Examining Xenophobia in Greece during the economic crisis: A computational perspective

Athena Research and Innovation Center, Institute for Language and Speech Processing

Panteion University, Center for Political Research

http://xenophobia.ilsp.gr

Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση
Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ & ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ
ΕΙΔΙΚΗ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ ΕΠΠΑ & ΤΣ
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ΕΠΑνΕΚ 2014–2020
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ΕΣΠΑ 2014-2020
ανάπτυξη - εργασία - αλληλεγγύη

Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

XENO@GR

clarin:el

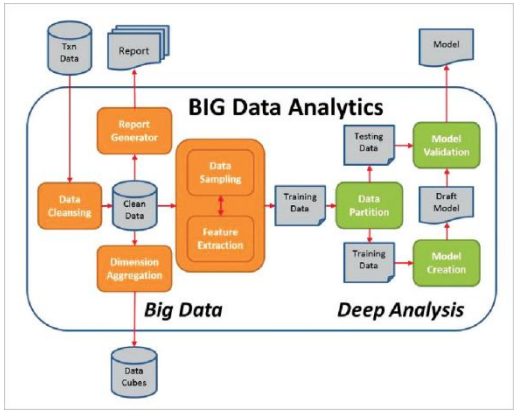
Research Questions

Prejudices & Stereotypes

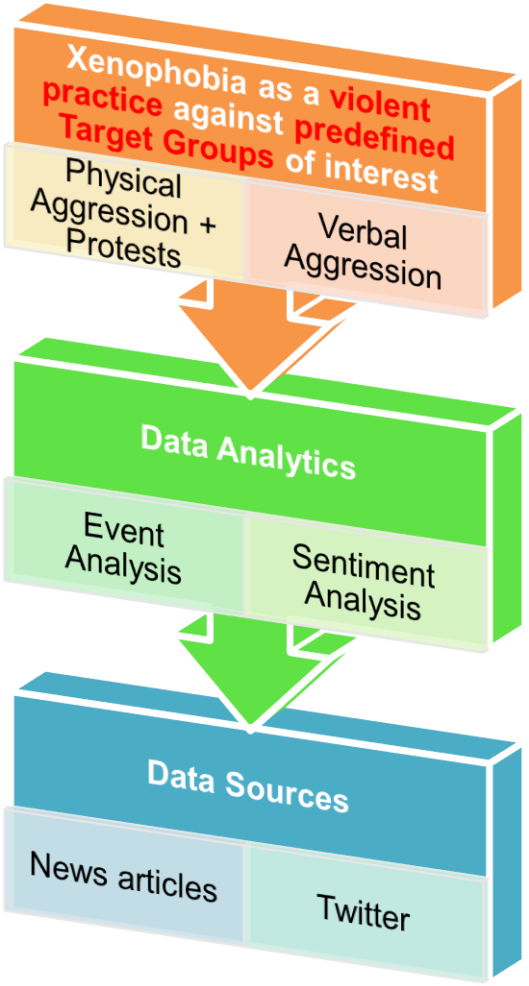
Economic crisis

The Basic Factor of xenophobic sentiments among Greeks

Methodology



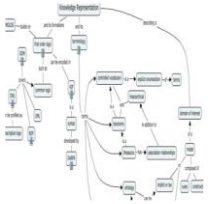
Research Strand



Methodology

Data Collection

Data Exploration



Knowledge Representation

Data Analysis

Visualization

Interpretation

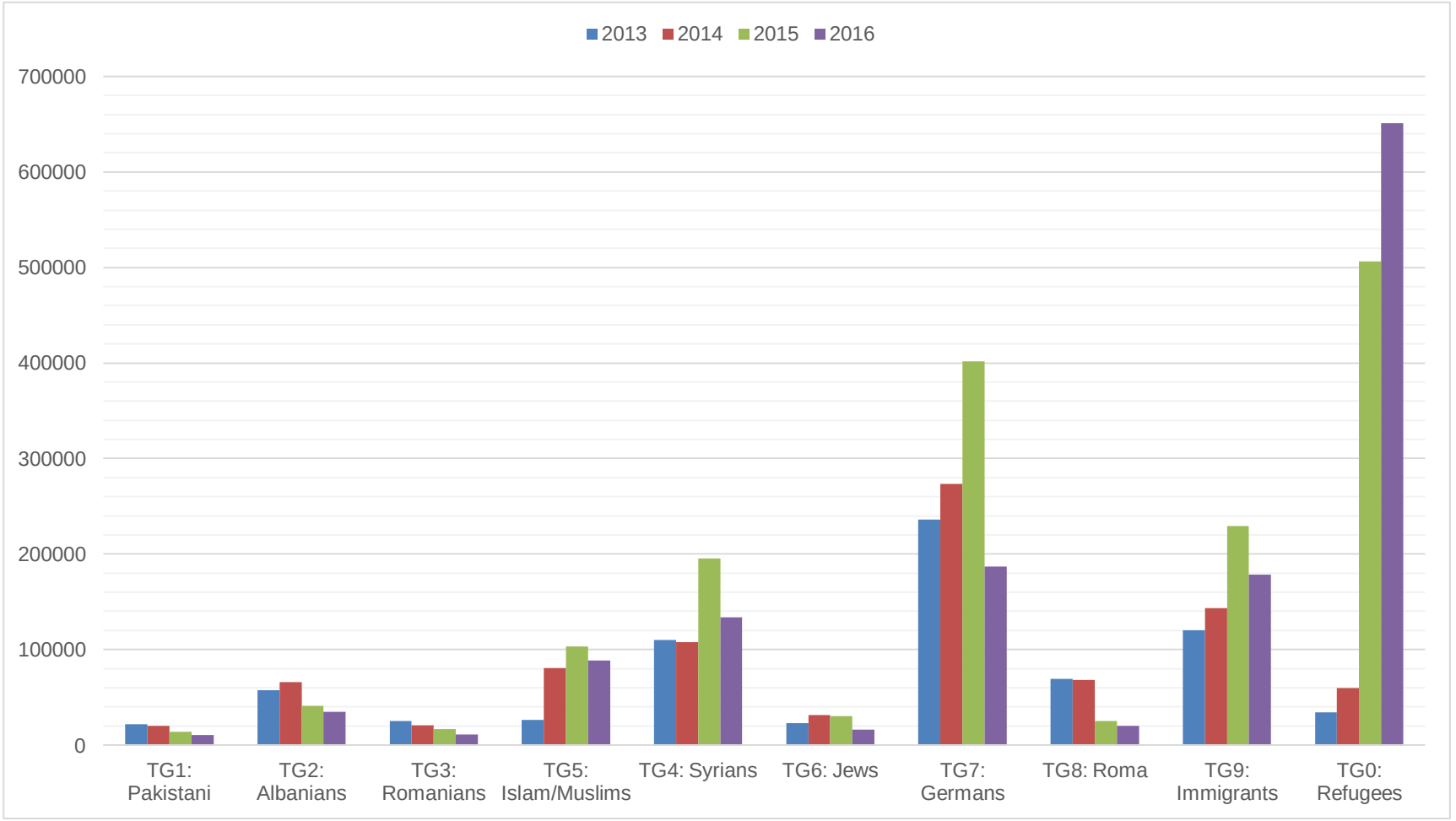
Data Collection: News Articles

- 7 Newspapers
- ≈ **3.600.000** articles
- Time period: 1995-2016

Avgi	Kathimerini	Eleftherotypia	Rizospastis	TaNea	In.gr	Naftemporiki
792.715	282.621	429.364	725.108	330.190	428.880	649.259
1996-2015	2002-2006, 2009-2012	2002-2006, 2008-2014	1995-07/2016	1997-2007	1999-21/09/2016	2000-21/09/2016

