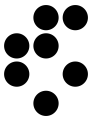
THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

THROUGH THE LENS OF EX-YUGOSLAVIAN TWITTER

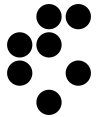
BOJAN EVKOSKI - IGOR MOZETIČ - PETRA KRALJ NOVAK - NIKOLA LJUBEŠIĆ

JOŽEF STEFAN INSTITUTE



SETUP

- **From-To:** 6 weeks before the invasion (**pre-invasion**) vs. first 6 weeks of the **invasion**
- **Volume**: 1.2M tweets and 3.8M retweets by **BCMS*** users
- **Representation**: Two retweet networks
- **Methodology**: Community detection
- **Analysis**: Partition comparison



* Users tweeting in Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin or Serbian language

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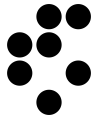
Country	Population	URLs
Serbia (RS)	**7.2M (47.3%)**	**106K (44.2%)**
Croatia (HR)	3.9M (25.6%)	19.6K (8.1%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	3.5M (23.0%)	14.9K (6.2%)
Montenegro (ME)	620K (4.1%)	24.7K (10.2%)
Total	15.2M	242K



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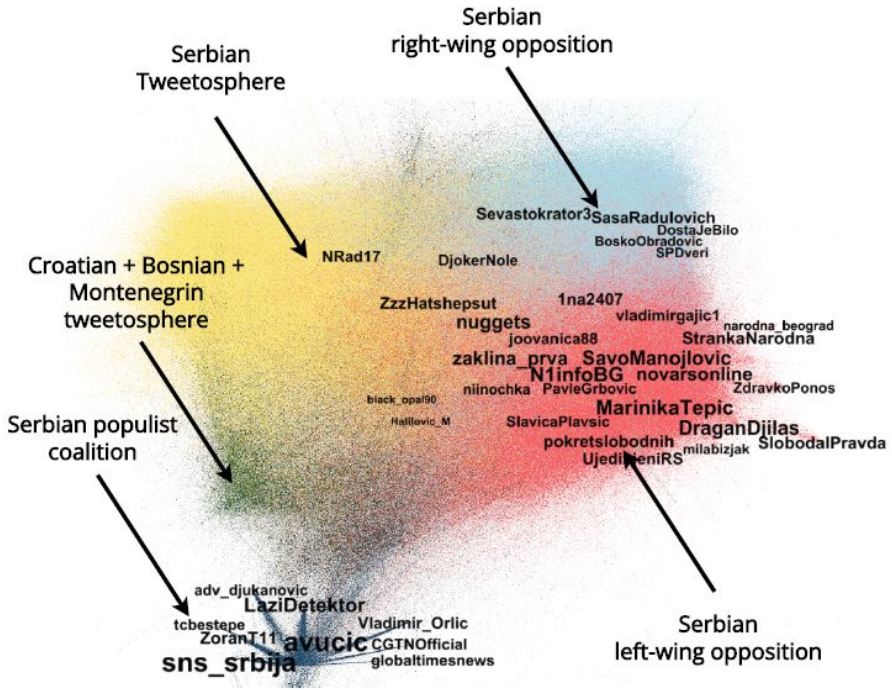
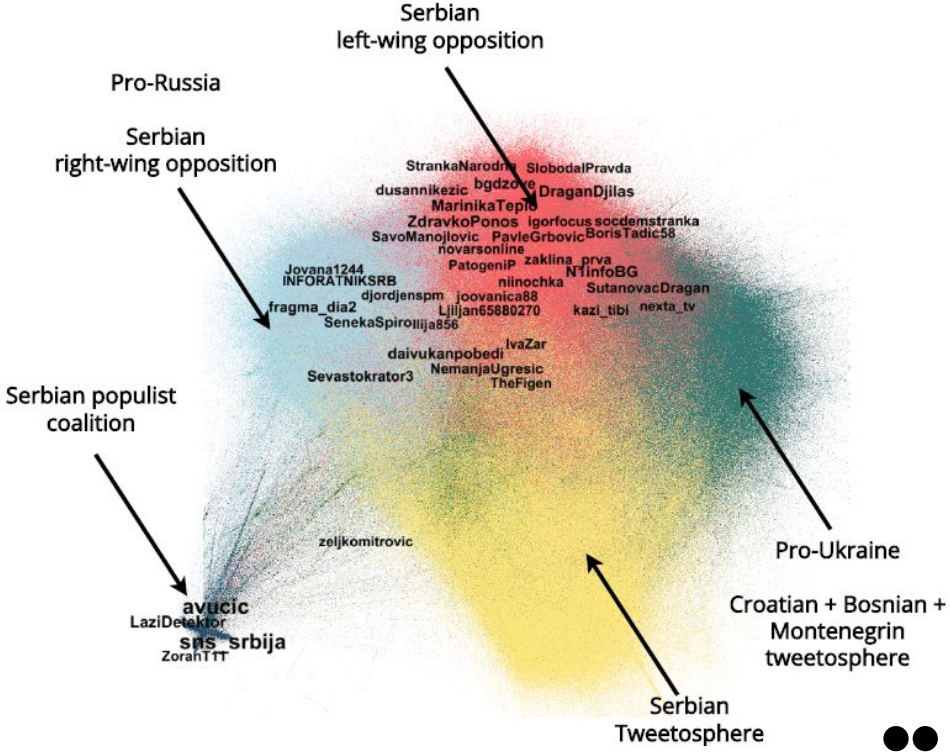
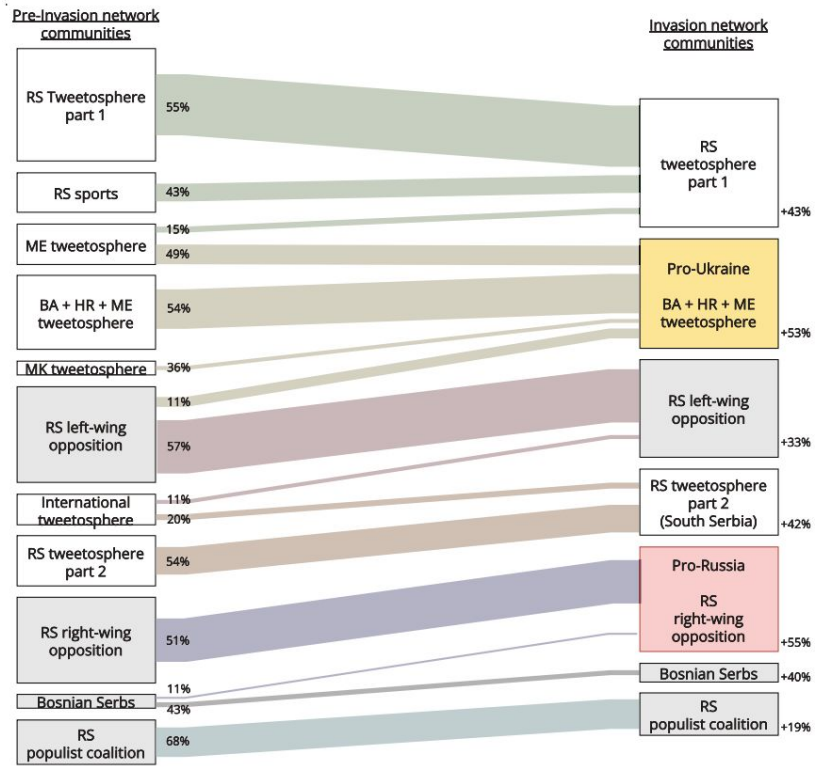
PRE-INVASION



