

MAPPING COORDINATED NETWORKS THAT CIRCULATE PROBLEMATIC INFORMATION ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE

CLUSTER #5: MEDIA ECOSYSTEM OF ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT FRENCH FACEBOOK GROUPS

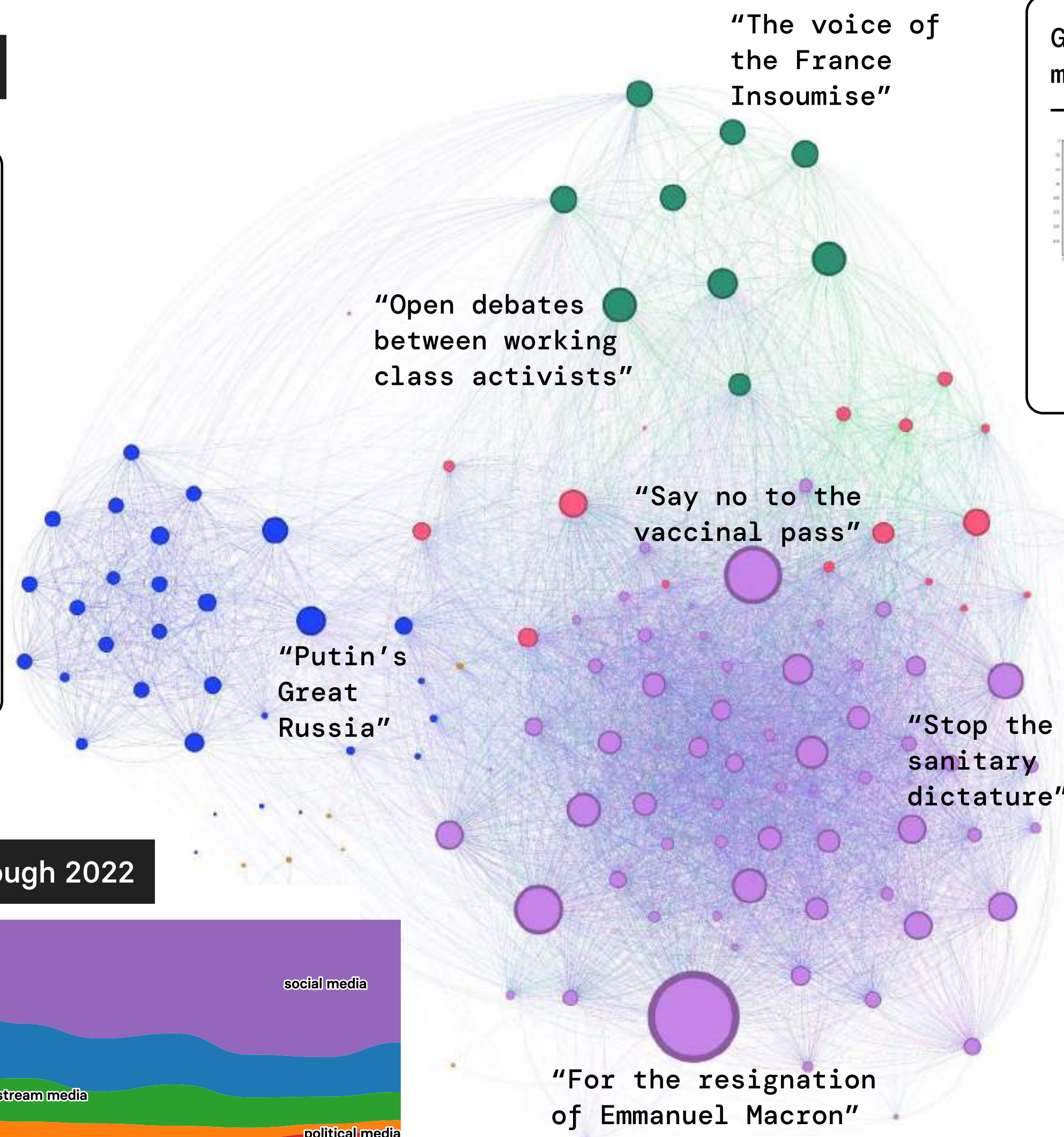
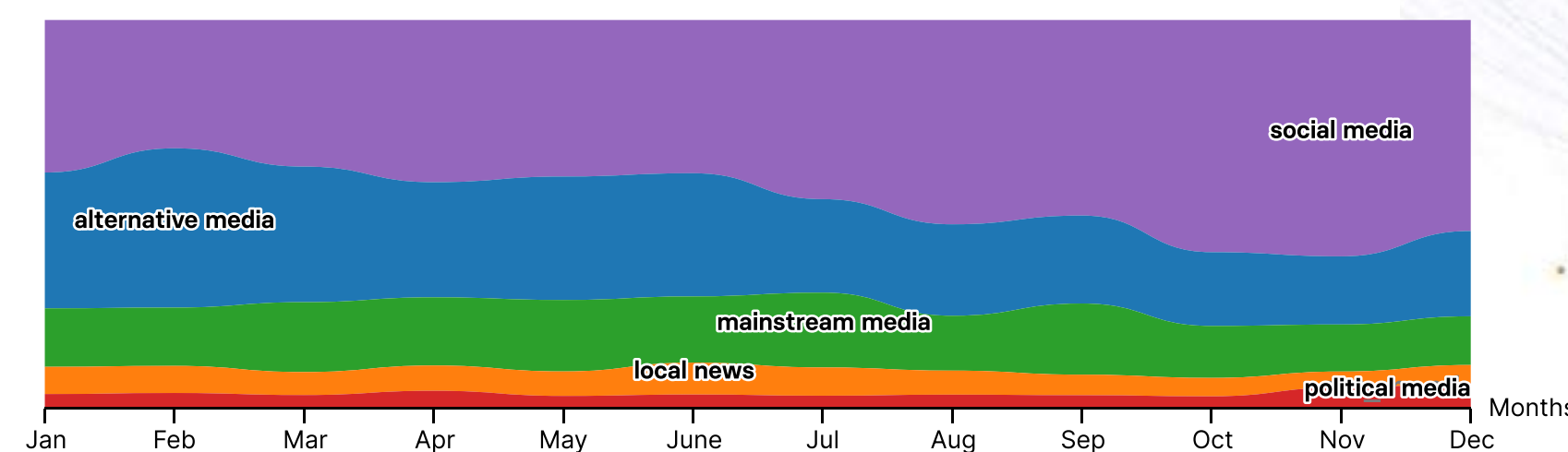
We studied how the French anti-establishment movement on Facebook gathered around **different media sources** during 2022. We mapped the cluster through network analysis. Links between Facebook groups (nodes in the graph) are created whenever two groups have shared the same URL. We identified 3 main subclusters: **pro-Russia**, groups affiliated to **traditional politics** and a **populist nebula** opposing COVID-related sanitary measures. Using the domain names of the links, we see the populist group shares mostly links to **social media** (e.g. TikTok), the political group mainly relays **mainstream media** (e.g. printed press) and the pro-Russian group links to **alternative media** (websites claiming to fact-check mainstream sources). Overall, the stories shared by the French anti-establishment movement points towards a sweeping **rejection of the current political system**.

