Appendix: Codebook

Coding of Tweets

Context and language

1. **National context of tweets (if more than one, separate by comma)**
National identity of people mentioned or of the settings of events or issues.

2. **Language of tweets (if more than one, separate by comma)**

Mentions and references

3. **Twitter 'mentions' within tweets (Note: only mentions containing Twitter handles)**

a) News corporation
b) Politician
c) Individual user (not politician)
d) Political party
e) Other (please specify)
f) No mention

4. **Retweeted people or organisations (if more than one, separate by comma)**

5. **Mentioned people or organisations (Note: only mentions *without* Twitter handles. if more than one, separate by comma)**

6. **Party of mentioned sources (only if politician)**

7. **Endorsement of issue, party or politicians**
Only explicit endorsement (e.g. I support X, X will be good for our country or we need to have more X)

8. **Disapproval of issue, party or politicians**
Only explicit disapproval (e.g. I do not like X, X will be bad for our country or we need to have less X)

Overall themes

9. **Which religions are explicitly referred to in the Tweet?**

a) Christian/Christianity
b) Muslim/Islam
c) Jew/Judaism
d) Buddhist/Buddhism
e) Hindu/Hinduism
f) Other (please specify)
g) None of the above

10. Fatalities

a) *Risk of fatality*
Reference to accidents, crime, natural disasters, war or other events, potentially resulting in causalities, but with no explicit denial of the existence of such.

b) *Fatality*
Reference to a single fatality

c) *Fatalities*
Reference to 1-4 fatalitie*s*

d) *5+ Fatalities*
Reference to 5+ fatalities

e) *Mass murder*
Reference to 5+ fatalities as the result of deliberate human action (crime/war)

11. Issues (up to four can be chosen for one tweet)

a) *Politics*
Explicit reference to political parties, members of parties, legislation, governance, visions for societal restructuring.

b) *Economy*
Explicit reference to societal or corporate budgets, expenses or incomes

c) *Military Conflict*
Explicit reference to military conflicts and wars, including civil wars and threats of war.

d) *Crime*
Explicit reference to violations of laws, convictions, convicts, prisons and indictments.

e) *Local affairs*
Explicit references to events, topic or sites limited to a specific city, municipality, province or populated area.

f) *Weather*
Explicit reference to weather forecasts or specific weather phenomena, such as draught or rain.

g) *Public Health*
Explicit reference to diseases, chronic conditions, healthcare, health insurance, hospitals or other treatment facilities.

h) *Education*
Explicit reference to schools, universities or other educational institutions, teachers and students.

i) *Protest*
Explicit reference to organised, public manifestations of political dissent, discontent or support for specific policies, events or topics.

j) *Ethno-cultural minorities*
Explicit reference to ethno-cultural minorities, such as Muslims in Europe and African-Americans in the US.

k) *Terrorism*
Explicit reference to acts of terrorism, suspects of terrorism and fear of terrorism.

l) *Natural disaster*
Explicit reference to geological, metrological or other natural phenomena or events, threatening or potentially threatening to human lives, e.g. hurricanes, wildfires, volcano eruptions and tsunamis.

m) *Everyday life*
Reference to personal, everyday activities, such as listening to music, doing sports, hanging out with friends, going to school or work, playing games, celebrating someone's birthday.

n) *Immigration*
Explicit reference to immigration, immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

o) *Entertainment*
Explicit reference to music, film, television, books, professional sports.

p) *None of the above*

(H1) IRA propaganda spreads rumours and conspiracy theories

12. Rumours and conspiracy theories

a) *Rumour*
A claim about a specific event or causal chain of events without any referenced source.

b) *Conspiracy theory*
A claim about a specific event or causal chain of events without any referenced source, which goes against dominant explanations (e.g. 9/11 was an inside job, the moon landing never happened, Barack Obama was born in Kenya).

c) *None of the above*

(H2) IRA propaganda is emotional and antagonistic

13. Aggressiveness spectrum

a) *Yes*
Use of derogative language, threats or curses against specific people, topics or events.

b) *High*
Use of derogative language, threats or curses against specific people, topics or events, with the use of superlatives (e.g. ugliest, worst), words indicating intensity (e.g. hate, despise or resent), capitalisation of words or sentences (e.g. YOU ARE THE WORST) and/or exclamation points.

c) None of the above

14. Antagonism spectrum

a) *Yes*
Presenting two groups or individuals as dichotomous adversaries.

