

The escalating Fragmentation of Cyberspace: A Text Analysis of the Rhetoric on Tech-Policy



by Daniel Umbarila Rubiano, Severin Loske, Luis Mosch

Problem & Research Question

- Cyberspace's **openness**, **interoperability** and **interconnectedness** are increasingly sidelined
- Transnational data flows and digital infrastructures have become political, regulatory, and commercial battlegrounds
- Only limited research on the reasons for this polarisation

Research Question:

To what extent can the escalating fragmentation of cyberspace be explained through the Securitization theory?

Underlying Theory

From a social constructivist perspective, the **Securitization Theory** explains how potential security threats become politically relevant.

1. securitizing actor

➡ 2. securitizing move

➡ 3. security move

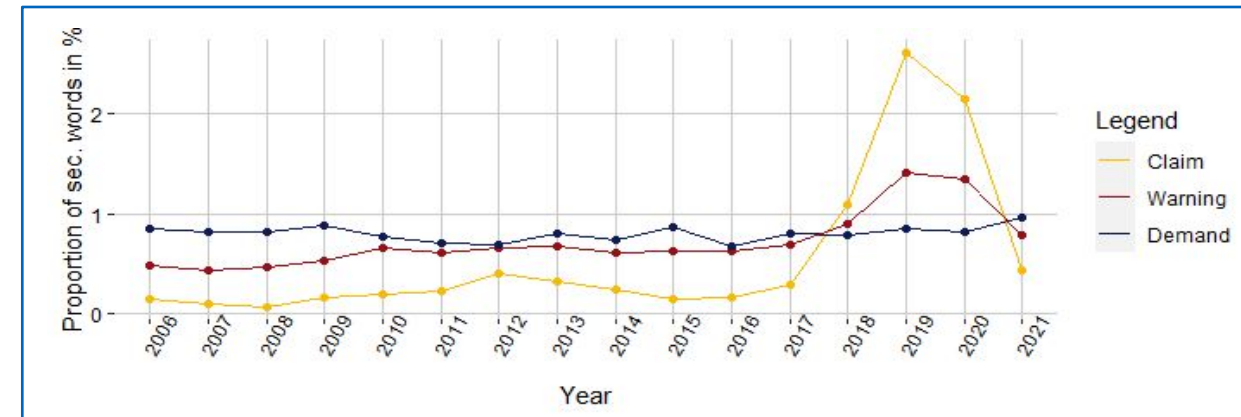
➡ 4. successful securitization

Securitizing move: Government-related framing of foreign technology as a threat.

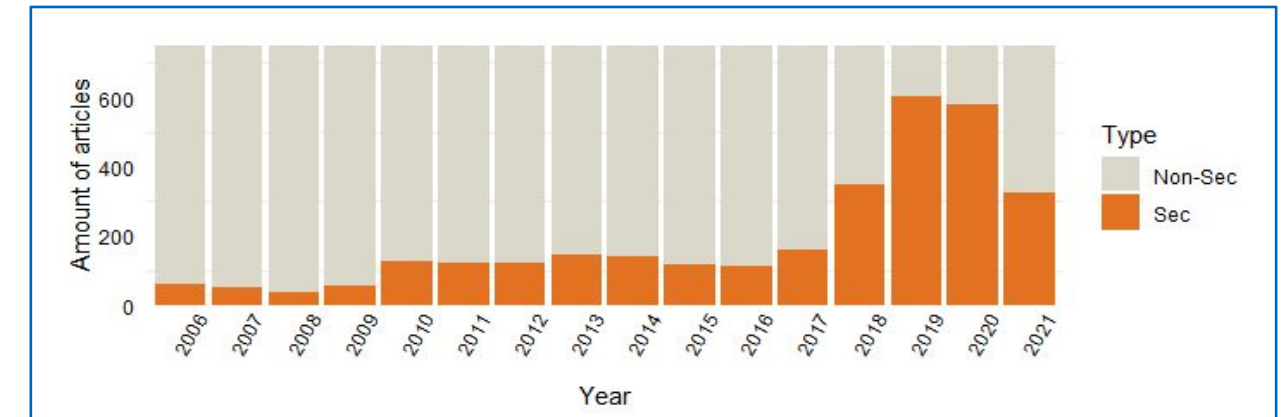
Hypothesis

There is an increase in Securitizing moves regarding digital technologies from 2006 to 2021

