Global Voices Online

Questions

Whose voices, which globe? Is there a particular geography of voice?
Are the global voices (known as bridge blogs) substantively bridging familiar global
boundaries or redrawing them?

What is the substance of the global voices conversations?
Are there particular subject matters that are discussed globally or regionally?

Who are the publics for global voices?
Do the commentators on global voices postings form a distinctive geography?

Global Voices Online

Whose voices, which globe? Is there a particular geography of voice?
Are the global voices (known as bridge blogs) substantively bridging
familiar global boundaries or redrawing them?

Findings

There is a distinct conversation geography in that "global voices" cluster
regionally. The main non-regional grouping is 'globalized' in the sense that
it comprises G8 countries (+China). Inter-regional conversation is insignificant.

Global Voices Online: A Conversation Geography

Whose voices, which globe? Is there a particular geography of voices?

Are the global voices (known as bridge blogs*) substantively bridging familiar global boundaries or redrawing them?

**Method** _Scrape globalvoicesonline.org. Store contents.

Stats _From 1 October 2005 · 1 October 2006, there are 1415 posts, 3038 comments, 1632 posts commented upon, 112 distinct bloggers and 2005 distinct commentators.

4 AFRICAS · The substance of the conversations differs per African country cluster. Congo, Burundi and Rwanda organize conversation about human rights, freedom of speech, and elections (with a governance conversation significantly associated). Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia and Zambia organize conversation around the arts & media as well as racism, gender and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transsexual issues. A third set of countries cluster around a single issue: the diaspora, and the fourth around law and international relations. Only arts & culture, history and music unite the African clusters. The issue of development is insignificant.

