Appendix 1: Sentiment verification

Two methods for validation were used for the sentiment analysis. Against a manually coded random sample (N = 100) carried out using the oolong package in R, the unmodified Stanza sentiment analysis achieved a significant Pearson's correlation coefficient of r(98)=0.41, p<.001 which is better what usually is found in the other studies that validated off-the-shelf methods (Boukes et al., 2019; Zeng et al, 2020).

Additionally, the recorded sentiment of the titles and leads of each of the articles were compared, which had a Pearson's correlation coefficient of 0.64. Because the title and lead shouldn't contain the same exact text, this correlation can be used as another measure of the sentiment analysis' accuracy. For this analysis, we considered two measures of sentiment: the sentence containing the place name and the entire lead. Because the two are closely correlated, the whole lead was chosen as the sentiment measure, as it contains more potentially useful information. In Figure 11, the sentiment measures for the title, sentence containing a given location, and the whole lead is shown over time. Locations are measured on a scale of 1 (entirely positive) to -1 (entirely negative), but this data set was found to be overwhelmingly positive.

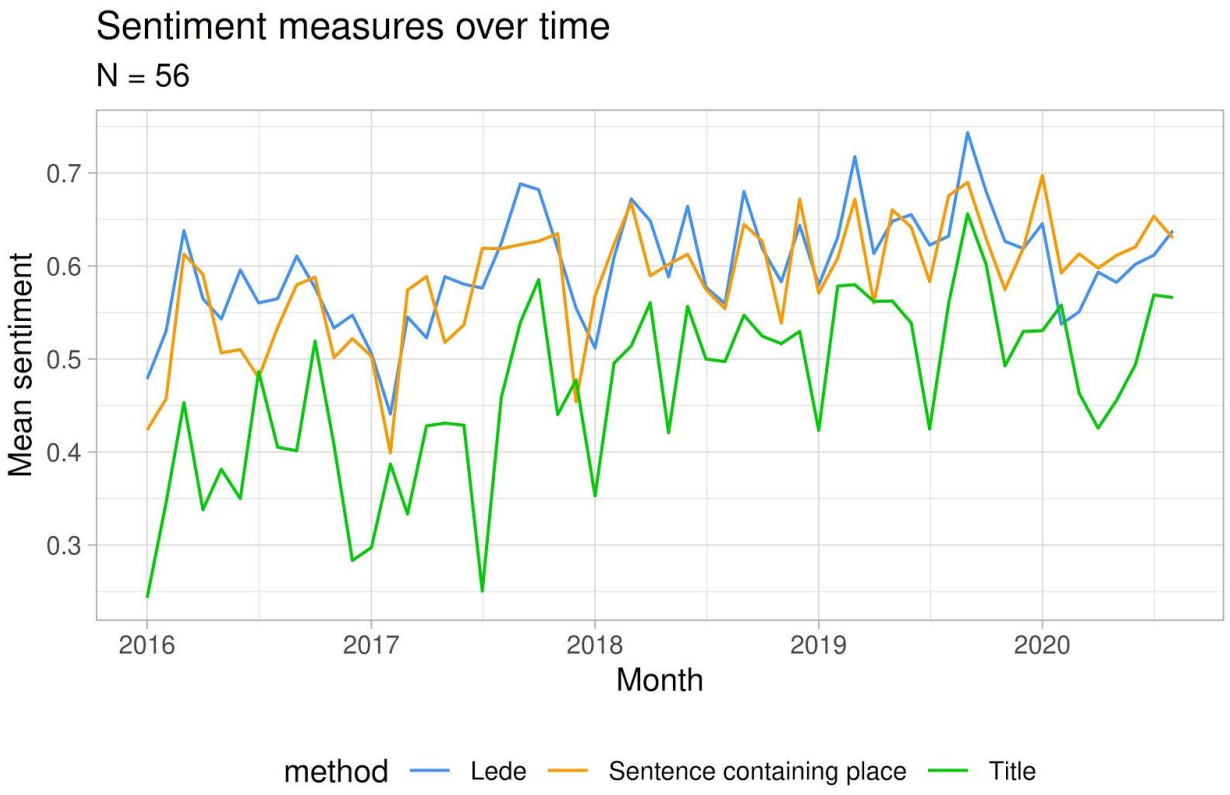
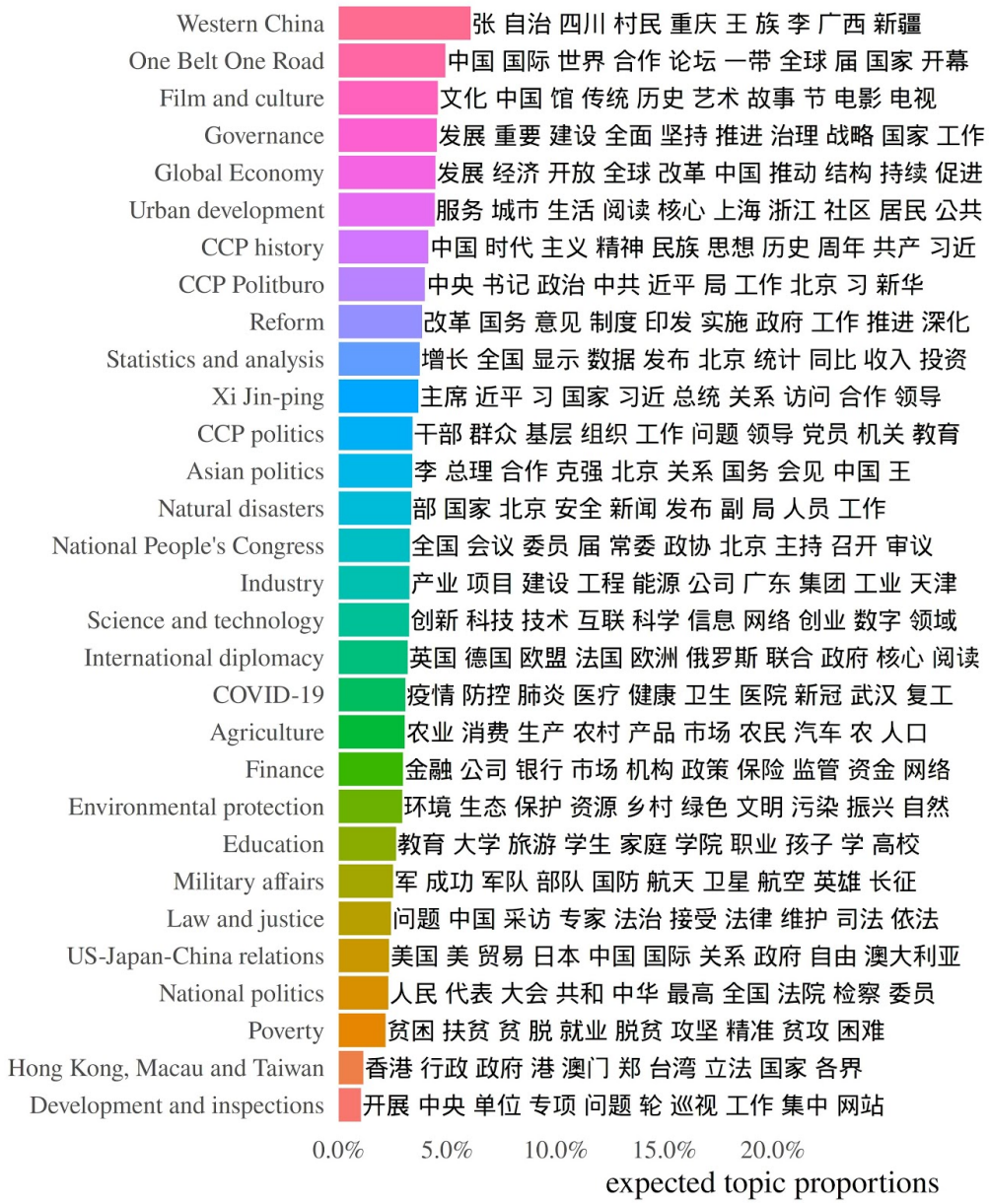


Figure 11. Measures of the mean sentiment per month of the title, lead, and sentence containing a place name are plotted over time.

Appendix 2: Topic model



Topics ordered by overall prevalence. The words with the highest probability are shown for each topic.

Appendix 3: Regression analysis international mentions as outcome

Predictors	Estimates
Intercept	135.33 (100)
population	0.000006 (0.0000005) ***
GDP per capita	0.003 (0.003)
n	159
R2 / R2 adjusted	0.516 / 0.510

F(156)=83.32, p < .001

References

Boukes, M., van de Velde, B., Araujo, T., & Vliegenthart, R. (2020). What's the Tone? Easy Doesn't Do It: Analyzing Performance and Agreement Between Off-the-Shelf Sentiment Analysis Tools. Communication Methods and Measures, 14(2), 83–104. https://doi.org/10.1080/19312458.2019.1671966

Zeng, J., Chan, C.-h., & Schäfer, M. S. (2020). Contested Chinese Dreams of AI? Public discourse about Artificial intelligence on WeChat and People's Daily Online. Information, Communication & Society, 24(2), 1–22. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2020.1776372