Data Collection: Twitter

- ≈ **500.000.000** Tweets
- Time period 2013-2016



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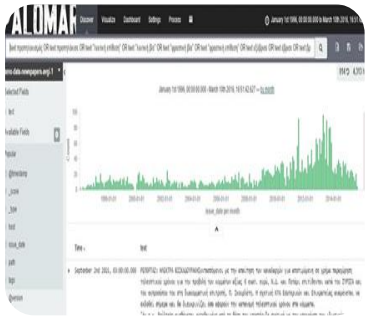

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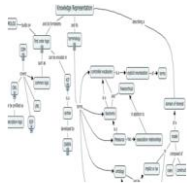

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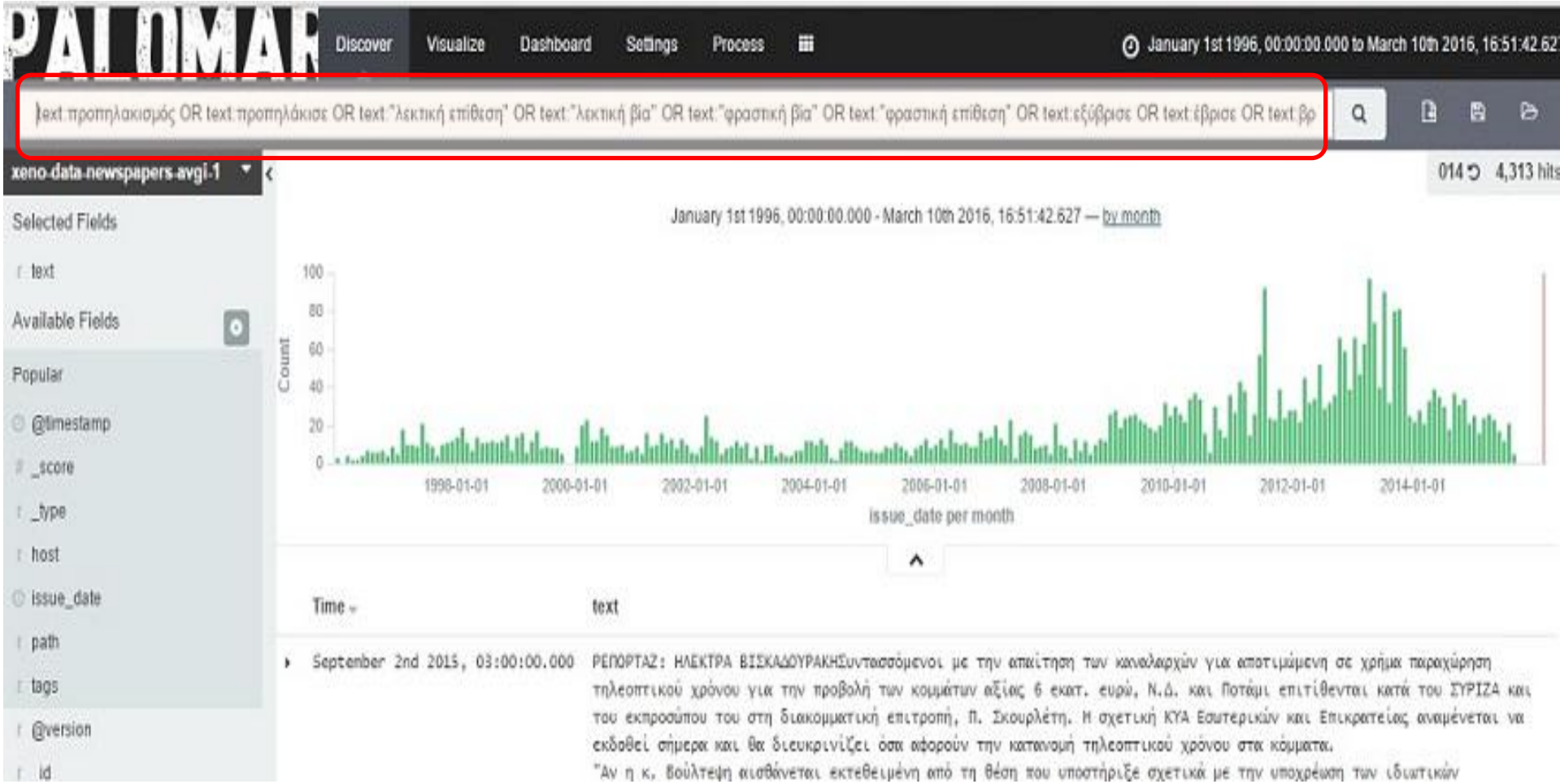

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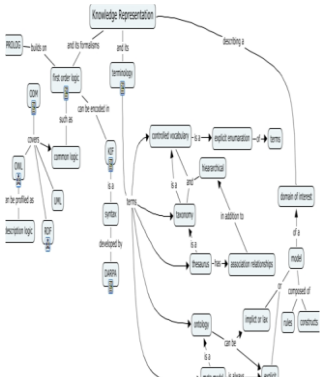

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Codebook – Event Taxonomy

clarin:el

- Physical Attacks
  - Violent Assault
  - Sexual Assault
  - Verbal Attack
  - Attack against Property
- Protests
  - Demonstration/March
  - Hunger Strike
  - Blockade/Occupation
  - Revolt

Codebook – Event Taxonomy

clarin:el

EVENT

- The word or phrase representing an event type under examination, which is located within the text.
- Features: *Event type*.

ACTOR

- The entity that performs each event instance.
- Features: *Summary*, *TG*, *Nationality*, *Age*, *Sex*, *Status*.

TARGET

- The entity to whom the action is addressed.
- Features: *Summary*, *TG*, *Nationality*, *Age*, *Sex*, *Status*.

LOCATION

- Where the event took place.
- Features: *Category*.

TIME

- When the event happened.
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CONFIDENCE

- Captures whether in the article there is any indication that an Actor of an assault may not be the actual perpetrator.
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On 28 March 2013, in the center of Xanthi, a 30-year-old Greek Muslim **suffered a stub wound** by members of Golden Dawn.

