Visibility and Social Media during Crises

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#Narcotweets

#YoSoy132

#ChangeBrazil

“Hashtagged” Collective Action
#Narcotweets
Dangerous Visibility

Work published at CSCW ‘13, ICWSM ‘12 with: danah boyd Emre Kiciman, Scott Counts, Munmund De Choudhury, Takis Metaxas, Eni Mustafaraj, Samantha Finn
Mexican Drug War crises as everyday life
More than 60,000 casualties
Typical Emergency Response
“Fearing for their lives and the safety of their families, journalists are adhering to a near-complete news blackout, under strict orders of drug smuggling organizations and their enforcers, who dictate via daily telephone calls, emails and news releases what can and cannot be printed or aired.”
“The news blackout extends to government officials. In Nuevo Laredo, the mayor mysteriously disappears for days and refuses to discuss drug violence. The military general who presides over the soldiers patrolling the city does not hold news conferences, issue statements or answer questions from the media.”
Increased Violence
Weakened Institutions
Social Media Adoption

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© Gael Gonzalez/Reuters
Precaución en Av. González a la altura del Soriana, reportan reciente situación de riesgo! #mtyfollow
What are people tweeting about?
Retweet network

Size: in-degree (PageRank)
“Angela”

Followers: 25K
Tweets: 35K
Hours/day: 15
Age: early 20’s

“Claudia”

Followers: 30K
Tweets: 60K
Hours/day: “many”
Age: ?
“I’m a journalist ... It is as if I was a war correspondent, on social networks, of the war we are living in Mexico.”

“My role on Twitter is that of yet another citizen. [People] tell me that I’m like their ‘angel,’ for looking after them.”
Bodies hanging from bridge in Mexico are warning to social media users

By Mariano Castillo, CNN

September 15, 2011 9:37 a.m. EDT

(CNN) -- Social media users who denounce drug cartel activities along the Mexican border received a brutal warning this week. Two mangled bodies hanging like cuts of meat from a pedestrian bridge.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

• Signs say two people were killed for denouncing cartel activities

• A man and a woman stand in a window, looking out.

• A sign on the bridge reads "MODULO DEL IFE AGUIEN: LA ESCuela AMADO NER"
#YoSoy132
Misperceptions of Visibility
#YoSoy132 movement vs Peña Nieto, Presidential Candidate, PRI
Online and on the streets, Mexico youth protests grow as election looms
By Catherine E. Shoichet, CNN
updated 6:24 AM EDT, Thu June 28, 2012

Students from the Iberoamerican University chant a school cheer during a protest last weekend in Mexico City. A video they uploaded to YouTube helped launch a nationwide youth protest movement. The demonstration have added fuel to the political frenzy leading up to Mexico's elections on Sunday, July 1.

Mexico's student movement

In Protests and Online, a Youth Movement Seeks to Sway Mexico's Election
By DAMIEN CAVE

Mexico City (CNN) -- They sport purple hair and piercings, plaid shirts and plastic aviator glasses. A guy with dreadlocks totes a bongo drum.
YouTube video shows students at an elite university protesting against Peña.
Peña triumphant visit to Ibero University, despite boycott attempt
"131 Ibero students respond"
“Our democracy is not a soap opera #YoSoy132”

“Informed vote, not manipulated. #YoSoy132”
“Get out of the networks and come to the streets, we need you.”
“Now we deliver the news!”
MEXICANS MARCHING FOR JUSTICE

SOMETHING HAPPENED IN MEXICO ON JULY 7th 2012 ... and it's not over.

ALL THESE PHOTOS ARE FROM THE SAME DAY (7 de julio 2012)

THE MEGA MARCH AGAINST ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO, THE "NEW PRESIDENT" OF MEXICO THAT WON THE ELECTION ON JULY 1 BY A VAST FRAUD.

MANY PRESIDENTS OF THE WORLD HAVE CONGRATULATED ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO FOR HIS ELECTION, BUT THEY MUST LISTEN TO WHAT THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO ARE SAYING RIGHT NOW IN THE STREETS AND ON THE WEB:

ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO HAS NOT BEEN ELECTED IN A DEMOCRATIC WAY. MILLIONS OF VOTES HAVE BEEN BOUGHT AND VOTE COUNTS HAVE BEEN VASTLY MANIPULATED.

THE MEXICAN PEOPLE ARE MARCHING AND CALLING FOR A WORLDWIDE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE FRAUD AND A WORLDWIDE COVERAGE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.
From Chicago to China
El #Debate132 es un debate ciudadano entre la candidata y los candidatos a la presidencia de la República a llevarse a cabo el martes 19 de junio del 2012, en las instalaciones de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal, sustentado por el acuerdo CG99/2012 del Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación, mediante el cual se emiten las bases y lineamientos o criterios orientadores para la celebración de debates entre candidatas y candidatos a cargos de elección popular en el proceso electoral federal 2011-2012.

Los organizadores aseguran la realización del debate en un ambiente neutral y con criterios democráticos, sin favorecer a ninguno de los participantes con el fin de garantizar que desde la máxima debatenza de las propuestas, estos se presenten para el voto de los ciudadanos.
“We are an organization that fights against bots on Twitter.”

“Help us protect the net from the bot invasion”

“For content free of spam”
Peña: 39%
Obrador: 32%
Vázquez: 26%
Politics Beyond Social Media
#ChangeBrazil
Connecting Visibility

Work with Emma Spiro, early results at The Guardian Data Blog
A TURQUIA É AQUI! JUNTOS!
VAMOS REPETIR PORTO ALEGRE.
Tweets per hour

Brasilia

Istambul
Eight days of interaction networks among the most active users in the Brazilian protests
Similar daily interaction patterns

Distinct interaction patterns on June 17th and 18th