

DH2024 Text Submission Guidelines

This is the template for the international Digital Humanities conference 2024 of the Association of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO). Please read and follow the following information thoroughly in order to facilitate the conversion to TEI for the edition of the Conference Proceedings.

The template consists of sections with light grey background like the one you are reading right now that cannot be edited and will be processed automatically during the TEI-conversion. For the other sections please use only the paragraph styles provided by this templates named „DH-[Stylename]“:

- DH-Default
- *DH-Subtitle*
- **DH-Heading1**
- **DH-Heading2**
- *DH-Heading3*
- DH-Quotation

In addition we support images, links, lists and tables and the following character level styles:

- Bold (to be used, parsimoniously, for emphasis)
- Italics (to be used for titles, terms and similar)
- Underlined (to be used, exceptionally, for emphasis in examples or the like)

There are three main sections which are editable:

1. Subtitle section for an optional subtitle
2. Body section for the chapters of your paper
3. References section for the bibliographic references.

Please follow the additional indications for the type scripting:

Images: Images should be supplied at 300 dpi and uncompressed where possible. Screenshots will normally be the only exception, and these should be supplied at the highest possible resolution. Acceptable formats are TIFF, JPEG and PNG.

Notes should be used only for comments, not for simple bibliographic citations.

Quotations with a minimum of 5 lines of type should be in DH-Quotation format small type, set full left. For short quotations within the text, double quotation marks should be used. Single quotation marks should be used for quotes within quotes.

Program code and **mathematical formulae** should be included as images.

Bibliographic references should be cited in the text using the author's name, year of publication, and eventually pages, for example (Ellis 1987) or (Richardson / Braden-Harder 1988: 196). Works by more than two authors should be shortened using "et al." (Baayen et al. 1996: 125).

Bibliography: The list of references should be headed *References* and placed at the end of the submission. It should be in alphabetical order and the paragraph style DH-Default should be used. Where an author has more than one publication, they should be arranged in chronological order, and if there is more than one publication within a year, they should be alphabetically ordered by title and labelled a, b, etc. (e.g. 1989a, 1989b). Single-author works precede co-authored works. If citing an electronic publication, please supply the full URL and the date when you last accessed it.

Please follow the examples given below for bibliographic layout:

Baayen, Harald / Halteren, Hans van / Tweedie, Fiona (1996): "Outside the cave of shadows: using syntactic annotation to enhance authorship attribution", in: *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 11, 3: 121–132.

Biber, Douglas (1988): *Variation Across Speech and Writing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ellis, David (1987): *The Derivation of a Behavioural Model for Information Retrieval Design*. Ph.D. thesis, University of Sheffield.

Garfinkel, Michele S. / Weiss, Steven C. (1999): "In the court of history, Ehlers v. Bush", in: *Recent Science Newsletter* 1, 1: 6-7 <<http://web.archive.org/web/20030802233236/http://recentscience.gwu.edu/RSN/PDF.files/RSN1.1.pdf>> [15.03.2021].

Hazadiah, Mohd Dahan (1993): "Topic as a Dynamic Element in Spoken Discourse", in: Baker, Mona / Francis, Gill / Tognini-Bonelli, Elena (eds.): *Text and Technology*. In honour of John Sinclair. Amsterdam: John Benjamins 55-74.

Richardson, Stephan D. / Braden-Harder, Lisa C. (1988): "The Experience of Developing a Large-Scale Natural Language Text Processing System: CRITIQUE", in: Association for Computational Linguistics (ed.): *Second Conference on Applied Natural Language Processing*, Austin, TX, February 1988: 195–202. DOI: 10.3115/974235.974271.

Note: The Guidelines were updated and corrected by Elisabeth Burr on 15 March 2021. The Harvard system described here diverges from the one used in DSH mainly with respect to person names. Person names are requested in full in order to be able to differentiate for example between Christoph, Christa, Christian, and in order to invalidate stereotypical concepts of "scholar".