INVASION



MATCHING COMMUNITIES



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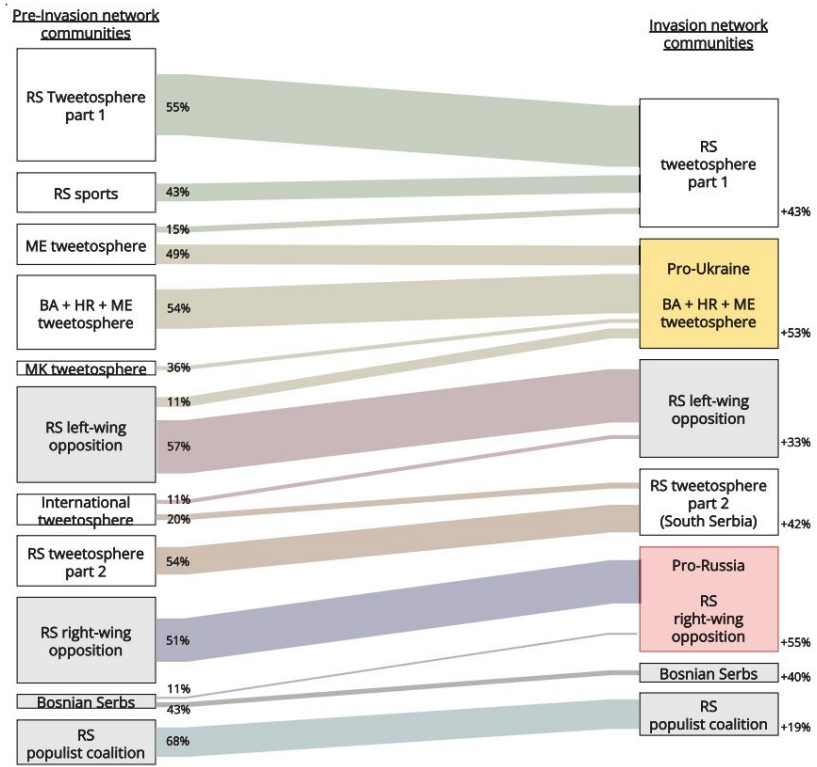
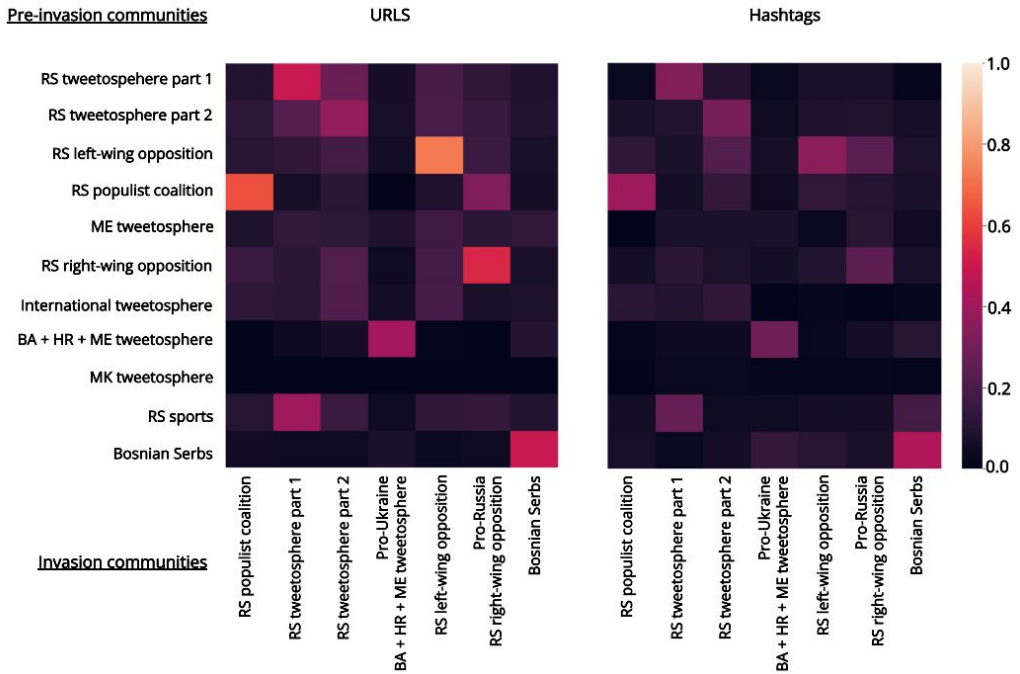
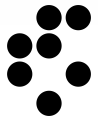


