

Kohei WATANABE, PhD

Waseda Institute for Advanced Study

Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

Email: watanabe.kohei@gmail.com

Website: <http://koheiw.net>

Updated on 21 May 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- International communication
- Political communication
- Media globalization
- Digital methods
- Quantitative text analysis

CURRENT POSITIONS

2018—present Assistant Professor, Institute for Advanced Study, Waseda University, Japan.

2018—present Chief developer, Quanteda Initiative, UK.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

I have recently served as a referee for *Communication Research*, *International Communication Gazette*, *Political Analysis*, *Journalism Studies* and *Online Information Review*.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2017—2018 Research officer, Department of Methodology and US Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science: I develop a quantitative text analysis package (Quanteda) in R and C++, and organize workshops on how to conduct social research using its functions (with Prof. Kenneth Benoit). I also apply the package to investigate historical representation of US foreign policy in European and Asian newspapers using machine learning techniques (with Prof. Peter Trubowitz).
- 2015—2017 Research assistant, Centre for Experiment Social Science, Oxford University: developed interactive user interfaces on the Qualtrics survey platform for consulting project for the Financial Conduct Authority.
- 2014—2017 Research assistant, International Relations Department and Social Psychology Department, LSE: developed automatic news download systems from online databases and websites.
- 2009—2010 Freelance IT engineer: worked with Inter Media Japan, the largest website

development company in Japan.

2005—2007 Entrepreneur: established Japan's first audio book production and distribution company, whose clients include Toyota Motors and Japan Airlines.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2013—2017 Doctoral candidate at the Department of Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science (PhD in Social Research Methodology)

2012—2013 Pre-doctoral student at the Institute of Communication Studies, University of Leeds

2010—2011 Graduate student at the Department of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary (MA in Political Science)

2007—2009 Graduate student at Musashi University, Tokyo, Japan (MA in Sociology)

2001—2005 Undergraduate student at Department of Literature, Seikei University, Tokyo, Japan (BA in Literature)

PHD THESIS

Title *Measuring Bias in International News: A Large-scale Analysis of News Agency Coverage of the Ukraine Crisis*

Supervisor Prof. Kenneth Benoit (Department of Methodology, LSE)

Examiners Prof. Jan Kleinnijenhuis (Department of Communication Science, Vrije University, Netherlands); Prof. Terhi Rantanen (Media and Communications, LSE)

OTHER AFFILIATION

2017— Present Researcher, Social and Economic Data Science Unit, LSE.

2017— Present Affiliated researcher, Waseda Institute of Political Economy, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019 Political Text Analysis, Waseda University, Japan: teach quantitative text analysis through 15 sessions of lectures and seminars.

2018 Visiting lecture for quantitative political methodology, Kobe University: teach two intensive courses on quantitative text analysis and data scraping in June 2018 and March 2019.

May 2018 Instructor in a workshop on introduction to quantitative analysis using R, Hungarian Academy of Science, Hungary.

March 2018 Instructor in a two-day workshop on introduction to R and quantitative text analysis, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

January 2018 Instructor in a 1-day workshop on quantitative text analysis, WZB Berlin Social Science Centre, Germany.

2017 Teaching assistant, LSE: taught a weekly course on programming in R and Python

- for 10 students from Economics, Finance, Government and Methodology departments (MY470).
- 2014—2017 Tutor at methodology surgery, LSE: advised research students on how to collect and analyse data.
- November 2017 Instructor on quantitative text analysis at European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science, Alan Turing Institute, UK.
- June 2017 Instructor in a workshop on quantitative text analysis, Kobe University, Japan.
- June 2017 Instructor in a workshop on quantitative text analysis, Waseda University, Japan.
- May 2017 Tutor at workshop on quantitative text analysis, LSE.
- 2016 Graduate teaching assistant, LSE: teaching over 40 students Python programming in a course for applied computational analysis (MY591).
- 2014 Graduate teaching assistant, LSE: taught a weekly introductory statistics course for 20 MA students from Media and Communications Department (MY451).

PUBLICATION AND PRESENTATION

Published/accepted Papers

- March 2019 Amy Catalinac and Kohei Watanabe, *Quantitative Text Analysis in Japanese*. WIAS Research Bulletin 2018.
- October 2018 Kenneth Benoit, Kohei Watanabe, Haiyan Wang, Paul Nulty, Adam Obeng, Stefan Müller, and Akitaka Matsuo, Quanteda: An R package for the quantitative analysis of textual data, *Journal of Open Source Software*, <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.00774>.
- March 2018 Kohei Watanabe, Newsmap: A semi-supervised approach to geographical news classification, *Digital Journalism*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2017.1293487>.
- December 2017 Tomila Lankina and Kohei Watanabe, ‘Russian Spring’ or ‘Spring Betrayal’? The Media as a Mirror of Putin’s Evolving Strategy in Ukraine, *Europe-Asia Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2017.1397603>.
- March 2017 Kohei Watanabe, Measuring news bias: Russia’s official news agency ITAR-TASS’s coverage of the Ukraine crisis, *European Journal of Communication*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0267323117695735>.
- February 2017 Kohei Watanabe, The spread of the Kremlin’s narratives by a western news agency during the Ukraine crisis, *Journal of International Communication*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13216597.2017.1287750>.
- July 2016 Kohei Watanabe, Computer-aided dictionary making: An efficient dictionary construction technique for content analysis, *Proceedings of the International Conference on the Advances in Computational Analysis of Political Text*.
- March 2013 Kohei Watanabe, The western perspective in Yahoo! News and Google News: Quantitative analysis of geographic coverage of online news, *International Communication Gazette*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1748048512465546>.

