

'GROUND ZERO MOSQUE'



PARTICIPATION AND THE TECHNICALITY OF COMMENT SPACES

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Overview



1. Introduction
2. Research Question
3. Methodology
4. Findings
5. Issues and Limitations
6. Conclusion
7. Further Research

Research Question



Aim: to examine comment spaces from two main perspectives: **internal** and **external**

Internal = comment interfaces and the type of participation they enable/ inhibit

External = alternative commenting modes (i.e social media platforms) and their relation to the selected websites

Research Question



Questions:

1. **What types of commenting systems can be distinguished within the most distributed comment spaces?**
2. **What levels of user participation do these systems enable?**
3. **How do the selected websites rank in alternative comment spaces?**
4. **What is the relation, if any, between the alternative comment spaces and the selected websites?**

Methodology – Chasing the Medium

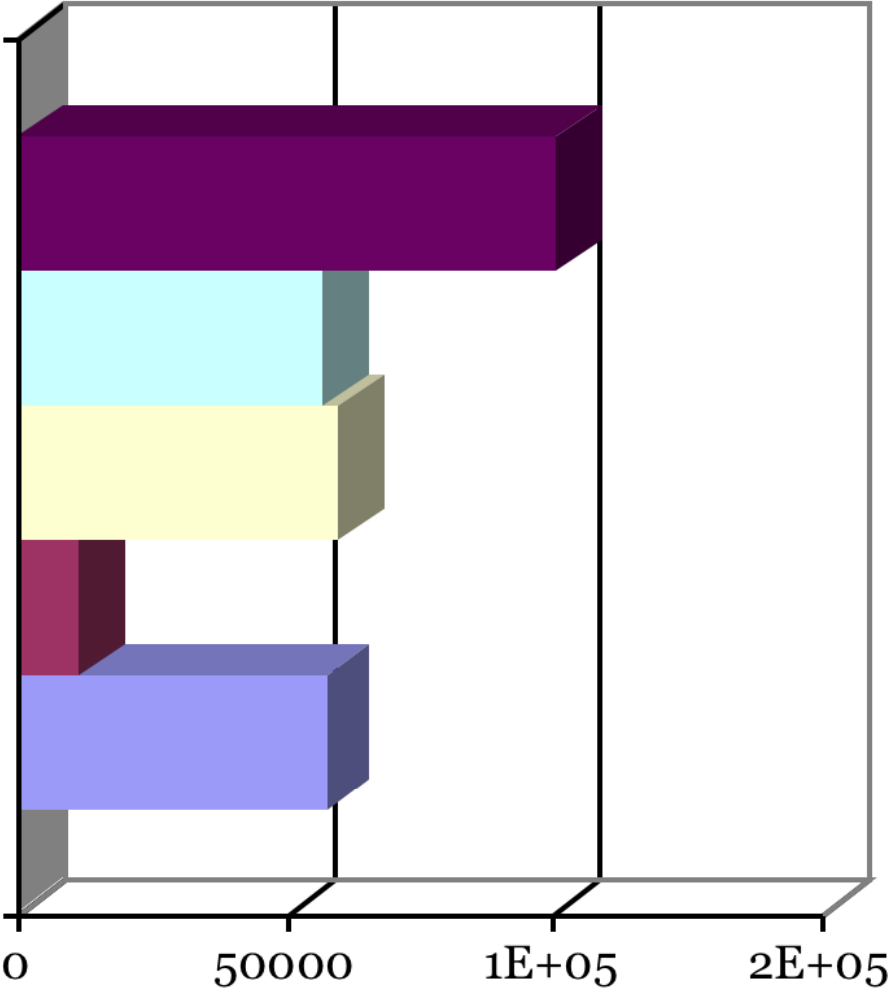
1. Scrape [Google](#) for the 'ground zero mosque' and retrieve first 1000 results.
2. Insert output in [Backtype Stats](#) tool and keep results which have, in addition to comments, inlinks from at least two social media platforms to restrict the focus of the research on the most distributed comment spaces.
3. Create a spreadsheet with the 80 websites and list the numbers of article comments on each of the websites, tweets, diggs, Friend Feeds, redds, Facebook shares, Facebook likes and Facebook comments.
4. Observe which are the most distributed comments; retain Twitter and Facebook as the most prominent social media platforms.

Methodology – Categories and Metacategories



1. Examine how the comment space is implemented into each website.
2. Categorize the various commenting systems according to the typologies of comment sorting, viewing, sharing, replying, linking, rating, but also login requirements.
3. Create meta-categories which show the different degrees of participation enabled by the commenting systems: *high*, *moderate*, *low*, and *no participation*, respectively.
4. See whether there is any correlation between the structure of comments and the level of user participation.