Network of the main actors

Pro-Russian group shares mostly alternative media.



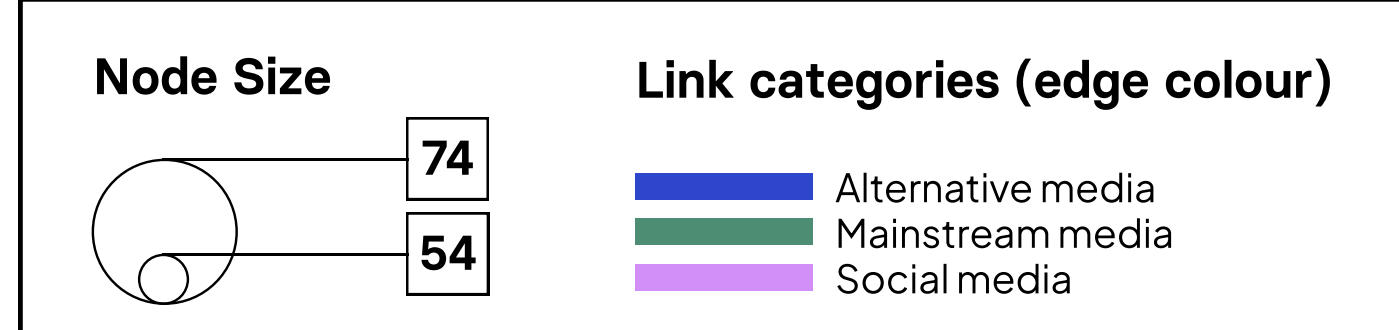
Media categories shared through 2022



Groups affiliated to the traditional left-wing mainly links to mainstream media sources.



