

# Administration in Wikipedia

“Mopping up: Modeling Wikipedia Promotion Decisions”  
(Burke and Kraut 2008 @ CSCW)



# Main Contributions

1. A “real-life” application of **policy capture**
2. Explication of power structures of Wikipedia
3. Some weak design implications



# Policy Capture

- Does policy match the truth?
  - Do Wikipedia admin promotions really occur along the guidelines?



# Policy Capture

- Problems
  - Does being 35 and U.S.-born citizen really mean you can be president?
  - Policies themselves are on a Wikipedia page
  - Usual problems operationalizing complex variables



# Regression for Policy Capture

- Used regression techniques to test whether stated guidelines actually result in administrator promotions
- Found that there are both similarities and dissimilarities between policy and real life



# Regression for Policy Capture

- TRUTH!
  - lots of edits is good
  - participating in many different discussion areas is good
- LIES! DIRTY LIES!
  - Doing uninteresting work is good... NOT!
  - utilizing formal structures for conflict resolution is good... NOT!



# Regression for Policy Capture

- Problems
  - Semantic variables are not encoded perfectly... or even well sometimes
  - Ignored tone, etc., which are important in politics



# Design Implications

- Operationalization of policy capture :-)
- Guidelines for aspiring admins :(
  - Temporal prime directive!
  - System gaming
- “Mining” for good admins
  - System gaming
  - No measure of whether this makes good admins



# Religion and the Great Series of Tubes

“Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Religion and Computer-Mediated Communication”

Ess et al. 2007



# Main Contributions

1. Understand how religion has/has not adopted the affordances of CMC
2. Differentiate between religion-online and online-religion with respect to the authority of religion and age of practitioners
3. Problematicize notions in the 90s about CMC seriously altering religion



# No Theory Here

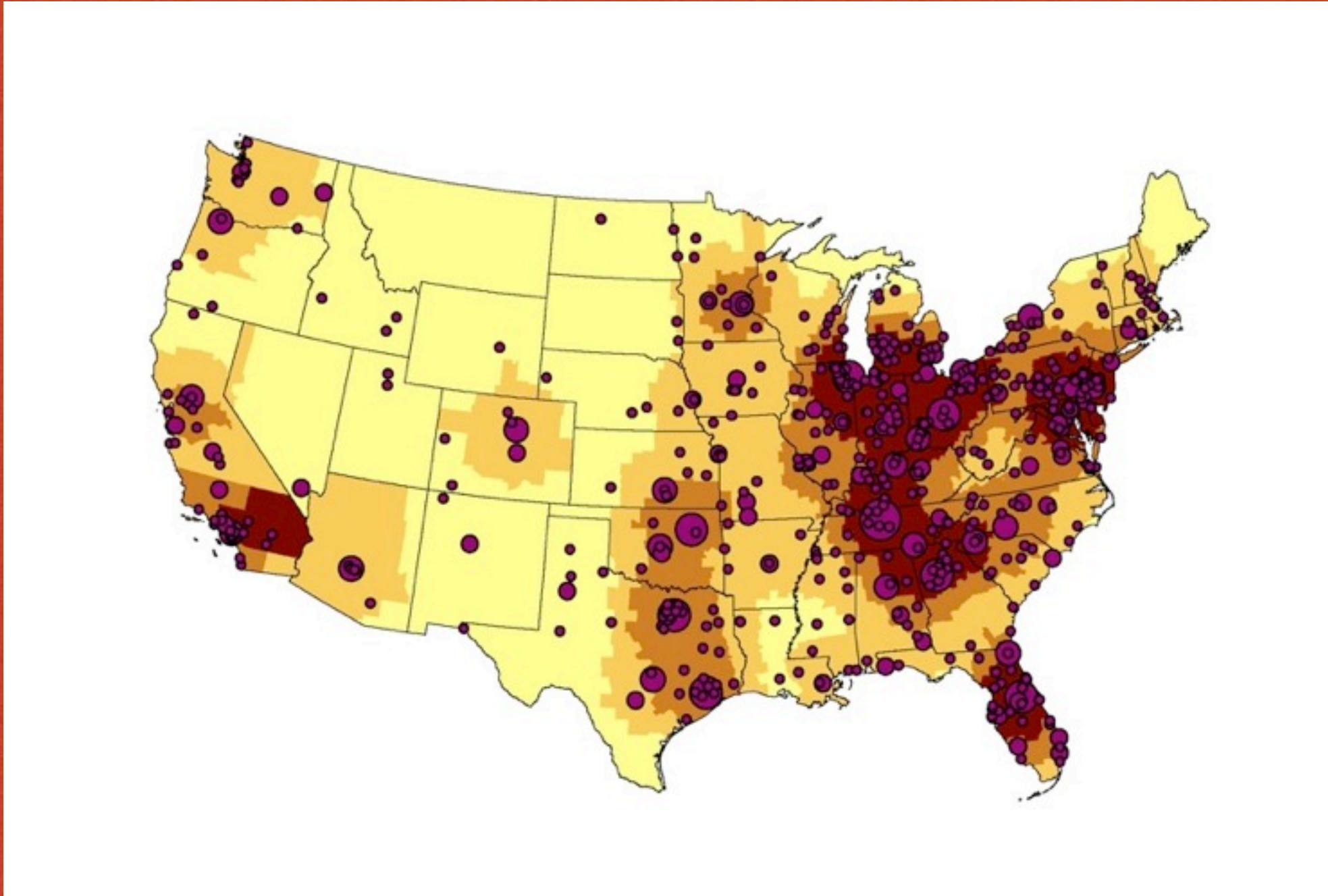
1. Everything theoretical written here falls in the “no need for theory of CMC column”
2. Specifics are very interesting

Turn to p. 4











# Can CMC change Religion?

- At first I thought this was crazy
- But there has been a shift in power in religion in the United States...
- But not only a CMC phenom! (1800s)

Turn to p. 4