

We aimed to investigate whether hostility between political and cultural groups increased in the US and Europe following the election of US president, Donald Trump in 2016. To test this hypothesis, we looked at the frequencies of google searches containing words that are theorized to signify feelings of hostility and moral condemnation towards other groups of people.

### Methods

- The following words were chosen from the Moral Foundations Dictionary (Graham, Haidt, & Nosek, 2009) to represent hostility and moral condemnation: “unite”, “enemy”, “betray”, “loyal”, “disloyal” “disgust”, “disgusting”, “repulsive”, and “disease”.
- We used R to gather data on the monthly frequency of google searches containing these words from the gtrends database. Data was gathered for google searches in the US, Great Britain, and France (French translations of the target words were used).
- We used the CausalImpact program in R to analyze the frequencies of these google searches overtime before and after the date of Trump’s election.

### Results

France showed a significant increase in google searches containing the target words following Trump’s election (Bayesian one-sided tail-area probability  $p = 0.006$ ). Google searches containing these words increased by 11%. The US and Great Britain did not show significant changes in use of the target words.

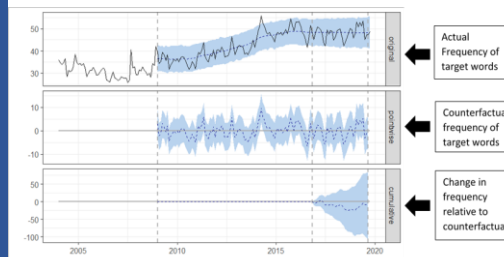
# Language associated with intergroup hostility increased in France but remained steady in the US and Great Britain after the election of Donald Trump

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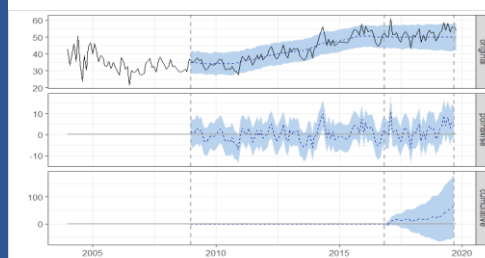


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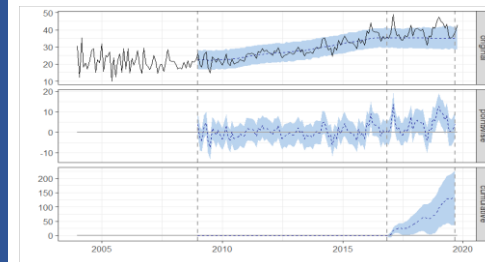
### Trends for US



### Trends for Great Britain



### Trends for France



More on Causal Impact: CausalImpact was used to create a counterfactual estimate of what the monthly frequencies of google searches containing the target words would be if Trump’s election had not happened. The program then compared the counterfactual frequencies of the words to their actual frequencies to test for significant differences in usage of the target words after Trump’s election.