



Individual Submission Summary

Share...

Opinion Diversity Over Time: Selective Expression and Collaborative Filtering in Web Forums

In Event: *Predicting and Explaining Opinion Diversity*

**Fri, June 10, 9:30 to 10:45, Fukuoka Hilton, Sumire
Abstract**

People are more likely to express opinions when the opinion climate is consistent with their own and to converse with like-minded individuals in online political discussions. Previous studies suggest that the tendency of selective expression could be reinforced in continuous discussions, which possibly leads to declining opinion diversity over time. Under the collaborative filtering framework, this study uses data collected unobtrusively from popular web forums to test this suspicious claim. Survival analyses demonstrate that selective expression is not necessarily associated with declining opinion diversity, because discussions with diverse opinions are more capable of attracting further responses and can attenuate the tendency of selective expression. In addition, this study suggests that like-minded discussions can coexist with opinion diversity to sustain healthy political deliberation on the Internet.

Author

Hai Liang, The University of Hong Kong