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# Elements for an epistemology of instrumentation and collaboration in Twitter data research

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# Twitter in Academia

## how it's done, who does it, and why

*Elements for an epistemology of instrumentation and collaboration in Twitter data research*

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### Method

- **Bibliometrics:** identification of all scientific publications regarding Twitter via Google Scholar, during 6 months (July-February 2013, n=282)
- Analysis of abstracts and metadata to find research field and methods used
- A lot of previous readings!

### Main findings

- Equal number of publications in computer sciences and social sciences
  - Old methods and new questions in social sciences (and sometimes no Twitter data)
  - Old questions and new methods in computer sciences
- autonomous development of techniques without “real-world” questions

### Perspectives

#### New methods for new questions:

- Actual teamwork *before* starting to build tools (no hierarchical organization, no sponsor *vs* subordinate roles)
- Co-creation of research questions reflecting both what can actually be done and what matters
- Epistemology as a bridge between fields (Galison 1996 ; Bénel 2013)