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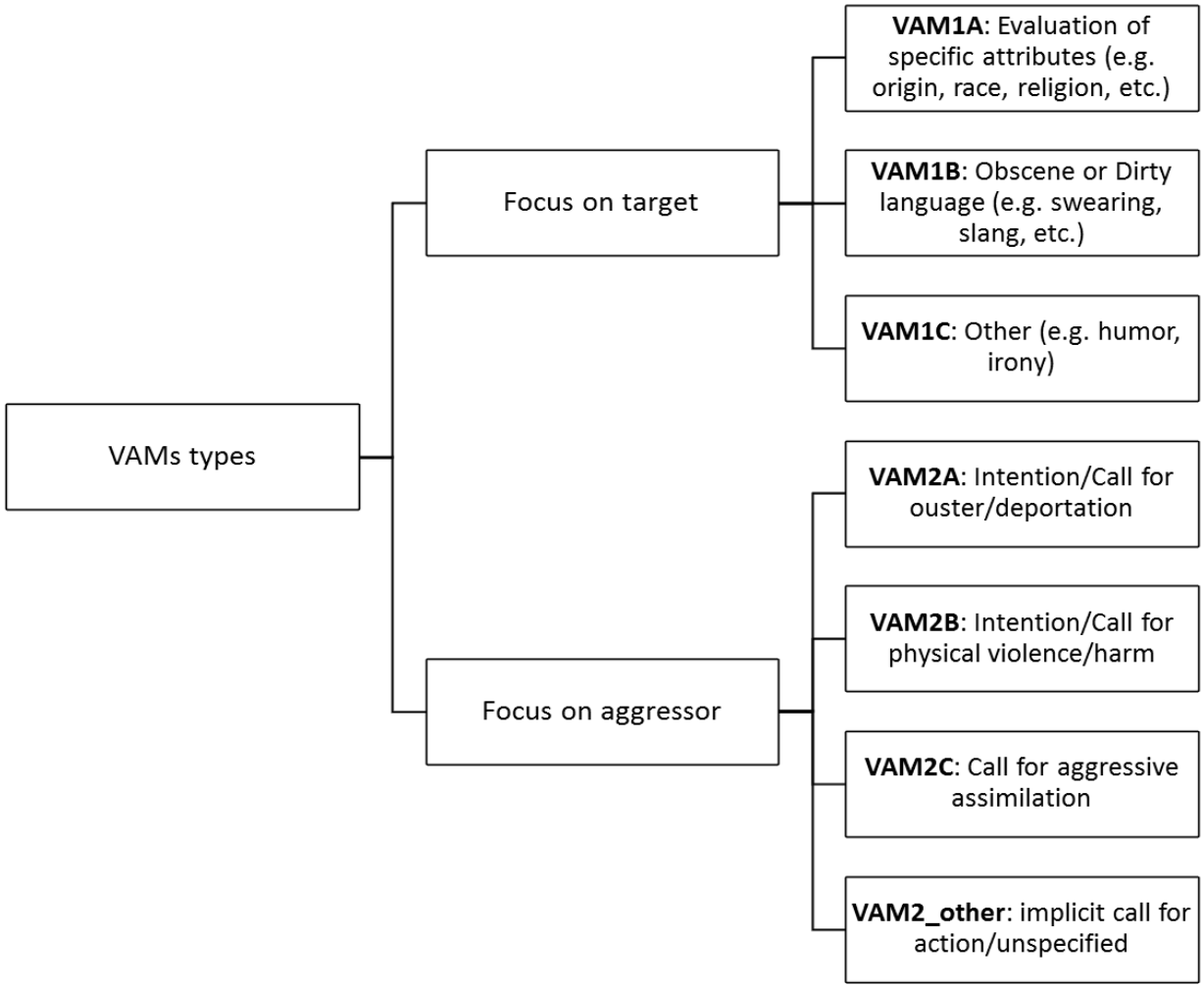
Verbal Aggressiveness Framework



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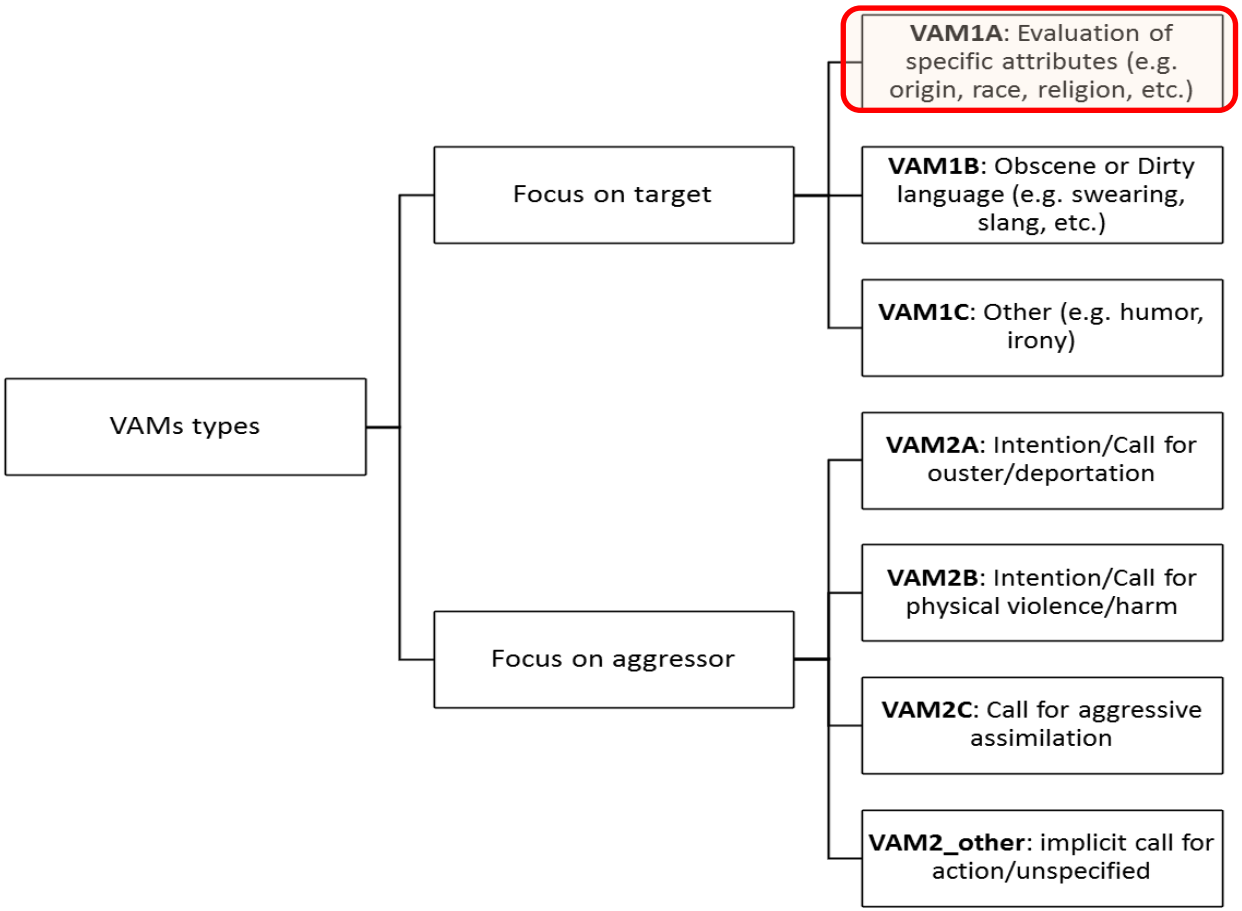
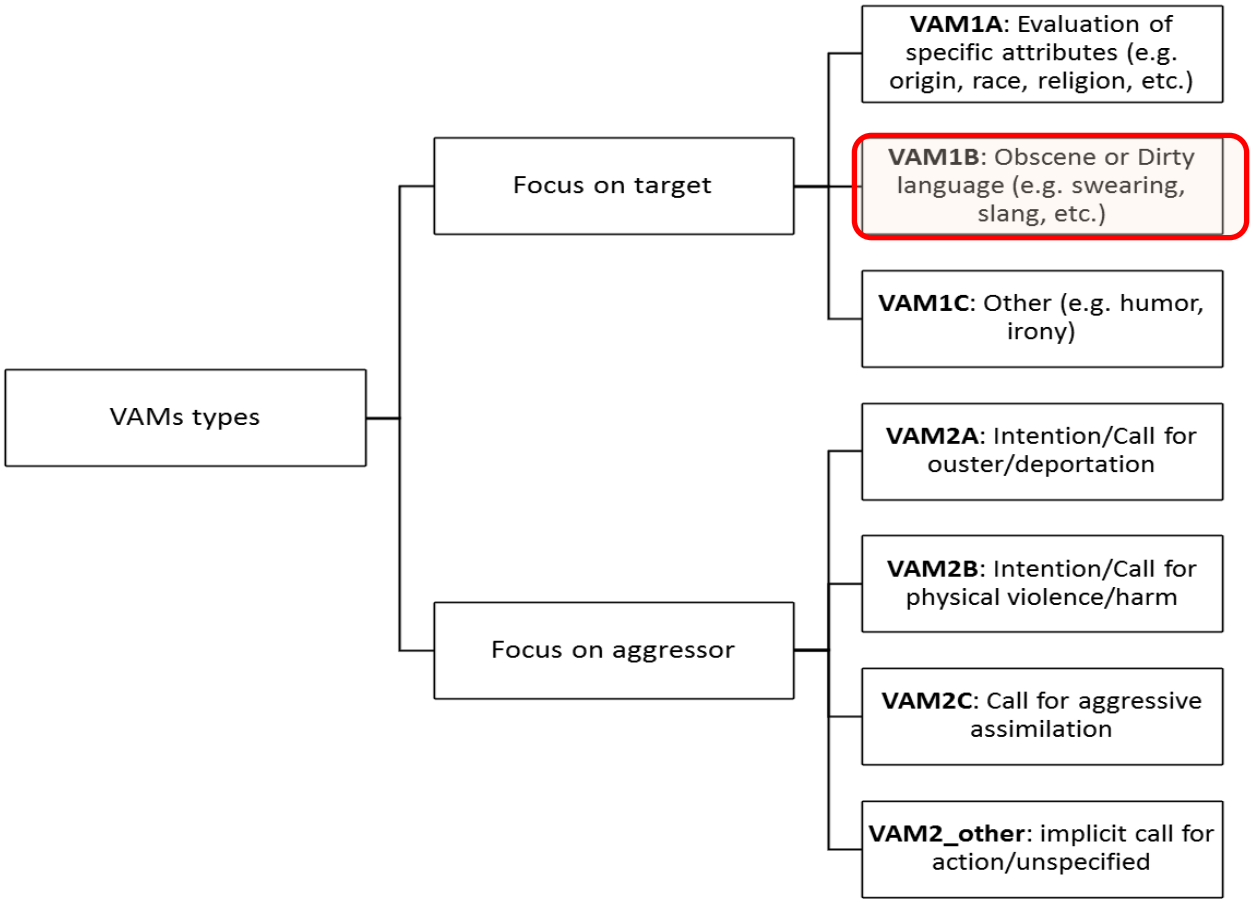
clarin:el