Book Chapter

In-press Tomila Lankina, Kohei Watanabe and Yulia Netesova, Framing, Fabricating, and Leveraging Protest: How Russian State Media Manipulate Public Discontent. In Valerie Bunce, Karrie Koesel and Jessica Chen Weiss (Eds.) *Citizens & the State in Authoritarian Regimes: Comparing Russia & China*, Oxford University Press.

Working Paper

Kohei Watanabe, *Searching for 'submarine' propaganda outlets: an efficient method to identify sources of false information on the web.*

Kohei Watanabe and Yuan Zhou, *Making a topic dictionary for semi-supervised classification of the UN speeches.*

Gokhan Ciflikli, Peter Trubowitz, and Kohei Watanabe, Geopolitical slack: Modelling national perceptions of international threat.

Peter Trubowitz and Kohei Watanabe, *International perceptions of US security commitments.*

Selected Presentation

March 2019 *How to make a seed dictionary: Semi-supervised topic classification of the UN speeches*, Waseda-Essex Scientific PoliSci/IR Collaboration and Exchange, Essex University, Colchester, UK.

January 2019 *Historical Analysis of New York Times Foreign News using Semi-Supervised Models*, Society as Data, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

November 2018 *Quantitative Text Analysis in International Political Research*, The Japan Association of International Relations, Omiya, Japan.

August 2018 *Conspiracist propaganda: How Russia promotes anti-establishment sentiment online?*, ECPR General Conference, Hamburg, Germany.

July 2018 *Quantitative Analysis of Textual Data with R*, Tokyo R user group meeting, Yahoo Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

June 2018 *Internationalizing Text Analysis*, Collaborative Research on Political Information Transmission, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

May 2018 *Introduction to Machine Learning for Text Analysis*, POLTEXT 2018, Hungarian Academy of Science, Hungary.

April 2018 *Building text analysis models using Quanteda*, LSE Computational Social Sciences Hackathon, LSE, UK.

March 2018 *Ten Years of Protest: What Have We Learned?*, PONARS Conflict, Contestation and Peacebuilding in Eurasia, LSE, UK.

January 2018 *Quanteda: quantitative text analysis of textual data*, London R user group meeting, LSE, UK.

- September 2017 *Analysis of hate speeches using machine learning: inferring polarity of reader comments on news sites using Wordfish*, Alsace Japanese Study Seminar, Centre Européen d'Études Japonaises d'Alsace, France.
- May 2017 *Data-driven approach to bilingual text analysis: representation of US foreign policy in Japanese and British newspapers in 1985-2016*, research seminar at Waseda University, Japan.
- December 2016 Britain in the World: Representation of international relations by the UK media in 2012-2016, PSA Media and Politics Group annual conference, London, UK.
- July 2016 *Measuring news bias Russia's official news agency ITAR-TASS's coverage of the Ukraine crisis*, IAMCR Annual Conference 2016, Leicester, UK.
- July 2016 *Computer-aided dictionary making: An efficient dictionary construction technique for content analysis*, PolText 2016, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- June 2016 *How to collect, code and analyse 200,000 news stories on Ukraine crisis*, Amsterdam Text Analysis Conference, Netherlands.
- June 2016 *Mapping International New: Lexicon-based and dictionary-based approaches for geographical classification*, ICA Annual Conference, Fukuoka, Japan (Best Paper Award was granted).
- March 2015 *Making domain-specific sentiment dictionary*, Mapping the Cultural Authority of Science (MACAS) project workshop, Bilgi University, Turkey.
- December 2014 *Reinventing dictionary-based content analysis: A new computer-aided dictionary making technique for social sciences*, Mapping the Cultural Authority of Science (MACAS) project workshop, London School of Economics and Political Science.
- Exhibitions**
- November 2013 *News bias? Differences in favourability in international news reporting between New York Times and Al Jazeera English*, Data Stories 2013: Research Visualization Exhibition, Central European University, Budapest.

AWARDS

- 2016 The Best Paper Award in Communication Research Methodology Group in 2016 International Communication Association Annual Conference.

EXTERNAL GRANTS

- 2019—2021 Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (1,7000,000 JPY or approx. 140,000 EUR), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.
- 2019 Symposium and Seminar Grant (800,000 JPY or approx. 6,500 EUR), The Telecommunication Advancement Foundation.
- 2014—2015 Murata Science Foundation Research Grant H26-020 (900,000 JPY or approx. 8,000

EUR), Murata Science Foundation (Kyoto, Japan).
 2013—2017 LSE Doctoral Scholarship (tuition waiver and stipend), London School of
 Economics and Political Science.

MEMBERSHIP

- International Association for Media and Communication Research
- Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association
- American Political Science Association

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Quanteda One of the main developers of an R package for social scientific text analysis (available on CRAN).
 LSS Author of R Package for domain-specific content analysis dictionary making (<https://github.com/koheiw/LSS>).
 Newsmap Author of R package for multi-lingual geographical news classification (<https://github.com/koheiw/newsmap>).

WEBSITES DEVELOPMENT

International Newsmap Fully automated online news collection and geographical classification (<http://newsmap.koheiw.net>).
 Popular Mobilisation Website for a project on political protests in Russia (<https://popularmobilization.net>)
 Quanteda Portal Landing site for Quanteda and related packages (<https://quanteda.io>)
 Quanteda Tutorials Step-by-step guide to quantitative text analysis using Quanteda (<https://tutorials.quanteda.io>).

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Natural Language Japanese (native) and English (excellent)
 Computer Language R, C++, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP