

Racial Identity Claims in the #TrudeauMustGo Data

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Abstract

To better understand racial identity claims animating Canadian politics, this paper examines Twitter user activity and bio descriptions from two episodes in the lengthy history of #TrudeauMustGo. The first sample is drawn from 643,669 Tweets gathered between August 29 and October 22, 2019 using the Twitter Search API during the Canadian election campaign. The second sample is drawn from 249,046 Tweets gathered via the commercial data provider Meltwater between June 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025. The results of inductive qualitative and mixed methods research are presented through the lens of a machine-learning (ML) model based on 3.7 million labels applied to political Twitter user bios over five years. The core ML model is a binary: "Promoting Trump" versus "Not Promoting Trump" first developed using Canadian election Twitter data in 2019. The model was refined over subsequent United States and Canadian elections, related protest movements, numerous QAnon election interference episodes, as well as the yearlong insurrection activation exercises online leading to the offline events of January 6, 2021. Among the striking features of the fall 2019 Canadian election data were the numerous purported American users, tactically sophisticated trolls, including the most well-versed early adopter QAnon devotees, as well as a significant cohort of probable bots and troll-bot hybrids. Frequently these Twitter account holders were presented as supporters of President Donald Trump with an unusually strong interest in Canadian politics. Twitter was home to an Alternate Reality Game (ARG) in which a transnational Christian white nationalist movement sought to "Make Canada Great Again" by adapting #MAGA ("Make America Great Again") into #MCGA.

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Introduction

#TrudeauMustGo was thought to have emerged on Twitter in July, 2019 during the run up to the October 21, 2019 Canadian election (Orr, 2019). Twitter's advanced search shows the hashtag not only appeared throughout the entire year of 2019, but significant remnants persist from at least as far back as January 12, 2016.² The TrudeauMustGo hashtag can be found consistently, month-by-month, between January 2016 and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's January 6, 2025 resignation announcement.³ This is unusual staying power even for a catchy Twitter hashtag. It is partially explained by Trudeau's nearly 10 years in office as Prime Minister of Canada, or perhaps by the collective memory of the extended tenure of his father in that role.

This paper explores whether racial identity claims played any role in the formation of political sentiment during two episodes in the promulgation of the TrudeauMustGo hashtag on Twitter. The account home page for the anonymous author of the oldest surviving #TrudeauMustGo Tweet, @riwired, presents some of the most salient features found in numerous other digital artifacts documented in this paper (Figure 1). These include a Twitter username consisting only of a political hashtag and a series of emoji, 619,900 posts since 2019, multiple references to leaving the Democrats or progressive movement including the now defunct, up-for-sale URL "DemExit.com," and the crucial "America First" Christian white nationalist identity claim appearing first in what is presented as a Twitter user bio for a user in the United States.



Figure 1: Author of the First Known #TrudeaMustGo Tweet in January 2016

² See <https://x.com/riwired/status/687026422439739392>

³ See <https://x.com/search-advanced>

The "@rewired" account was responsible for roughly 104 posts per day over 5,914 days. Whether this particular "#ExDemocrat" is an active citizen, political bot, foreign intelligence service troll, or a hybrid digital warfare entity is unknown and likely unknowable. Hundreds of thousands of similar accounts engage in hyperactive political networking, agenda-setting, and framing activity on Twitter. This #ExDemocrat claim points to an identity puzzle. When electoral politics fueled by a hashtag like #TrudeauMustGo emerge, persist over time, and go viral during critical historical junctures, can researchers isolate the ecosystem and historical factors responsible for that outcome? Can we determine both how this happens and whether it matters?

This paper looks for racial identity claims in two episodes of the #TrudeauMustGo hashtag. It focuses on the technical architecture and right-wing political ideologies critical to ensuring that the hashtag endured over time. Despite diverse rigorous academic efforts since its founding in late 2006, Twitter effects are not generally amenable to parsimonious explanations. There are many co-occurring, overlapping, reinforcing, and reflexive phenomena at work. These include but are not limited to the clever, sticky nature of the rhyming meme #TrudeauMustGo and the increasing reliance of journalists over time on Twitter as an agenda-setting mechanism.

The #TrudeauMustGo datasets provide evidence of election interference in individual and aggregate Tweet metadata and content. These data include time signatures, influence metrics, suspension rates, and mobilization oriented user bios, as well as patterns of regular association leaving network roadmaps, rhetorical confluence, co-occurring hashtags, innovative grassroots strategy, gamification, copycat behavior, and persistent conflict generation or maintenance over time. In the cauldron of Internet effects, there is a record of the digital ingredients, relative portions, and signs of well-informed chefs in the kitchen keeping the pot simmering. This was sustained, globally distributed, digital soldier warfare. It stuffed minds rather than ballot boxes.

Concerns and Doubts about Foreign Election Interference

There are many reasons to worry about foreign election interference and to look at Canada for evidence (Louden & Frank, 2024). Efforts to unduly or illegally influence elections predate the Internet and electricity. There has been considerable scholarly effort leveraging Tweet and user account metadata to test hypotheses about authentic versus troll and bot behavior (Hanouna et al., 2019). Both the Russian and Chinese governments have taken active roles engineering public opinion online to achieve political goals in Canada (Au-Yeung & Tagirova, 2024). For example, "Commissioner Hogue's Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions...unequivocally identifies the PRC as the 'most active perpetrator' of foreign interference in Canada" (Garon et al., 2025, p.6). Persistent foreign election information operations conducted via Twitter or YouTube and featuring hashtag strategies are now a decade old (Hodson & Petersen, 2019; Spann et al., 2020). Russian and Iranian trolls were active in the 2015 Canadian election (Al-Rawi, 2021). In response to persistent cyber threats, Canada has developed an extensive cyber defensive infrastructure (Tuttle, 2019; West, 2021).

Researchers admit to numerous challenges in the detection, validation, and management of these potential digital threats. Even much vaunted artificial intelligence (AI) is unlikely to provide a simple solution; it may only exacerbate a complex threat landscape (Cartwright et al., 2019, 2022). Brace yourself for AI-enhanced political bots and Grok-like anti-Semetic policy pronouncements. Digital election interference matters when it obstructs participation, impairs deliberation, and undermines the legitimacy of democratic institutions (Tenove et al., 2018). When social media posts and populist leaders dwell on "fake news" it unsettles and polarizes citizens (Al-Rawi & Prithipaul, 2023). Canadians now consume social media content and traditional news where spotlight can be driven by social media analytics (McKelvey et al., 2022). News consumers increasingly seek out "information more aligned with their biases" (Kobellarz et al., 2022, p.25). Automated and manual hunting for definitively inauthentic behavior and coordinated interference often comes up short (Bridgman et al., 2020). Cautious and thorough scholars nonetheless will admit that misinformation "existed on all social media platforms examined and across all communities followed" (Bridgman et al., 2022, p.3).

The TrudeauMustGo hashtag counts as election interference if it impaired deliberation and undermined democratic legitimacy. Whereas some researchers find "information presented to citizens regarding foreign interference is seldom objectively factual or well-supported by concrete evidence," (Bordeleau & Garnett, 2024) this paper emerged inductively from close examination of Twitter data at scale. One feature of the inductive qualitative method is *a series of unexpected discoveries*. The role of "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) Americans closely following and engaging with Canadian politics stood out in August 2019, months before an election, as did Canadian user bios with #MCGA adjacent to pro-Trump themes.

There is concrete evidence in the #TrudeauMustGo data of QAnon myth making, Russia-aligned propagandists, systemic misinformation, and wide ranging crowd source conspiracy theories. Gamified virality on Twitter and the persistent demand for open-ended political story-telling empowered citizens, trolls, and bots alike. With a few important keywords, or a single click on a hashtag, the process of finding, following, and leading others down the conspiracy rabbit hole begins. For example, if you saw and then followed a curious user bio with QAnon visual symbols and #WWG1WGA in the text, the fellow travelers of these information warfare operators were presented immediately as a result of Twitter's "You might like" algorithm. The referral architecture of Twitter accelerates these connections, promotes established influencer reach, and rewards the application of gamification to propaganda campaigns.⁴

Users were immersed in a flexible, online narrative game. It was straightforward to join in, yet also a puzzle with no clear solutions. The game was ideologically expansive, but only for those on the political right and far right or outside party politics. Play was open-ended, addictive, and there were no apparent rules. It was never explicitly called a game though there were many allusions to solving a puzzle. The early adopters seemed to know more than they should have.

⁴ "Onboarding QAnon ARG Players" <https://youtu.be/s2yzJX8D3QQ>.

Skeptical Russia-aligned scholars and media personalities challenge the core premise of election interference claims as well as the broader concept of real world Twitter-effects. Invoking Russian self defense in response to aggressive Canadian actions, one scholar concludes “evidence brought out in the media indicated that election-meddling never moved from a potentiality to an actuality” (Tsurkan, 2020, p.61). Whether academic Russophiles will admit it, a wide variety of pro-Russian Twitter accounts have, at least before the Elon Musk era, faced suspension by Twitter for election-related violations of the Terms of Service. It is farcical for the current pro-Russian Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, to curry favor by conflating true findings of influence operations with false claims about Democrats rigging elections.

Recent experiments indicate a precipitous drop in QAnon suspensions under Musk's management (Shulman, 2024). In late 2019, Twitter's Trust and Safety team claimed election interference in the #TrudeauMustGo data was being effectively managed (Rocha, 2019). However, by July 2020, the Trust and Safety team started publicly announcing large scale QAnon-specific election interference account suspensions to dampen some of the worst effects of open information warfare (Shulman, 2020). Twitter reported that more than 1.4 billion users may have "engaged" with Russian government propaganda via Twitter, including significant clusters of the MAGA faithful users at least claiming to be in the United States and their like minded Canadian opponents of Prime Minister Trudeau (Wang et al., 2020).