"και κάτι που ξέχασα να προσθέσω είναι ότι η θρησκεία (Μουσουλμάνοι) δεν χαρακτηρίζεται από καινοτομίες.."

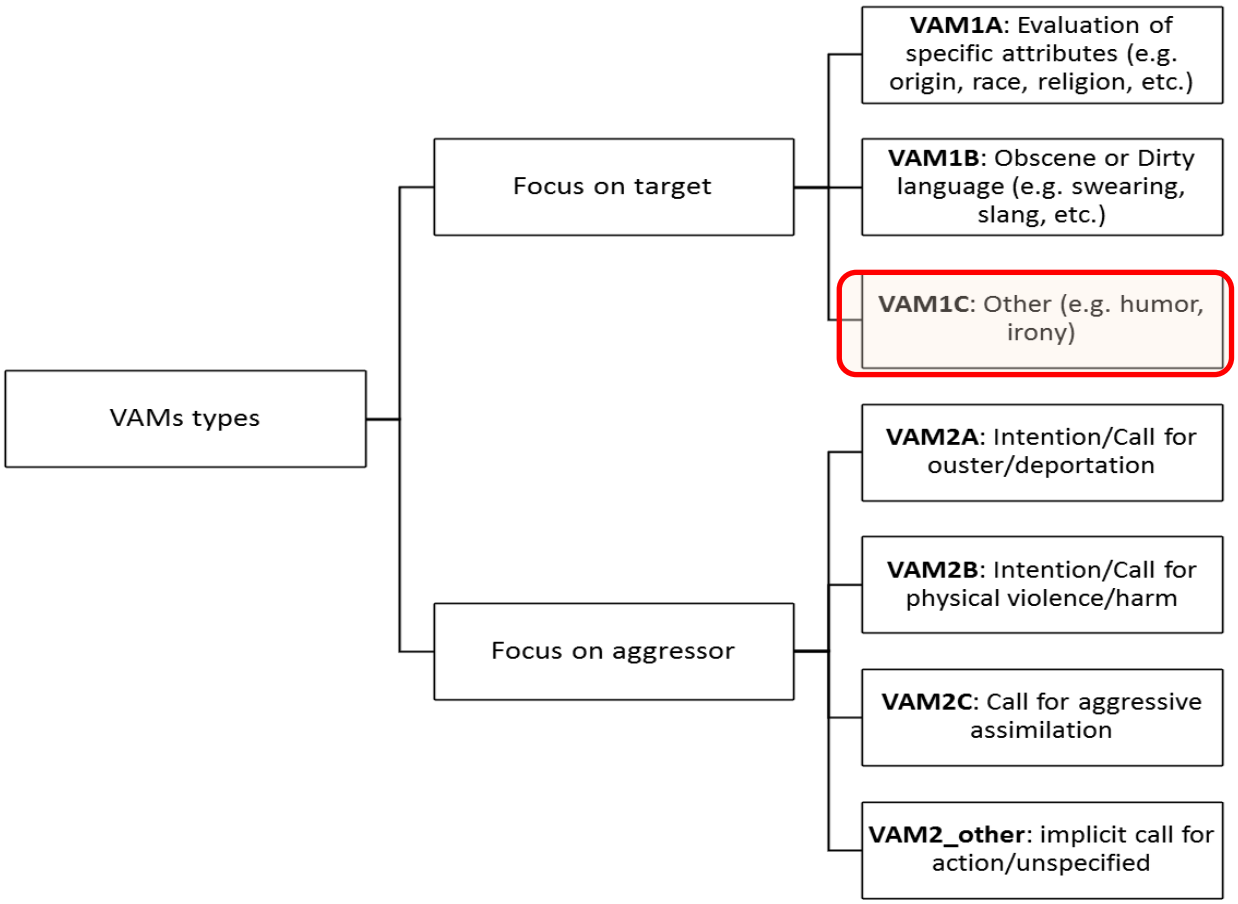
["*Islam is not characterized by innovation*"]