4 AFRICAS
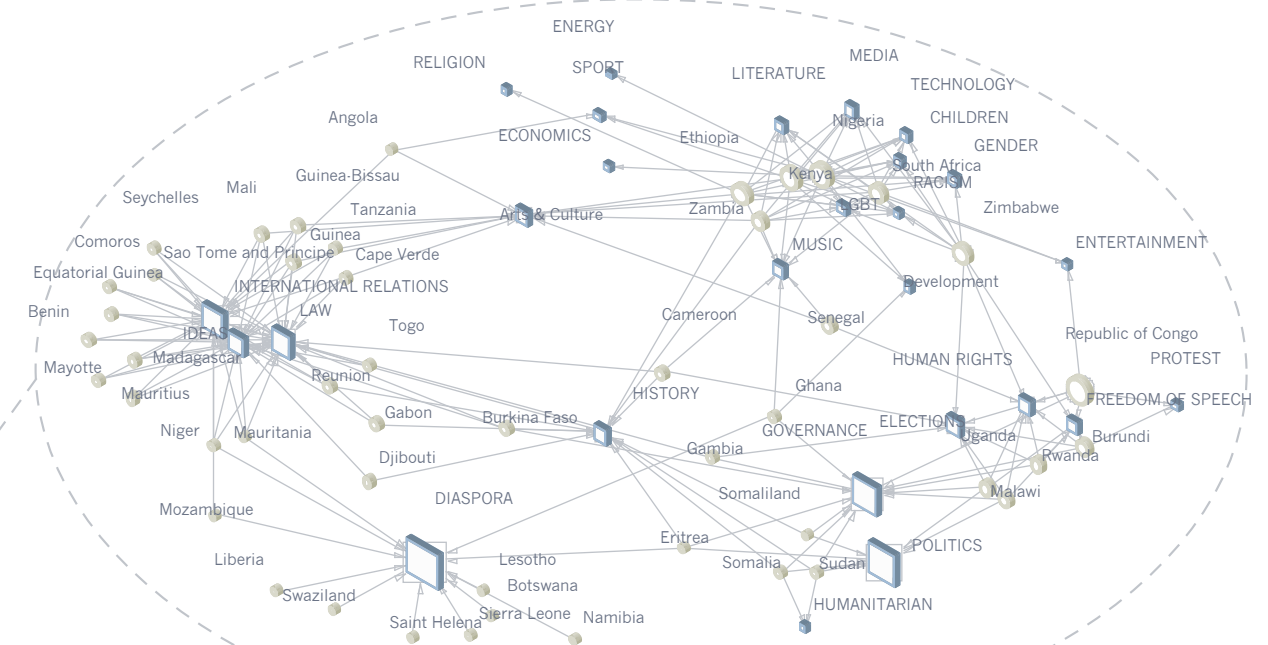
GLOBAL VOICES ONLINE: A CONVERSATION GEOGRAPHY
