

New Ways of Scrutinising Overt and Subtle Antisemitism in Hungary

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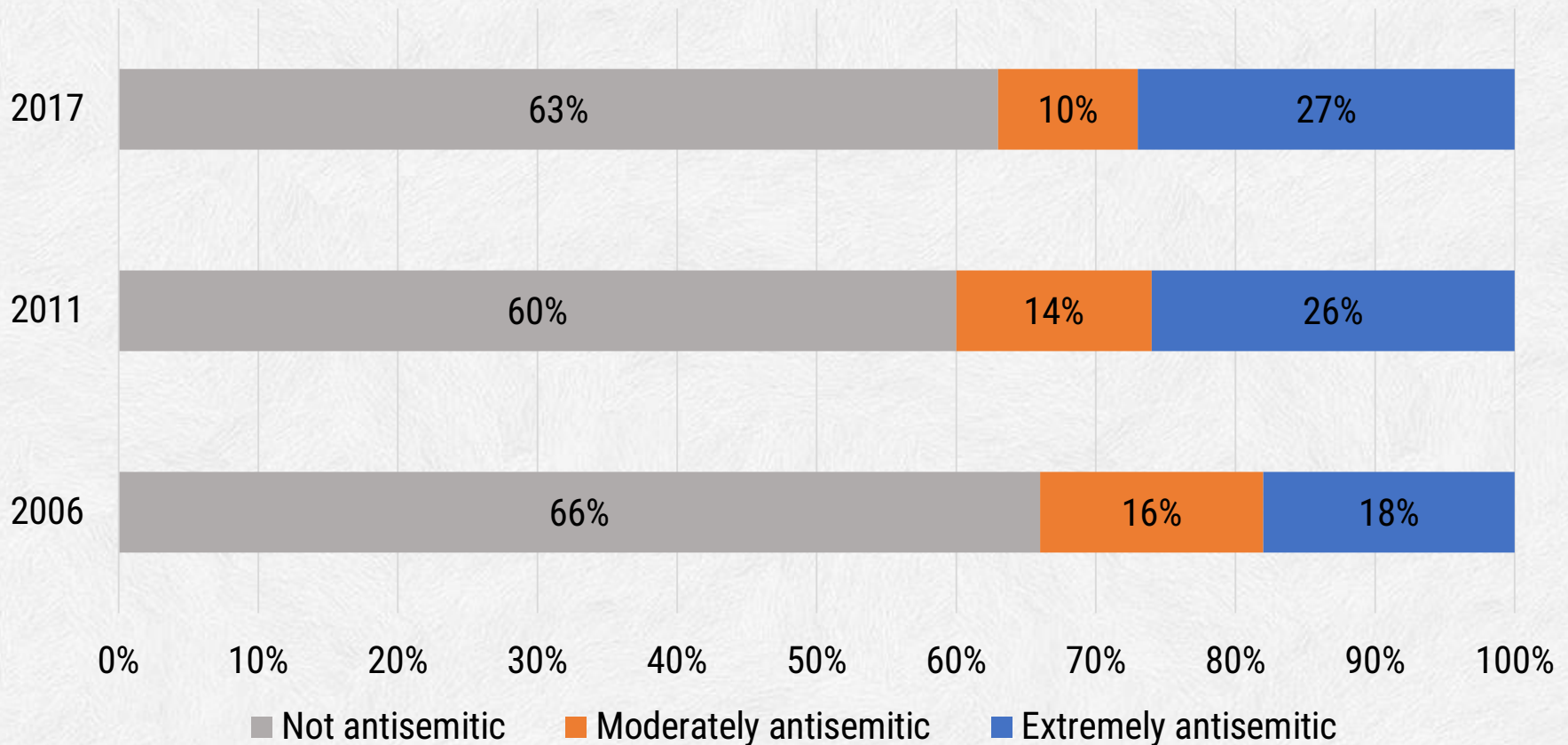
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Overview

- Goal of our research project: scrutinizing online antisemitism
- First step: analysing a textual corpus certainly containing antisemitic content
- Corpora: articles and comments from the far-right news portal Kuruc.info
- Research questions
 - What is the latent thematic structure of the two corpora?
 - Do the topics reflect the different types of antisemitism?
 - Are these structures different in the case of the articles and the comments?

