



**MICHIGAN ENGINEERING**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# **Crossing the Aisle: Unveiling Partisan and Counter-Partisan Events in News Reporting**

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# Media Bias

- News Media plays an important role at shaping public opinions
- Often, they selectively write stories favoring their preferred stance
- Existing works focus bias on
  - Token Level
  - Phrase Level
- But what about events?

**How news media include and organize events to subtly reflect their ideology?**

# PAC Annotation

- **PAC**, a dataset annotated with **P**artisan and **C**ounter-partisan events
- Partisan Events: events that advance the media outlet's ideology
- Counter-Partisan Events: events that mitigate the intended bias

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## National Review (Right):

Texas Governor Greg Abbott **signed** a bill on Wednesday barring abortions . . . “Our creator endowed us with the right to life and yet millions of children **lose** their right to life every year because of abortion,” Abbott, a Republican, said during a bill signing ceremony. . . .

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Event #1 ( **sign** ): pos->*Heartbeat Bill*

Event #2 ( **lose** ): pos->*Heartbeat Bill* neg->*abortion*

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## The Guardian (Left):

The Texas Republican governor Greg Abbott has **signed** into law one of the most extreme six-week abortion bans in the US, despite strong **opposition** from the medical and legal communities . . . .“This bill ensures that every unborn child who has a heartbeat will be **saved** from the ravages of abortion,” said Abbott . . . .

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Event #3 ( **signed** ): neg->*Heartbeat Bill*

Event #4 ( **opposition** ): neg->*Heartbeat Bill*

Event #5 ( **saved** ): pos->*Heartbeat Bill* neg->*abortion*

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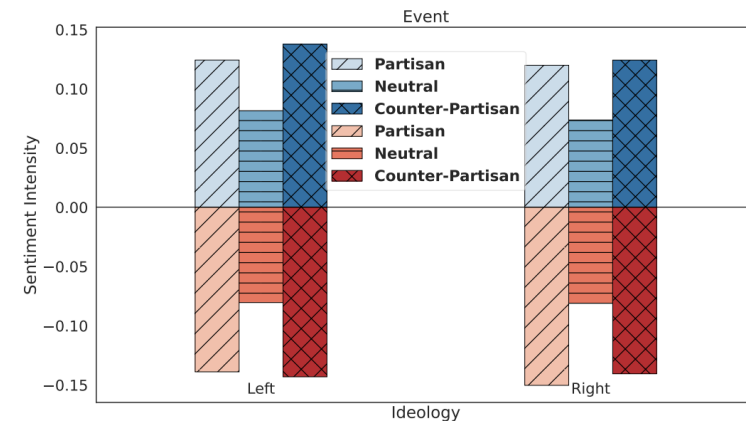
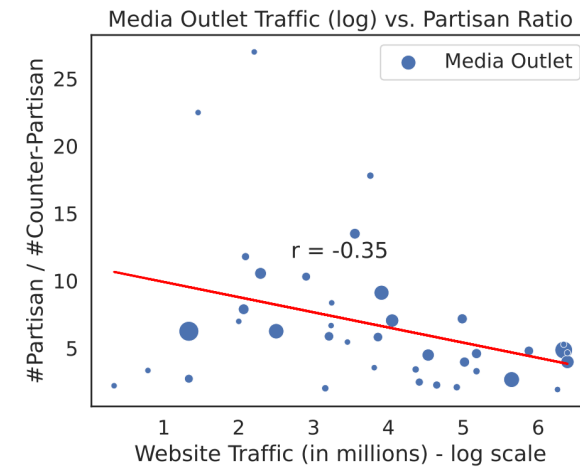
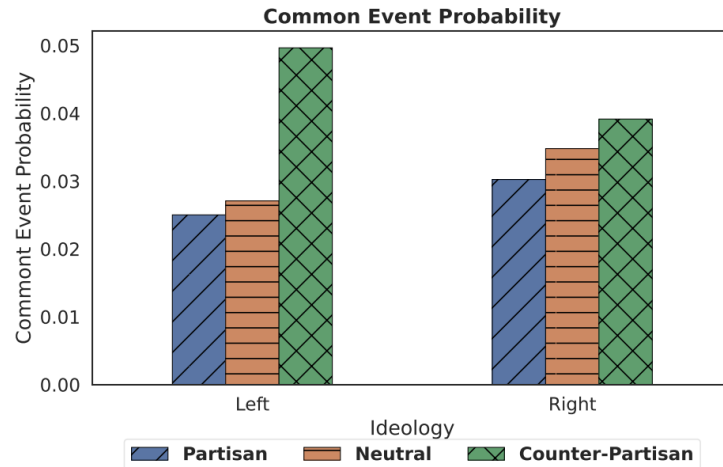
# Dataset Statistics

PAC	
Stories	152
Articles	304
Partisan Events	6432
Counter-Partisan Events	2079
Time Range	2012-2023

- Stories Sampled from Allsides
- Each story contains a pair of articles and is annotated by 2+ people
- Article ideology and event partisanship

# Why Counter-Partisan Events

- Hypothesis 1: Newsworthiness
- Hypothesis 2: Market Breadth
- Hypothesis 3: Emotional Engagement



# Experiments

- Detect Partisan and Counter-Partisan Events
- ChatGPT perform worser than RoBERTa and POLITICS

	Partisan	Counter- Partisan	Neutral	Combined
Random	24.74	7.83	67.50	33.36
RoBERTa	48.40	15.78	80.61	48.26
+joint	47.48	17.05	80.52	48.35
POLITICS	<b>48.72</b>	<b>19.88</b>	80.09	<b>49.56</b>
+joint	47.09	19.55	<b>81.28</b>	49.31
ChatGPT	31.42	9.99	71.75	37.62

# Thank you!

Dataset is available at: <https://github.com/launchnlp/Partisan-Event-Dataset>