The discovery of self-identified MAGA Americans with a keen interest in Canadian politics was jarring. Canadian elections and politics are rarely discussed in the United States press, though various trade wars or deals over time disrupt that to a degree. Inductive research on October 3, 2019 surfaced one or more of the terms MAGA, KAG ("Keep America Great"), Trump2020, WWG1WGA, QAnon, or GreatAwakening in 90% of the 672 unique user bios of accounts that were posting more than 100 times per day, including in the #TrudeauMustGo dataset. Who were these thematically coherent and prolific hard core MAGA supporters targeting Prime Minister Trudeau and following the Canadian election? Why were these accounts so expert in QAnon storytelling even to the point of making it a part of their own Twitter bio identity claim?

The list in Figure 2 is direct evidence of 2019 Canadian election interference by a prolific core of digital soldiers united by the belief systems of gun-toting, Christian nationalist, US flag-waving MAGA warriors. While they are not all digital soldiers under the QAnon banner, these 100+ post per day accounts included some accounts with greater than 500 posts per day. The user bios read like a random word generator at a Trump rally. When they do appear, the digital soldier or warrior identity claims are not casual or covert. There was an explicit awareness that the platform was a mobilization weapon in a wider arsenal of influence strategies. For example, the "Trump Train" (often depicted in bios with 🚂) was a method of tagging 30-49 other Twitter users without using limited character space. The results were compounding notifications as tagged users further engaged with content generating still more notifications.



Figure 2: Partial List of >100 Tweet Per Day Account Bios in the #TrudeauMustGo Data

The full set of 672 "100 Tweet per day" user bios is a uniquely coherent list of the most common terms. Compared to a generic "Trump" or "Trudeau" dataset of Twitter bios, these 100+ Tweet per day accounts skewed singularly to the U.S. political right with no signs of the domestic "resistance" or general opposition to the MAGA movement. Racial identity claims *are not present* in this subset of user bios. The uniformity of this list is difficult to reproduce in other contentious political datasets where progressive-left activists have their own 100+ per day users, trolls, and bots. Why did #WWG1WGA and related QAnon buzzwords (Figure 3) show up both in the user bios and Tweet content associated with these hyperactive #TrudeauMustGo accounts?

Term	Count	📊
maga	611	
trump	226	
kag	204	
conservative	118	
love	116	
god	97	
trump2020	93	
wwg1wga	91	
2a	87	
president	80	

Figure 3: 10 Most Common Terms in the 100+ Tweet Per Day #TrudeauMustGo User Bios

This hot information war featured a vanguard of digital soldiers in late 2019. Subsequent research with 2.3 million previously collected December 1-12, 2017 "Flynn" Tweets showed how a core group of unusually well informed insiders, the founders of the QAnon story, laid out a long-term information warfare game played on Twitter. At the start of December 2017, QAnon

The 2019 Canadian election findings were the basis for an invited one-hour open source solo briefing via the Strategic Multilayer Assessment (SMA) February 12, 2020 titled "Hunting Bots and Trolls in a Game Environment." Our research related to hyperactive political account activity was presented to 62 members of the intelligence community of the United States and United Kingdom, including staff from the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Special Operations Command. This presentation took place during the first Trump presidency three days after QAnon's war game was described on the front page of the *New York Times*.

K	L	N	O	P
num_days	account_creation_date	statuses_per_day	followers_per_day	following_per_day
18	1/16/2020 14:37	1766.055556	25.72222222	0
427	12/2/2018 23:40	1190.187354	27.84543326	6.255269321
1508	12/18/2015 5:21	1095.263926	13.88395225	2.413793103
26	1/7/2020 23:21	1093.730769	253.7692308	278.3076923
82	11/13/2019 10:33	1067.207317	146.6463415	161.304878
716	2/17/2018 0:30	915.5405028	19.9650838	15.62430168
906	8/11/2017 1:11	892.102649	263.7196468	1.415011038
14	1/19/2020 21:22	783.9285714	149.6428571	150.2142857
12	1/22/2020 18:13	764.3333333	28.33333333	48.08333333
1664	7/15/2015 4:38	727.2800481	19.97115385	18.81370192
215	7/3/2019 4:57	717.7627907	18.87906977	15.86511628
19	1/14/2020 21:58	691	13.15789474	25.05263158
491	9/29/2018 23:11	660.5824847	49.56619145	48.97352342
117	10/9/2019 15:22	653.8119658	220.3247863	200.6239316

Figure 5: Sample Bot Defender Output Presented to the U.S./U.K Intelligence Community via the Strategic Multilayer Assessment February 12, 2020 ("Biden" Data)

The SMA presentation described how a core group of digital soldiers in the 2019 Canadian election and the 2020 U.S. primaries were weaponizing the Twitter platform at least as far back as 2015. Some of these accounts were sharing content from pro-Russian online news services "Veterans Today" and "Southfront" as part of the effort to defeat Prime Minister Trudeau. Online war game specialists, for example posts by now prominent agitator Charlie Kirk in the United States, dominated the viral "Biden" data in late 2019 leading into the 2020 primaries.

A globally distributed network consisting of some knowledgeable and many 'along for the ride' ARG players, went on to orchestrate or amplify numerous public campaigns to undermine candidate Joe Biden, the Democratic party, deliberation, and public confidence in election integrity. It was crowdsourcing gone wild. The digital infrastructure for a Trump-inspired offline insurrection on January 6, 2021 was built by strategically gamified citizen, bot, and troll accounts.

The ideological and logistical digital soldier groundwork online was well underway and open to public and intel community scrutiny at least one year before the offline J6 insurrection. In fact, the critical mass required to storm the Capitol required public calls to action urgent enough to draw an armed and dangerous mob. Militarized Oath Keepers and Proud Boys took key positions to incite violence, break police lines, enable unlawful entry to the Capitol, disrupt the certification of the election, and end the critical tradition of a peaceful transfer of power. This activity was not organized on the dark web; it lived, like #TrudeauMustGo, on public Twitter trains driven by Trump-aligned engineers.

A number of papers call into question the tendency of high-volume or highly networked accounts to be haphazardly classified as social bots. This idea is reasonable and caution is always necessary. There are cases of prolific or paid humans acting like bots. However, to argue that the data presented here is akin to "lazily assuming that they have to be either automated or paid for by some unknown sinister actor" (Gallwitz & Kreil, 2021, p.3) with social bot research maintaining "low scientific standards" (p.13) misreads the observable implications of these datasets. Dismissing the purported five weakest papers on the topic, as Gallwitz and Kreil do, does not disprove evidence of bot and troll activity in the #TrudeauMustGo data.

This snapshot of hyperactive account activity is a small part of a massive, multinational information warfare operation running continuously over years. This paper examines Twitter data samples to determine whether racial identity claims co-occur with the TrudeauMustGo hashtag. After the 2020 U.S. election, one study documented more than 350,000 account suspensions focusing on the "five sub-categories that are more likely to be enacted upon on election discussion: three from safety — (1) hateful conduct, (2) abuse/harassment, (3) terrorism/violent extremism; two from authenticity — (4) spamming, (5) civic integrity" (Chowdhury et al., 2022, p.2). Another research team expressed concerns that irregular access to data, tools, and the ground-truth makes the study of these data and replication "nearly impossible" going further to claim "there is no empirical evidence that automated accounts have had a massive, decisive impact on the formation of opinion, let alone election outcomes so far" (Bradshaw et al., 2022, pp.7-8). Looking for massive or decisive evidence obfuscates the relevance of multifaceted, purposively obscure activities that contribute to widely distributed agenda-setting, amplification, gamification, and framing effects (Dubois & McKelvey, 2019).

There is a more general problem of tracking murky identity claims and their impact on Twitter. The anonymous identity architecture of Twitter compounds the challenge of sorting out clear lines between purposive hostile actions by domestic or foreign actors and the free speech acts of authentic citizens. Canadians are regularly prompted by real friends as well as natural and manufactured foes to find irreparable faults with political opponents, especially new migrants (Datts, 2020). Canada is a nation of progressive immigration policies. Open nativism in response to Canadian migration policies frames the current discourse and "Twitter is increasingly used to engage and debate the boundaries of belonging" (Walsh, 2023, p. 2620). Race, ethnicity, and national identity are a political fulcrum where ideology often plays out in Tweets and user bios.

Canada is home to a global diaspora of migrants, including more than a half million who claim Russian ancestry. Foreign nationals with Canadian citizenship can and at times do play a legitimate if outsized role in party politics for the cost of a \$10-15 membership (Service, 2021). Canada is also becoming "a global hotspot for far-right online media" and according to Elmer and Burton "While Canada lacks the deep pockets of a Fox News or the upstart One America News Network (OANN), our research shows that far-right personalities and their media outlets in Canada — at least on popular Internet platforms such as Twitter — are reaching audiences almost as large as those of legacy broadcast news media such as the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC), CTV, and Global" (Elmer & Burton, 2022, p.2). The discourse around migration and refugee resettlement can be unsettling, deeply racist, and riven with anxiety on all sides (Walsh & Hill, 2023). It is little wonder President Trump's brand of migrant accusations ("they're rapists, they're murderers") resonates with like-minded Canadians. Against this fraught backdrop, amidst the hunt for bots and trolls, and with the real and manufactured fear of migrants to Canada looming over the epoch, we turn to look for racial identity claims in the data.

Overview of the Data, Tools, and Methods

Spurred by news reports in July and August of 2019, Canadian election Twitter data collection began with four queries on September 7, 2019 using the Search Application Programming Interface (API). By design, the free Twitter Search API access point was never meant to deliver 100% of all data responsive to a particular query. Some estimates are that as little as 5-10% of the "full firehose" of data came across the now defunct API. In the fall of 2019, there were four automated queries (Figure 6) running every 15 minutes over the collection period for the terms "trudeaumustgo" as well as the Twitter handles AndrewScheer (Conservative), JustinTrudeau (Liberal), and MaximeBernier (People's Party of Canada).

Archive Name	Created 	Units
 trudeaumustgo	09/07/2019 16:19	643,669
 AndrewScheer	09/07/2019 16:21	520,747
 JustinTrudeau	09/07/2019 16:27	970,240
 MaximeBernier	09/07/2019 16:28	664,183

Figure 6: Raw Data Returned by the Twitter Search API in 2019

The date signatures of the Tweets in the #TrudeauMustGo data stretch from August 29-October 22, 2019 and were distributed as follows (Figure 7).

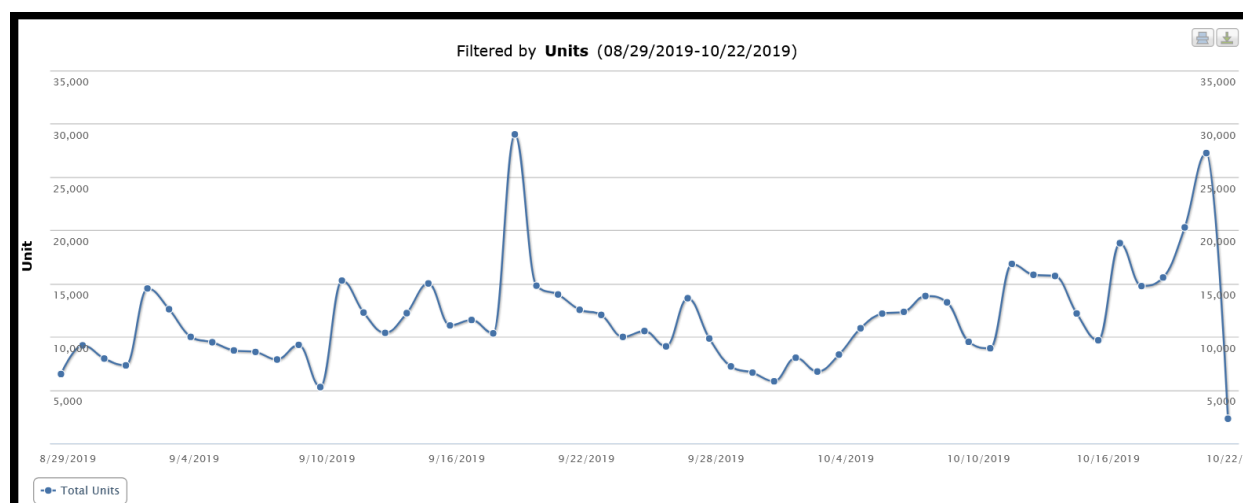


Figure 7: Distribution of #TrudeauMustGo Data Over Time

The top 10 most active accounts posted in just this #TrudeauMustGo dataset between 1,762 and 2,975 times over this roughly 55-day period. The most active account, @CanuckCookie, was suspended. The viewable remnants of this coincidentally 55 #TrudeauMustGo post per day user account provides a glimpse into one of the many possible automation strategies, though there is a possibility of this account being an active, mission-focused human user. Imagine an automated or semi-automated reTweet functionality that looks for posts (a) by certain users, (b) sharing particular keywords, and (c) requiring that every post have one or more emoji. What would that strategy look like whether the reTweet operations were produced by a human or a machine? In the case of the now suspended @CanuckCookie, it looked highly formulaic (Figure 8). Perhaps @CanuckCookie was not a bot, but the Trust & Safety team found some rule violation.

RT @Victoria59L: @WeAreCanProud .@CBCNews .@CBCAlerts .@CTVNationalNews .@680NEWS Hey MSM are you reporting on this ?! ?! ?! is waking up. #c...
RT @HaveWeAllGoneM1: We are more united than our current government would like us to believe 🇨🇦 #TrudeauMustGo #Scheer4PM #SaveCanada ❤️🇨🇦 ...
RT @anne_annemason: Such waste of tax dollars....ongoing spending habit shared with #TrudeauMustGo 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 #LiberalsMustGo #LiberalismIsAMen...
RT @HaveWeAllGoneM1: There is nothing the Liberal won't tax #TrudeauMustGo 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 #CPCMajority to #SaveCanada 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 https://t.co/bPF5VTJgl0
RT @Evenings_Star: Such a tragedy really. While Trump 🇺🇸 celebrates energy independence (MSM tries to destroy him), Trudeau 🇨🇦 shuts down...
RT @Lumberist: 🇨🇦 Election Poutine Update #7 🇨🇦 media = +1228 poutines (+500 poutines because nobody can google "Canadian Gun Laws" and b...
RT @polarbear66ca: JT runs a massive deficit: 🇨🇦 JT pays a terrorist: 🇨🇦 JT invites a terrorist to dinner: 🇨🇦 JT embarrasses Canada: 🇨🇦 JT viol...
RT @CindyLouAB: Truth in advertising is rare but occasionally the truth comes out. 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 . #TrudeauMustGo #TrudeauCorruption https://t.co/x...
RT @PugsleySiegel: On 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 today! #ThankYouForYourDonation #CostumesAndCanoes #TrudeauMustGo #BlackfaceTrudeau https://t.co/JOVtiHbAjd
RT @DonJuli49810164: 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 Wonderful! I feel the ghost of Mr. Fehir in the room! 🇨🇦 Oh and #TrudeauMustGo Oh and #FreeMrFehir https://t.co/...
RT @schtev69: 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 BREAKING:Canada to accept 100,000 Palestinians: Arab report "Canada would receive 100,000 Palestinians from Lebanon and...
RT @Herb71295950: 🇨🇦 Attention CANADA 🇨🇦 Are you aware We're paying \$932 INTEREST/sec. on our Debt Created & Thanks to @JustinTrudeau Can yo...
RT @mark_schmalz: This video needs to go VIRAL and needs to be posted daily on every Liberal Twitter account!! 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 #TrudeauMustGo https://t...
RT @CanadaAwaken: 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 OHHH, this is funny! #Trudeau has been caught with his hand in the racist cookie jar! Mr. virtue-signaller is not so...
RT @Lumberist: 🇨🇦 Election Poutine Update #9 🇨🇦 media = +1564 poutines (+100 poutines to liberal media for defending racism, +10 poutines...
RT @stibinski1: @JustinTrudeau You know what's tough? Living in Canada under your mutant Liberal government. 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 #TrudeauBlackface #T...
RT @DonJuli49810164: @KieserBill LOL! I wonder if tax payers are some how paying for the weekly colour changes on their signs? 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 #T...
RT @dkreative1: If we're lucky, maybe his canoe wading will be equivalent to PET's walk in the snow 🇨🇦 🇨🇦 #TrudeauMustGo https://t.co/ma6S6MOW...
RT @GuardCanada: 🇨🇦 I L E G A L GUNS 🇨🇦 G A N G MEMBERS & 🇨🇦 F A I L E D LIBERALS TRUDEAU will PUNISH LAW...

Figure 8: Sample of @CanuckCookie's Suspended Retweet Activity in the #TrudeauMustGo Data

The second most active account, "MsRoses" or @Blueyes9445 (Figure 9) is not suspended but has been relatively inactive since 2023, despite almost 800,000 posts since 2015, another Canadian election year. Work on the Bot/Trust Defender identified Twitter user bios with large numbers of hashtags as one feature in a model predicting suspicious activity. MsRoses is in that group of Twitter users whose bio is only hashtags. He/She/They/It also has almost 8,000 followers, but follows less than 5,000 accounts.



Figure 9: Live Bio Page for "MsRoses" Twitter Account

Although there are 643,669 Tweets in the 2019 collection, a search for #TrudeauMustGo in the body of the Tweet text returns only 310,549 Tweets. There are several Twitter API-specific reasons for this discrepancy, not all of them are fully understood. For example, the Search API returned 122,214 replies in the #TrudeauMustGo archive, but only 76,698 had the hashtag in the text of the reply. The Search API therefore returned 45,516 replies where the match appears somewhere earlier in the thread or elsewhere in the item metadata, for example in the user bio. This paper will focus on the subset of 310,549 Tweets with the hashtag in the Tweet text itself.

Twitter research abounds in these arbitrary choices. Researchers navigate the implications of data reduction strategies that can easily veer without rationale between excessive and too limited. In this instance, a variety of tools and strategies are critical to the research process. One is the duplicate and near-duplicate detection algorithm originally developed as part of research into public comments on proposed regulations in the United States (Yang et al., 2006). This approach was commercialized by the author as "DiscoverText" in 2009 specifically to help U.S. federal agencies meet a legal requirement to reliably sort through form letter campaigns to find rare but important submissions amidst the duplicates and near-duplicates (Shulman, 2007, 2009).

An unexpected use case arose when this same duplicate detection and clustering approach was applied to Tweets and Twitter bios. Duplicates in Tweet collections are the reTweets (RTs in the DiscoverText display). A list of the most viral Tweets and their respective counts based on the sample of 310,549 Tweets with #TrudeauMustGo in the text is shown in Figure 10.

