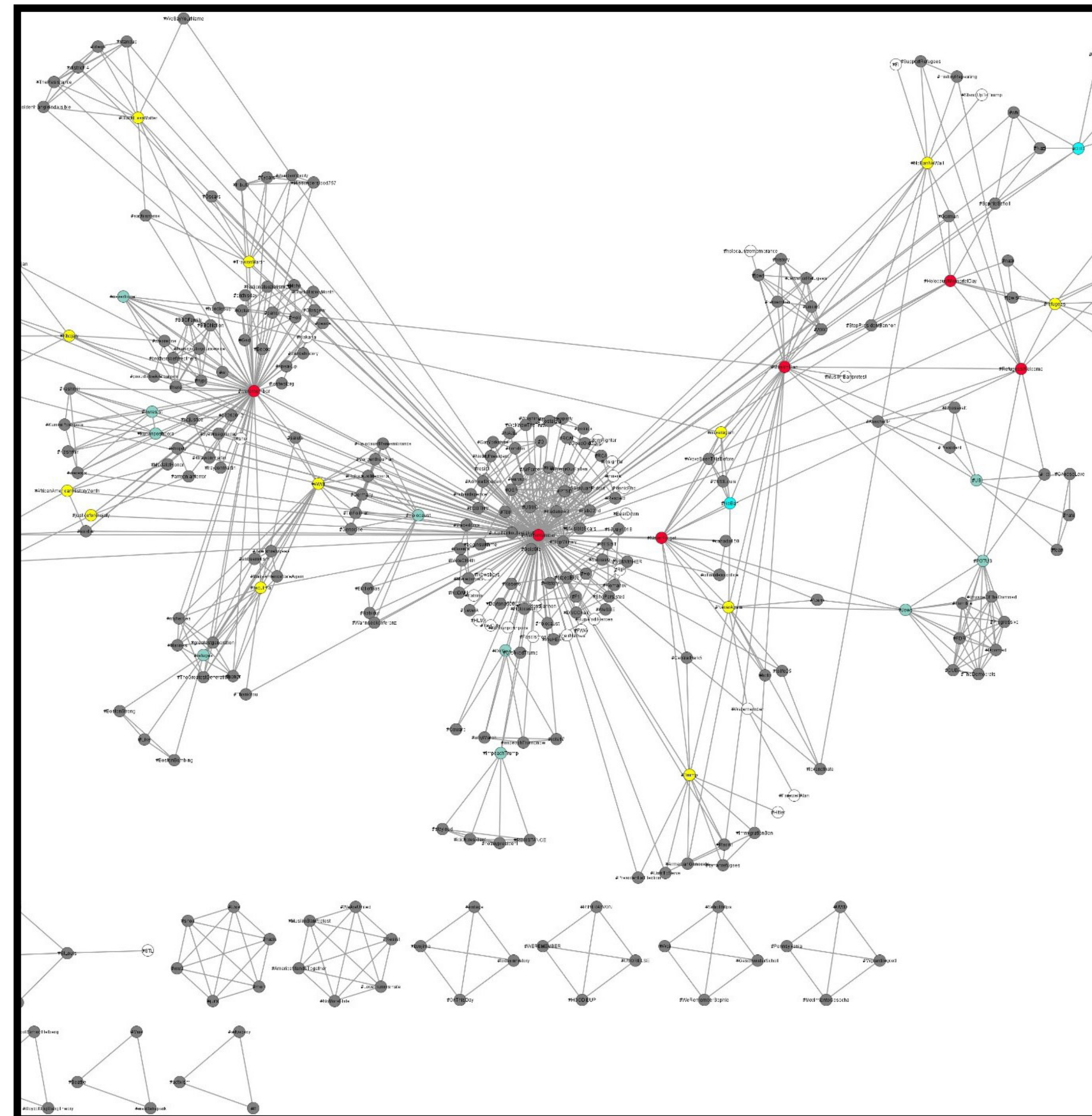# Cliques of Public Memory: A Qualitative Network Analysis of the @STL_Manifest Digital Memorial

Summary

Scholarship on public memory often assumes contested discursive space, but contests can be difficult to see. While public memory studies continues to expand into digital spaces, many theories assume a static website. This study uses social networking methods to understand discursive contests in digital memorials.

@STL_Manifest

An automated Twitter account created by Russell Neiss & Charlie Schwartz. This account was a memorial for 2017 Holocaust Rememberance Day and a response to President Trump's EO on the same day.

St. Louis Manifest @Stl_Manifest · Jan 27
My name is Regina Blumenstein. The US turned me away at the border in 1939. I was murdered in Auschwitz.

235   16K   16K

The Overall Structure of @STL_Manifest Hashtag Network

Cosmopolitans

2 CLIQUES	3-6 CLIQUES	7+ CLIQUES
#DoYourJob	#AfricanAmericanHistoryMonth	#HolocaustMemorialDay
#Holocaust	#BlackLivesMatter	#MuslimBan
#ImpeachTrump	#HolocaustRememberanceDay	#NeverForget
#Jews	#IwoJima	#RefugeesWelcome
#kunanposhpora	#justiceforkhjaly	#weremember
#kwresist	#Khojaly	#WeRemember
#neverforget	#NeverAgain	
#NoBan	#neveragain	
#OTD	#NoBanNoWall	
#POTUS	#refugees	
#refugee	#TrayvonMartin	
#US	#Trump	
	#WWII	

- #WeRemember and #weremember were both important but behaved differently

- #WeRemember was only associated with #TrayvonMartin, but #weremember was associated with alternate spellings and a clique of law-enforcement terms

- When removing both version of #WeRemember, hashtags connected to Black Lives Matter, WWII, and other events are no longer part of the network.

Research Questions

- RQ 1: What is the overall structure of the hashtag network surrounding the @STL_Manifest?

- RQ 2: How do cosmopolitans (hashtags that belong to various cliques) function to connect various cliques associated with @STL_Manifest?

Methods

- Data was gathered from January 30 and thirty-one days later

- Two-mode networks (users & hashtags) were converted to one-mode to find hashtag connections

- Analyis looked for cliques within a larger network

- Cosmopolitans are visualized with color coding for number of clique membership (blue = 2, yellow 3-6. red =>7)

Limitations and Future Directions

- Quantitative analysis of cliques is limited when two-mode networks are converted to single-mode

- Future studies could expand on different types of memorials on different social media platforms

- This study hopes to expand research on digital public memory and examine public memory as interactive rather than reactive

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