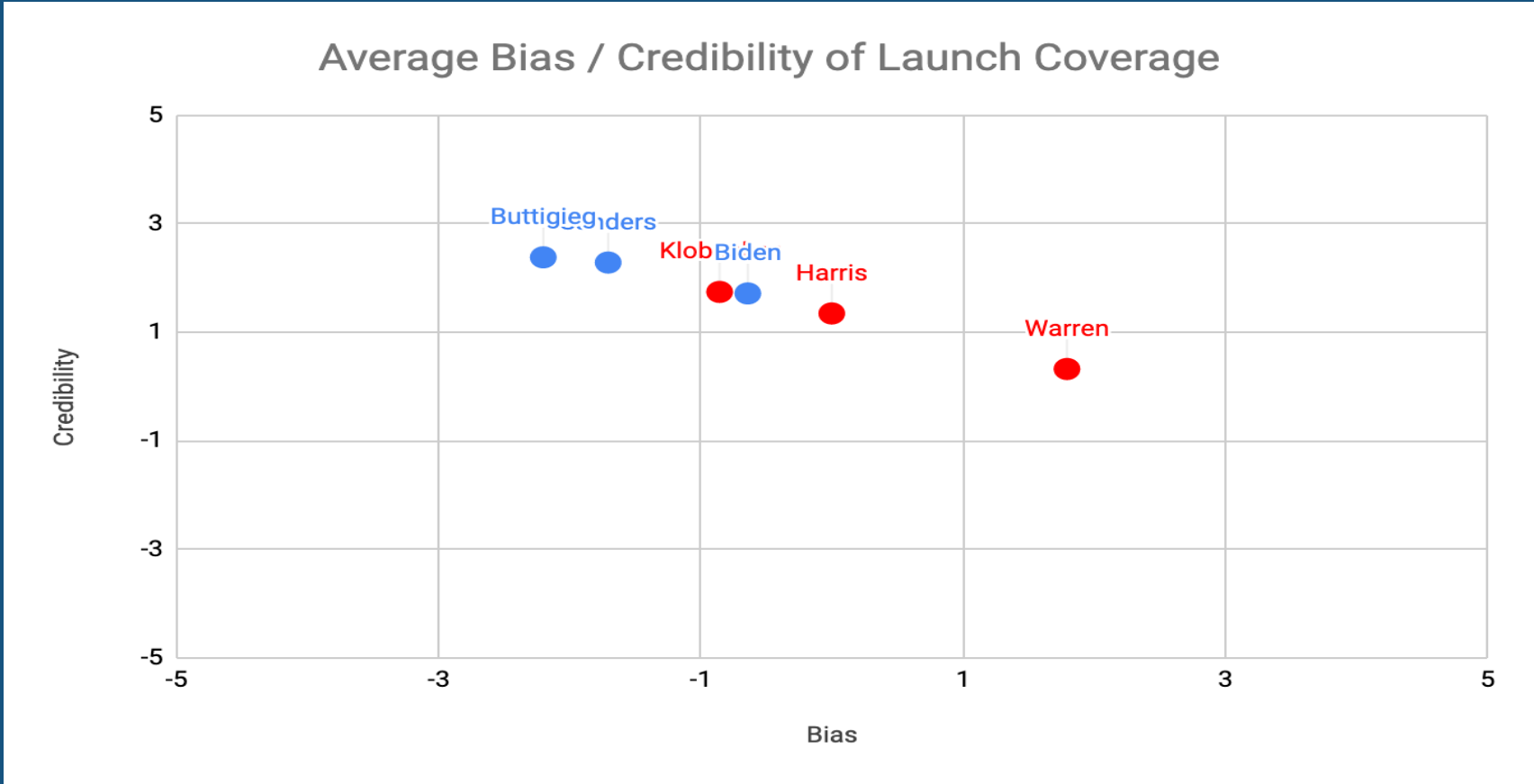




Gendered Disinformation & Online Attacks Against Women in Politics The Evidence

From the beginning, female candidates received a greater number of negative attacks from right-wing and inauthentic sources



Data Analytics from
Marvelous AI

Sexist, sticky story lines

From early on in their campaigns, social media narratives of female candidates were mostly negative and mostly concerned with their character

