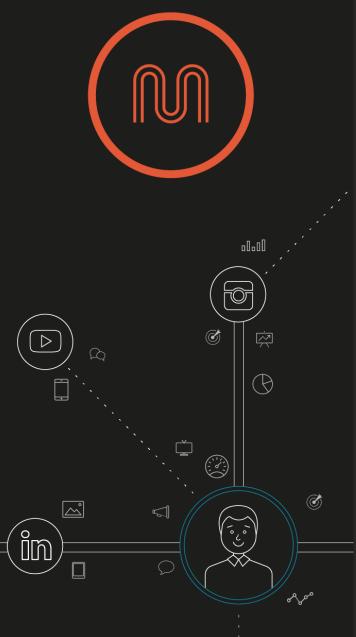
# Social media listening & analytics considerations for COVID-19 communication



#### Tim Zecchin

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#### Sentiment Vs Emotion

- Social media listening tools often measure positive, negative or neutral sentiment
- Varying, often low, accuracy
- Development driven by commercial purpose i.e. sentiment towards a product/service
- Weak relevance in public health emergencies



- Emotion analysis on social media conversations harder to analyze, but more useful
- Provides actionable insights to respond appropriately to citizens and different stakeholder groups
- Measure efficacy of public health messaging
- Reduce susceptibility to share misinformation





#### Information Vs Narratives

- Preoccupation with identifying good, or bad, specific information can distract from mission
- Specific posts of information have often been individually spread by the time they are identified and challenged
- Citizens will normally change behavior because of multiple exposures to messages, rather than one instance
- Useful when content can be identified systematically or by influential sources

- As the key debates become more nuanced understanding how narratives emerge and develop becomes more valuable
- Once narratives get a foothold with similar misinformation coming from multiple sources it has longer lasting impact
- Developing an understanding of the narratives and relative emotion allows for a more effective communications response
- Nuanced misinformation is harder to detect without identifying by source/account





#### This is a text from an NHS worker

As of tomorrow, do not leave home for bread for anything! Because the worst begins tomorrow as the incubation date is met and many people that are positive with the virus start to peak!! It's at this time other people are most vulnerable! so it is very important to stay home and not to be in contact with anybody, even members of your family if possible!! Being very careful is very important and very crucial at this time!!

As from tomorrow we are going to see the start of the peak of those that are positive, then there will be two weeks of calm and then two weeks where it decreases.

- \* What happened in Italy is that they neglected the contagion period and that is why all the cases turned out together and so badly, plus they didn't know what they were dealing with \*.
- \* And finally, please do not receive visits from anyone, not even from the same family. This is all for the good of all. \* WE WILL BE IN THE MAXIMUM STAGE OF INFECTION.
- \* DO NOT HOLD ON TO THIS MESSAGE, PASS IT ON TO ALL YOUR CONTACTS \*



Infectious Disease Expert Says Coronavirus Panic May Be Worse Than The Disease Itself

BI KIERAN CORCORAN, BUSINESS INSIDER 9 MARCH 2020

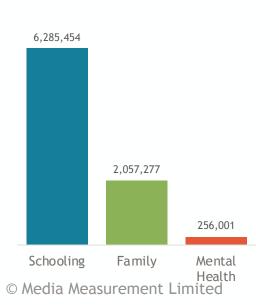


### Volume Vs Velocity

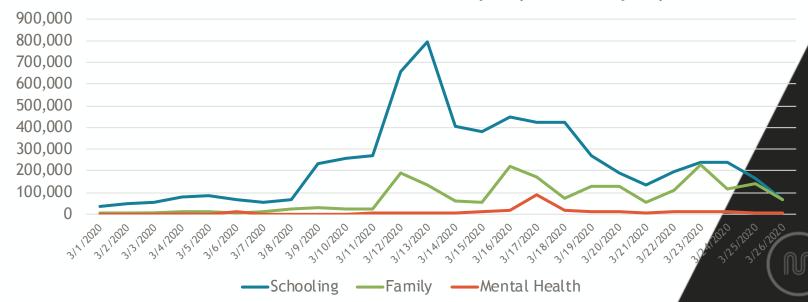
- Too many tools and projects wrongly focus on volume of content as an indication of influence
- Just because there is a high volume it does not mean anyone is influenced - the converse is also true
- Easy to measure so too many projects place importance on volume of posts/content
- Reach, engagement and frequency more relevant

- The velocity in which a narrative or piece of content becomes shared is more meaningful
- The relative speed that citizens share and/or are exposed to a measure the more likely they are to be impacted
- Often reaches communities less often touched by misinformation and therefore find it harder to spot
- Early detection is therefore important to counteract viral misinformation or harmful narratives