Antisemitism in Hungary



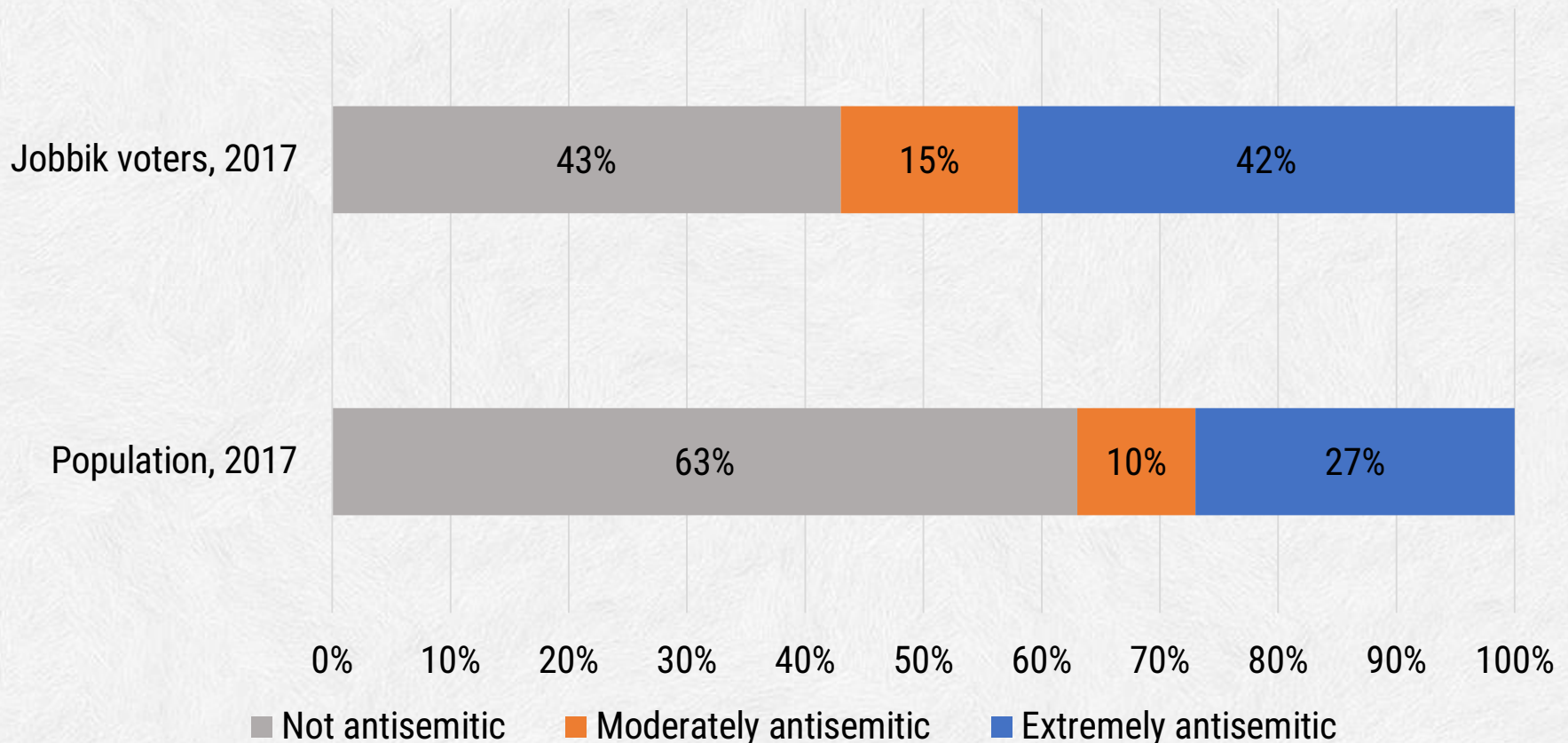
Source: TEV, Medián

Jobbik and Our Homeland Movement

Jobbik – Movement for a Better Hungary (political party)

- Founded in 2003, became a major political actor in 2009
- Gained 17 and 20 percent of the votes in 2010 and 2014
- 2014: change of political strategy, politicians leave the party
- Radical ex-Jobbik politicians formed a new party, the Our Homeland Movement in 2018

Party preferences and antisemitism



Source: TEV, Medián

The Kuruc.info news portal

- Far-right, nationalist website, online since 2006
- It played an important role in the rise of Jobbik
- Columns: „Anti-Hungarianism”, „Holohoax”, „Gypsy-crime”, „Jewish-crime”, etc.
- 10th largest news site in 2018
- 10% of the population and 23% of Jobbik voters at least occasionally visiting

Corpus and Methodology

Attributes of the corpus

- Articles and comments from Kuruc.info, between March 2016 and March 2019
- Single search word: „Jew”
- Size of analysed corpus: 2,289 articles and 51,060 comments

Challenges of Hungarian NLP

- Agglutinative language (affixes: suffixes, prefixes and circumfixes to change meaning and grammatical function)
- Very large number of possible word forms from a single root
- Less advanced tools and software

Topic model: Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

- Preprocessing: removing inflectional forms, named entity recognition, bigrams
- Aim: identify the hidden, latent thematic structure of a given corpus by creating topics
- Concept: a certain topic can be characterized by the words associated with it
- Based on coherence measure and interpretability 15 topics were extracted for both corpora

Thematic structure of the corpora I

- Religious anti-Judaism
 - Both
 - Low prevalence
 - The classical blame of deicide is completely missing
 - Articles: Jews strive to contaminate Christians
 - Comments: Christians are superior to Jews
- Racial antisemitism
 - Articles: very high prevalence
 - Comments: almost completely missing

Thematic structure of the corpora II

- Conspiratorial antisemitism
 - Articles: low prevalence and connected to racial antisemitism
 - Comments: very high prevalence and occurring in itself
- Secondary antisemitism
 - Higher prevalence in the case of articles
 - Both
 - Classical hard- and soft-core Holocaust denial
 - Articles
 - Connected to competitive victimhood
 - "Holohoax", "Holodogmatics", "Hololegend"
 - Jews making profit from the "Holocaust industry"

Thematic structure of the corpora III

- New antisemitism
 - Both
 - Low prevalence
 - Often lack virulent antisemitism however extremely one-sided
- Especially important in Eastern Europe
 - Jews are responsible for Communism
 - Names of communists complemented with their Jewish sounding German names

Peculiarities in the thematic structure

- Articles
 - Jews as "homopropagandists" and "deviance propagandists" to contaminate Christianity and white people
 - Jews' embittered struggle against antisemitism = Jewish screeching
- Comments
 - Anxiety over the extermination of white people by Jews
 - Migrants, Gypsies, feminism
 - The presence of Gypsies in many topics
 - "Gypsies are the biological weapon of Jews"
 - Special topic: swearing

Conclusion

- Topic modelling proved to be a powerful tool
- In the case of both corpora meaningful topics were extracted
- Articles and comments have a distinct character
- The classical types of antisemitism could be identified
- Mixture of types are present
- Our present analysis help us to proceed to identify more subtle forms of antisemitism as a next step of our research project

Thank you for your attention!

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