Verbal Aggressiveness Framework



" *Γαμω τους αλβανούς ρε φίλε...."*
["*Fucking Albanians…*"]

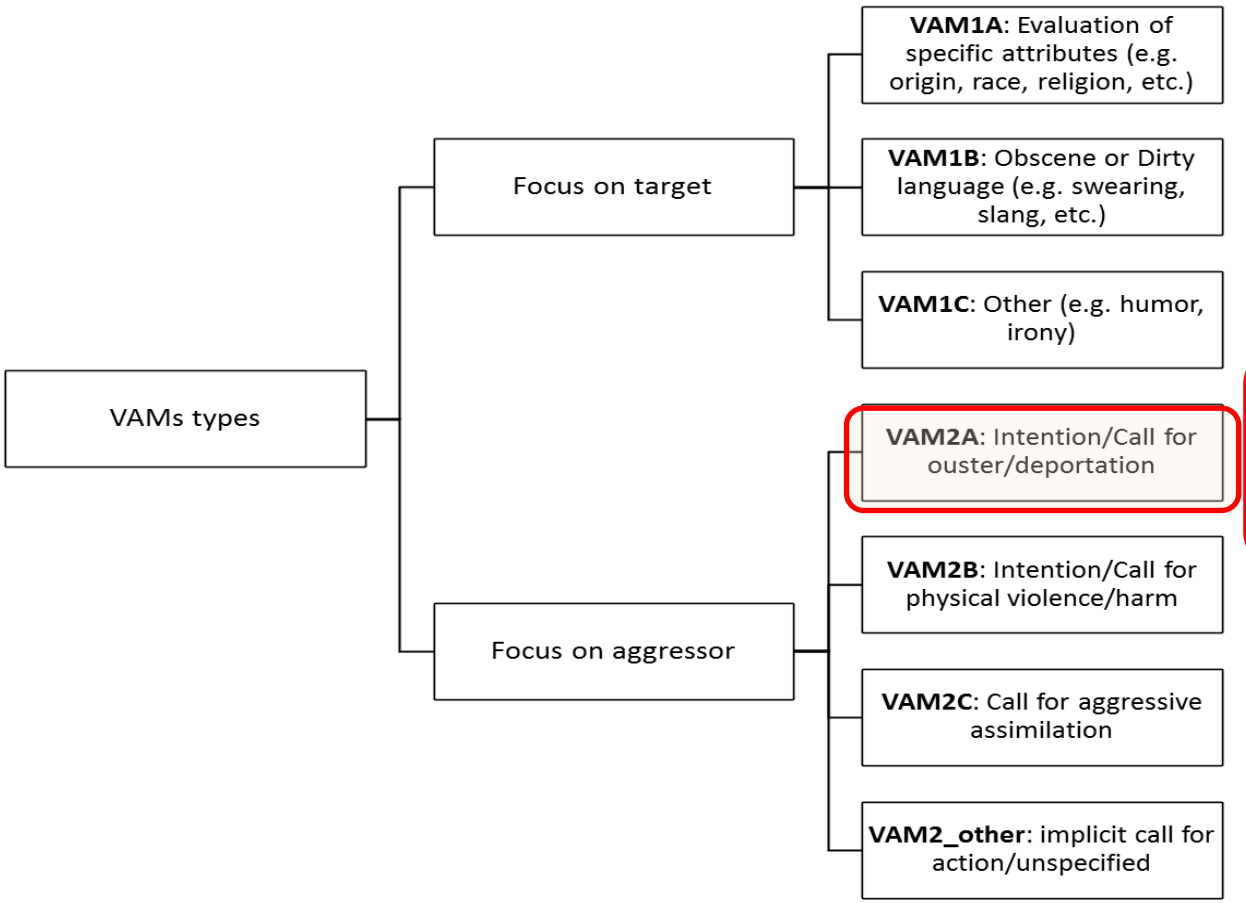
Verbal Aggressiveness Framework



"Ευτυχώς που η φύση κρατάει ισορροπία και σκοτώνονται οι Εβραίοι με τους φανατικούς μουσουλμάνους !!!"

["*Jews and Muslims are killing each other…fortunately nature keeps a balance!!!*"]

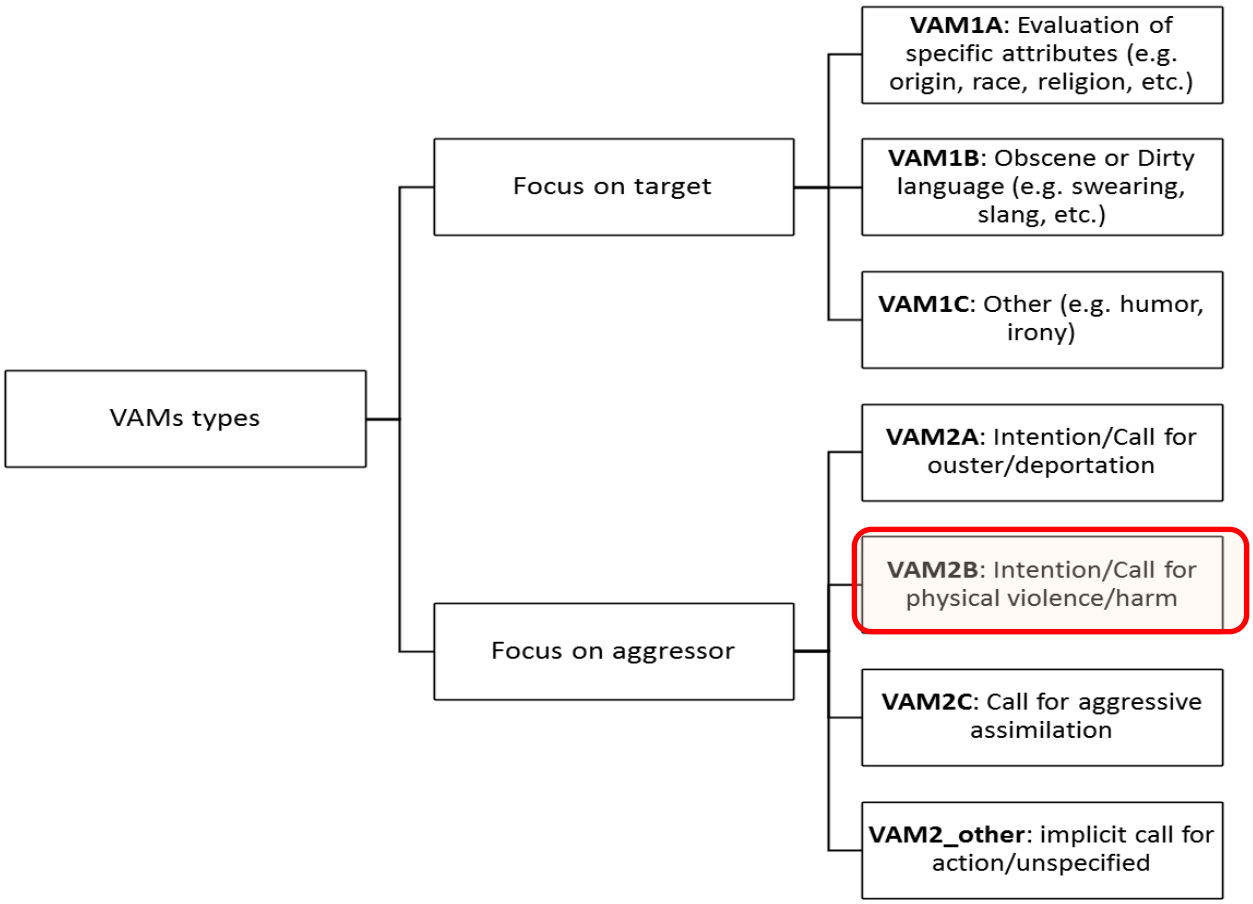
Verbal Aggressiveness Framework



"Άμεση απέλαση... Αφού δεν σέβονταν την χώρα... RT @skaigr Εξέγερση μεταναστών στο κέντρο της Αμυγδαλέζας…"