Populist group (anti-authority, anti-sanitary, yellow jacket...) share a lot of social media posts, as well as alternative media.

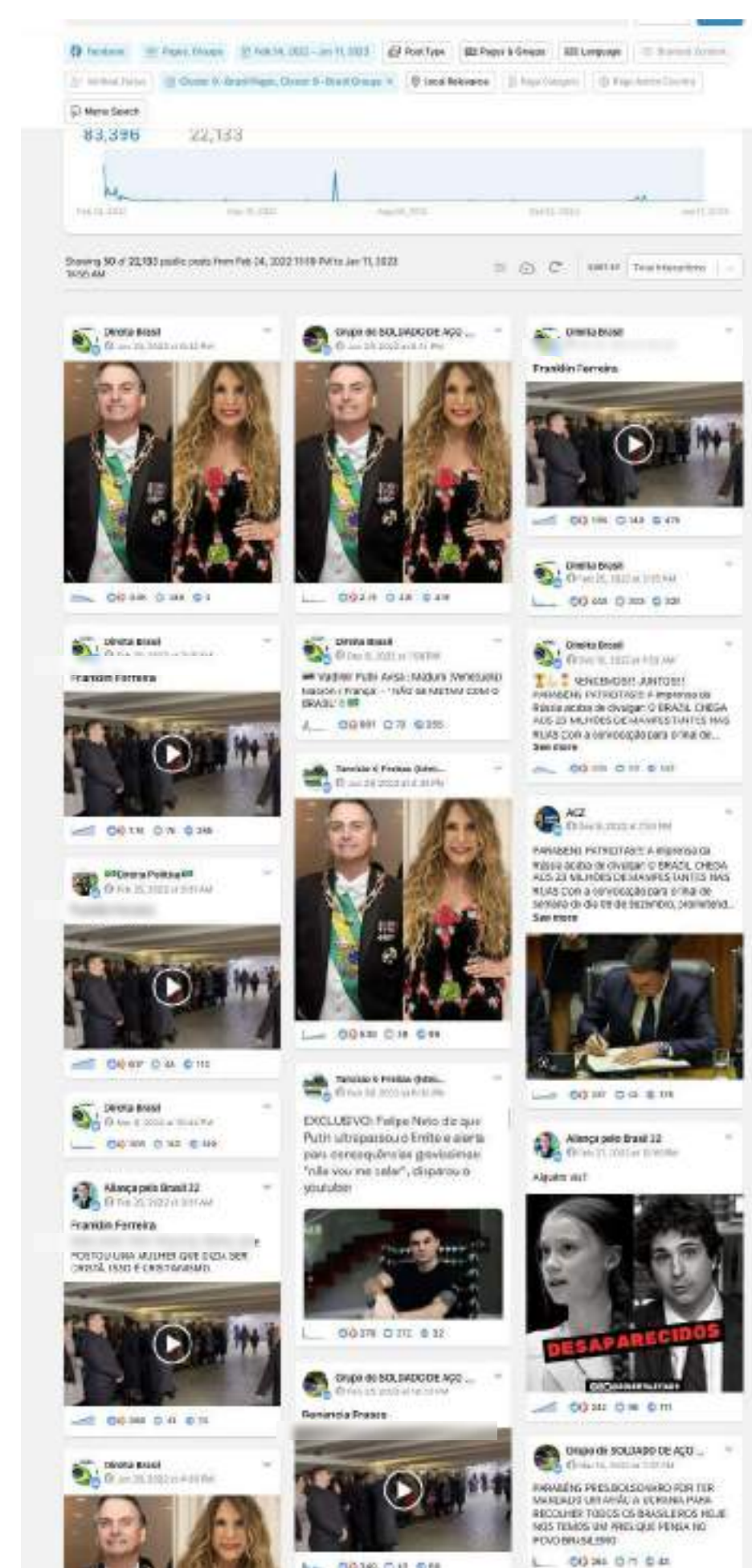


CLUSTER #9: BRAZILIAN ALT-RIGHT GROUPS

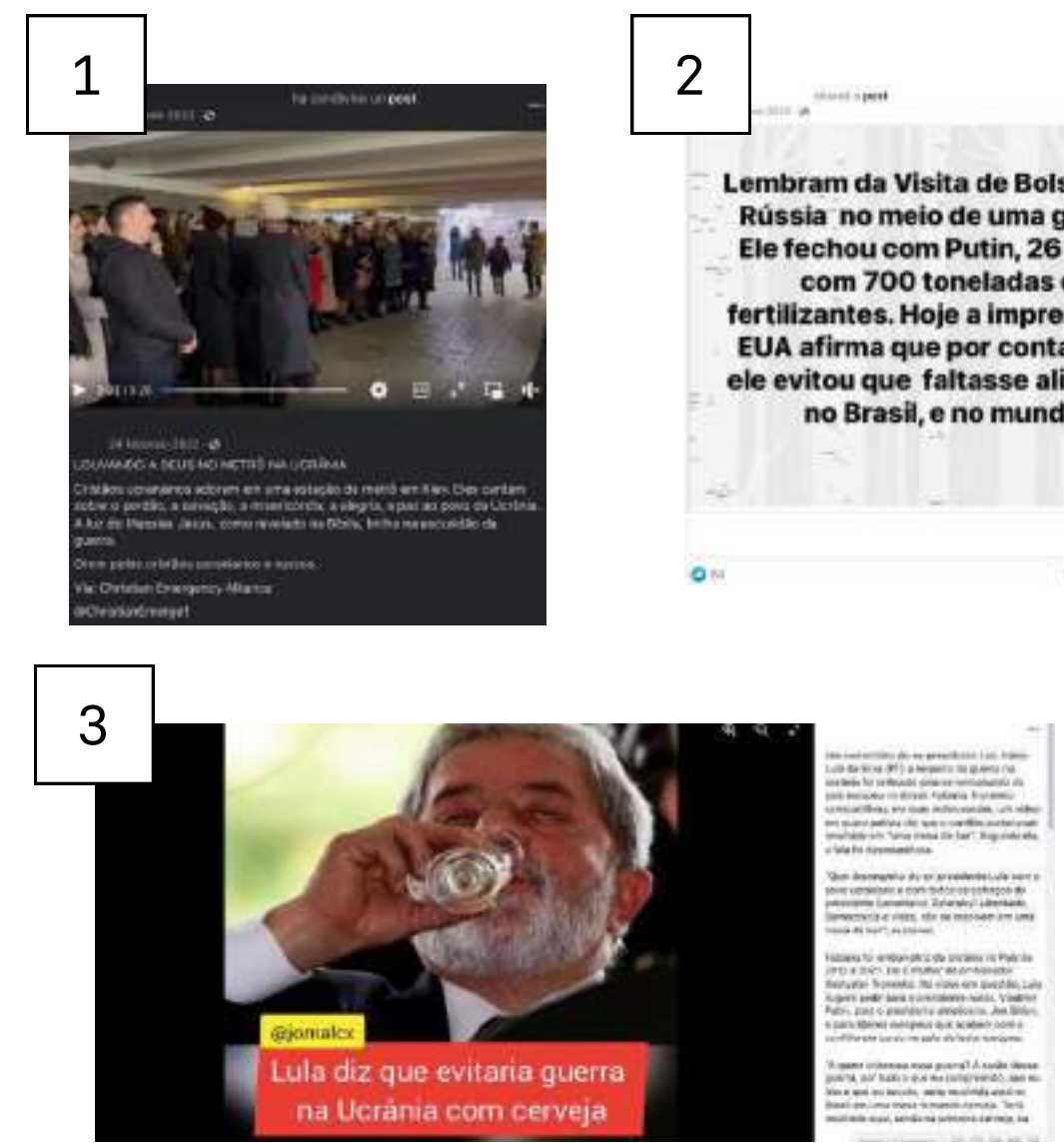
The entities composing Cluster 9 were primarily Bolsonaro supporting groups with **conservative right-wing views**. The analysis was based on retrieved posts which contained the following keywords: Ucrania, Russia, Putin, Zelensky, Kiev. Results showed 22,133 posts from which we extracted and analysed 251 posts with the most interactions. Among them, the vast majority did not discuss the Russo-Ukrainian war. However, when the topic did arise, it was predominantly approached through:

1. **Neutral religious posts;**
2. **Explicit support of Putin and Russia**, especially regarding Putin's actions in support of Brazil;
3. Posts that were not explicitly talking about Ukraine or Russia per se, but about how **Lula** was dealing with the conflict.