b) *High*
Presenting two groups or individuals as dichotomous adversaries, using superlatives (e.g. ugliest, worst), words indicating intensity (e.g. hate, despise or resent), capitalisation of words or sentences (e.g. YOU ARE THE WORST) and/or exclamation points.

c) *None of the above*

15. Emotional spectrum

a) *Yes*
Use of emotional words (e.g. afraid, excited, sweet and jealous) and exclamation marks (e.g. they are crying!)

b) *High*
Use of several emotional words (e.g. afraid, excited, sweet and jealous), exclamation marks (e.g. they are crying!) and capitalisation (e.g. THEY ARE CRYING!)

c) None of the above

(H3) Russian propaganda encourages online and offline behaviour

16. Encouragement of behaviour (online and/or offline)

a) *Encouragement of online behaviour* (e.g. Retweet and like this post)
b) *Encouragement of offline behaviour* (e.g. Vote for party X)

(H4) IRA propaganda is populist

17. Presence of populist elements (if more than one element, separate by comma)

a) *Reference to "the people"*
b) *Anti-establishment* (citizens against elites)
c) *Anti-mainstream media*
d) *Scapegoating* (blaming specific groups or individuals for events)
e) *Call for action* (call for election, protest, coup or other forms of political action)
f) *Ethno-cultural antagonism* (antagonism directed at minority groups)
g) *State of crisis: threat against society* (society being in a state of crisis or emergency)
h) *The need for a strong leader*

18. Populism spectrum

a) *Low*
1-2 populist elements

b) *High*
3 or above populist elements

Coding of Accounts

19.   (Proclaimed) user type

a) *Individual (Male)*
b) *Individual (Female)*
c) *Individual (No gender ref)*
d) *Organisation*
e) *NGO*
f) *News media*
g) *Other (please specify)*
h) *Unidentifiable*

20.   (Proclaimed) national user identity (if more than one, separate by comma)
Assessed based on proclaimed location, time zone, self-descriptions in profile bios and tweets.

21.   Campaign targets

a) *Russian citizens*
  o Russian news source
    ▪ Writes in Russian
    ▪ Self-described as a news channel
    ▪ Location and/or time zone in Russia

  o Russian news retweeter
    ▪ Predominantly retweets stories from RT about US Politics
    ▪ Location and/or time zone in Russia

  o Russian self-declared propaganda
    ▪ Self-described as Kremlin Propaganda or Russian Propaganda
    ▪ Location and/or time zone in Russia

b) *Brexit*
  o Brexit news retweeter
    ▪ Retweets German, British or Italian news
    ▪ Content in German, English or italian
    ▪ Has no description
    ▪ Tweets about Brexit
  o Pro-EU, Pro Brexit
    ▪ Writes in German
    ▪ Self-described as a German individual
    ▪ Explicitly supports EU and often also Merkel
    ▪ Argues in favor of Brexit (and *hard* brexit)

c) *Conservative patriot*
  o Conservative patriot individual
    ▪ Has descriptions and present themselves as conservative, Christian patriots
    ▪ Writes about politics and explicitly supports Donald Trump
    ▪ Uses hashtags such as #MAGA, #BlueLivesMatter, #RedNationRising, #Conservative
    ▪ Location and/or time zone in the US
    ▪ Writes in English
  o Conservative patriot organisation
    ▪ Presents itself as an unofficial channel for conservatives or the Republican Party.
    ▪ Location and/or time zone in the US

d) *Protest activism*
- o Black lives matter activist
  - ▪ Has descriptions and present themselves as black activists
  - ▪ Use the hashtags #BlackLivesmatter and #BLM
  - ▪ Write about politics and race
  - ▪ Location and/or time zone in the US
  - ▪ Writes in English
- o Black lives matter community
  - ▪ Self-described as a Black live smatter community/NGO
  - ▪ Location and/or time zone in the US
  - ▪ Write about politics and race
  - ▪ Writes in English
- o Anti-Trump, Pro-Hillary
  - ▪ Writes exclusively about US politics
  - ▪ Is anti-Trump and pro-Hillary
  - ▪ Location and/or time zone in the US
- o Anti-Trump, Anti-Hillary
  - ▪ Writes exclusively about US politics
  - ▪ Is anti-Trump *and* Anti-Hillary
  - ▪ Location and/or time zone in the US

e) *Local news*
- o Local news source
  - ▪ Tweets only Local US or German news
  - ▪ Self-described as located in the US/German city in question
  - ▪ Location and/or time zone in the US/Germany
  - ▪ Writes in English/German
- o Local news retweeter
  - ▪ Accounts that *only* retweets local US News from IRA accounts