

## **Parody against hate speech: On how political hate speech can be fought with humor**

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Political crises often lead to a violent use of digital platforms. This project aims to analyze a particular response to that vitriolic discourse on Twitter: Political parody. During the institutional crisis and political battle between former Peruvian president Martin Vizcarra's government and the Peruvian Congress from 2017 to 2019, some political actors stood out but not exactly for good reasons. Some right-wing Peruvian parliamentarians used Twitter to interact with people, defend their decisions, and attack everybody who did not share their point of view. For example, Karina Beteta, one of the Peruvian congresswomen, distinguished herself for tweeting confusing and sometimes irrational texts. These hateful tweets received an original counter-discourse with the creation of @smartbeteta, a parody account of the politician. This account was a personal and anonymous effort to respond to the political crisis Peruvians were living through. With tweets full of irony, a new way of political discourse began to shape: one where tolerance and respect prevail.

This project presents a qualitative analysis of some of the interactions between the parody account and other Twitter users. My goal is to analyze how parodic strategies can be used to confront radical speech. I will identify classic strategies such as carnivalesque ambiguity and the possibility of creating new worlds through linguistic games. Thus I recall the definition of parody of Mijail Bakhtin and the Act Theory of Austin to analyze a relatively short corpus. I will focus my analysis on Twitter activities that I believe make evident individual actions i.e. tweets, quotation, and reply. In addition to this criteria, I will select a corpus of exclusively political tweets, with this objective the selected tweets will show the interaction between the political parody accounts and other Peruvian political actors.

### **References**

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