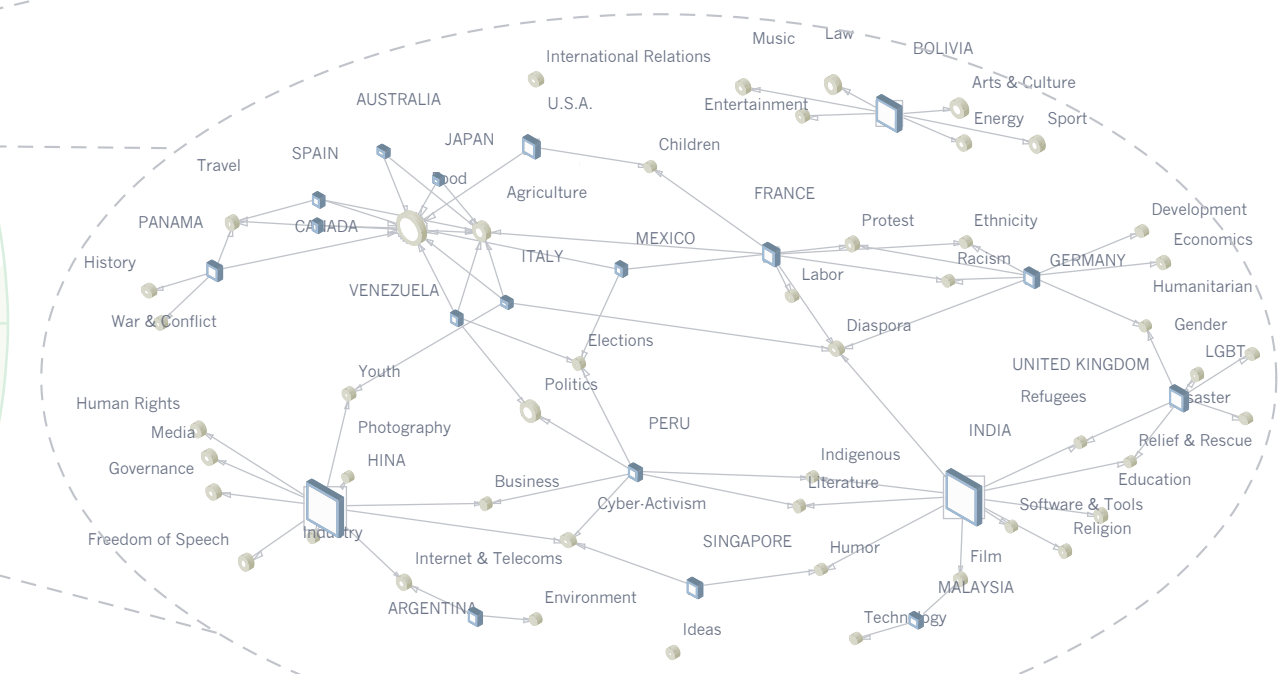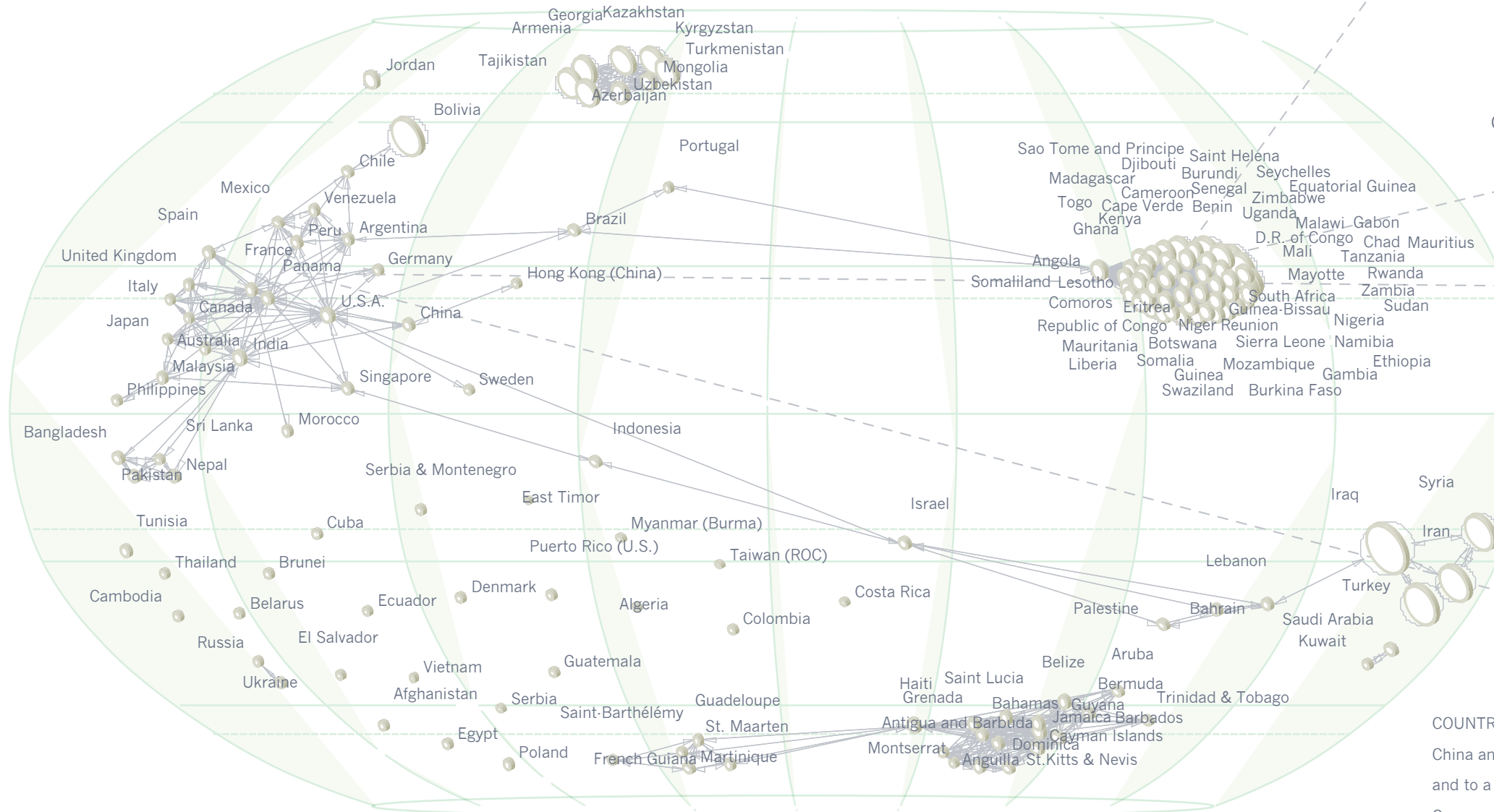
COUNTRIES WITH ISSUES