2590	RT @ScottPresler: Trudeau must go. You have a chance to vote him out on Monday, October 21st. #TrudeauMustGo
2112	RT @ScottPresler: Tomorrow is Election Day in Canada. Please get out & vote for @AndrewScheer's Conservative Party. #TrudeauMustGo #elx...
2066	RT @WeAreCanProud: This video has over 4.5 million views on Facebook #elxn43 #cdnpoli #TrudeauMustGo https://t.co/n91jYbqag
1701	RT @Kris_Sacrebleu: Russia, if you're listening...we see you with your dumb #TrudeauMustGo hashtag Russia plans to unsettle, hobble every...
1356	RT @MichelleRempel: Millions to Omar Khadr: ✅ Healthcare for our soldiers: ❌ #TrudeauMustGo https://t.co/93udA2QTdl
1298	RT @rohanarezel: A university professor tracked down the origin of #TrudeauMustGo hashtag to a single US alt-right bot. US bots are doing...
1161	RT @ShiteGrampSays: I get emotional watching this. This is our country. #Scheer4PM #TrudeauMustGo #cdnpoli #elxn43 Please share this to e...
881	RT @denisebatters: Now THAT'S an outstanding front page... On October 21st, I'm voting out the #UltimateHypocrite. #TrudeauMustGo #Fake...
849	RT @DrJacobsRad: Twitter's head of site integrity confirms the #TrudeauMustGo hashtag is organic and not driven by bots! Spread the word a...
806	RT @ScottPresler: Get out & vote, Canada. #TrudeauMustGo #elxn43
661	RT @CTVNews: TRUTH TRACKER: Twitter says 'organic, authentic users' -- not bots -- are bringing #TrudeauMustGo to prominence https://t.co/K...
660	RT @Socialistssuck3: Great video calling out the imposter in chief. 🇺🇸 🇨🇦 #TrudeauMustGo #TrudeauCorruption #Scheer4PM #CPCMajority https://t...
632	RT @ElectTories: The video the leftist media and the Trudeau Liberals are trying to hide. #TrudeauMustGo #elxn43 #cdnpoli https://t.co/iF...
611	RT @ScottPresler: I just got interviewed at Reagan International by The Rebel Media. He liked my laptop. I told him #TrudeauMustGo https://t.co/...
583	RT @MGarneu: Breaking video released of #TrudeauBlackface singing Day-O. #ParodyCabinet #TrudeauMustGo #ChooseForward https://t.co/J1M1R...
565	RT @99freemind: I love the new Liberal Campaign song so much that I made a tribute video! #TrudeauMustGo #canadavotes2019 https://t.co/9Hs...
559	RT @DrJacobsRad: That's right. #TrudeauMustGo is trending because of Trump supporters. It couldn't be because Trudeau lied to Canadians,...
546	RT @WeAreCanProud: You won't see this on CBC 🔥 #elxn43 #cdnpoli #TrudeauMustGo https://t.co/MdQmXgCxrz
535	RT @scheer2019: This guy is literally incapable of answering a straight question. #cdnpoli #elxn43 #TrudeauWorstPM #TrudeauMustGo #ItsOurV...
508	RT @WeAreCanProud: That's a knockout punch 🥊 #elxn43 #cdnpoli #TrudeauMustGo https://t.co/HXXxx9U4dM

Figure 10: 20 Most Viral Tweets with #TrudeauMustGo in the Tweet Text

Duplicate detection in Twitter bios or Tweets enables purposive sampling with maximum heterogeneity within a specific corpus. For example, there are 2,521 Tweets with TrudeauMustGo in both the Tweet text and the user bio. However, there are only 55 unique or near-duplicate Twitter bios that fall into that subset. The top 20 most active account bios in this subset are shown in Figure 11 with frequency count to the left.

254	Libertarian #trudeaumustgo
247	Conservative #trudeaumustgo
240	Canadian 🇨🇦🇨🇦patriot. Q supporter. trump supporter. MAGA supporter. #trudeaumustgo
224	Started using twitter June 2019 motivated to speak up about the damage the Liberals have done. #trudeaumustgo
215	#trudeaumustgo
193	Started using twitter June 2019 motivated to speak up about the damage the Liberals have done. #trudeaumustgo. Sorry for any typos.
144	🇨🇦🇨🇦 Conservative to the core. Proud Canadian, wife, mom, nana, beancounter, public finance geek, in that order. On Oct 21 - #trudeau
107	Pro Oil Sands, Over taxed Conservative father, anti liberal & climate realist! #trudeaumustgo blocked by Butts! I ❤️ fossil fuels, defund the CBC 🇨🇦
87	I am not looking for followers...I rarely block people...and #trudeaumustgo
63	"all thy sons command" #trudeaumustgo
62	Fellow 🇺🇸🇨🇦🇨🇦 Patriots, just as 2016 was the most important US election, 10.22.19 is the single most important election for Canada 🇨🇦🇨🇦 #trudeaumustgo
59	If you support #max, don't follow me, you wont like what I say about him, Max is just another Trudeau type narcissist #trudeaumustgo
51	Looking at the world and not impressed I am also a semi professional race car driver and an amateur tattoo artist #trudeaumustgo
47	Wannabe travel enthusiast.Reader. Advocate of all things good. #MCGA 🇨🇦 #cdnpoli #trudeaumustgo #NoUNMigrationPact #TrudeauForTreason
45	Conservative Party, minimal gov, rule of law, economic freedom, free speech. Dog lover! #trudeaumustgo
39	Liberals destroying 🇨🇦🇨🇦🇨🇦🇨🇦🇨🇦 #trudeaumustgo
35	🇨🇦🇨🇦 #YYC #YEG #YMM #YLW #YPR #YQR #YXE #YVR #YYJ #YWG #YBG #alberta #cdnpoli #trudeaumustgo
29	Mother, Grandmother, Wife, UNAPOLOGETICALLY Conservative, Proud Albertan, I ❤️ 🇨🇦 Oil & Gas #trudeaumustgo
28	#trudeaumustgo when hell freezes over I will ice fish there too!! 🐟🐟
27	Avid Gaming Biker, Patriotic Canadian #trudeaumustgo

Figure 11: Top 20 Most Active Account Bios with TrudeauMustGo in the Tweet and the Bio (2019)

Figure 11 is a suspicious list. There is nothing at all unusual about using a popular hashtag in a Twitter user bio. When you post the same hashtag in Tweets as appears in your bio, that also is not particularly noteworthy. However, doing so 50, 100, or 200-plus times over a 55-day period starts to raise some questions. The big red flag in this list is the lack of capitalization in the hashtag itself. There is no capitalization of the hashtag in any of the bios that were simultaneously using the hashtag in their bio and also Tweeting the hashtag. That uniformity, which extends to all 55 cases, stands out when you review much longer lists of unique politically active bios from the 2019 Canadian election where #TrudeaMustGo appears in a user bio. There are two primary forms of capitalization. By far, the most common form both in Tweets and bios is to use title case, #TrudeauMustGo, and the less common form is all caps, #TRUDEAUMUSTGO. Figure 12 shows bios with the hashtag taken from a dataset of replies to Prime Minister Trudeau's Twitter account.

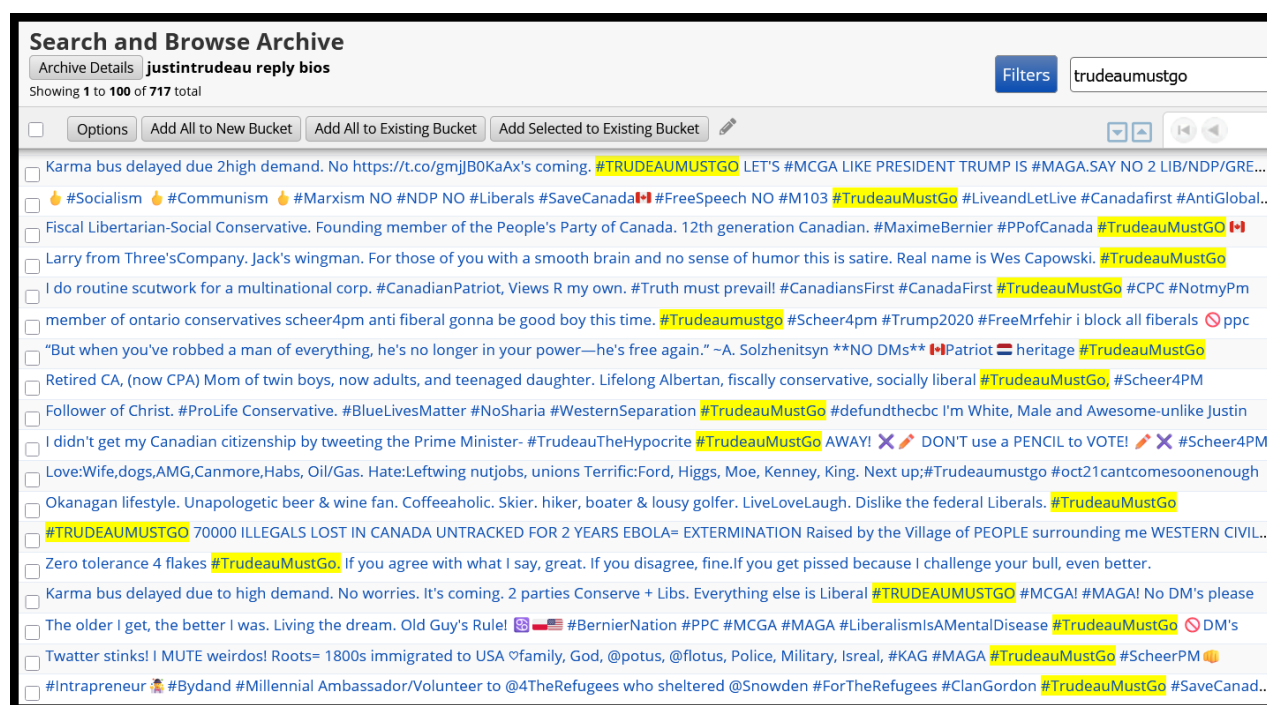


Figure 12: Typical Capitalization of the TrudeauMustGo Hashtag in Twitter Bios

What could explain the capitalization anomaly in the set of 55 user bios with the hashtag in both the bios and the Tweets? The most likely cause would be that one user, or one collaborative team, created and managed all the accounts responsible for the 55 instances of all lower case bio spelling #trudeaumustgo in an organized operation. Digital artifacts like these could also have multiple non-mutually exclusive explanations. If the strategic goal was to surface and spread the hashtag in a network, placing it both in the Tweets and user bios makes sense. Did dozens of users have this non-conformist capitalization idea independently? That is the other explanation.

The total number of unique Twitter bios responsible for the 310,549 Tweets is 28,122. A small percentage of these are the same user but they made one or more edits to their bio during the collection period. Another inductive strategy is to alphabetize the deduplicated user bios. Scrolling through long alphabetical lists of tens of thousands of Twitter user bios is fascinating and it surfaces categories of bio descriptions, such as the "quotation only," "hashtag(s) only," and "URL only," as well as combinations of these three. These bios are the most unlikely places to discover racial identity claims. There are bios that are only combinations of Twitter handles, emoji, and hashtags. There are 420 bios that start #MAGA. When #Christian appears first in the #TrudeauMustGo data, the universe of co-occurring terms is drawn almost entirely from the Trump/MAGA/QAnon lexicon (Figure 13).