Comment Distribution



- Facebook comments
- Facebook likes
- Facebook shares
- Tweets
- Comments at the origin

Most Commented Articles

'ground zero mosque' Top 100 Most Commented Articles

Method: Ordered by Host

Digital Methods Initiative

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10

Map generated by tools.digitalmethods.net

news.yahoo.com (9634)

msnbc.msn.com (8545) cnn.com (5719) politico.com (4301)

cracked.com (3106) cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com (1122) guardian.co.uk (1102) thedailybeast.com (684) religion.blogs.cnn.com (539) slate.com (518)

newyork.cbslocal.com (484) nypost.com (475) blogs.wsj.com (438) npr.org (411) newsroom.blogs.cnn.com (394) ac360.blogs.cnn.com (260) rawstory.com (258) gawker.com (250)

bigjournalism.com (175) veteranstoday.com (166) www2.macleans.ca (156) mediaite.com (152) michellemalkin.com (105) popwatch.ew.com (93) redstate.com (88) nydailynews.com (88) crookedtimber.org (83)

bigpeace.com (76) pajamasmedia.com (72) humanevents.com (62) dickmorris.com (60) infowars.com (56) dailymail.co.uk (55) feministe.us (38) thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com (32) tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com (31)

blogs.villagevoice.com (29) politicsdaily.com (26) jpost.com (24) time.com (23) wizbangblog.com (23) swampland.blogs.time.com (21) creepingsharia.wordpress.com (21) sistertoldjah.com (20) opinion.latimes.com (13)

washingtontimes.com (13) frumforum.com (11) strata-sphere.com (10) nbcnewyork.com (10) wonkroom.thinkprogress.org (10) nomosquesatgroundzero.wordpress.com (7) huffingtonpost.com (5)

attackerman.firedoglake.com (3) libertymaven.com (3) aidwatchers.com (3) inhabitat.com (3) fivethirtyeight.com (0) onenewsnow.com (0) cbsnews.com (0) wnd.com (0) articles.baltimoresun.com (0)

washingtonpost.com (0) english.aljazeera.net (0) bbc.co.uk (0)

Most Tweets

'ground zero mosque' Top 100 Most Tweeted Articles

Method: Ordered by Host

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Map generated by tools.digitalmethods.net

guardian.co.uk (2370)

cracked.com (876) msnbc.msn.com (791) blogs.wsj.com (606) politico.com (466) cnn.com (343)

thedailybeast.com (318) rawstory.com (316) time.com (264) cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com (252) nypost.com (249) mediaite.com (223) news.yahoo.com (219)

bigpeace.com (203) dailymail.co.uk (172) slate.com (169) newyork.cbslocal.com (140) bbc.co.uk (128) english.aljazeera.net (117) redstate.com (101) inhabitat.com (74)

fivethirtyeight.com (73) nomosquesatgroundzero.wordpress.com (65) creepingsharia.wordpress.com (65) washingtonpost.com (61) bigjournalism.com (49) gawker.com (48) michellemalkin.com (44)

aidwatchers.com (43) wnd.com (43) dickmorris.com (36) veteranstoday.com (34) ac360.blogs.cnn.com (30) nydailynews.com (28) attackerman.firedoglake.com (27) politicsdaily.com (24) infowars.com (22)

thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com (20) nbcnewyork.com (19) wonkroom.thinkprogress.org (16) huffingtonpost.com (16) tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com (16) feministe.us (15) newsroom.blogs.cnn.com (12)

articles.baltimoresun.com (12) blogs.villagevoice.com (12) npr.org (12) jpost.com (11) swampland.blogs.time.com (11) crookedtimber.org (11) religion.blogs.cnn.com (10) torontosun.com (8) www2.macleans.ca (8)

washingtontimes.com (8) pajamasmedia.com (8) libertymaven.com (7) popwatch.ew.com (6) humanevents.com (4) wizbangblog.com (4) sistertoldjah.com (3) opinion.latimes.com (3) onenewsnow.com (3) strata-sphere.com (2)

frumforum.com (1) cbsnews.com (0)

Most Facebook Feedback

'ground zero mosque' Top 100 Articles with Most Facebook Feedback

Method: Ordered by Host and with Aggregated Facebook Shares, Likes and Comments

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27 August

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Map generated by tools.digitalmethods.net

cracked.com (46497) guardian.co.uk (23591)

politico.com (17448) mediaite.com (12777) blogs.wsj.com (9182) thedailybeast.com (7526) nypost.com (6863)

cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com (5920) news.yahoo.com (5541) dailymail.co.uk (4253) slate.com (3608) newyork.cbslocal.com (2323) bbc.co.uk (2312) time.com (2021)

washingtonpost.com (2019) bigpeace.com (1964) english.aljazeera.net (1673) veteranstoday.com (1383) gawker.com (1115) wnd.com (965) rawstory.com (952) religion.blogs.cnn.com (834) dickmorris.com (771)

