Understanding Users Across Parler and Twitter

**Primary Research Question:**
What were the social-media behavior and content patterns of users across Parler and Twitter that engaged in conversations leading up to the January 6th insurrection?

**Digital mis/disinformation extends to offline world**
A stark example of this exists in the case of the Capitol Insurrection on January 6th, 2021.

**Identified 44 users**
Tracker users across Parler and Twitter. They were chosen based on activity leading up to Jan 6.

**Who was a part of conversations**
- 10 veterans and/or family of military service members
- 11 presented as older adults
- 29 presented as white, 1 as Indian and 1 as Cuban, all others had no human pictures
- 18 presented as female, 13 as male
- All 44 identified as conservative

**Unexpected participants**
- **International** influencers and organic participants
  - Primarily conservative British and Indian (Indian Americans and Indian national), often unified in anti-Muslim sentiment
  - **Inauthentic** accounts
  - Users were accused/accused others of inauthenticity
  - Difficult to tell who was real and who was not

**Platform engagement: case studies**
- 2 removed from Twitter: 1 deleted, 1 suspended
  - Not active on Parler since it came back online
- 3 remained active on Twitter despite constantly disparaging Twitter and Jack Dorsey
  - All 3 resumed activity on Parler
- 1 had last Twitter post in October
- Deleted Parler account after ~January 10th
- Twitter behavior was less explicit, but thematically similar to Parler

**Drivers of conversation**
- Surface level claims of election fraud were preceded by an intense distrust of established systems. People were already primed to challenge election results long before it took place.
- **Q influence:** Qanon rhetoric and mainstream conservative rhetoric overlap. Even amongst those who claim Q is not to be believed, their views adopted QAnon rhetoric and in some cases they became Q supporters.