

Societal Crises and Personal Sense-Making: Transitions, Mobility, and Imagination Across the Lifecourse

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Research Questions

- How do people experience, make sense of, and live through societal crises?
- How are people’s sense-making, imagination, and im/mobility entangled during crises?
- What do different crises mean for different people?
- What is the function of writing in times of crises?

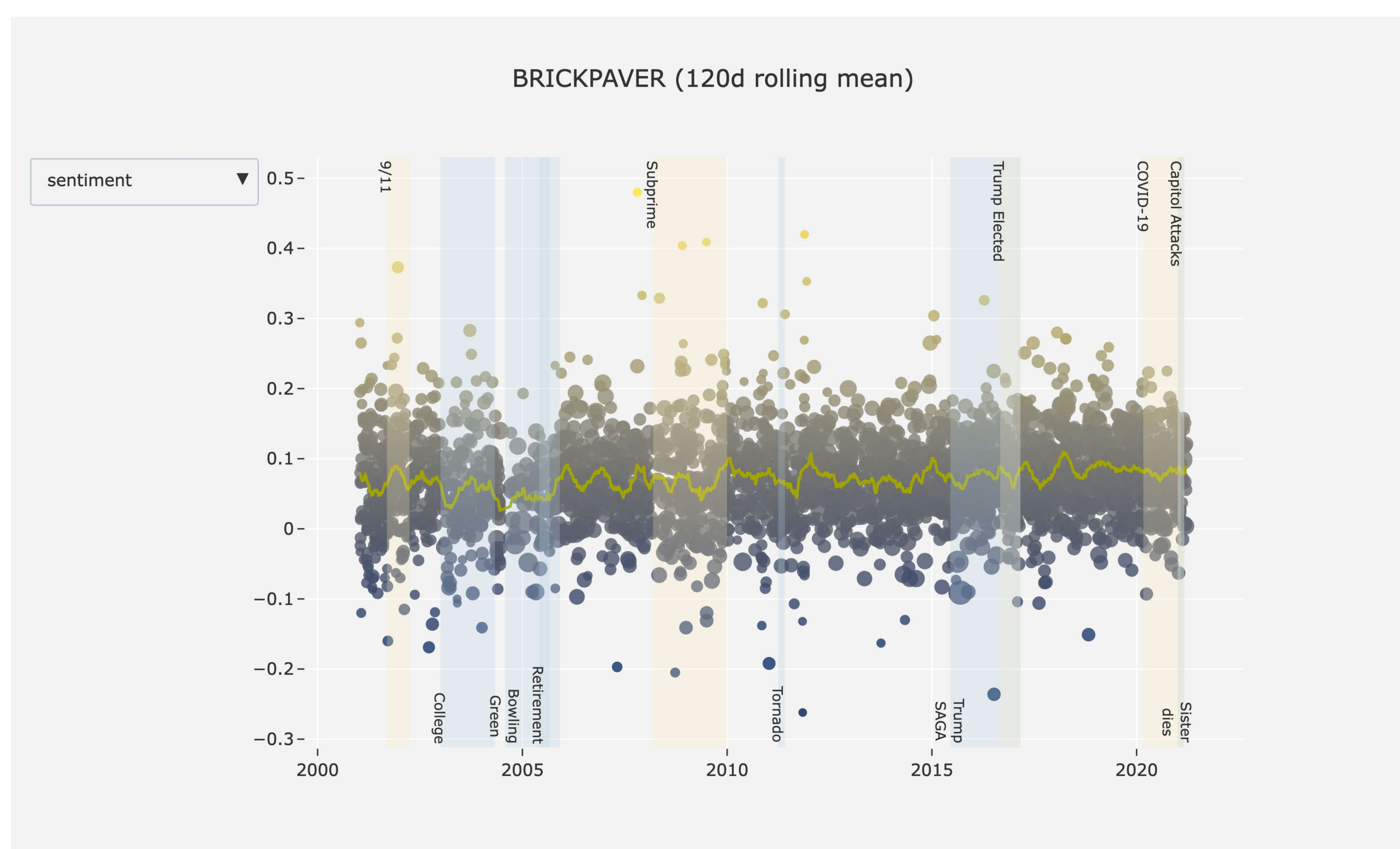
Approach

Using quantitative (NLP) and qualitative methods simultaneously to navigate the (vast) longitudinal data.

Sentiment line (or emotional tone in the writing) indicates crises and significant events in people’s lives, which orient qualitative analysis.

Contributions to NCCR

We emphasize the individual experience of crises, when crises entangle, and how crises manifest in people’s life course. We add an experiential dimension to more macro-perspectives. We also study (im)mobilities and the changing role they play in people’s life.