* Rank biased overlap

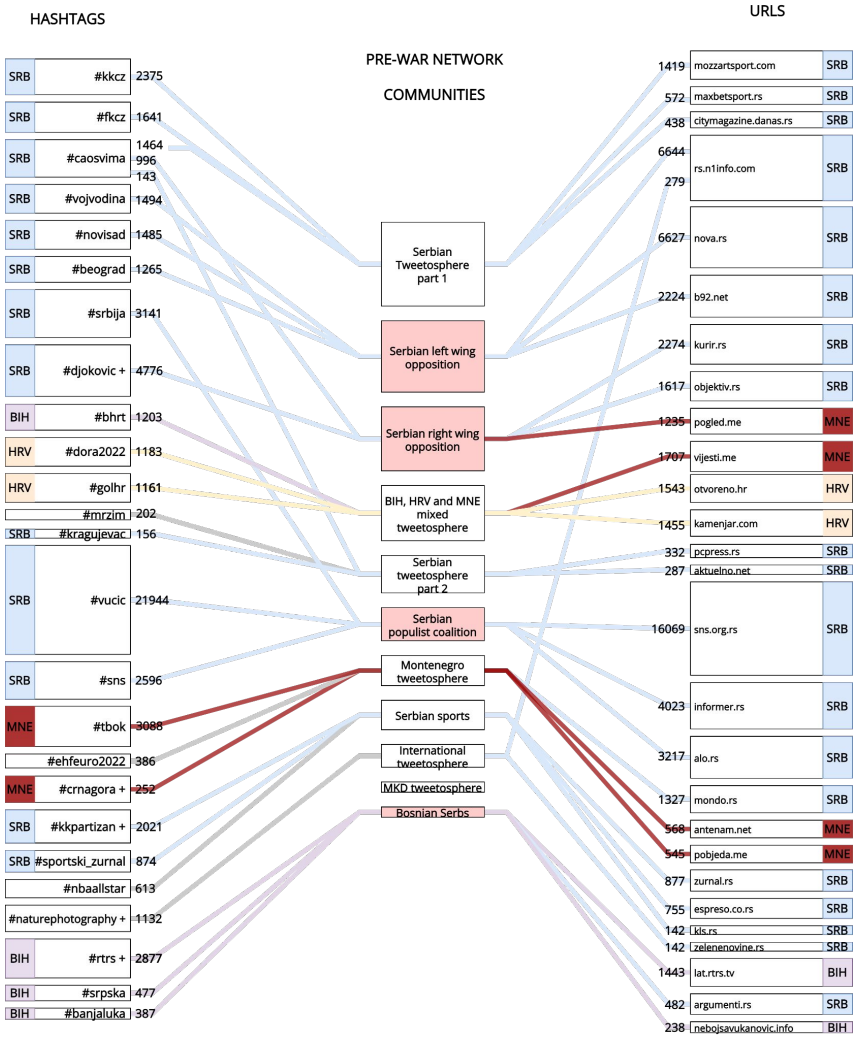


OBSERVATIONS

- The BCMS tweetosphere is dominated by SRB users and content (according to population)
- The purely political communities are more active than the rest (propaganda)
- The SRB Populist Coalition (Alexandar Vučić) creates a closed community 2% of all users, 25% of the content and 95% intra-community retweets (extreme echo-chamber)
- The SRB Populist Coalition and the SRB Left-wing Opposition remained Neutral regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine (big tent politics)
- The SRB Right-wing Opposition shows a clear Pro-Russia stance (anti-NATO)
- The CRO, BIH and MNE tweetospheres show Pro-Ukraine leaning (NATO)