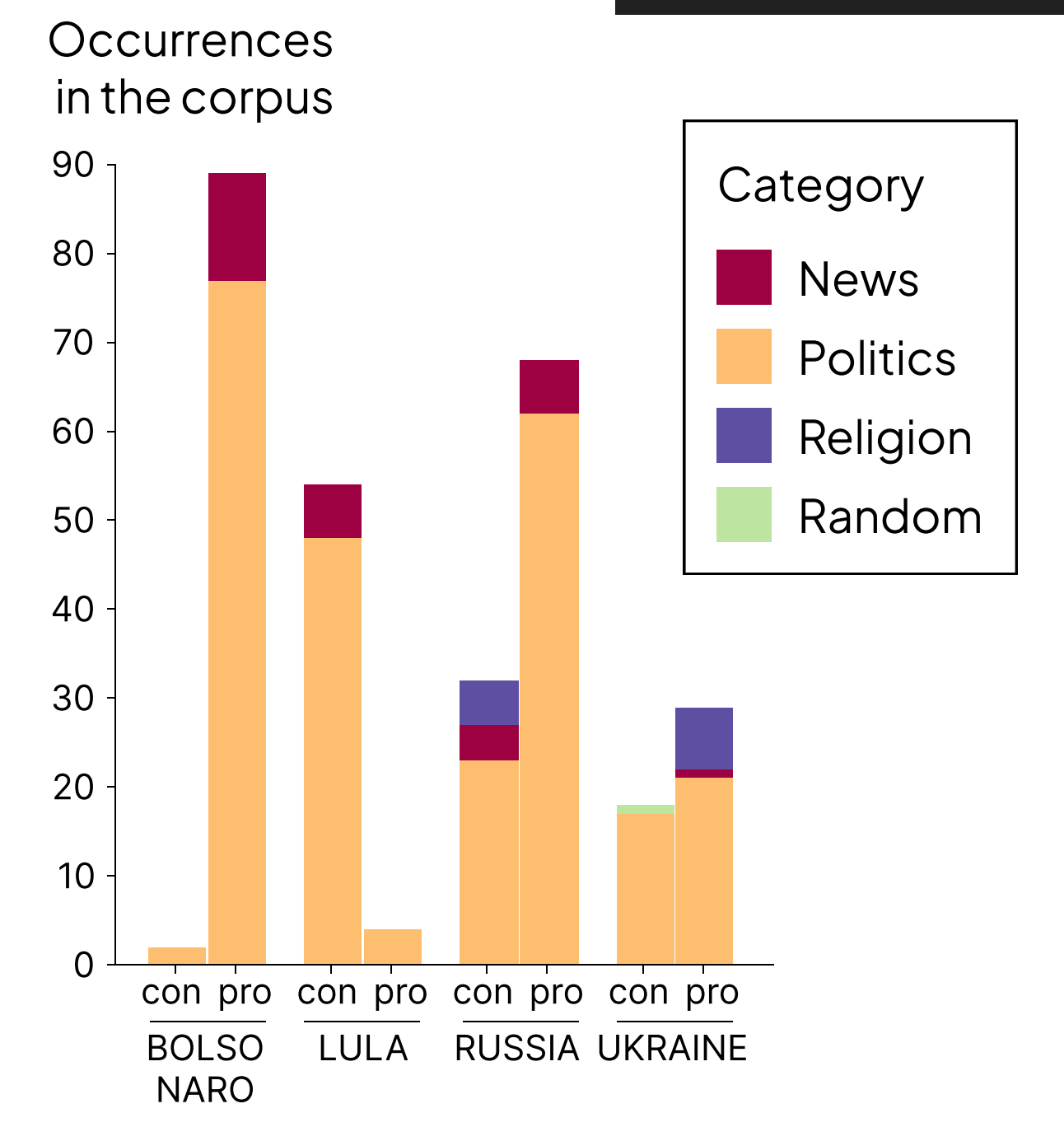
Ultimately, a **significant divergence** from the Western pro-Ukraine stance was noticed. In fact, the main sentiment observed throughout the cluster did not display any particular political support towards Ukraine.