["Immediately deport the immigrants…they do not respect our country"]

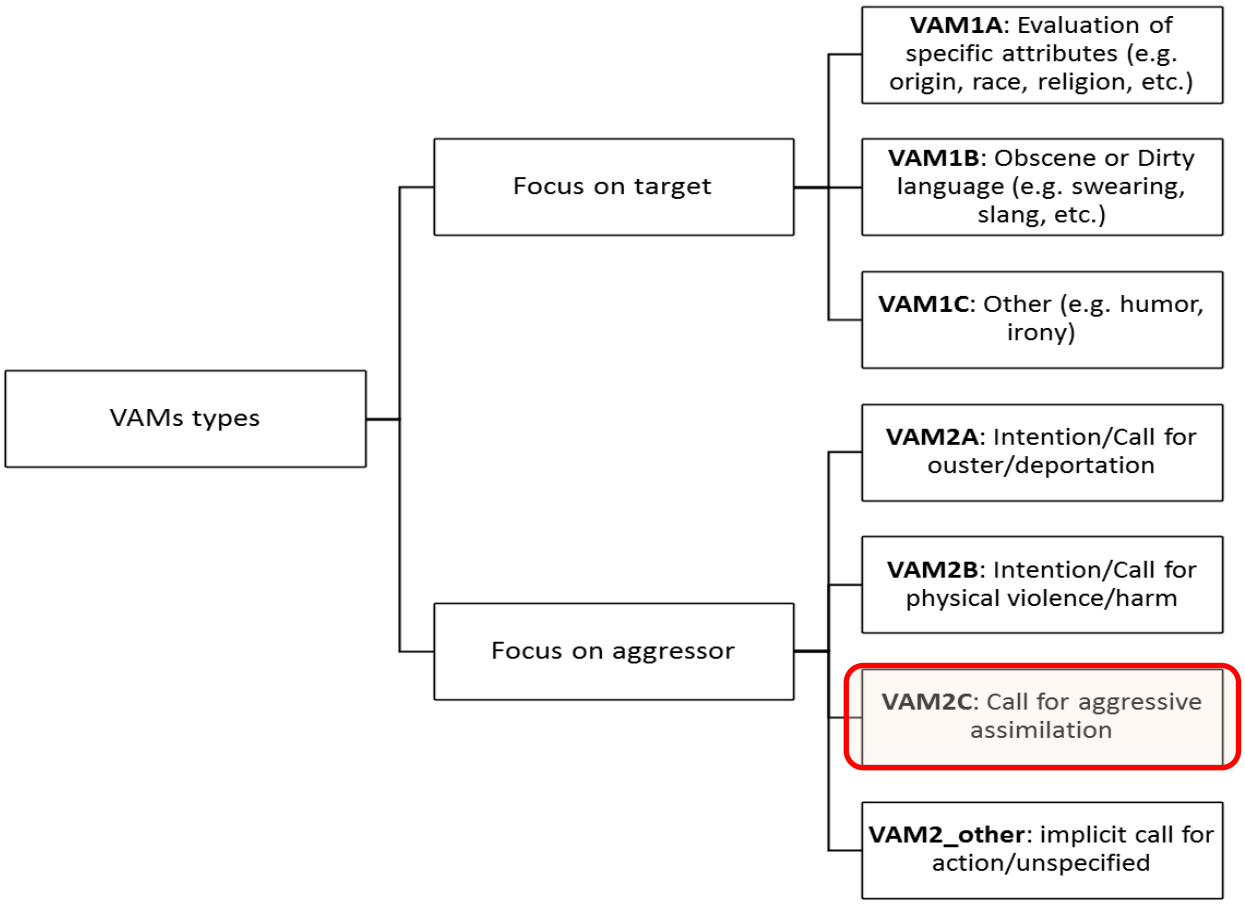
Verbal Aggressiveness Framework



"*ΦΡΙΚΤΟΣ θανατος στο Πακιστανικο κτηνος*"

["*Murder that Pakistani beast*"]