China and India organize distinctive issue spaces, and to a lesser extent so do the United Kingdom, Germany and France. The issues of human rights, media, freedom of speech, and Internet are most significantly associated with China.

"Global Voices" cluster regionally. The main non-regional grouping is 'globalized' in the sense that it comprises G8 countries (+China). Inter-regional substantive conversation is insignificant.

* Bridge blogging? "Blogs designed to increase communication between people from different countries and cultures." · Global Voices Online > FAQ, http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/? page_id=272

Legend (4 Africas map)

◆ Issues

○ Countries

Source: globalvoicesonline.org.
Scrape at http://tools.issuecrawler.net/gvo.
Co-occurrence of countries within postings, according to the tags.

Global Voices Online

What is the substance of the global voices conversations?
Are there particular subject matters that are discussed globally or regionally?

Findings

The Middle East, Africa and to a lesser extent Central Asia, South Asia and the Caribbean regional clusters, have rather distinctive issues.

There are few issues that cross more than 3 regions. "Global Voices" are regional voices.

Global Voices Online: Local Voices, Local Issues?

What is the substance of the global voices conversations?
Are there particular subject matters that are discussed globally or regionally?

Method _Scrape globalvoicesonline.org. Store contents.
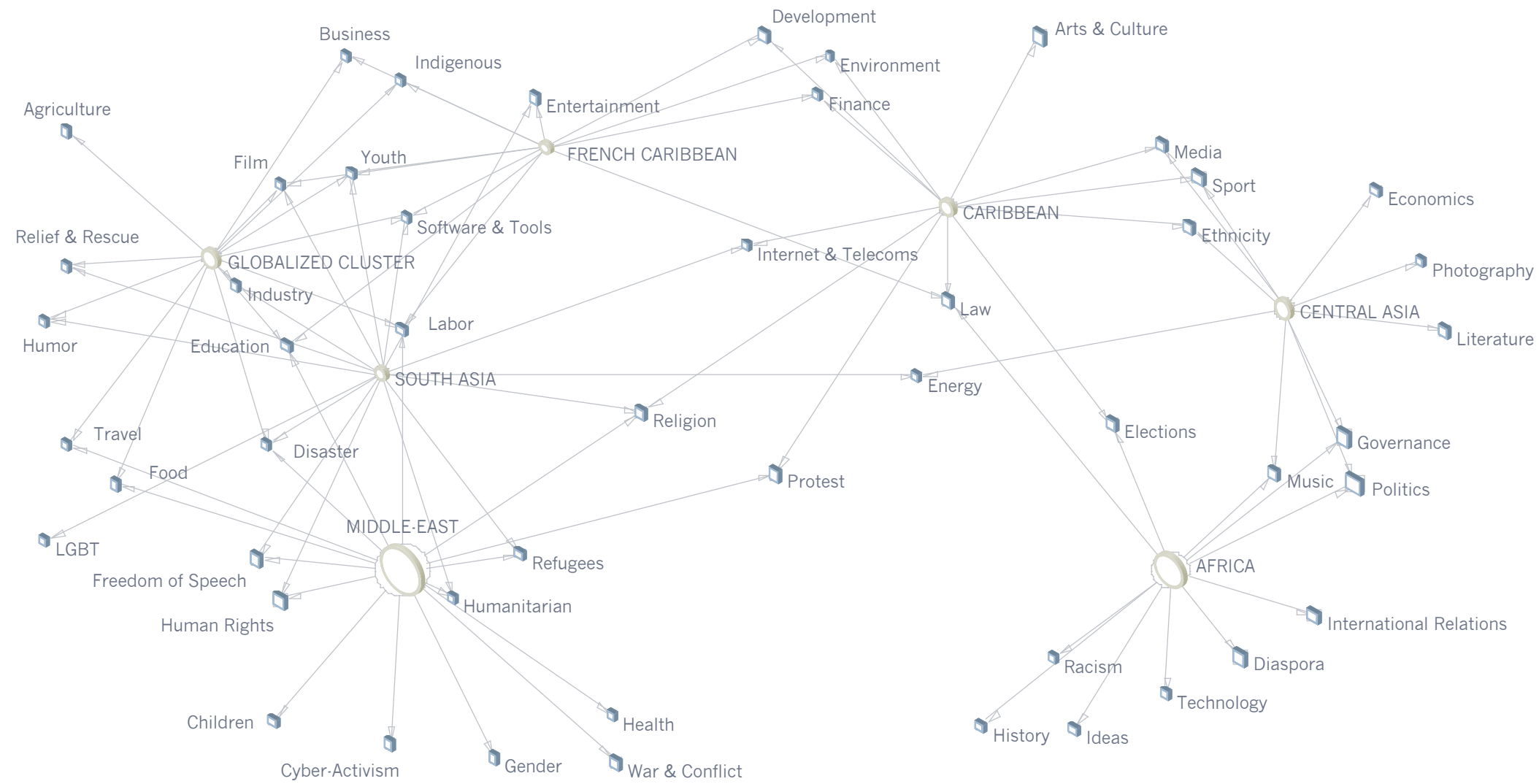
Ranked Issue List per Region:

MIDDLE EAST		CENTRAL ASIA	
War & Conflict	244	Politics	108
Politics	243	Governance	106
Human Rights	218	Media	101
Protest	183	Ethnicity	99
Freedom of Speech	182	Economics	96
Religion	153	Music	96
Arts & Culture	152	Photography	94
Diaspora	131	Literature	92
Ethnicity	121	Sport	91
Media	121	Energy	90

FRENCH CARIBBEAN		GLOBALIZED CLUSTER	
Governance	24	Food	188
Politics	23	Politics	100
International Relations	21	Arts & Culture	86
Law	20	Law	79
Diaspora	17	Agriculture	74
Media	15	Freedom of Speech	59
Sport	15	Internet & Telecoms	56
Development	13	Governance	54
Protest	12	Sport	52
Labor	12	Media	51

