Social media and society
How social media plays a role in shaping our political perceptions

Kyle Findlay
Bots, trolls & sockpuppets
Pravin Gordhan

Exposed: How Pravin Gordhan’s Nephew ‘Ketso Gordhan’ Abused The BBBEE Policy at Steinhoff

Reports are doing rounds that Pravin Gordhan’s nephew and corporate tycoon Ketso Gordhan has been fraudulently involving the governments’ BBBEE policy framework at Steinhoff. BBEE that has been designed to enhance black empowerment has been used by Ketso Gordhan to earn big bucks at Steinhoff, and he has pleaded guilty to a massive corporate ...
[Step 1: Create content]  

Step 2: Amplify  

Step 3: Inject into discourse
Mainstream media
Top 20 fake accounts ranked on how many statuses they had posted.

Ramaphosa wins

Daily tweets volumes generated by suspected RET sockpuppet accounts pre- and post- the election of Cyril Ramaphosa as ANC president.

But it goes deeper...
Source: http://www.superlinear.co.za/political-interference-in-south-african-politics-on-twitter/
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<th>Creation date</th>
<th>Tweet text</th>
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Helen Zille
@helenzille

Much to learn from Singapore, colonised for as long as SA, and under brutal occupation in WW2. Can we apply the lessons in our democracy?

Helen Zille
@helenzille

Singapore had no natural resources and 50 years ago was poorer than most African countries. Now they soar. What are the lessons?

Helen Zille
@helenzille

I think Singapore lessons are: 1) Mentocracy; 2) multiculturalism; 3) work ethic; 4) open to globalism; 4) English. 5) Future orientation.

Helen Zille
@helenzille

Other reasons for Singapore's success: Parents take responsibility for children, and build on valuable aspects of colonial heritage.

Tim Loughton
@loughton_tim

Replying to @helenzille
what do you see as the most important aspects of colonial heritage?

Sweet_T
@Tsietsi_Mohale

Replying to @helenzille
South Africa would be better if all your people left and we drive forward Africa instead of embracing colonialism heritage.

Guluva
@TheReal_Cedmo

Replying to @helenzille

For those claiming legacy of colonialism was ONLY negative, think of our independent judiciary, transport infrastructure, piped water etc.

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Legacy of colonialism
tweet

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Black Monday protest against farm killings

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Black Monday protest against farm killings
2018 A single global dialogue
2018 combined

- International Alt-Right
- USA Left (incl. US Black Twitter)
- Black Twitter (rest of Africa)
- Adam Catzavelos human flesh searchers
- Black Twitter (rest of the world)
- Liberals (incl. DA) and conservatives
- Radical Economic Transformers (RET)
- Mainstream media and party leaders
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Thank you
…and good luck out there