Verbal Aggressiveness Framework

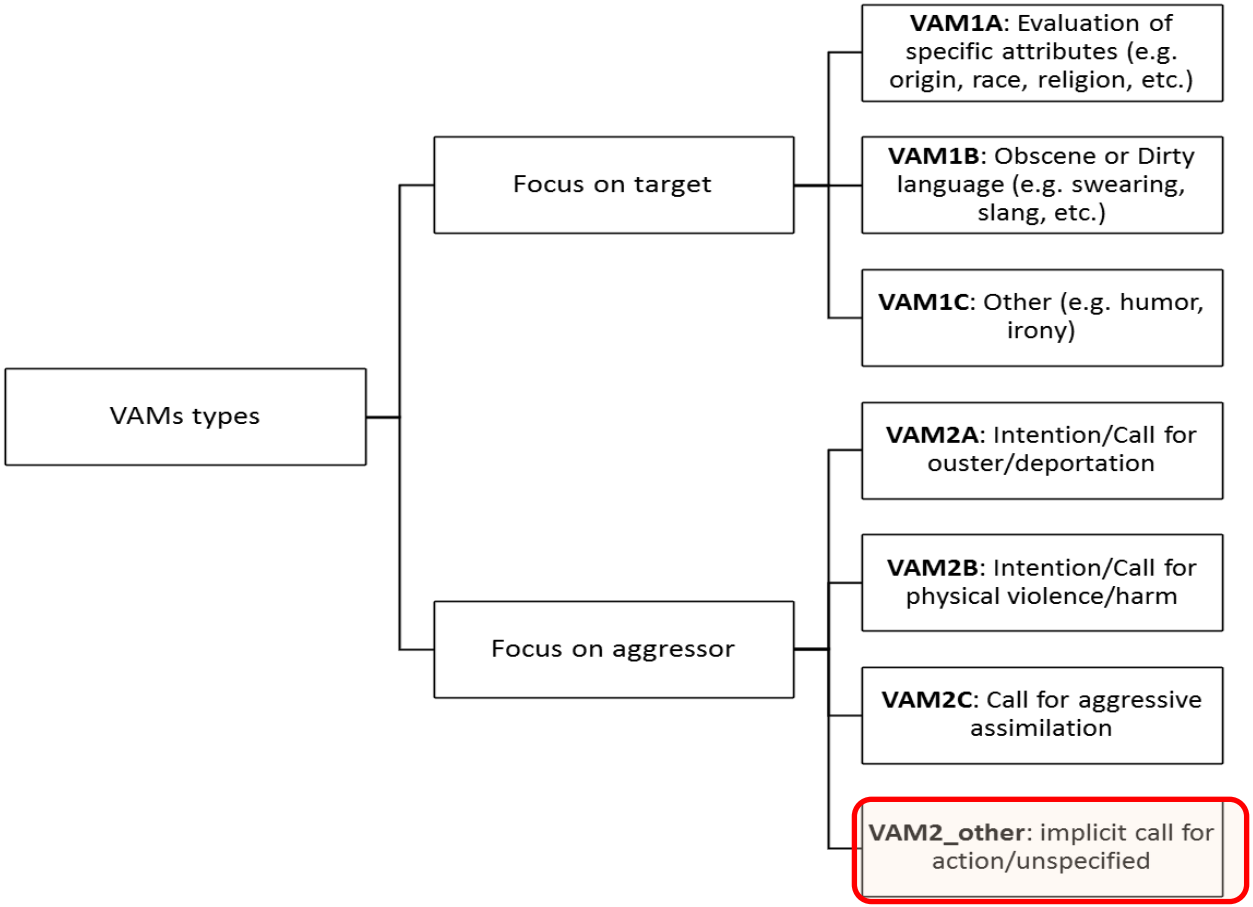


"*Να εκχριστιανιστούν οι Μουσουλμάνοι μετανάστες αν θέλουν άδεια εργασίας στην Ελλάδα.*"

["*Muslims should be baptized if they want to find a job in Greece*"]

Verbal Aggressiveness Framework

clarin:el



"*Θα συνεχίσουμε να κάνουμε τους χαζούς μπροστά στον ισλαμικό κίνδυνο;*"

["*We will keep pretending that there is no Islamic danger?*"]

Methodology

clarin:el

Data Collection

Data Exploration

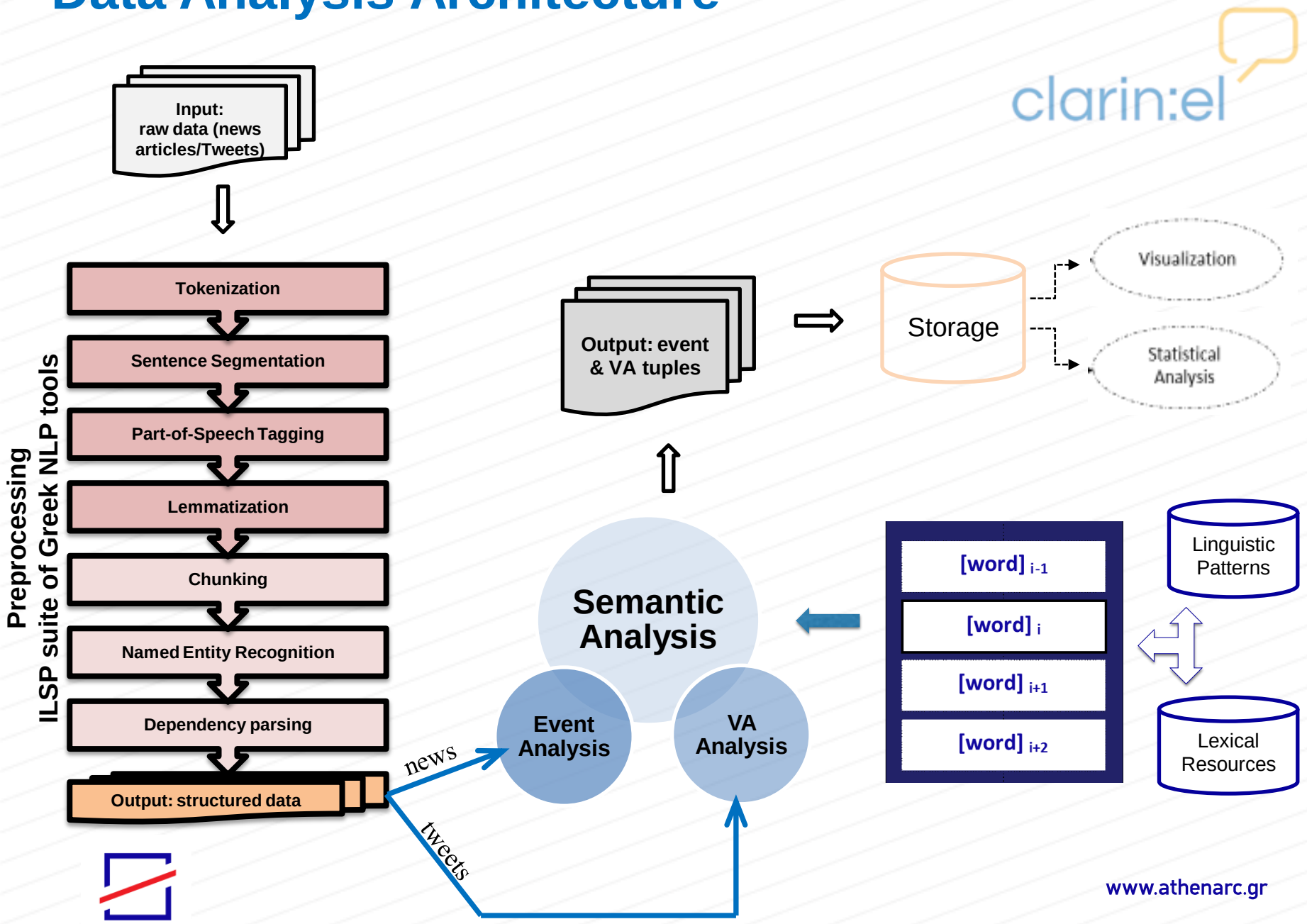
Knowledge Representation

Data Analysis

Visualization

Interpretation

Data Analysis Architecture



Event Analysis

clarin:el

Input

- *On 28 March 2013, in the center of Xanthi, a 30-year-old Greek Muslim suffered a stub wound by members of Golden Dawn.*

Output

- <**TIME**: *On 28 March 2013,* **LOCATION**: *in the center of Xanthi,* **TARGET**: *a 30-year-old Greek Muslim* **EVENT**: *suffered a stub wound* **ACTOR**: *by members of Golden Dawn.*>

- ✓ Target_Age: 30
- ✓ Target_TG: 5
- ✓ Target_Nationality: Greek
- ✓ Event_Type: Assault against Life
- ✓ Actor_TG: Control Group
- ✓ Actor_Summary: Racist, extreme right organizations/groups

Other metadata:
Event_Id, Medium, Article Title

Verbal Aggressiveness Analysis

clarin:el

Input

- *Muslims should be baptized if the want to find a job in Greece.*

Output

- <**TG_ID**: 5, **TG_EVIDENCE**: *Muslims*, **VAM_TYPE**: VAM2C, **VA_EVIDENCE**: *baptized* >

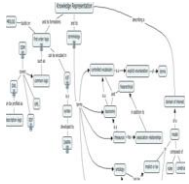
Other metadata:

- ✓ Tweet_Id
- ✓ User_Id
- ✓ Tweet Text
- ✓ Timestamp

Methodology

Data Collection

Data Exploration


Knowledge Representation

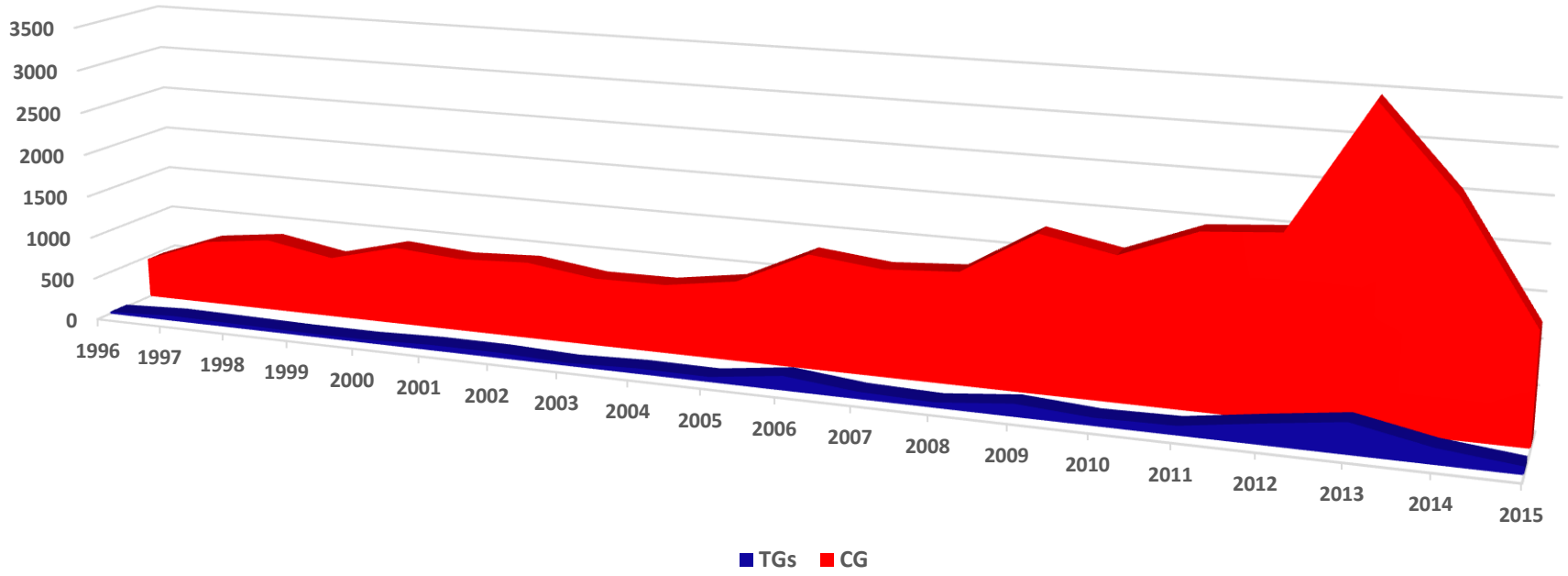
Data Analysis

Visualization

Interpretation

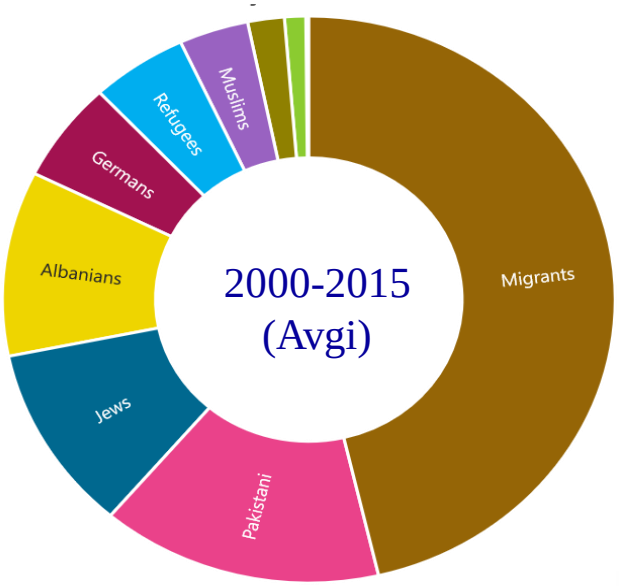
Visualizations:

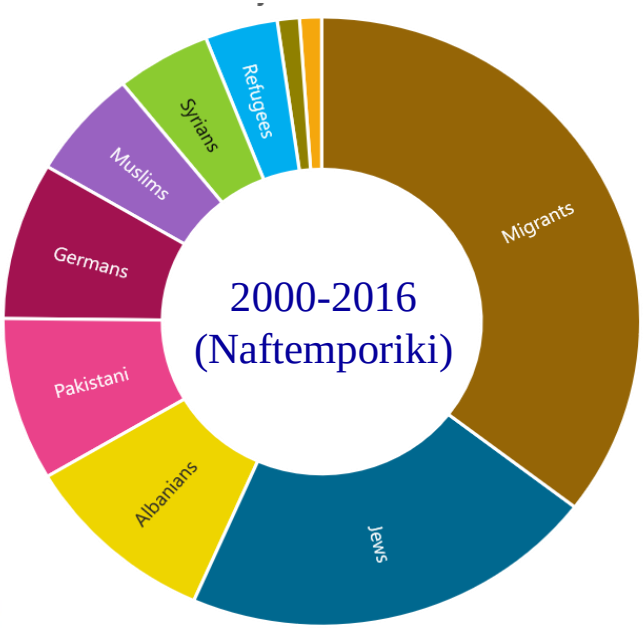
Physical Attacks Timeline - Target Groups vs Control Group



Visualizations:

Main Targets of Attacks





Visualizations:

Events Word Clouds

TG:1

Events

Actors

Visualizations:
VA Word Clouds

Methodology

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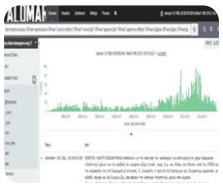

Data Exploration

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Quantitative Analysis

clarin:el

- Xenophobic behaviors don’t seem to be dominant in Greece.
  - The increase of violent incidents targeting foreigners should be examined in the light of a rise of aggressiveness in general, irrespectively of national identity of the victim.
    - Financial misery can cause an outbreak of violence.
- Physical and verbal aggression as indicators of xenophobic attitudes in Greece seem to be addressed to the same targets.

Qualitative Analysis

clarin:el

- Specific Stereotypes and Prejudices: confirmed coinciding with literature findings
  - **Albanians:**
    - ✓ "*crime*" and "*cultural inferiority*" stereotypes indicating a continuity of the so-called stereotype of the Balkanian criminal
    - ✓ calls for ouster/deportation
  - **Jews:**
    - ✓ calls for physical extinction are far greater for Jews than for any other group
    - ✓ a perception of a particular enmity towards the Greek nation & blame attribution patterns of the Greek crisis
    - ✓ identification with the negative aspects of the banking system and global capitalism & frequent appeal to conspiracy theory elements
- Two different dimensions of xenophobia:
  - Dominance is directed against Albanians and Pakistani
  - Vulnerability in the case of Jews

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