

Estimating Stances on Anti-Pandemic Measures By Social Media Analysis

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Introduction

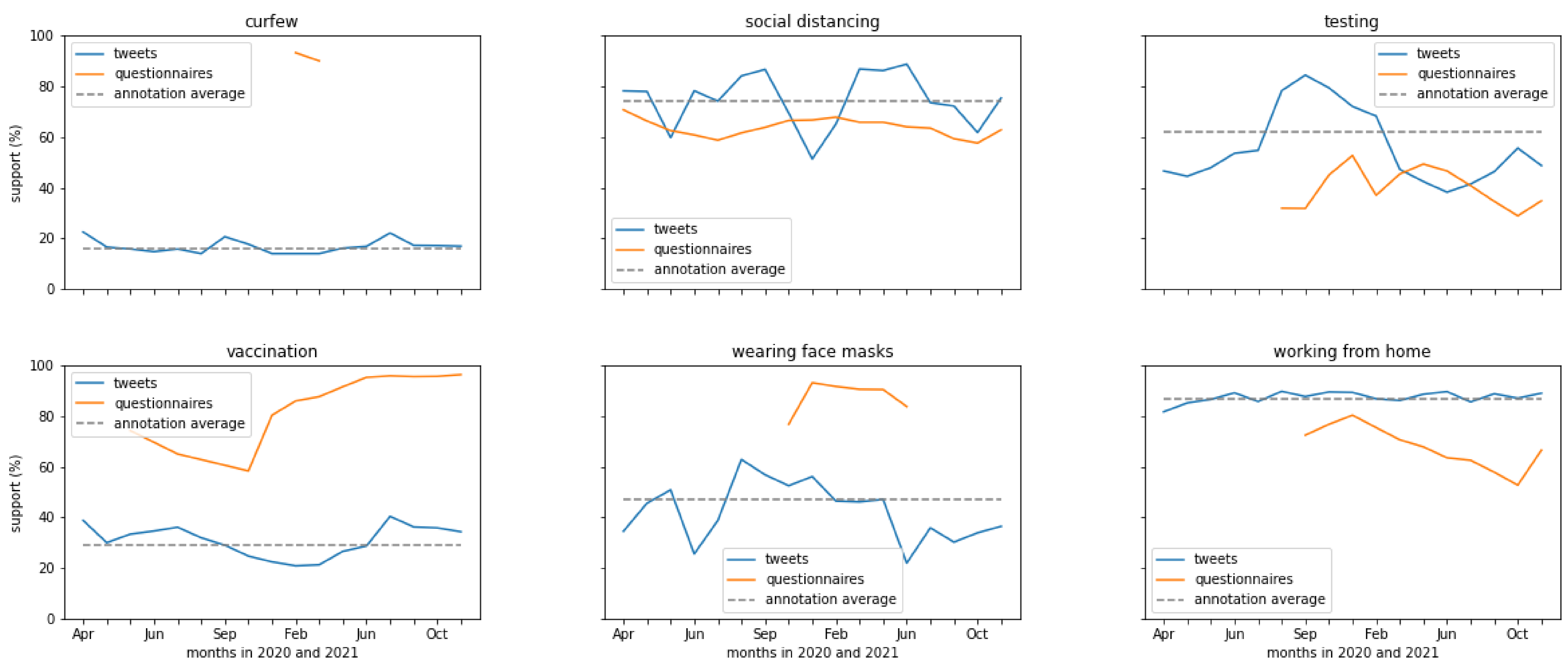
We extract stances on pandemic measures from social media (Twitter) by searching for relevant keywords and labeling the messages with supervised machine learning. The support rates over time are compared with results obtained from RIVM questionnaires.

Results

For three topics (social distancing, testing and working from home), we found a match

between the social media analysis and the questionnaire analysis (see graphs below). For those topics the social media analysis can be used to fill gaps in the questionnaire analysis.

For three other topics (vaccination, wearing face masks and curfew), the social media analysis was a poor match of the questionnaire analysis. These involved highly politicized measures where the opponents have a strong presence on social media.



More information

Paper: <https://ifarm.nl/erikt/papers/ieee2021.pdf>