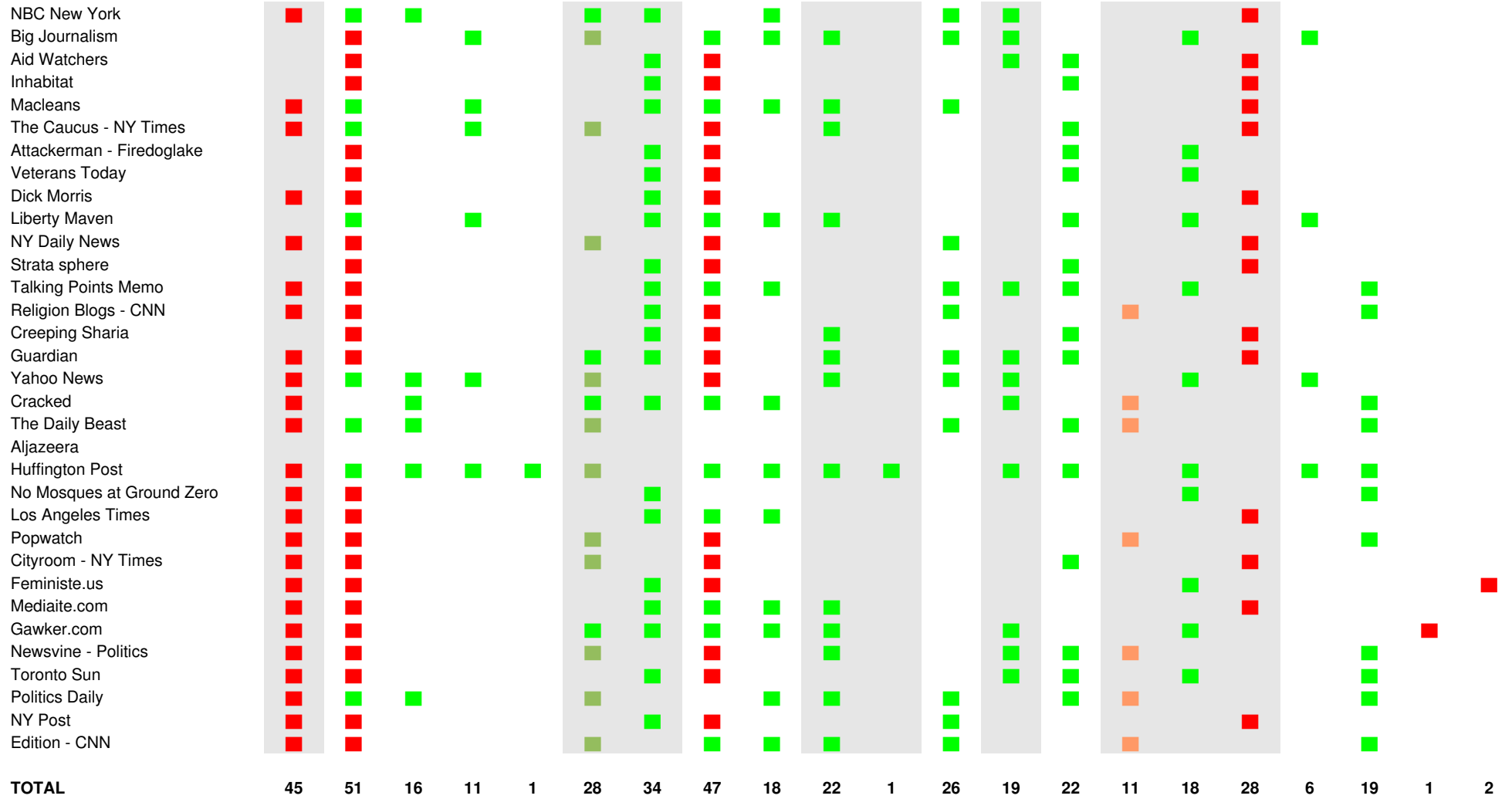
bigjournalism.com (537) redstate.com (487) feministe.us (399) articles.baltimoresun.com (316) nydailynews.com (314) newsroom.blogs.cnn.com (261) npr.org (249) thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com (186)

torontosun.com (159) politicsdaily.com (153) tpmc.talkingpointsmemo.com (133) inhabitat.com (128) fivethirtyeight.com (128) popwatch.ew.com (106) aidwatchers.com (68) swampland.blogs.time.com (68)

pajamasmedia.com (61) crookedtimber.org (46) infowars.com (46) www2.macleans.ca (45) onenewsnow.com (45) wonkroom.thinkprogress.org (44) huffingtonpost.com (38) michellemalkin.com (37)

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sistertoldjah.com (9) jpost.com (7) cbsnews.com (7) msnbc.msn.com (6) blogs.villagevoice.com (5) strata-sphere.com (4) cnn.com (0) wizbangblog.com (0) nomosquesatgroundzero.wordpress.com (0) frumforum.com (0)



Top 10 Best and Worst



Most Participatory



Least Participatory

Summary



- Most participatory websites are NOT in the most present on social media platforms