The main title of your contribution – **this field cannot be edited**

Through the Labyrinth of Language: “Political Depression” and Public Psychology in China under the COVID-19 Pandemic

Add a subtitle (optional):

Qilin Liu (qilinliu@student.ubc.ca), University of British Columbia, Canada

Author information – **this field cannot be edited**

Main body – enter your text and images here:

Background

In the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the term “political depression” has become a trending phrase in Chinese social media. A search on Sina Weibo (an X-like microblog website) for the keyword “political depression” revealed no relevant discussions before 2019. Following the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, the term gained widespread use, becoming a linguistic phenomenon that peaked in November 2022. In the dissemination of the concept, Weibo users have been adopting Dr. Lusson’s definition of “political depression” (2017), which identified the term as a political-event induced depressive disorder that might reach the diagnostic criteria of depression disorder; however, the definition was vague in expression and not contextualized in the background of the pandemic and contemporary China, and there were only a few scholars have researched into the definition and the phenomenon (Cvetkovich 2012, Simchon et al. 2020, Zembylas 2018). Although there were limited knowledge of “political depression,” the language users have already formed a mutual understanding of the term, giving rise to a linguistic phenomenon of concept creep. This research aims to decode this linguistic & social psychological phenomenon with humanities computing methodologies.

Methodology

This study collected 5,336 original Weibo posts between Jan 1, 2020, and Feb 28, 2023, that included “political depression” as a keyword to form a corpus (with 697,462 Chinese characters). Having calculated word frequency, a word cloud was drawn, and word similarities were calculated with the PPMI matrix and the cosine similarity method. Latent

Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) was applied to the corpus to retrieve the topics related to “political depression,” which identified the connotations of this concept.

Since “political depression” was introduced and curated as a psychological term, psycho-linguistic analyses were applied. Sentiment analysis was applied to the corpus with SnowNLP retrained on sentiment Weibo dataset. Based on high-frequency words, words related to somatic symptoms were selected to conduct a somatic symptom list for “political depression.” Lastly, the Chinese Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (C-LIWC) analysis was taken with the TextMind system to evaluate whether the psycho-linguistic appearance of “political depression” is consistent with major depression disorder.

Results

The most frequent word within the corpus was “Daily_life,” and the cosine similarity results showed that the most semantically related words to “political depression” was “Weibo,” indicating that “political depression” is highly-related to social media (Weibo for specific),. LDA topic modeling demonstrated three topics in the discussions of “political depression”: conceptual ruminations on “political depression,” descriptions of “political depression,” and real-life causes of “political depression.” Sentiment analysis also indicated a strong overall negative emotion of the corpus (sentiment value = 0.093). The somatic symptoms of political depression included: insomnia, fatigue, nausea, increased dreaming, decreased appetite, headache, menstrual irregularities, dizziness, shaking, hypersomnia, chest tightness, diminished sexual desire, lower-back pain, and palpitations, in which insomnia, fatigue, hypersomnia, and diminished sexual desire appeared in the diagnostic criteria of major depression disorder in DSM-5. LIWC analysis showed that the first-person pronoun feature values in the corpus were significantly higher than the second and third-person pronouns ($p < 0.00$, $p < 0.00$), and there was no significant difference between the second and third-person pronoun feature values. Further inspecting the first-person pronoun, the first-person singular pronoun has significantly higher feature values than the first-person plural pronoun ($p < 0.00$). The result is consistent with LIWC studies on pronoun preferences in the writings of college students with depression disorder (Rude et al. 2004).

Discussions

Through semantic analysis and text mining, this study constructed the connotation of the concept of “political depression” on Chinese social media. Compared with Dr.Lusson’s definition, the term has been adapted specifically to the context of the socio-political environment of China and the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This research shows the possible utility of humanist computing techniques in understanding the cultural phenomenon of emerging new words on social media.

References

Enter your references here:

Cvetkovich, Ann (2012): *Depression: A Public Feeling*. Duke University Press. DOI: 10.1215/9780822391852.

Lusson, Robert (2017): “Political Depression”, in *HuffPost*
<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/political-depression_b_5879574ae4b077a19d180dbe>
[25.08.2024]

Rude, Stephanie / Gortner, Eva-Maria / Pennebaker, James (2004): “Language use of depressed and depression-vulnerable college students”, in *Cognition and Emotion*, 18(8), 1121–1133. DOI: 10.1080/02699930441000030.

Simchon, Almog / Guntuku, Sharath. C. / Simhon, Rotem / Ungar, Lyle. H. / Hassin, Ran. R. / & Gilead, Michael (2020): “Political depression? A big-data, multimethod investigation of Americans’ emotional response to the Trump presidency”, in *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 149(11), 2154–2168. DOI: 10.1037/xge0000767.

Zembylas, Michalinos (2018): “Political depression, cruel optimism and pedagogies of reparation: Questions of criticality and affect in human rights education”, in *Critical Studies in Education*, 59(1), 1–17. DOI: 10.1080/17508487.2016.1176065.

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