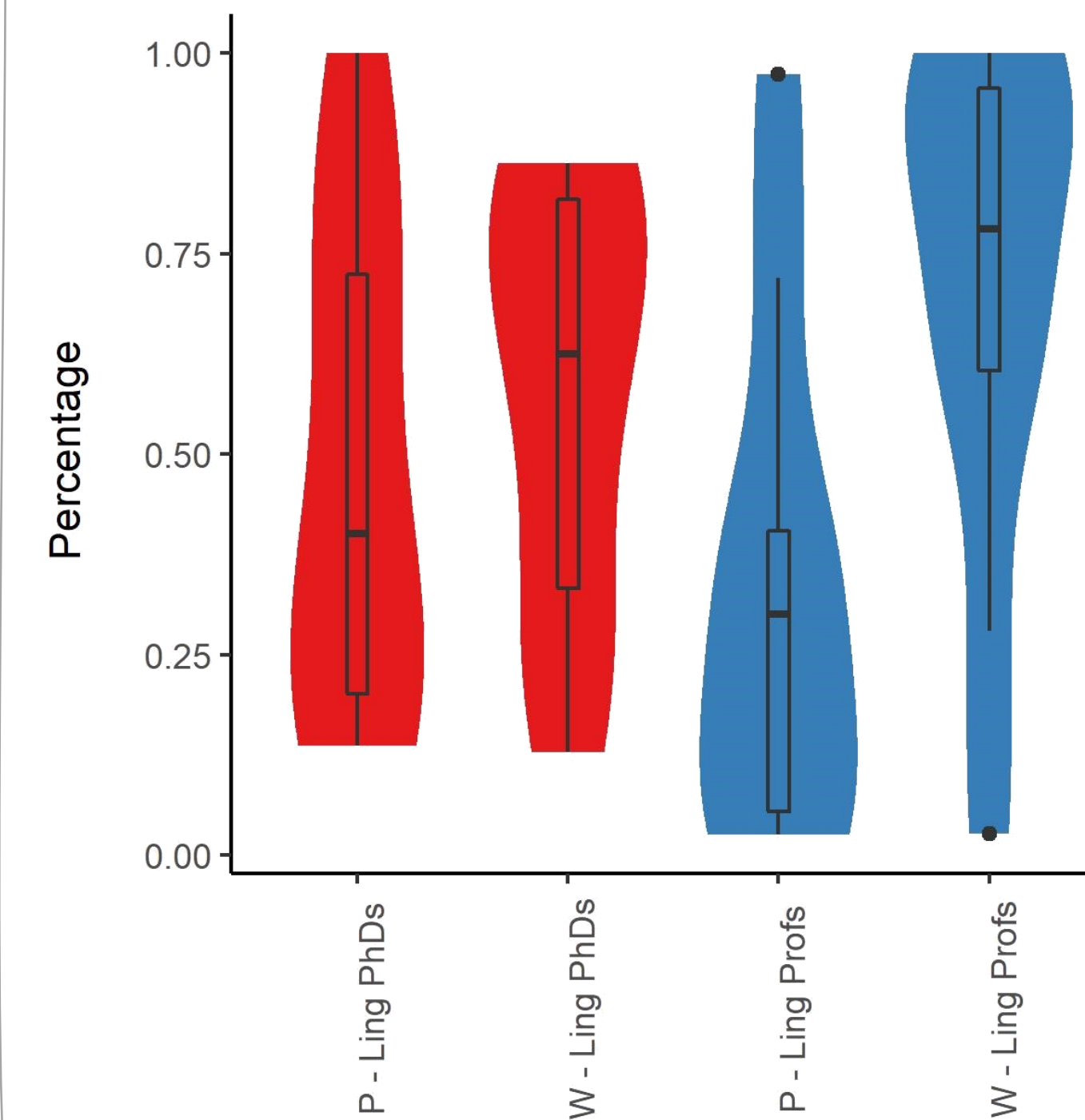# "You're a #linguistics nerd": Discursive strategies of young scholars and professors on Twitter