FUTURE WORK


HASHTAGS
PRE-WAR NETWORK
COMMUNITIES
URLS
SRB #kkcz 2375
SRB #fkcz 1641
SRB #caosvima 1464
996
143
SRB #vojvodina 1494
SRB #novisad 1485
SRB #beograd 1265
SRB #srbija 3141
SRB #djokovic + 4776
BIH #bhrt 1203
HRV #dora2022 1183
HRV #golhr 1161
#mrzim 202
SRB #kragujevac 156
SRB #vucic 21944
SRB #sns 2596
MNE #tbok 3088
#ehfeuro2022 386
MNE #crnagora + 252
SRB #kkpartizan + 2021
SRB #sportski_zurnal 874
#nbaallstar 613
#naturephotography + 1132
BIH #rtrs + 2877
BIH #srpska 477
BIH #banjaluka 387
Serbian Tweetosphere part 1
Serbian left wing opposition
Serbian right wing opposition
BIH, HRV and MNE mixed tweetosphere
Serbian tweetosphere part 2
Serbian populist coalition
Montenegro tweetosphere
Serbian sports
International tweetosphere
MKD tweetosphere
Bosnian Serbs
1419 mozzartsport.com SRB
572 maxbetsport.rs SRB
438 citymagazine.danas.rs SRB
6644
279 rs.n1info.com SRB
6627 nova.rs SRB
2224 b92.net SRB
2274 kurir.rs SRB
1617 objektiv.rs SRB
1235 pogled.me MNE
1707 vijesti.me MNE
1543 otvoreno.hr HRV
1455 kamenjar.com HRV
332 pcpress.rs SRB
287 aktuelno.net SRB
16069 sns.org.rs SRB
4023 informer.rs SRB
3217 alo.rs SRB
1327 mondo.rs SRB
568 antenam.net MNE
545 pobjeda.me MNE
877 zurnal.rs SRB
755 espreso.co.rs SRB
142 kis.rs SRB
142 zelenenovine.rs SRB
1443 lat.rtrs.tv BIH
482 argumenti.rs SRB
238 nebojsavukanovic.info BIH

