

**Title: Detecting Political Bots on Japanese Twitter: Internet Right-Wingers and Abe's Hidden Nationalist Agenda in Japan's 2014 General Election**

**Abstract**

In my paper I present the results of an identification and behavioral analysis of social bots in a sample of more than 500,000 Japanese tweets, collected before and after Japan's 2014 General Election. Typical forms of bot activity include massive retweeting and repeated posting of (nearly) the same tweet, sometimes used in combination. Our research team focused on the second method and present a case study on several patterns of bot activity, detected by our unique method of near-duplicate detection. Moreover, I will give qualitative insights into the purposes behind the usage of social/political bots. I argue that it was in the latency of the semi-public of Social Media, and not in the visible or manifest public sphere (official campaign platform, mass media), where Abe's hidden nationalist agenda interlocked and overlapped with the one propagated by organizations such as Nippon kaigi and Internet right-wingers (netto uyo) during the election campaign, the latter potentially forming a gigantic online support army of Abe's agenda.