#### Posts by Topic Split

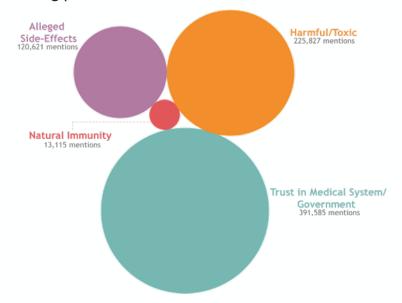




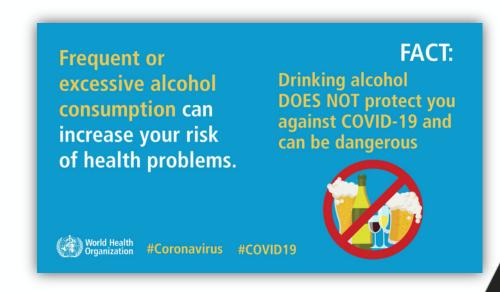


# Wrong Vs Right

- Analytics projects often focus on key sources sharing good, or bad, information
- Challenging and resource intensive to detect individual pieces of wrong information quickly before spread, unless at platform level
- Arguably more important to help citizens identify misinformation
- With more nuanced topics it becomes a risk if seen to be hindering public debate



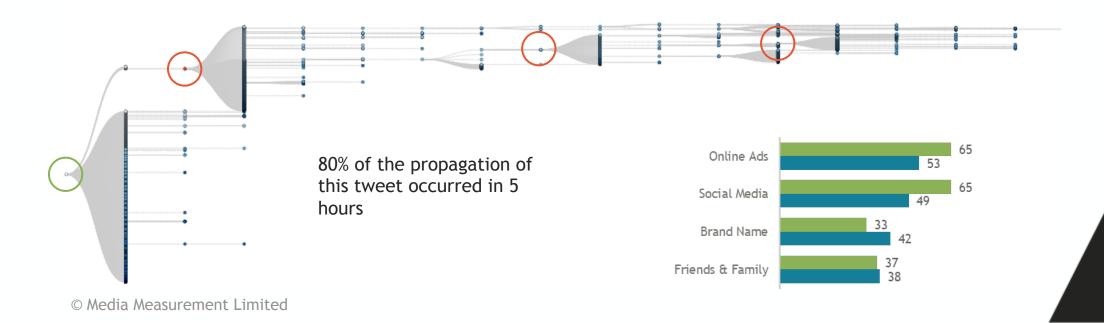
- Focusing on sharing correct information as, and via via trusted sources
- Building trusted knowledge of correct knowledge to some extent immunizes citizens from misinformation
- Analytics can help developing content strategies by identifying content types popular in different communities
- Measuring and tracking trust in institutional sources and influencers important to maintain and build positive flows of information



#### **Sharers Vs Seekers**

- Identifying those who originate and share misinformation of limited value
- Often retrospective and only useful when seeking to share information with specific communities of interest or identifying networks
- Again focused on sources which are more likely to be identified and acted on at platform level
- Does provide actionable insights when looking at those who share trusted information

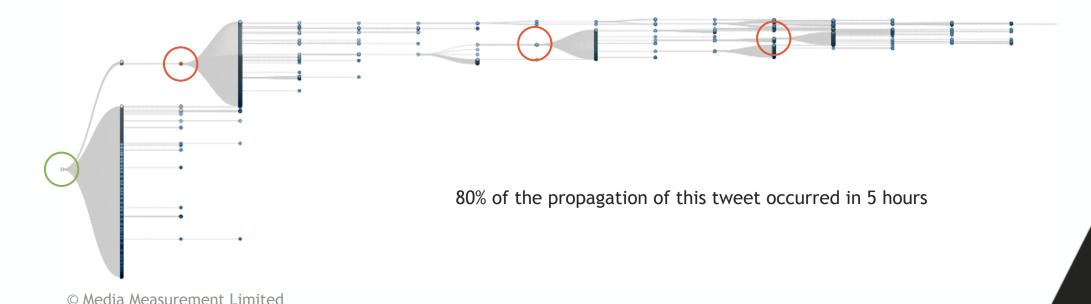
- Identifying citizens asking questions identifies a valuable set of data
- The questions citizens most want answered represent a significant information demand opportunity
- Meeting information demand helps win the long-term battle
- If trusted sources don't fill information voids misinformation often will



# Key takeaways

- Identifying those who originate and share misinformation of limited value
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