

Research Repository

Browse by

- [Author](#)
- [Subject/college/research area](#)
- [Theses](#)
- [Year](#)
- [Latest additions](#)
- [Special collections & archives](#)

Statistics

- [Top 50 papers](#)
- [Top 50 authors](#)
- [Statistics overview](#)

[Advanced search](#)

Twitter Free Iran: an Evaluation of Twitter's Role in Public Diplomacy and Information Operations in Iran's 2009 Election Crisis

+ Export Tools

Burns, Alex and Eltham, Ben (2009) *Twitter Free Iran: an Evaluation of Twitter's Role in Public Diplomacy and Information Operations in Iran's 2009 Election Crisis*. In: Communications Policy & Research Forum 2009, 19th-20th November 2009, University of Technology, Sydney.



Text (Twitter Free Iran)

CPRF09BurnsEltham.pdf

Available under License [Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial](#).

[Download \(244kB\)](#)

Official URL: http://networkinsight.org/verve/_resources/Burns_E...

Abstract

Social media platforms such as Twitter pose new challenges for decision-makers in an international crisis. We examine Twitter's role during Iran's 2009 election crisis using a comparative analysis of Twitter investors, US State Department diplomats, citizen activists and Iranian protesters and paramilitary forces. We code for key events during the election's aftermath from 12 June to 5 August 2009, and evaluate Twitter. Foreign policy, international political economy and historical sociology frameworks provide a deeper context of how Twitter was used by different users for defensive information operations and public diplomacy. Those who believe Twitter and other social network technologies will enable ordinary people to seize power from repressive regimes should consider the fate of Iran's protesters, some of whom paid for their enthusiastic adoption of Twitter with their lives.

Item Type: Conference or Workshop Item (Paper)

Additional Information: Burns, Alex & Eltham, Ben (2009). 'Twitter Free Iran: An Evaluation of Twitter's Role in Public Diplomacy and Information Operations in Iran's 2009 Election Crisis'. In Papandrea, Franco & Armstrong, Mark (Eds.). Record of the Communications Policy & Research Forum 2009. Sydney: Network Insight Institute, pp. 298-310 [PDF pp. 322-334].

ISBN 978-0-9804344-2-2

Presentation slides: http://networkinsight.org/verve/_resources/Burns_Eltham_file.pdf

Uncontrolled Keywords: Twitter, foreign policy, international relations, United States, Iran, social networks

Keywords:

Subjects: [Historical > SEO Classification > 8101 Defence](#)
[Historical > RFGD Classification > 360000 Policy and Political Science](#)
[Historical > SEO Classification > 9402 Government and Politics](#)
[Historical > SEO Classification > 8903 Information Services](#)
[Current > FOR Classification > 1902 Film, Television and Digital Media](#)
[Historical > RFGD Classification > 280000 Information, Computing and Communication Sciences](#)
[Historical > RFGD Classification > 370000 Studies in Human Society](#)
[Current > FOR Classification > 1605 Policy and Administration](#)
[Historical > SEO Classification > 8904 Media Services](#)
[Current > FOR Classification > 2201 Applied Ethics](#)
[Historical > SEO Classification > 9403 International Relations](#)
[Current > FOR Classification > 1606 Political Science](#)
[Current > FOR Classification > 0807 Library and Information Studies](#)
[Current > FOR Classification > 1699 Other Studies in Human Society](#)

Related URLs:

- [Author](#)
- [Author](#)
- [Publisher](#)

Depositing User: [Mr Alex Burns](#)

User:

Date: 06 Dec 2009 22:58

Deposited:

Last Modified: 21 Apr 2020 00:18

URI:

<http://vuir.vu.edu.au/id/eprint/15230>

ePrint Statistics: [View download statistics for this item](#)

Statistics:

Repository staff only



[View Item](#)

[Search Google Scholar](#)

 **CORE (COnnecting REpositories)**

[Contact us](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Legal](#)

[Provider registration](#)

[Accessibility information](#)

[Feedback](#)

Copyright © 2014 CRICOS Provider No.00124K (Melbourne) and CRICOS Provider No. 02475D (Sydney)

Alongside praises over Twitter's role, some analysts downplayed the site as an organizing tool and there was speculation that tweets purportedly from protestors may have been part of a disinformation campaign. While the original source and location of Twitter links in this analysis is often unclear, the message of these tweets clearly reflects an online activism fostered by new technology. Among blogs and social media, the main universe of the NMI, the topic accounted for 63% of last week's links. "As we have focused our attention on Iran in the aftermath of their 'election,' it is natural to want to do something to help," declared VJack at Atheist Revolution. Burns, A., & Eltham, B., "Twitter free Iran: an evaluation of Twitter's role in public diplomacy and information operations in Iran's 2009 election crisis" In: Communications Policy & Research Forum 2009, 19th-20th November 2009, University of Technology, Sydney. The paper hypothesized that the usage of Twitter for political activism should perform the primary function of citizen journalism which has the potential to effectively disseminate information to large audiences and raise awareness towards the protest movement. To test this hypothesis, this research undertook a content analysis of tweets, particularly the #jan25 hashtag, to verify whether they fulfill the functions of citizen journalism. Research on Iran by Negar Mottahedeh The article describes the uses of Social Media, Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, and Youtube in the activism associated with the post-election crisis of 2009 in Iran. Date uploaded. Apr 23, 2010. Description: Research on Iran by Negar Mottahedeh The article describes the uses of Social Media, Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, and Youtube in the activism associated with the post-election crisis of 2009 in Iran. Copyright: Attribution Non-Commercial (BY-NC). Twitter is the second largest social network after Facebook and currently 140 millions Tweets are posted on average each day. Tweets are messages with a maximum number of 140 characters and cover all imaginable stories ranging from simple activity updates over news coverage to opinions on arbitrary topics. In this work we argue that Twitter is a valuable data source for e-Participation related projects and describe other domains where Twitter has already been used. Burns, A., Eltham, B.: Twitter Free Iran: an Evaluation of Twitter's Role in Public Diplomacy and Information Operations in Iran's 2009 Election Crisis. In: Papandrea, F., Armstrong, M. (eds.) Proceedings of Communications Policy Research Forum, pp. 298–310.