



There was not much impact among the right either. The notable tweets do not focus their discourse on the celebration, but on the defence of Francoism and its glorification.