#Christian #American #Conservative #Army #Veteran, daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandma, RN, seeker of truth. #Redpilled in 2016! #MAGA #1A #2A #ProLife
 #Christian #Catholic #ProLife #Republican #NRA #MAGA #KAG2020 #BanSharia #BLEXIT . #Prepping #C++ Python DM open
 #Christian #Catholic #Q HMa #MAGA #TRUMP2020 #Conservative #ProLife #JESUS #Draintheswamp #INGODWETRUST #PRAY4TRUMP #KAG #ISlandWithTrump #PLANNEDPARENTHOODDEVIL
 #Christian #CCOT #ProLife #defundPP #Patriot #2a #MAGA #KAG #WWG1WGA I'd do anything for my country 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 Parler @Linny17 #ISlandWithPresTrump
 #Christian #Chaldean for Trump 🇺🇸
 #Christian #Chaldean for Trump 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 IFB all Trump supporters
 #CHRISTIAN #CONSERVATIVE #AmericaFirst #MAGA #KAG #DEPLORABLES #BuildTheWall #TRUMP2020 #boycotthollywood
 #Christian #conservative #Canadian. #prolife #commonsense #jtnotmyprn
 #Christian #Conservative #Deplorable #Patriot #Entrepreneur #Husband #Father #Grandfather #USMC #Veteran #TRUMP #MAGA #CovFefe #AmericaFirst
 #Christian #Conservative #ProLife #MAGA #KAG #BuildTheWall #Trump2020 I am not on twitter for dates
 #CHRISTIAN #CONSERVATIVE #TRUMP #MAGA #DEPLORABLE #QANON #CCOT #TRUMPTRAIN #TWGRP #KAG #NRA #1A #2A #BUILDTHEWALL #PATRIOTS #ANTISOCIALISM #ANTICCP
 #Christian #Conservative #TRUMP2020 #MAGA #ProLife #Constitution #DrainTheSwamp #Patriot #DeathofaNation #BuildTheWall
 #Christian #Family #MAGA Happily married to a Godly man. Beautiful children and grandchildren. Proud to be a deplorable American. Love our President.
 #Christian #Husband #Father #Plumber #Owner #Golfier #MAGA #KAG #BuildTheWall #LockHerUp #AmericaFirst #DrainTheSwamp #CloserNation #Oregonian #FPVpilot
 #Christian #KJV1BookTheBibleTomorrow'sNewspaper 📖 #WWG1WGA #PROLIFE #WeAreOne_Q IFA #Patriots #🇺🇸🇺🇸
 #MAGA 🇺🇸 #KAG #Trump2020 #MGW #ISRAEL #NRA #QANON #WV
 #CHRISTIAN #LIBERTARIAN #MAGA #KAG #DREG #DEPLORABLE 🇺🇸 I follow back patriots. 📖 <https://t.co/MAD0x1Hr1...>
 #CHRISTIAN #LIBERTARIAN #MAGA #KAG #DREG #DEPLORABLE 🇺🇸 #TrumpWorldGroups I follow back patriots. 📖 <https://t.co/047ixVylmO>
 #Christian #MAGA #KAG #Trump2020 #ShutDownCNN #1A #2A * Parler 📖 @HateNewsCNN * I follow back * Political Threads Only
 #Christian #Married #Love Trump #MAGA #WWG1WGA #Support Gen Flynn #Conservative #Retired #Support our military #Build wall
 #Christian #ProLife #ISlandWithIsrael Nationally Syndicated 📖 Producer. My Thoughts Are My Own #MOAQNABE #TWGRP #MAGA Send Me News Tips
 #UnBEARables
 #Christian #ProLife #NRA #Conservative #Patriot #Veteran #AllInForTrump #Pedophobe #FollowedByGenFlynn #WhoKilledSeth Married InstaBlockLists, 🚫 Trains 🚫 DM
 #Christian #SatanistSuck #Patriot #MAGA #Conservative #Trump #Truth #Hillbilly #NRA #Qanon #Trumpville #TrumpTrain #Deplorable no lists
 #Christian #Trump2020 #TrumpTrain #2A #MAGA #KAG #QAnon #WWG1WGA #GreatAwakening #DrainTheSwamp #WalkAway @GenFlynn @DineshDSouza @realDonaldTrump @SaraCarterDC

Figure 13: Sample Alphabetized #Christian First in User Bios in the #TrudeauMustGo Data

There is also a cluster of 26 bios that start #Q or #QAnon (Figure 14). The ideological roadmap to these datasets includes constellations of thematically coherent co-occurrences, copycat and pre-planned strategies. For example, leading off a political Twitter bio with a key hashtag, or including specific emoji, makes the formation and growth of automated and manual influence operation networks easier. Do these users really think "Trump is Anointed [sic] by God" or that "Superman got nothing on Q"? It does not matter whether they do or do not in an ARG.

You can claim to believe anything, post or share anything, and assert any divinely-inspired mantle in your Twitter bio, including "#FreeFlynn. Getting Q'ed was one of the best days of my life!" For these digital pilgrims, invoking God, Trump, and Michael Flynn comes as easily as predicting the imminent #TheGreatAwakening, which has always been a placeholder for a violent Christian white nationalist uprising to "take back" the country. On J6, many believed they were agents of that awakening called by God, not the Russians, to storm the U.S. Capitol. Interpreting God's will is always a tricky business on the eve of battle. When a bio leads with #QAnon, the role for uncertainty about God's will is rather limited. Instead, the identity claims are rooted in trusting "the plan" that allows Trump and truth to prevail.

Figure 14: Sample #Q or #QAnon First in User Bios in the #TrudeauMustGo Data

#MAGA #KAG #WWG1WGA #2A #TRUEBORNSONOBLIBERTY Happily Married to my beautiful wife...no DM's please.

#MAGA #KAG #WWG1WGA #Qanon U.S. Navy vet 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

#MAGA #KAG #WWG1WGA 🇺🇸 Last account is locked and suspended by @ twitter NEVER LET THEM SILENCE YOU

#MAGA #KAG #WWG1WGA please no trains

#MAGA #KAG #WWG1WGA Strong Military 🇺🇸, Infrastructure 🚧, Economy on 🔥, and God Bless America 🇺🇸 #3Stars4GenFlynn

#MAGA #KAG2020 #Q #QAnon #WWG1WGA #1A #2A #GreatAwakening #Liberty #Freedom #StrongBorders #SupportOurTroops #BlueLivesMatter #ProLife #Yeshua Eph...

#MAGA #KAG2020 #WWG1WGA #America1st #PromisesMadePromisesKept #SaveTheChildren #LovePOTUSTrumpBestPresidentEver #Pro2ndA #ProLife #IFBPatriots

#maga #marine veteran #codeofvets #wwg1wga #NRA#Trump2020

#MAGA #QAnon #Trump2020 #WWG1WGA #KAG #KAG2020 #KAG45 #AmericanPatriot #ImBackBitches #A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes

#MAGA #QAnon #WWG1WGA #V4CR #2A #KAG #Trump2020 #draintheswamp

#MAGA #Texans #Rockets #Yankees #TrumpTrain #BuildTheWall #NoDaca #NoAmnesty #SecureTheBorder #MilitaryBrat #USAF #WWG1WGA #KAG #Trump2020 #Q #Na...

#MAGA #Texans #Rockets 🇺🇸 #Astros #Yankees #TrumpTrain #BuildTheWall #NoDaca #NoAmnesty #SecureTheBorder #MilitaryBrat #USAF #WWG1WGA #KAG #Trump20...

#MAGA #TheGreatAwakening #POTUS #QAnon #YellowVests #WWG1WGA

#MAGA #Trump #KAG #TRUMP2020 #PROLIFE #NRA #WWG1WGA #AmericaFirst #CCOT #CHRISTIAN #WWG1WGA #WalkAway IF i have not follow you please DM

#MAGA #Trump #Nexit #Brexit #1A #2A #NRA #WWG1WGA #QAnon love Europe, not EU-SSR #antiGlobalist #truthseeker I follow back all western patriots

#MAGA #TRUMP2020 #WWG1WGA #ConservativeChristian #TrustThePlan17 #FaithInGod Single,sporty50,Living in AUSTRIA(=DEEPSTATE-STRONGHOLD), ❤️ KAG-PATRIOTS...

#MAGA #TrumpisMyPresident #🇺🇸 #StandWithFlynn #VetsForChildRescue #v4cr #StandWithSawman #WWG1WGA #ForGodAndCountry

#MAGA #TrumpIsMyPresident #CommonCoreSucks #USA!! #WWG1WGA #WomenForTrump

#MAGA #TrumpWorld #KeepTexasRed #QRevolution #WWG1WGA #CruzCrew #KeepAmericaGreat #KAG2020 🇺🇸🇺🇸

#MAGA #WWG1WGA

Figure 15: Sample of Alphabetized User Bios with #WWG1WGA in the #TrudeauMustGo Data

These examples partially illustrate why the search for racial identity claims produce small numbers of examples when compared to the size of the full datasets. While political, conspiracy, and nationalist identity claims are relatively easy to find, this data is not replete with obvious patterns of racial identity claims. Indeed, they are scarce and in specific instances are not entirely convincing. There are also the "emoji first" bios, which are revealing when the emoji that comes first is a Canadian or United States flag (Figures 16 and 17).

