**Online Supplementary File to the Article**

Search engines as ‘globalizing machines’: International news flow through Google during the 2020 Belarusian presidential election

**Appendix A**

**a. Validity of using non-personalized browsers**

In this study, we opted for using non-personalized browsers to collect search results due to three reasons:

1. using non-personalized browsers is the most practical way to receive generalizable findings (see Kulshrestha et al., 2019);
2. we guided ourselves by previous web search studies, which in its vast majority use non-personalized browsers (no browser history, no cookies, not logged in) and recommend to mitigate search personalization as much as possible to “maximize the internal validity of the data” (Paltemaa et al., 2020, p. 8; see also Ørmen, 2016);
3. recent studies on algorithmic personalization have demonstrated that the effects of search personalization with regard to political search terms tend to be minimal, especially when considering only the top search results, as we do in this study (see, e.g., Puschmann, 2019; Scherr, Haim, & Arendt, 2019).

**b. Ethical considerations**

The data for this study has been scraped automatically using an AWS EC2 instance virtual agent with an Ubuntu operating system. For each search term (in random order), we collected the top 10 organic search results (including the headlines, descriptions, links embedded in the results and the textual content of the web pages linked in the search results). Since we only collected publicly available, not password-protected data, we believe our data scraping efforts were conducted in compliance with ethical guidelines. In particular, because:

* The data scraped for this study was scraped for the purpose of research.
* Since the data collection was executed only once a day, we arguably overloaded the servers neither of Google nor the websites linked in the search results.
* We made our scraping efforts identifiable by including a User Agent string with our names and affiliations to every search query and text scraping request.

**Appendix B**

Table B1

*The 42 Search Terms Deployed in This Study*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Russian Search Terms** | **Belarusian Search Terms** | **English Translation** |
| vybory belarus | vybary bielaruś | election Belarus |
| vybory prezidenta belarusi | vybary prezidenta bielarusi | election of the president of Belarus |
| prezidentskiye vybory v belarusi | prezidenckija vybary ŭ bielarusi | presidential election in Belarus |
| vybory 2020 belarus’ kandidaty | vybary 2020 bielaruś kandydaty | 2020 election Belarus candidates |
| vybory kandidaty belarus’ | vybary kandydaty bielaruś | election candidates Belarus |
| Lukashenko | Lukašenka | Lukashenko |
| Tsepkalo | Capkala | Tsepkalo |
| Babariko | Babaryka | Babariko |
| Tikhanovskaya | Cichanoŭskaja | Tichanovskaya |
| Lukashenko vybory | Lukašenka vybary | Lukashenko election |
| Tsepkalo vybory | Capkala vybary | Tsepkalo election |
| Babariko vybory | Babaryka vybary | Babariko election |
| Tikhanovskaya vybory | Cichanoŭskaja vybary | Tichanovskaya election |
| Lukashenko kandidat | Lukašenka kandydat | Lukashenko candidate |
| Tsepkalo kandidat | Capkala kandydat | Tsepkalo candidate |
| Babariko kandidat | Babaryka kandydat | Babariko candidate |
| Tikhanovskaya kandidat | Cichanoŭskaja kandydat | Tichanovskaya candidate |
| Lukashenko v prezidenty | Lukašenka ŭ prezidenty | Lukashenko for president |
| Tsepkalo v prezidenty | Capkala u prezidenty | Tsepkalo for president |
| Babariko v prezidenty | Babaryka u prezidenty | Babariko for president |
| Tikhanovskaya v prezidenty | Cichanoŭskaja u prezidenty | Tichanovskaya for president |

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