CARIBBEAN		SOUTH ASIA	
Media	51	Human Rights	33
Arts & Culture	51	Freedom of Speech	29
Governance	48	Politics	28
Sport	45	War & Conflict	25
Law	44	Protest	23
Religion	44	Diaspora	23
Elections	41	Internet & Telecoms	22
Protest	39	Religion	21
Ethnicity	39	Entertainment	21
Development	37	International Relations	21

| AFRICA	
Diaspora	325
Politics	305
Governance	267
International Relations	244
Law	238
History	213
Ideas	208
Arts & Culture	183
Human Rights	177
Literature	173

The Middle East, Africa and to a lesser extent Central Asia, South Asia and the Caribbean regional clusters, have rather distinctive issues. There are few issues that cross more than 3 regions. "Global Voices" are regional voices.

Legend

- Issues
- Regions

Source: globalvoicesonline.org, 1 October 2005 - 1 October 2006.
Scrape at http://devel.sonologic.nl/erik2/issuescraper/gvo/.

Co-occurence analysis of countries (grouped by region) and tags.

Global Voices Online

Who are the publics for global voices?

Do the commentators on global voices postings form a distinctive geography?

While the voices and the issues may cluster regionally, are the publics more global in their participation?

Findings

The publics for global voices (understood here as blog commentators) tend not to comment on posts across regions. In their commenting behavior, the publics for global voices cluster regionally.
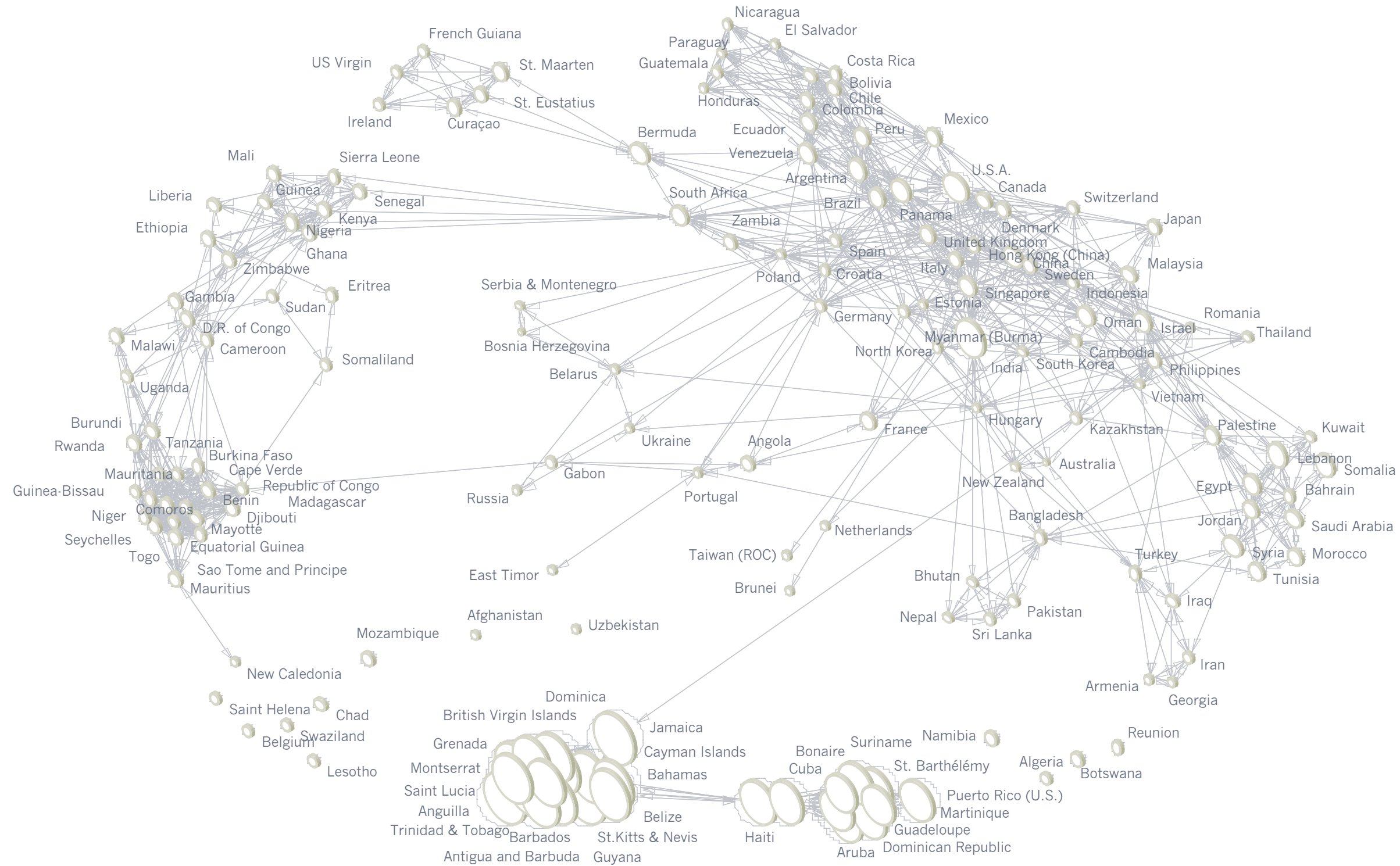
The Caribbean regions have the greatest quantity of comments, and like the African, South Asian, South and Central American, Middle Eastern and Caucasian clusters, they appear to organize tight-knit local conversations.