Main post subsets



Findings visualised



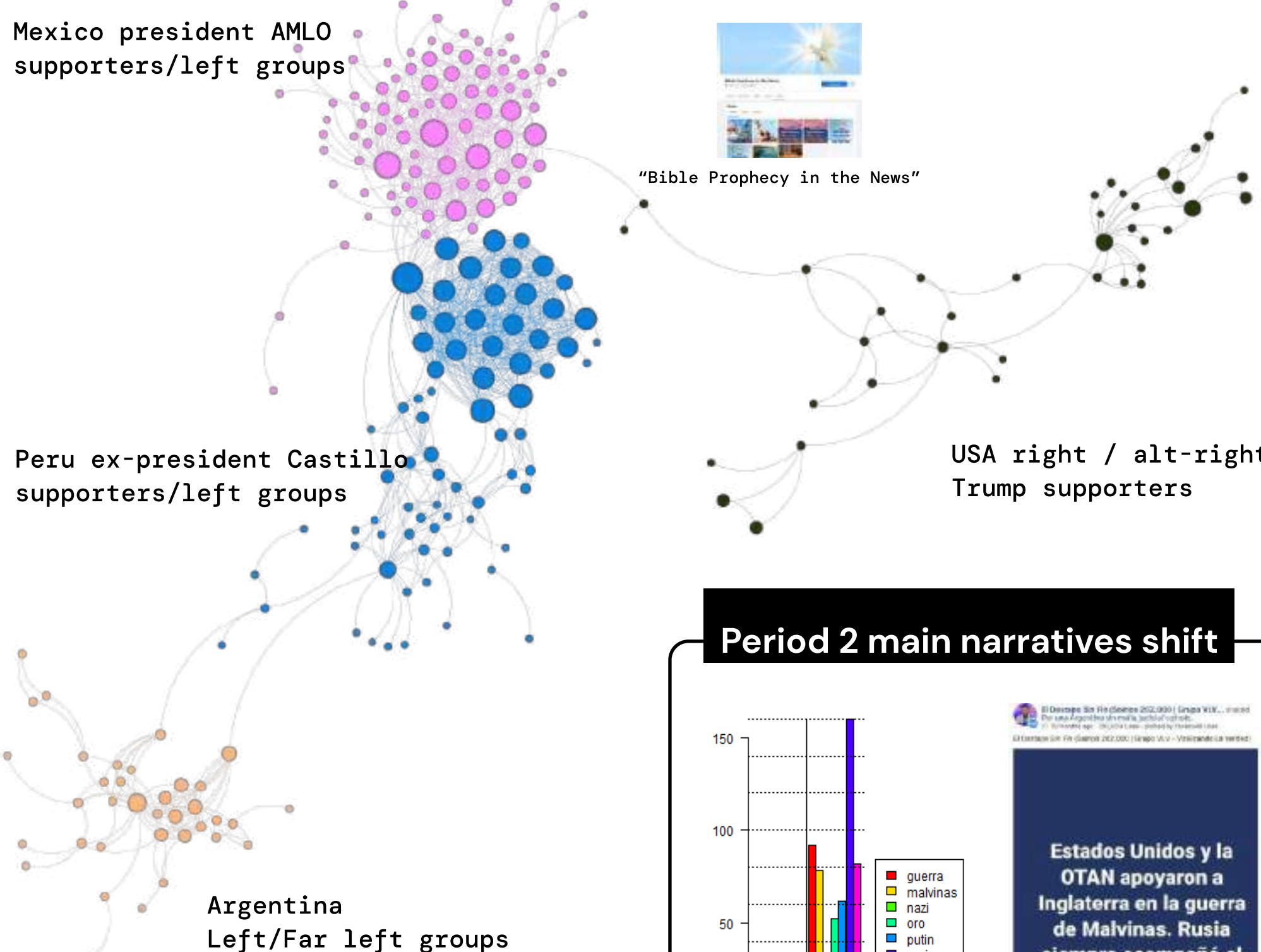
Misinformation
This group is temporarily paused for 57 days. An admin paused this group on 11 January 2023. Group activity will resume on 10 March 2023 at 02:11.

COMPONENT #10: LATIN AMERICA AND USA

Analysis of this component (the largest in the network) shows an interesting connection: **left-wing Latin American** clusters are linked to a **right-wing/alt-right USA** cluster through the CLSB present in the "Bible Prophecy in the News" group. The group relates to Eastern Lighting, a Chinese religious cult gathering followers with attention-grabbing content and events, enticing people into joining the cult, also promoting sensational content on the Ukraine war.