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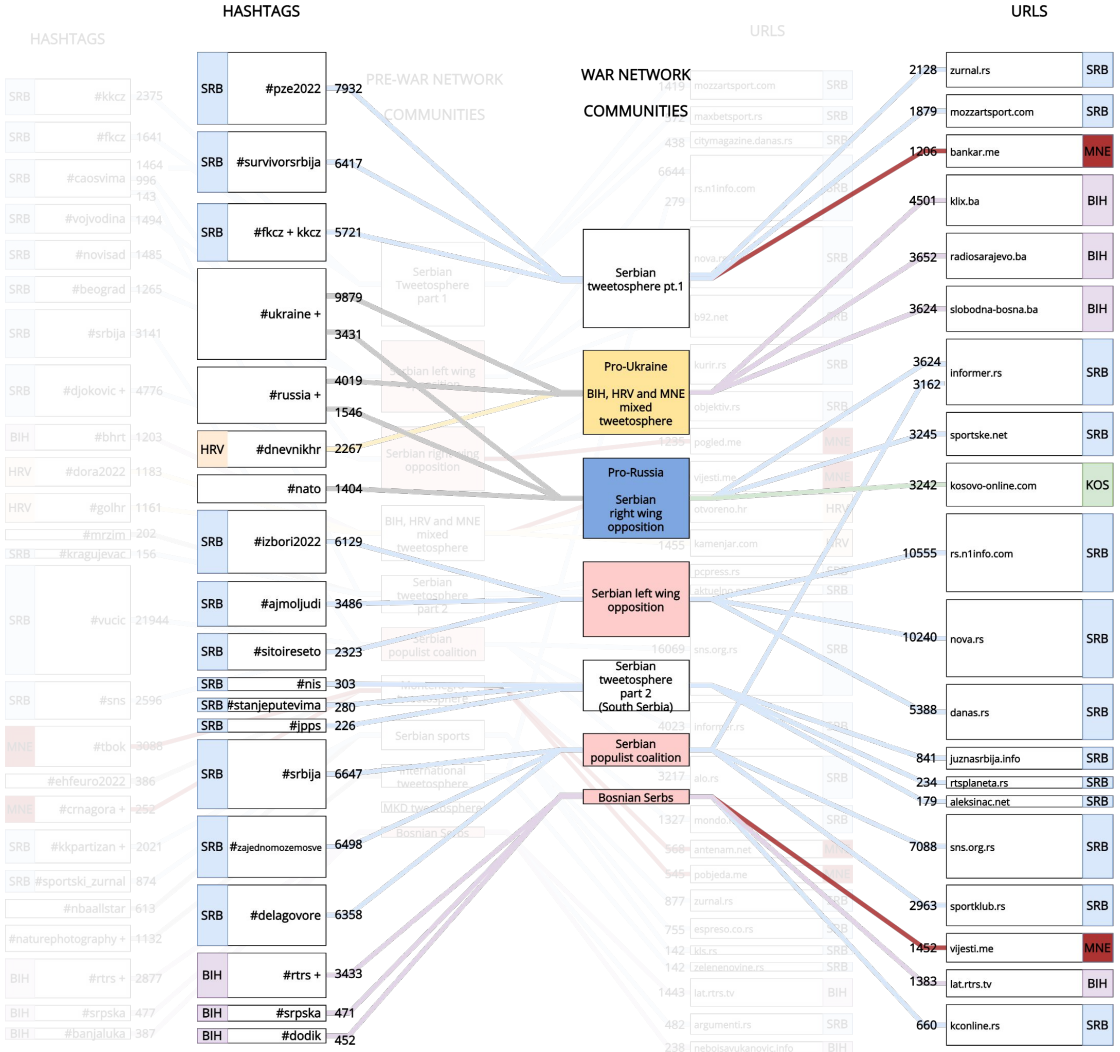
HASHTAGS
URLS
WAR NETWORK
COMMUNITIES
SRB #pze2022 7932
SRB #survivorsrbija 6417
SRB #fkcz + kkcz 5721
#ukraine + 9879
3431
#russia + 4019
1546
HRV #dnevnikhr 2267
#nato 1404
SRB #izbori2022 6129
SRB #ajmoljudi 3486
SRB #sitoireseto 2323
SRB #nis 303
SRB #stanjeputevima 280
SRB #jpps 226
SRB #srbija 6647
SRB #zajednomozemosve 6498
SRB #delagovore 6358
BIH #rtrs + 3433
BIH #srpska 471
BIH #dodik 452
Serbian tweetosphere pt.1
Pro-Ukraine BIH, HRV and MNE mixed tweetosphere
Pro-Russia Serbian right wing opposition
Serbian left wing opposition
Serbian tweetosphere part 2 (South Serbia)
Serbian populist coalition
Bosnian Serbs
2128 zurnal.rs SRB
1879 mozzartsport.com SRB
1206 bankar.me MNE
4501 klix.ba BIH
3652 radiosarajevo.ba BIH
3624 slobodna-bosna.ba BIH
3624 informer.rs SRB
3162
3245 sportske.net SRB
3242 kosovo-online.com KOS
10555 rs.n1info.com SRB
10240 nova.rs SRB
5388 danas.rs SRB
841 juznasrbija.info SRB
234 rtsplaneta.rs SRB
179 aleksinac.net SRB
7088 sns.org.rs SRB
2963 sportklub.rs SRB
1452 vijesti.me MNE
1383 lat.rtrs.tv BIH
660 kconline.rs SRB

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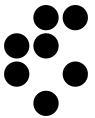
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