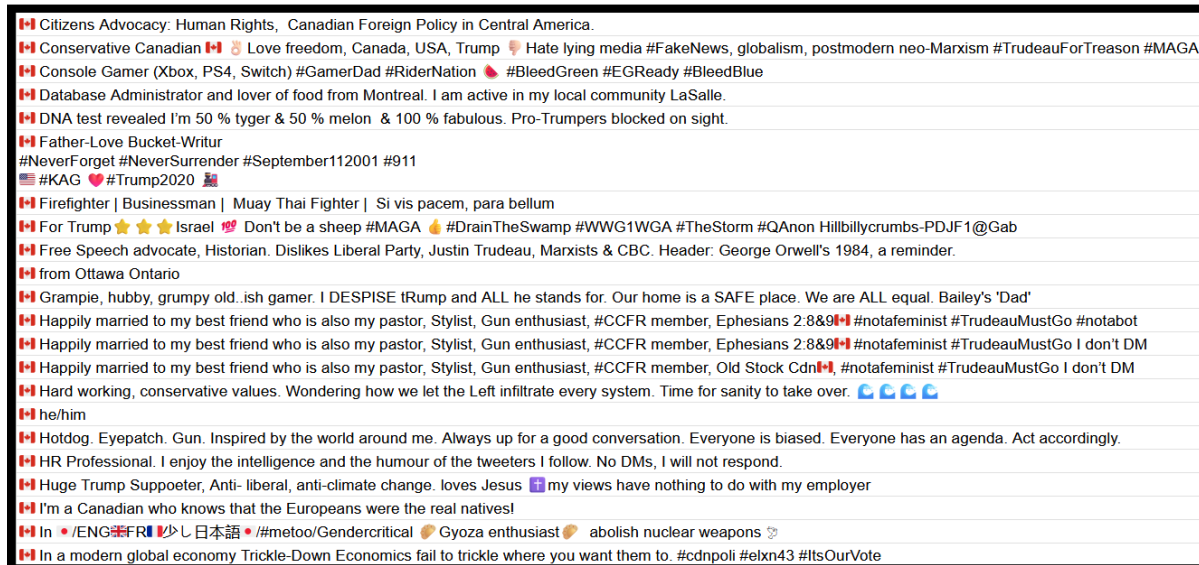


Figure 16: Sample of Alphabetized Canadian Flag First Bios

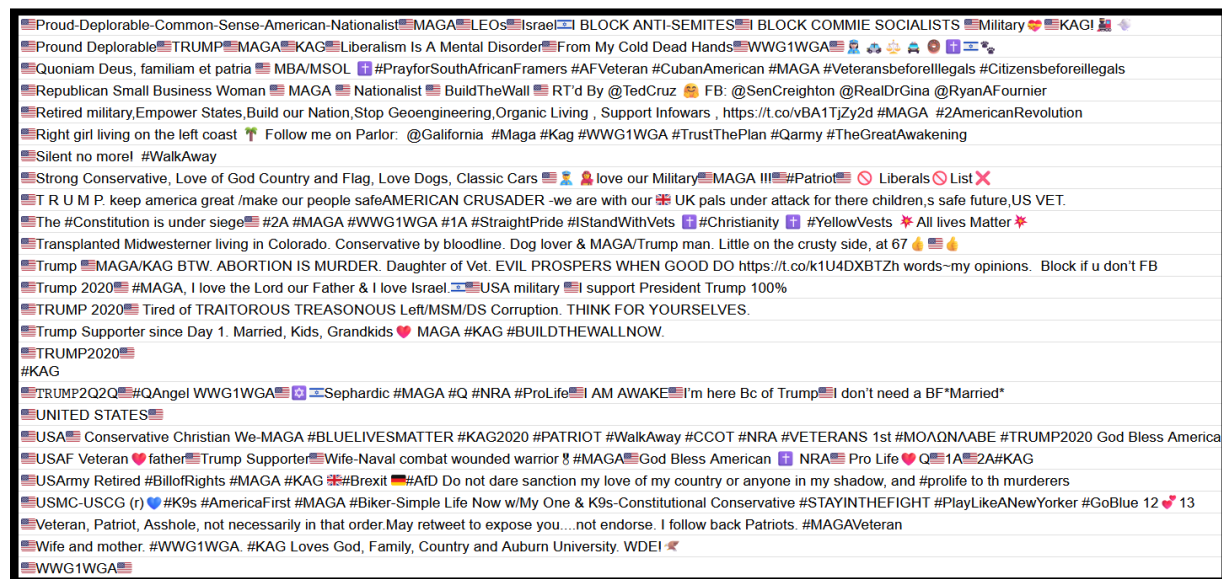


Figure 17: Sample of Alphabetized United States Flag First Bios

Over the last five years, a machine-learning model was created by labeling more than 3.7 million Twitter bios into the binary "Promoting Trump" versus "Not Promoting Trump" constituting the largest and most effective training set in the DiscoverText annotation platform. When applied to

the 28,122 #TrudeauMustGo bios, 10,922 (38.8%) were predicted to have a >90% likelihood of promoting Trump. Below is a sample of these likely Trump supporting bios (Figure 18) with screen highlights inductively developed to streamline accurate tagging of the data over time.



Figure 18: Sample of Bios in the #TrudeauMustGo Data Predicted to be Trump Supporters

In summary, the 2019 dataset consisting of 310,549 Tweets with #TrudeauMustGo in the Tweet text, produced by roughly 28,000 users over 55 days, represents a variety of authorship and amplification efforts by citizens, trolls, and bots. These data and inferences should be handled with care. The prevalence of the Trump/MAGA/QAnon nexus in the Canadian election of 2019 belies any notion there is no data to back the claim of foreign election interference. Any Twitter user in a bot or troll farm anywhere in the world can build a set of hashtag, emoji, nationality-driven identity claims under an anonymous account. We now turn to racial identity claims to assess whether they are similarly pervasive.

Racial Identity Claims in the #TrudeauMustGo Data

Racial identity claims and research observations are evolving ever further from historically racist constructs institutionalized as if they were black and white. Serious gaps often separate what is self claimed versus what is externally observed (Roth, 2018). Attempts to use science to sort out racial categories have a problematic history. Decades of debate permeated social and natural science about the proper role of older race classifications like Australoid, Caucasoid, Mongoloid, and Negroid (Aspinall, 2005). As Aspinall notes, more recent genetic research finds that diversity within racial categories and genetic homogeneity across categories makes race less viable as a medical predictor. Developers of facial recognition technologies nonetheless have sought greater precision and recall scores for automated race predictions (Ou et al., 2005).

Here the focus is colloquial racial identity claims in Twitter bios. These appear regularly in political Tweets and user bios. At critical historical junctures where race, ethnicity, class, and gender are contested, racial identity claims surface as central organizing principles. Consider the

As the top of this alphabetized list shows there are some bios featuring signs of resistance to white supremacy and more characteristic claims of white pride, resentment, or fear. At the bottom of the alphabetized list (Figure 21) there are signs of a somewhat infamous "notabot" operation, capturing the Zeitgeist, and only a small handful of bios that lead with the term white. For a mass movement of mostly white, often Christian nationalists gearing up to interfere with or overthrow democratic elections, the scarcity of racial identity claims presents another puzzle.

The **I**, great **white**, reclusive, mountain Yeti. Scandinavian, Patriot, Ex-Armored Corps, Oilfield Operator, Writer #MCGA, MAGA. #notAbot. Dark Humor & Sarcasm.

The **I**, great **white**, reclusive, northern mountain Yeti. Scandinavian, Patriot, #MAGA, #MCGA, EX-Military, Oil & Gas, Sarcastic. #TrudeauMustGO, #NotAbot.

The **I**, great **white**, reclusive, northern mountain Yeti. Scandinavian, Patriot, Ex-Armored Corps, Oilfield Operator, Writer #MCGA, MAGA. Dark Humor & Sarcasm.

The **I**, great **white**, reclusive, northern mountain Yeti. Scandinavian, Patriot, Ex-Military, Oil & Gas, Sarcastic. #MCGA, #MAGA, #notAbot, #TrudeauMustGO.

The **I**, great **white**, reclusive, northern mountain Yeti. Scandinavian, Patriot, x-Military, Oil & Gas, Sarcastic. #CapsFan, #MAGA, #MCGA, #NotAbot, #TrudeauMustGO.

The audacity of these liberal goons... expecting me to vote democrat because I'm not **white**. Texas native in Illinois wishing I was back in Texas.

There is an invasion of toxic **white**-superiority speech in politics and media manipulation out there.

This movement is dedicated to ending **White** Supremacy in society by systemically destroying **White** People because this is destiny. The Future is Brown.

Toxic **White** Male * Capitalism = Prosperity * Socialism = Government Terrorism * Islam = Religious Terrorism * #USA #Freedom #MAGA #NRA

Toxic **White** Male with a bit of Cree.

Trump USA and I'm a Irish immigrant don't call me a racist because I'm **white** because I'm not I love everybody happily married for 16 years so don't bother

TRUMP/PENCE/NRA/Free Speech/Pro Life/Let's MAGAIUSA FIRST/NO DACA/BUILD WALL/STAND FOR FLAG/BACK VETS -N- MEN IN BLUE 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 **WHITE** CHRISTIAN CRUSADER 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 LIST 🇺🇸 PORN!

TWEETS are my Own !! - PC Card Carrier; Caring for a Better Future for our Children. **WHITE** Nationalist, Fighting the Good Fight Against LPC.

Waiting for my **white** privilege to kick in. Don't diss the Donald.

What's to say ? #Christian, **White** , refuse to be ashamed to be either! if you are a delusional MSM believer do not follow! I seek #Truth,#Globalist Free Zone!

White cis Irish male living in Spain. Not a fan of cuturel marxism or the emerging EU super state. Diversity of opportunity trumps diversity of outcome.

white guy

white male, could be privileged... Hate me? couldn't care less.. 🍌

White male, single parent, fighting against the takeover of the UK by quislings, appeasers & fascist's, HMCA FBM AMW NFSE 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸

White man. Sinner saved by grace alone through faith alone.

White. Male. Christian. Conservative/Libertarian. Pretty much a walking stereotype. Electrical Engineer. My opinions are solely mine. RT 🇺🇸 endorsement.

