

Introduction

The hold that r/antiwork has on society rn.

2:50 AM · Oct 26, 2021 · Sprout Social

42 Retweets 9 Quote Tweets 498 Likes

What is r/antiwork? Headlined by “Unemployment for all, not just the rich!” r/antiwork exists for those challenging the contemporary function of work in society. It started as a site to discuss anti-work ideology with an emphasis on post-left anarchism. r/antiwork grew rapidly during the Covid-19 pandemic as stimulus checks, work-from-home, and the virus caused many citizens to reevaluate the negative impact of work on their lives.

Raw Topic Analysis

These are the results of LDA on all ~150,000 clean posts on the r/Antiwork subreddit. We ran OCR on images to extract text information

Topics	Key words
T1: Work from home	Covid, store, home, come, manager
T2: Workers Rights	Minimum, wage, living, labor, movement
T3: Student Debt	School, college, student, debt, parents, rent
T13: Amazon Storm	amazon, weather, warehouse, storm
T18: Social Movement	life, enough, system, help, everyone, better
T20: r/antiwork	f***, mods, posts, subreddit, antiwork
T21: Social Movement	Union, world, rights, society, human, free
T23: Social Media	Repy, share, comment, please, thank
T24: Interviews	interview, manager, asked, questions, start

Post Archetypes

We hand-classified ~1,000 posts randomly sampled on r/Antiwork into post archetypes. We ran multiple classifiers on the data. Best scores achieved with extreme overfitting

Classes	#	Algorithm	Acc	F1
0. Link to news source	112	Random Forest (non text features)	.63	.52
1. Miscellaneous text	74	SVM (body)	.55	.45
2. Serious Question	111	SVM (title + body)	.51	.40
3. Meme	89	Logistic Reg (body)	.57	.48
4. Misc image	150	Logistic Reg (title + body)	.51	.40
5. Personal Story	286	BERT (body)	.70	.64
6. Random Thoughts	74	BERT binary (5.)	.90	.88
7. Social Media SS	123			

Personal Story Topic Analysis

We used BERT binary to isolate personal stories. However, personal stories are **single-topic**.

Topics	Key words
T1: work	work, job, time, people, company, pay, boss
T2: work	work, job, time, people, feel, life, home
T3: School	school, life, college, money
T5: Working	manager, boss, asked, store, team, christmas
T8: Covid	sick, covid, boss, need, went, asked
T11: Working	manager, boss, shift, started, email, last
T12: Venting	feel, s***, f***, never, right, money, life

We then applied **aggressive stopword removal** to better understand the “real” topic space.

Are there persistent sub-communities?

We analyzed existence of user clusters defined by:

- **Direct interactions** via child/parent comments
- **Indirect interactions** by participation in a common thread

We found **no evidence*** of persistent **sub-communities** when interaction patterns were normalized for overall interaction frequency of each user.

* No well-defined clusters identified with spectral clustering methods

Who are best connected users?

Based on **direct interactions**, we found that best connected users are overwhelmingly **“one-hit-wonders”**. Regression coefficients (all significant at alpha=0.0001) where connectedness is the dependent variable. Log-log specification yielded adj. R² of 39%.

Topic preferences of top users

Post popularity is associated with “user track record”

We found that user track record has limited predictive power for subsequent post popularity. User longevity and avg. post karma do not have statistically significant impact; however, total # of posts and total post karma do.

This relationship persists even when post topics are considered (which have even higher predictive power)

Conclusions

- Raw topics describe a social movement and a space to vent.
- The most common post archetype are personal stories. These topics center around common poor work conditions.
- Related Subreddits communities lean towards younger, progressive and anti-capitalist ideas

Related Subreddits Analysis

Similar Subreddits

The score indicates the likelihood an r/antiwork user posts in that thread relative to the average user

Most related subreddits to r/antiwork in order by top users post: AskReddit, ShowerThoughts, LateStageCapitalism, NoStupidQuestions, politics, memes, Political Humor, lostgeneration, unpopularopinion, by top users comment:

User Posts	anti work	LateStage Capitalism	lost generation dit	AskRed dit	conser vatives
antiwork		27.74	47.17	1.05	0.79
LateStageCapitalism	26.48		40.65	0.85	0.9
lostgeneration	43.95	39.68		0.8	1.02
AskReddit	1.25	1.07	1.07		0.68
conservatives	0.78	0.85	0.85	1.11	

Subreddits posted in by antiworkers with high activity

User Comments	antiwork	worldnews	WhitePeopleTwitter	news	AskReddit	conservatives
antiwork		1.67	3.73	1.77	1.05	0.79
worldnews	1.74		2.49	5.29	1.37	1.32
WhitePeopleTwitter	3.58	2.3		3.08	1.28	1.59
news	1.8	5.16	3.27		1.11	1.86
AskReddit	1.25	1.57	1.59	1.68		0.68
conservatives	0.78	1.35	2.16	1.86	1.11	

Subreddits commented in by antiworkers with high activity

- Note that AskReddit, News, and ShowerThoughts are top 15 subreddits and memes was 7th in Posts, but insignificant

Can we predict post popularity from activity in other subreddits?