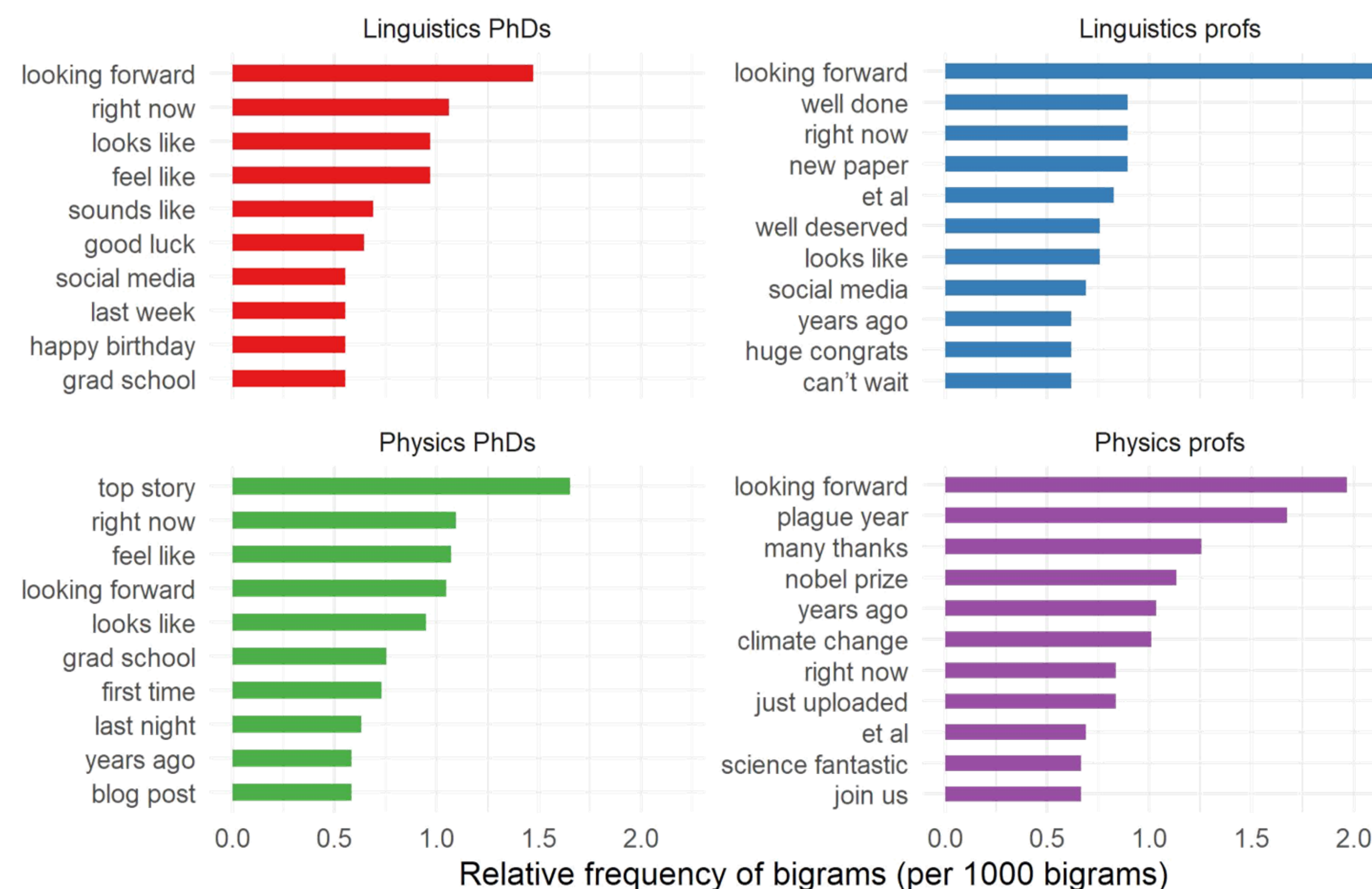universität wien

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## Method

Exploratory quantitative & qualitative analysis

Twitter database (Oct 2020)

499 users • 24,322 tweets • 465,334 tokens

## Academic Twitter

Echo chambers: most followers = researchers [1]

Disciplinary silos: limited exchange betw. disciplines [1]

Diverse functions: information exchange, identity work, community building, self-disclosure [2, 3]

[1] Coté, Isabelle M. ; Darling Emily S. 2018. "Scientists on Twitter: preaching to the choir or singing from the rooftops?" FACETS 3, 682-694.
[2] Seargeant, Philip; Tagg, Caroline. 2014. The language of social media: identity and community on the internet. Hampshire: Palgrave MacMillan.
[3] Locher, Miriam A.; Bolander, Brook. 2017. "Facework and identity." In C.R. Hoffmann and W. Bublith (eds.). Pragmatics of social media. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter Mouton, 407-434.

## Linguistics: profs talk more about work than PhD students



## Scholars advertise work, offer support, discuss academia & science, maintain relationships



## Users merge personal and professional identities, e.g.:
### Linguist x PoC x Citizen

There's a subtle and important distinction here that makes sense to me as someone with a non-anglo name, born and raised in 70s and 80s America. But I want to address some even finer points as a linguist who studies speech and perception. 1/7 [...]

The Kamala dispronunciation is something special. Its spelling and structure (Con-Vowel-Con-Vowl-Con-Vowel) is objectively simple and none of those sounds are foreign to Am.Eng (cf. Zbigniew or Keileigh or Siobhan). This wasn't a failure to project Sanskrit sounds onto Am.Eng, 6/7

but rather it's a more sinister sociopolitical project, basically laughing at this brown person with the unpronounceable, un-American name. I'm not a sociolinguist, so I'm sure smarter people have written about this in more nuanced ways. Just one brown-American's opinion. 7/7