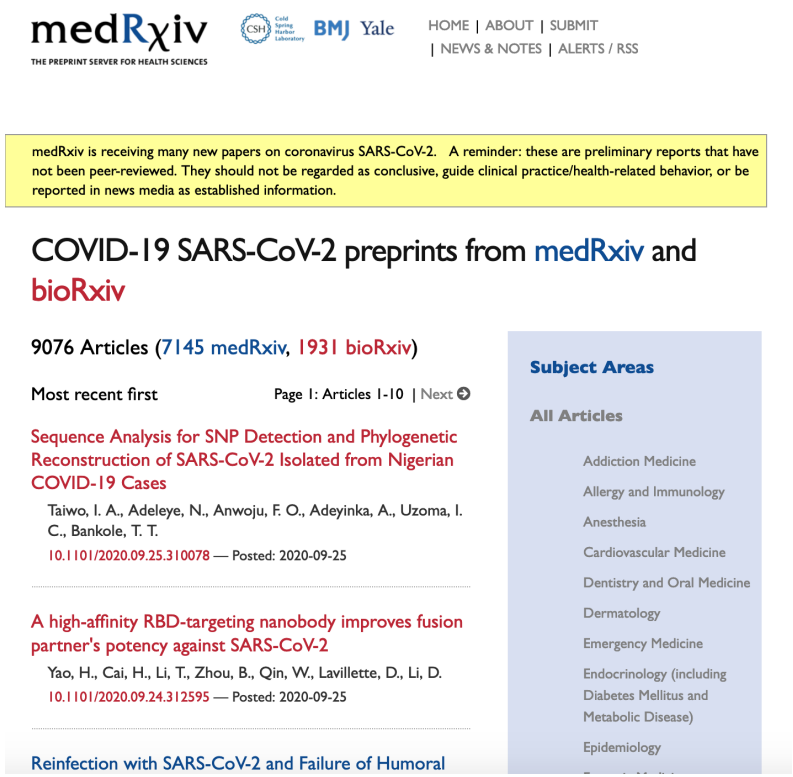
Drinking From The Firehose

Preprints, Chinese Scientists, and the Diffusion of Research on COVID-19

Caroline Fry and Megan MacGarvie

November 20th 2020

COVID-19 and Preprints



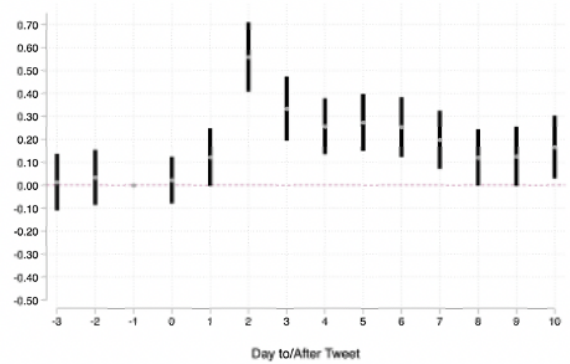
'Eleven o'clock, 12 o'clock comes and you have 25 of these things to read... You can't ignore them... [but] it gets a little confusing what you can really believe..'
Anthony Fauci - NIAID Director 2020

Chinese Preprints Receive Less Attention

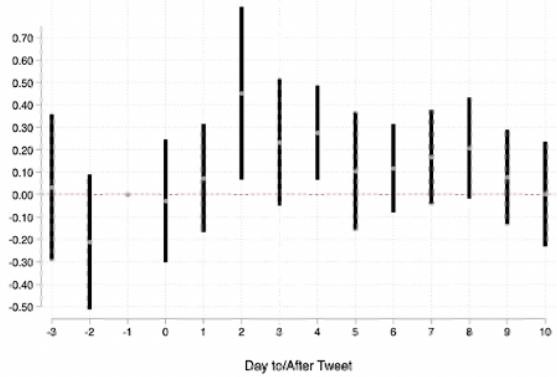
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dependent variable	PDF downloads					Tweets
USA author	0.30***	0.30***	0.16***	0.15***	0.015	0.14***
	(0.046)	(0.046)	(0.051)	(0.050)	(0.015)	(0.036)
Chinese author	**-0.12***	**-0.16*****	**-0.21*****	**-0.19*****	**-0.036****	**-0.23*****
	(0.063)	**(0.066)**	**(0.067)**	**(0.066)**	**(0.018)**	**(0.041)**
Wuhan author		X	X	X	X	X
Author in top 50 ranked institution			X	X	X	X
Author location % of global COVID-19 cases			X	X	X	X
Source Normalized Impact Factor (SNIP) of publication outcome				X	X	X
Abstract downloads					X	
Nb preprint-month observations	22,235	22,235	22,235	22,235	22,235	22,235
Nb preprints	4,447	4,447	4,447	4,447	4,447	4,447

Twitter Endorsements Drive Attention...

PDF downloads

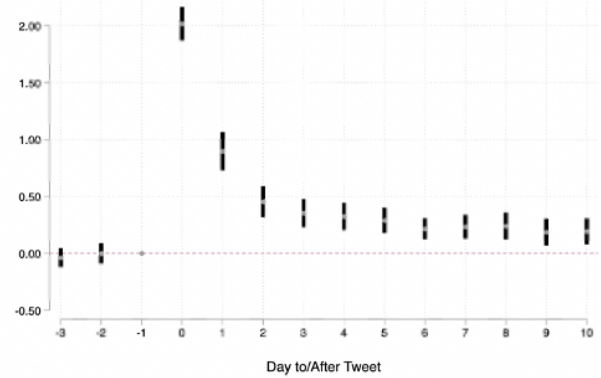


Panel A. All preprints

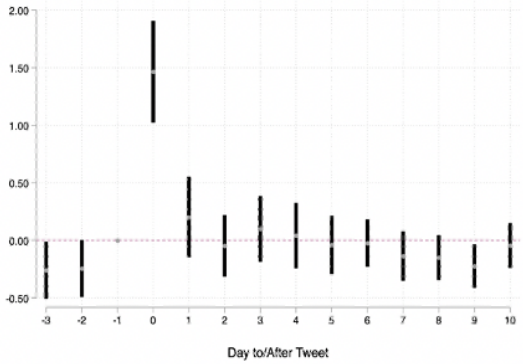


Panel B. Chinese authored preprints

Tweets



Panel A. All preprints



Panel D. Chinese authored preprints

... for some preprints more than others

Implications

- Chinese authors struggle to get attention to their work.
- Bias in attention could lead to under-recognition of important breakthroughs.
- The attention gap presents a central barrier to participation in global science.