Figure 21: Sample Racial Identity Claims in User Bios

Drilling into the "nationalist" subset (Figure 22) reveals more coherent racial identity themes.

🇺🇸 Patriot. **Nationalist**. America 1st. Europe Next + 1A/2A. Anti-Globalism: UN/EU/ZIONISM/COMMUNISM/ISLAM. Pro-**White** vs **White** Replacement-Destruction 🇸🇦 🇵🇸 what! 🇺🇸
 American & Canadian Patriot. #TrumpSupporter #KAG #Exmuslim. I am **#Nationalist** because I believe in the great #USA & btw I am **white** if that bugs u can't help u
 Anti-Zionist, Anti-Communist, Anti-Israel, Anti-War, Anti-Marxist, Anti-Globalist, Pagan, **Nationalist**. |20| Stop **white** guilt. Animal Lover
 Born March 17th 🍀 🇺🇸 PROUD **White Nationalist**! NO DMs unless I know you. 🇹🇷 TURDO 🇸🇦
 Canadian **Nationalist** that happens to be **white**. I like long walks off short peirs and "liberal tears".
 Canadian of 🇫🇷 origin, Quebecer, right wing activist, anti-globalist, Islamophobia, Catholic, pro-veteran, **nationalist**, pro-**white**. #PPC2019 #MaximeBernier
 Christian Conservative, Trump Supporter, ARMY Vet 71-73, Gun Lover, pro-Life, old **white** male. Democrats need not apply! #MAGA #KAG #NRA 1stA 2ndA **Nationalist**
 Classically liberal, moderate ethno-nationalist. At current immigration levels Canada will be less than 20% **white** by 2100.
 Guitar playing Infidel 🇸🇦 🇺🇸 🇸🇦 **White Nationalist** since 1966/liberals and globalists are destroying western civilization #MCGA #MAGA
 Half-Mexican, Half-**White Nationalist** (*HONK*) #USA #TRUMP2020 #MAGA #KAG #1A #2A #NRA #ArizonaNative #AntiSocialist #AntiMarxist #ChupaMiVergaCommie
 MAGA, collar greens ,cornbread, LIFE NRA deplorable, 🇺🇸, **WHITE**, proud of it, I ❤️ my country so that makes me a 🇸🇦 **NATIONALIST** IFB ProLife ROLL TIDE
 Not a **White Nationalist**, I'm a Nationalist...who happens to be **white** #MCGA #MAGA #MBGA
 Off **white nationalist** Climate Heretic. Fighting communists since 1935. Don't bring a keyboard to a gun fight.
 Off **white nationalist** Climate Heretic. Fighting communists since 1935. Dont bring a keyboard to a gun fight.
 Off **white nationalist** Climate Heretic. Communist cleanser. I pay taxes so people in third world countries may receive sex changes and diversity training.
 Old **white nationalist**, so far thanks to fossil fuels have made it to 79. Hoping to escape the coming mini ice-age. Keep your woollies handy
 TWEETS are my Own !! - PC Card Carrier; Caring for a Better Future for our Children. **WHITE Nationalist**, Fighting the Good Fight Against LPC.

Figure 22: Sample Nationalist Racial Identity Claims in User Bios

When proposing an APSA paper on racial identity claims, it had not occurred to me there might be so few obvious cases in a substantial sized dataset. Having found it much easier to locate the MAGA/Trump/QAnon adherents and the digital warrior vanguard, it remains to look for alternative ways to locate racial identity claims. For example, there are 281 instances of AmericaFirst or "America First," which invokes a history of militant white Christian nationalist resistance to non-whites and all so-called 'lesser' migrant peoples. A sample of the 281 alphabetized AmericaFirst bios in the #TrudeauMustGo (Figure 23) shows more evidence of coordinated election interference, hashtag-in-bio strategies, with more than a little MAGA, QAnon, and Flynn idolatry, amidst widespread copycat or planned strategic behavior.

Figure 23: Sample Alphabetized AmericaFirst or "America First" Bios

Taken together these examples suggest that a contingent of Twitter users in the fall of 2019 presented themselves as U.S. citizens, utilizing MAGA/Trump/QAnon themes, to influence or interfere with the Canadian election. Racial identity claims play almost no discernable role in the bio data. We cannot explain every instance, pattern, or absence in these data. It is unusual nonetheless to see nativist, immigrant-bashing, digital activists for Donald Trump paying sustained attention to Justin Trudeau and Canadian politics without going all in on their own racial identity claims.

The 2024-2025 #TrudeauMustGo Bios

Using the Meltwater Twitter/X access point, 249,046 Tweets produced by 179,917 user bios were responsive to the #TrudeauMustGo query. As was the case with the 2019 data, a search for Tweets with the hashtag in the text of the Tweet returned fewer items (187,527 Tweets from 133,586 user bios). Deduplication of the user bios produced a sample of 34,205 unique bios, including some near-duplicate variants based on change over time.

Term	Count	
canadian	2,480	
love	2,018	
conservative	1,849	
proud	1,835	
freedom	1,714	
dms	1,681	
canada	1,505	
maga	1,477	
truth	1,430	
life	1,369	

Figure 24: Top 10 Terms in 34,205 #TrudeauMustGo Bios in the 2024-2025 Data

The top 300 term list is once again a difficult place to find substantial numbers of racial identity claims, though it does seem a wee bit more Canadian than the equivalent 2019 list. Figure 24 shows the top 10 bio terms in the 2024-2025 data. As in 2019, "white" or "caucasian" returns a paltry number, just 195 bios from the sample of 35,205, whereas "pure blood" or pureblood returns 240. Manual coding found 132 instances of racial identity claims (Figure 25) in the set of 195 bios with "white" or "caucasian" in the text.

🇨🇦🇨🇦 I'M THE TOXIC WHITE HETEROSEXUAL CATHOLIC FREEDOM FIGHTER MALE CASTREAU WARNED YOU ABOUT! "ME SOOO HORNY!" ME LOVE YOU LONG TIME
🇺🇸 MAGA MOLON LABE LIFE NRA deplorable 🇺🇸, WHITE , proud of it, I ❤️ USA 🇺🇸 NATIONALIST 🇺🇸 ProLife ROLL TIDE GO BAMA SOCV NO DM's💙
PROUD Caucasian , Christian, Conservative, Committed, Conscientious CANADIAN. I despise Trudeau. I love n respect Poilievre, Trump , Putin, Smith,Carlson.
I'm Pretty Woke For A White Bloke... 😏
Salty Geezer. 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 Speaker of the Truth. God is my Pilot. 2 genders. Patriot, Christian, White , Straight, USA. Save the children 🇺🇸🇺🇸
Pro- White Canadian. #theynotlikeus
Freedom is not for free! Frieden, Mip, No Green Tyranny, White Man & German Patriot from Dresden: Gesund & munter, Gott schütze Victor Orban! God bless Nole!
Canadian Patriot. Faith. Family. Freedom. Proud to be a white male. IBEW 309a Electrician & Percussionist. #TrudeauMustGo
Wide awake - Non Vaxxed Caucasian . Enjoy sharing Missed Information.
Proud white female anti-vaxxer. Contagion is a myth. We have a constitution, so use it.
Standard white male. 🇨🇦 Husband Father no DMs 🇺🇸🇺🇸
🇨🇦freedom loving christian, libertarian/conservative, white /Métis, lesbian, nationalist woman. I don't do boxes. Canadian and US politics
WHITE AND PROUD OF IT SICK OF IMMIGRATION
Trump won🇺🇸2A Pure 🇺🇸🇺🇸 #TRUMP2024 0 White Guilt #NeverGavForPOTUS Non Bidenary Drill Baby Drill! Please 🇺🇸🇺🇸 Follow my b/u @StormyBotK 🇺🇸🇺🇸 Fraudci is a murderer🇺🇸🇺🇸
Straight. White . Male. #FIFO Fit In or Fuck Off.
White - Straight- Anglo & proud,and not going anywhere. 35 years in aviation,and only one UFO WTH.
A senile traitorous corrupt racist old white man received 12m more votes than Obama when Trump 's share of the Hispanic/Black vote increased? No tweets = block
🇺🇸 Conservative Proud to be white 🇺🇸🇺🇸
Make Australia great again. I identify as a White Anglo Saxon Protestant. No to chicks with dicks. Wake up Australia before it's too late.

Figure 25: Sample Racial Identity Claims in 132 Bios of 2024-2025 #TrudeauMustGo Tweets

Within the 132 racial identity claims, the top bigrams (Figure 26) were tied to sexual orientation and religion.

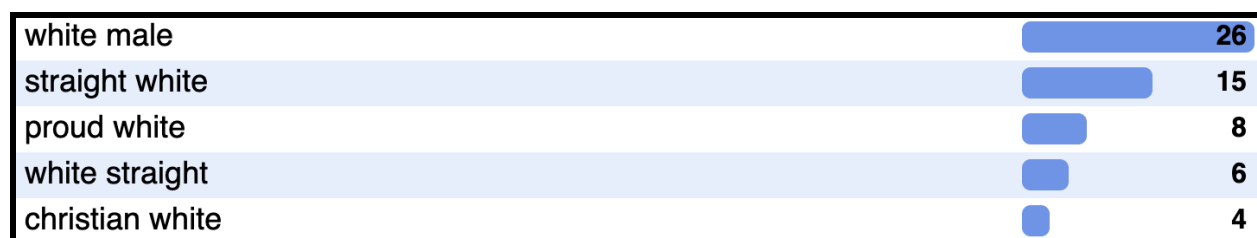


Figure 26: Top "White" Racial and Religious Identity Claim Bigrams

While there are still several terms on the full list associated with support for Trump and MAGA, the presence is noticeably less dominant and the QAnon symbolism in the 2024-2025 user bios is greatly diminished. The #WWG1WGA bios number just 76. The term co-occurs in the text of a Tweet only 15 times in the set of 187,527 Tweets with #TrudeauMustGo. In this set, the simultaneous presence of #TrudeauMustGo in the Tweet and the user bio accounted for just 377 Tweets and there was, curiously enough, another identical hashtag capitalization anomaly (Figure 27) in this set matching the observation in the 2019 data.