Top narratives persist across political spectrum

[character] Kamala Harris is not Authentically American, progressive, or black

[character] Elizabeth Warren lied about her ethnic heritage

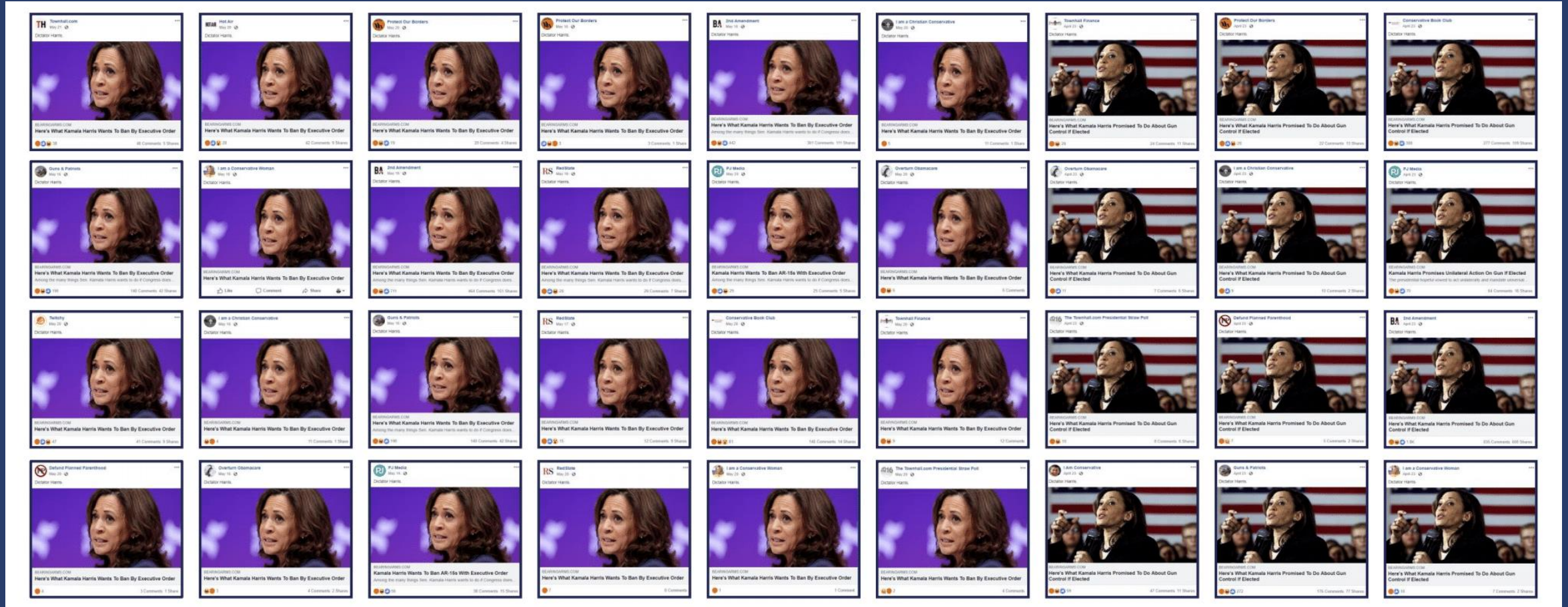
[character] Amy Klobuchar is mean to her staff

[electability] Bernie Sanders is the “real” front-runner

[electability] Pere Buttigieg is running a good campaign

[electability] Joe Biden is creepy to women and has a lot of baggage

Coordinated Push—“Dictator Harris”



Gendered disinformation

= the spread of deceptive or inaccurate information and images against **women** political leaders, journalists and female public figures, following story lines **that often draw on misogyny, as well as gender stereotypes around the role of women** (*Nature & Target*).

This type of disinformation is **designed to alter public understanding of female politicians' track records for immediate political gain, as well as to discourage women seeking political careers** (*Motive*)

Gendered disinformation vs gendered abuse

LaVerità La nuova immigrazione targata Pd Vietato espellere i clandestini gay

Approvato l'emendamento irrobustito alla legge sugli ingressi voluti dalla Boldrini, Non si potrà espellere chi dice di rischiare discriminazioni in patria per via dell'orientamento sessuale: sanzione a fingere omosessualità



Noi diamo per scontato che Laura Boldrini abbia un grado di protezione tale da non rischiare nulla, perché di Gianfranco Corsi si sta riempiendo il Paese con mandanti politici fin troppo noti.



Gianfranco Corsi è con Gianfranco Corsi.

3 ore · G

SGOZZATA DÀ UN NIGERIANO INFEROCITO...

**QUESTA E' LA FINE CHE
DEVE FARE COSI'
PER APPREZZARE LE USANZE
DEI SUOI AMICI**



Gendered disinformation vs gendered abuse



Carmena creará zonas para que los gays follen al aire libre en Madrid

Publicado el Miércoles, 11 Abril 2018 09:48 Escrito por David Enguita



La yaya "magdalena" de Madrid vuelve a sorprender ante un anuncio sin sentido y perjudicial con la ciudadanía, además de ilegal. La nueva ocurrencia de Manuela Carmena, es permitir y legalizar las zonas de "cruising" en Madrid, para que los gays puedan ir a follar al aire libre. Tal cual.

Gendered disinformation & abuse: **similar themes**

- Women are overly sexual
- Women are untrustworthy
- Women are weak
- Women are stupid



Women are unfit for power (and politics is a dirty game)

Gendered disinformation & abuse: **similar motives**

- Push women out of politics
- Eliminate opposition
- Erode women's rights
- Erode democratic institutions and values
- Exercise influence on foreign elections
(Belarus, Ukraine)

Gendered disinformation & abuse: **same actors & tools**

- Authoritarian Leaders
- “Caveman” Political Leaders
- Illiberal Actors
- The Manosphere





Striking Back

**Strategies and Opportunity
Areas to Address Gendered
Disinformation
Globally**

Best practices in tools & advocacy

REPORTING IN AN ERA OF DISINFORMATION:

Fairness Guide for Covering Women and
People of Color in Politics

<https://weareultraviolet.org/fairness-guide-2020/>



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Democratic Women's Caucus, Speaker Pelosi Send Letter to Facebook Demanding it Stop the Spread of Gendered Disinformation and Misogynistic Attacks Against Women Leaders

What's needed next:

1. A new research agenda

- Map major disinformation efforts – and their gendered dimension in the Global South
- Evaluate impact of various inoculation strategies, technological innovations (e.g. ParityBOT and Harmony Square) and citizen literacy programs – with a specific focus on gender-based bias & disinformation

What's Needed Next:

2. Support women leaders

Support the women leaders who are at the forefront of democratization efforts and calls for good governance globally and are therefore becoming the targets of disinformation – providing them with the tools, the information and the support network they need to respond to gendered attacks and influence regulatory changes.



Do you want to know more?

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