Discourse wars and 'Mask Diplomacy': China's Global Image Management in Times of Crisis

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This README file contains information on all R and Stata scripts used to produce tables and plots reported in the main paper and Supporting Information.

In order to run the R scripts, we recommend creating RProject[1] in the folder containing all data and scripts. Alternatively, you can use the *here*[2] package or set the working directory with the `setwd()` function. We strongly recommend downloading files in the original format from the Dataverse (select "Download" -> "Original File Format").

Note: due to copyright restrictions, we cannot share the raw news articles or text corpora including a subset of these articles. However, we provide the aggregated datasets and the relevant intermediate objects (stored as *.Rdata* files) created within each code script which allow you to reproduce all graphs and analyses reported in the main paper.
Please contact the authors if you have any questions.

Description of R scripts and outputs

01_perform_lss_analysis.R: perform Latent Semantic Scaling analysis on full text corpus

- Output: Table A03

02_lss_plot_worddistribution.R: descriptive plots on LSS polarity scores

- Output: Figure 07

03_aggregate_and_merge_weeks.R: aggregate sentence-level scores to the country-week level

- Output: Figure 01; Figure 02; Figure 04

04_validate_handcoding.R: validate the LSS scores through hand-coding of sentences

- Output: Figure A02

05_prepare_did_data_and_peak_analysis.do: prepare the various files for the difference-in-differences analysis

[1] https://support.posit.co/hc/en-us/articles/200526207-Using-RStudio-Projects
[2] https://here.r-lib.org

- Output: files stored in sub-folder *data_did*; regression results for “peak deaths” analysis

06_analysis_did.R: perform difference-in-difference analyses
- Output: Figure 05; Figure 06; Figure A04; Figure A05

07_words_positive_china.R: perform the analysis predicting words mentioned in the White Paper around the week when countries received “mask diplomacy” support
- Output: Figure 08; Table A06

08_describe_weeks_treatment.R: descriptive plots for the dataset on “mask diplomacy” support
- Output: Figure A06; Figure A07; Table A07

09_peak_deaths.R: plot results of “peak deaths” as predictor of media tone
- Output: Figure A03

We used the following package versions of *quanteda*, *LSX*, and *did*:

```
> packageVersion("LSX")
[1] ‘1.3.1’
> packageVersion("quanteda")
[1] ‘3.3.1’
> packageVersion("did")
[1] ‘2.1.2’
```

All scripts have been executed successfully in April 2024.

You can use the *groundhog* R package to reproduce our analysis with the correct package versions: https://groundhogr.com

Example:

```
install.packages("groundhog")
library("groundhog")

pkgs <- c("quanteda", "LSX", "did") # add additional packages
if required
groundhog.library(pkgs, "2024-04-01")
```