

Rockefeller Incentive Fund Award Report

Dr. David Rousseau
Pilot Project Utilizing Twitter Data to Measure Ethnic Conflict

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The project was partially successful. We hired a doctoral student from Informatics to get training on Profiler Plus at Social Science Automation in Ohio. He was able to set up a system using Profiler Plus and Python to collect Twitter data of all the tweets mentioning ethnic conflict among ethnic groups in Kenya. Unfortunately, he was not able to develop a machine learning method for coding this information in a manner that would allow us to predict the rise and fall of ethnic conflict. I funded the student for two semesters from a different source of funding and even working on this project for a year we were unable to complete the pilot exercise to position ourselves for a grant. In the end, I believe the student did not have and was unable to develop the computer skills necessary to complete the project.

The good news is that Michael Young, President of Social Science Automation, has been hired by SUNY Albany. I hope that we can continue the program under his leadership and apply for external funding.