A closer look at the main terms posted in these clusters reveals a great change in the narratives, before and after the war began. This suggests that the main objective of these groups is the **construction of anti-NATO sentiment**, using any popular or newsworthy topic at the time (vaccination, Cuban embargo, domestic corruption, Ukraine-Russia conflict, etc.).

Component 10 Network



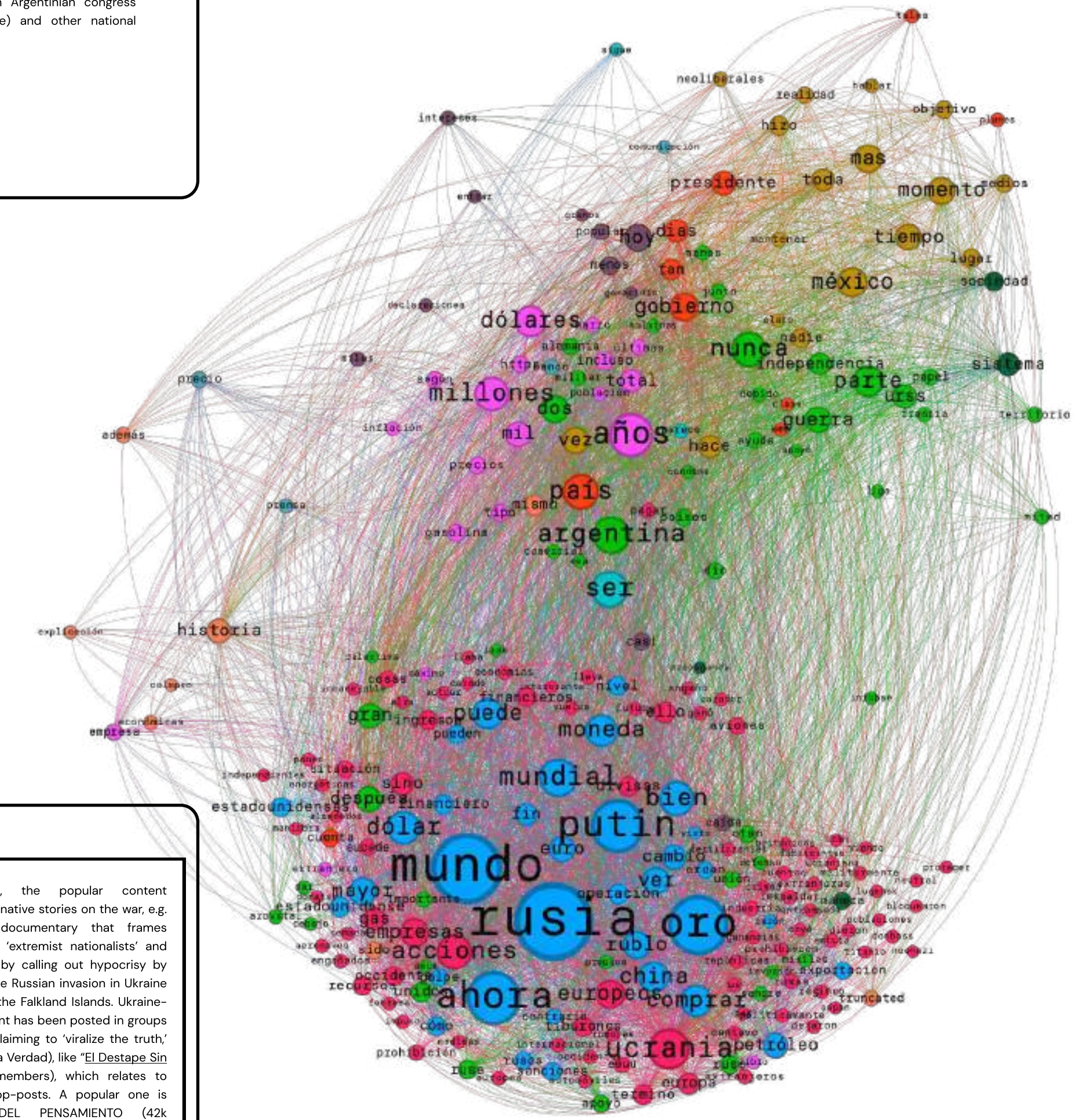
Period 1 main narratives shift



Period 2 main narratives shift



Co-occurring terms within Ukraine narratives



PARTICIPANTS

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