Planned Projects

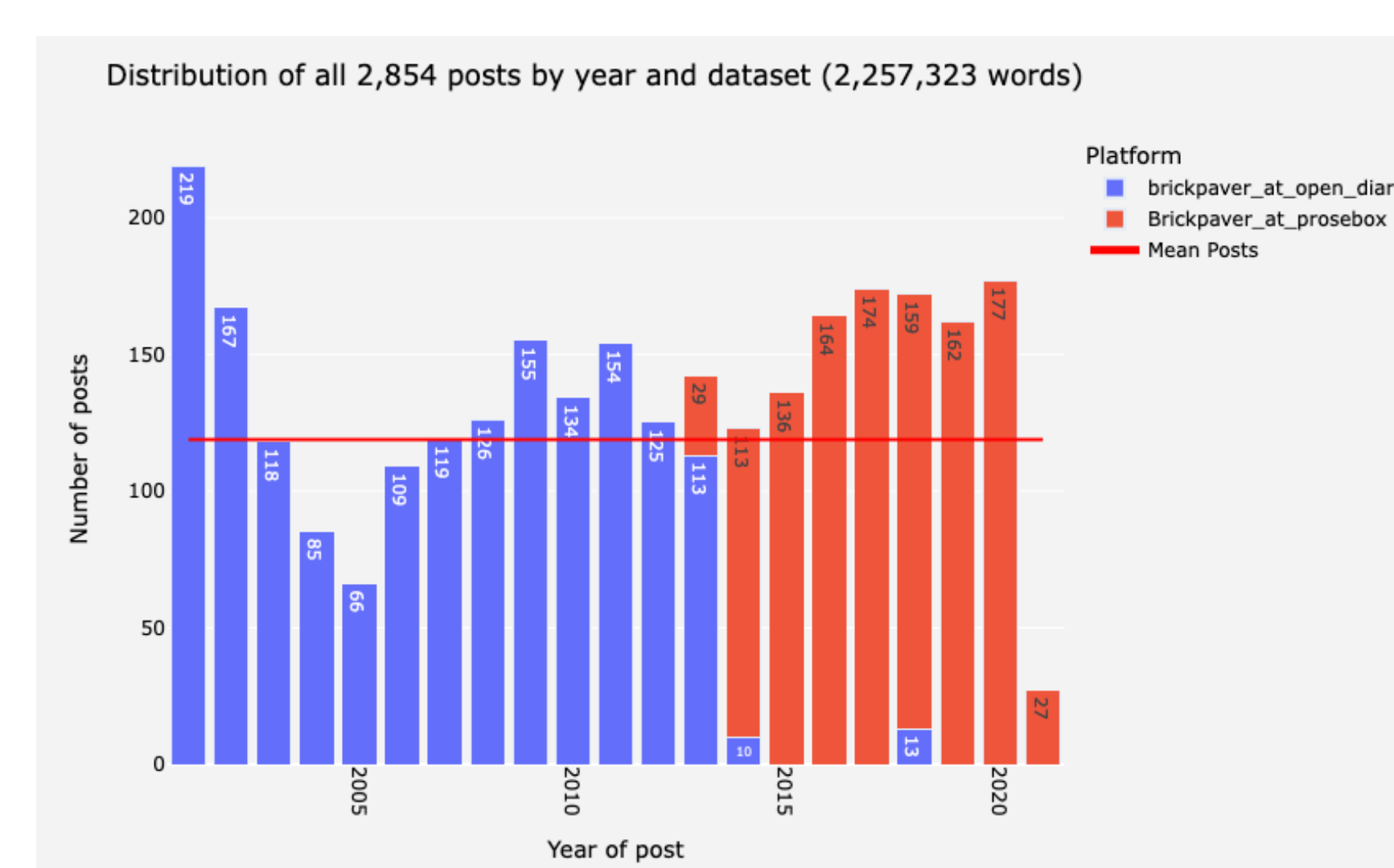
- Crises resonating through time
- Writing as a psychological tool in times of crises
- Climate inaction as a failure of the imagination
- Link between geographical movement and psychological movement
- Manifestations of crises
- Life-long learning at different turning points
- Ruptures, surprise, and disruption

Corpus

Diaries scrapped from online and open platforms (OpenDiary, Prosebox, LiveJournal, etc.):

- From 2000 to 2021
- 42 diaries
- 80.000+ entries
- 35+ million words

One Diarist’s Entries



Recently Completed

- Conducted longer qualitative interviews with four diarists.
- Conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the contexts of writing.
- Published two papers; one on identity through diary studies and another on maintaining a future through crises.