Global Voices Online: Local Voices, Local Issues, but Global Publics? A Renewed Regional Clustering.

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While the 'global voices' and the issues may cluster regionally, are the publics more global in their participation?

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Stats _From 1 October 2005 · 1 October 2006, there are 3038 comments, 1632 posts commented upon, and 2005 distinct commentators.

Nicaragua · El Salvador · Paraguay · Guatemala · Costa Rica · Bolivia · Chile · Colombia · Honduras · Ecuador · Peru · Mexico · Venezuela · French Guiana · US Virgin · St. Maarten · St. Eustatius · Ireland · Curaçao · Bermuda · Argentina · U.S.A. · Canada · Switzerland · Japan · Mali · Sierra Leone · South Africa · Brazil · Panama · Denmark · Liberia · Guinea · Senegal · Zambia · Spain · United Kingdom · Hong Kong (China) · Malaysia · Ethiopia · Kenya · Nigeria · Croatia · Italy · China · Sweden · Ghana · Poland · Singapore · Indonesia · Zimbabwe · Eritrea · Estonia · Romania · Gambia · Germany · Oman · Israel · Thailand · Sudan · D.R. of Congo · Myanmar (Burma) · Cambodia · Malawi · Cameroon · Bosnia Herzegovina · North Korea · India · South Korea · Philippines · Uganda · Belarus · Vietnam · Serbia & Montenegro · Burundi · France · Hungary · Kazakhstan · Palestine · Kuwait · Rwanda · Tanzania · Ukraine · Angola · Australia · Lebanon · Somalia · Mauritania · Burkina Faso · Cape Verde · Gabon · New Zealand · Egypt · Bahrain · Guinea-Bissau · Republic of Congo · Madagascar · Portugal · Bangladesh · Jordan · Saudi Arabia · Niger · Comoros · Benin · Djibouti · Russia · Netherlands · Turkey · Syria · Morocco · Seychelles · Mayotte · Equatorial Guinea · Bhutan · Iraq · Tunisia · Togo · Sao Tome and Principe · Taiwan (ROC) · Mauritius · East Timor · Brunei · Nepal · Pakistan · Iran · Afghanistan · Uzbekistan · Sri Lanka · Armenia · Georgia · Mozambique · New Caledonia · Reunion · Saint Helena · Chad · Dominica · British Virgin Islands · Jamaica · Namibia · Algeria · Grenada · Cayman Islands · Bonaire · Suriname · St. Barthélémy · Botswana · Belgium · Swaziland · Montserrat · Cuba · Puerto Rico (U.S.) · Lesotho · Saint Lucia · Bahamas · Martinique · Anguilla · Belize · Guadeloupe · Trinidad & Tobago · Barbados · St.Kitts & Nevis · Haiti · Dominican Republic · Antigua and Barbuda · Guyana · Aruba

The publics for global voices (understood here as blog commentators) tend not to comment on posts across regions. In their commenting behavior, the publics for global voices cluster regionally. The Caribbean regions have the greatest quantity of comments, and like the African, South Asian, South and Central American, Middle Eastern and Caucasian clusters, appear to organize tight-knit local conversations.

Legend

 Countries

Source: globalvoicesonline.org, 1 October 2005 · 1 October 2006.
Scrape at http://devel.sonologic.nl/erik2/issuescraper/gvo.
Co-occurrence analysis of countries and comments.

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