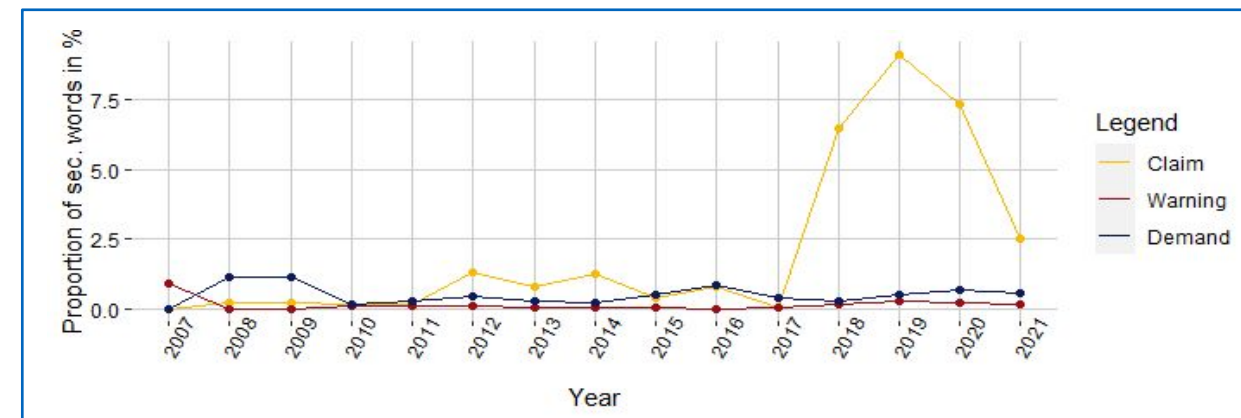
Dictionary Analysis of Newspaper Articles



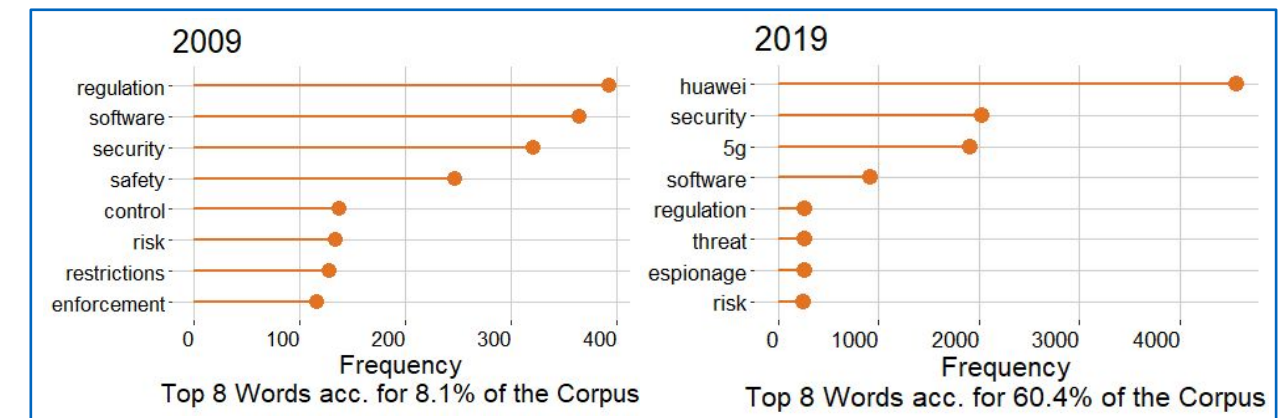
NB-Classification of Newspaper Articles



Dictionary Analysis of Tweets



Top words in Securitization Articles



Data, Methodology & Analysis

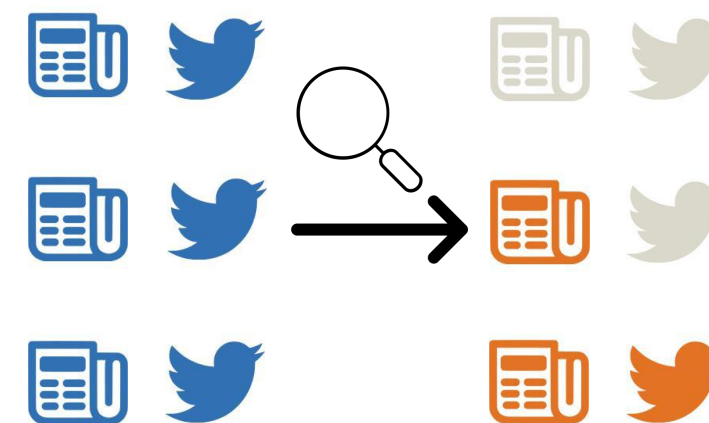
n = 12.000 relevant **news articles** from 2006-2021
collected from LexisNexis

n = 261.695 relevant **Tweets** from 2006-2021

Dictionary Analysis based on Securitization Keywords

Naive Bayes Classifier

- Supervised learning model that classifies the **raw news articles** into two categories:
 - a) Non-Securitizing move
 - b) **Securitizing move**



Interpretation

- Rejection of our Hypothesis
- significant increase in securitizing moves only between 2017 and 2020
- Securitization mostly correlates with peak of US-China Trade War
- Suggestion for future Research: Analysis of linkage between the rhetoric of the Trump Administration and Securitization of Digital Technologies