42	Retired-Constable, Teacher, Programmer, Pilot CCFR supporter. 🇨🇦🇺🇸 #StopC21 DONT WASTE YOUR VOTE ON PPC! UNITE THROUGH CPC 🇨🇦 #trudeaumustgo
35	🇨🇦 small business owner#freedom of choice #trudeaumustgo #waking-people-up ;sharing real world news;exposing the truths
30	#trudeaumustgo has divided this country, the truckers united it!
26	Free thinking, a wolf amongst the sheep...🇨🇦 Currently supervised, 1/2 Fletcher 1/2 Freeman that's all you need to know. I'll go down swinging!! #trud
17	my dog, my wife, common sense! #trudeaumustgo #pierreform #killallpedophiles 🇨🇦
15	Sorry, not sorry. 6th account. I will try better. Retired CdnForces. #trudeaumustgo and Freeland is still a C word. #PoilievreForPM. I like #Trump.
12	#trudeaufailedcanada #trudeaumustgo #fuckyoujustin
12	🇨🇦#trudeaumustgo #trudeaufortreason freedom loving christian, libertarian/conservative, white/Métis, lesbian, nationalist, woman. I don't do boxes.
11	Retired-Constable, teacher, programmer., Pilot -CCFR supporter #Stopc21 DONT WASTE YOUR VOTE ON PPC! UNITE THROUGH CPC 🇨🇦 #trudeaumustgo
10	HIT FOLLOW ME ="The small fringe minority of people, who are holding unacceptable views" . Canadians would rather see liberals exterminated #trudeaumustgo
9	How much longer can we be expected to put up with the clown world created by Liberals and leftists? #trudeaumustgo #senditcanada #gopostalonthendp
8	hockey life, lake life, love life, live life & PMJT is the worse PM in HISTORY - my views are my own #trudeaumustgo #trudeauforprison
8	Foodie and world traveller...seriously. #trudeaumustgo #trudeaucorruption
8	Skippy Mcfugnuts #trudeaumustgo
6	2 Cool 4 This Planet! 🍌🍌 C.O.P. 28 yrs Secret to Happiness-Social Distance from Stupid People(Idiocracy)🍌 Science BS Promote healthy living! Phd! #tru
6	Sassy, smart ass, conservative with a vestibular disorder. No, I am not drunk or tipsy, I am just DIZZY all the time! #trudeaumustgo #PierreforPM NO D
6	Wife/Mother/Grandmother/Retired Veteran/Love God/Love My Country but not current govt/Praying for change 🙏 #trudeaumustgo
5	Love Canada, Hate our government!! 🍌 FK WEF/NATO/NWO/WHO!! Most conspiracy theories have become reality! #trudeaumustgo #pureblood #MapleMAGA 🇨🇦🇺🇸🇨🇦
5	Common sense Canadian #trudeaumustgo #fjb
4	Conservative #trudeaumustgo, CCFR Member.

Figure 27: 20 Most Active 2024-2025 Account Bios with TrudeauMustGo in the Tweet and the Bio

The somewhat ironic "pure blood" or "pureblood" intermixing of anti-vax and white nationalism represents critical historical and lexicographic features of these datasets. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic on Twitter was a lightly mitigated stream of falsehoods and denial leading to a surge in the already powerful anti-vaccination (anti-vax) movement. Many of the pureblood Twitter bios appear to be strictly anti-vax populism. In the 1930s, Adolph Hitler invoked the purity of blood in his case for torturing, enslaving, and exterminating non-Aryan peoples. Some of the modern purebloods do not disguise their racial animosity or ideological ancestors. The overlapping and at times ambiguous references to pure blood in Tweets and #TrudeauMustGo bios are striking.

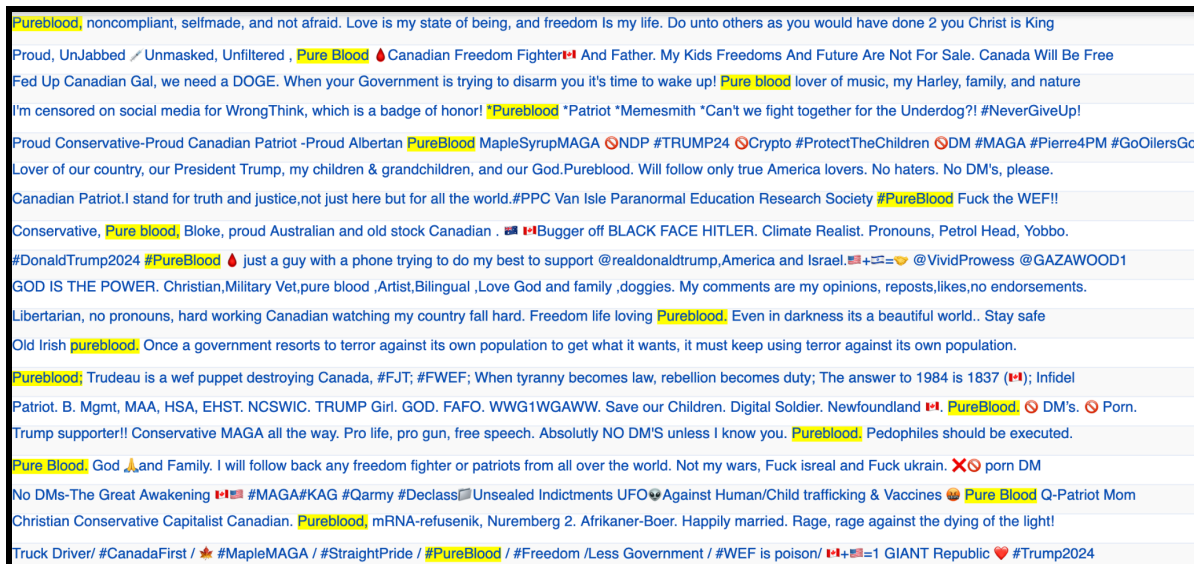


Figure 28: Sample Pureblood Identity Claims in the 2024-2025 #TrudeauMustGo User Bios

Like most of the findings in this paper, the pureblood identity claim can be explained by the confluence of several factors beyond the affordances of Twitter. COVID-19 disrupted every facet of social, political, and economic life. Decades of generally permissive Canadian migration policies and positive approaches to multiculturalism irked those sympathetic to these sorts of pureblood-based identity claims that echo literal historical Nazism. When a #MapleMAGA user invokes their #PureBlood while calling the World Economic Forum "poison" in a Twitter bio (#WEF often appears in anti-Semitic posts and bios), there are reasons to believe this is an anti-Semitic racist identity claim. The term pureblood is now an acceptable placeholder for less acceptable and more highly regulated terms. After the peak of QAnon regulation on Twitter during 2020 and in early 2021, many of the easy to spot identity claim markers used in the ARG were replaced by "UltraMAGA" identity claims that, like pureblood, went largely unregulated.

Conclusion

Research into the TrudeauMustGo hashtag changed my life. The hashtag did not determine the outcome of the 2019 Canadian election, but it contributed to setting a tone for public election discourse online and wider news coverage. Inductive collection and examination of this data during the late summer and fall of 2019 made it clear that what later came to be known as the QAnon Alternate Reality Game sought to bring substantial numbers of Twitter users and newly gamified story writers down a crowd sourced conspiracy rabbit hole. It was a spectacular success generating a self-sustaining industry of diverse contributors and devotees to QAnon war game founder General Michael Flynn. These "players" in a Twitter narrative game numbered in the hundreds of thousands of users worldwide and were participating in many languages. They remain an active and largely unregulated force on the platform formerly known as Twitter.

The bizarre data and stories took over my imagination in real time during the COVID lockdown. I scribbled notes and diagrams on my living room wall with Sharpie pens. It was exhilarating and

then ultimately disturbing to watch numerous public warnings about gamification and digital soldier activity in late 2019, as well as specific private briefings presented to the US/UK intelligence community, the *New York Times*, and CNN go unheeded between February and August of 2020. To their credit, both CBC and CTV ran online news stories based on briefings about the 2019 information. The disinformation team at CNN (John Avalon, Donie O'Sullivan, and their producer) said it was "too close to the election" during an August 2020 briefing, to run a story about digital soldiers and the online ARG that would ultimately deliver thousands of boots on the ground offline less than six months later on J6.

As the fall 2020 U.S. Presidential campaign ramped up, the #StopTheSteal did so as well. That hashtag appears to have originated in 2016 from the Trump loyalist, close Michael Flynn ally, and proud dirty trickster Roger Stone.⁶ The prepackaged rationale for every potential electoral loss facing Donald Trump has been to claim electoral fraud in advance, during, and after ballots are cast and counted. It was Roger Stone who in early August of 2017, previewed Flynn's upcoming critical role (Figure 29) in the yet-to-be launched QAnon spectacle on Twitter.



Figure 29: A Digital Smoking Gun

Future work will explore what a rough baseline is for racial identity claims in data outside the #TrudeauMustGo. The fact that racial identity claims are so scarce in this slice of Twitter bio data begs the question what a normal rate or range might be for political datasets. To the extent racial identity claims were present in the #TrudeauMustGo bio data, they were largely oriented to

⁶ See the detailed timeline of the role #StopTheSteal played preparing the ground for an insurrection at: <https://www.justsecurity.org/74622/stopthesteal-timeline-of-social-media-and-extremist-activities-leading-to-1-6-insurrection/>.

line up with (occasionally to resist) the views of a transnational, Christian white nationalist movement of actual citizens, trolls, and bots loyal to Donald Trump. Many may have been completely unaware they were playing an information war game on Twitter. The reward system of likes, follows, and reTweets is never explicitly called a game, but the underlying form of dopamine-driven gamification helped to set the framework for public debate that sought to Make Canada Great Again with more than a little help from beyond the Canadian border.

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