

# The (In)ability to Triangulate in Data Driven Healthcare Research

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Data

Triangulate  
Healthcare

# Modeling political attitudes using behavior

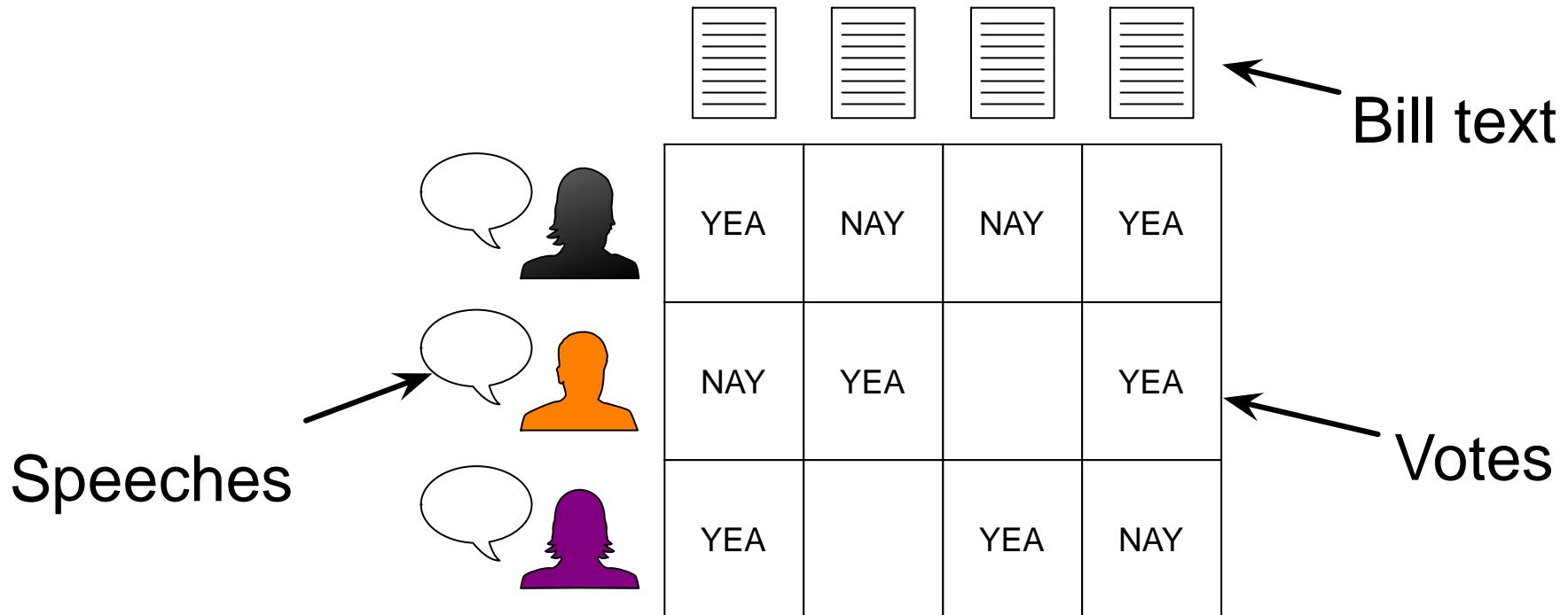
	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA
	NAY	YEA		YEA
	YEA		YEA	NAY



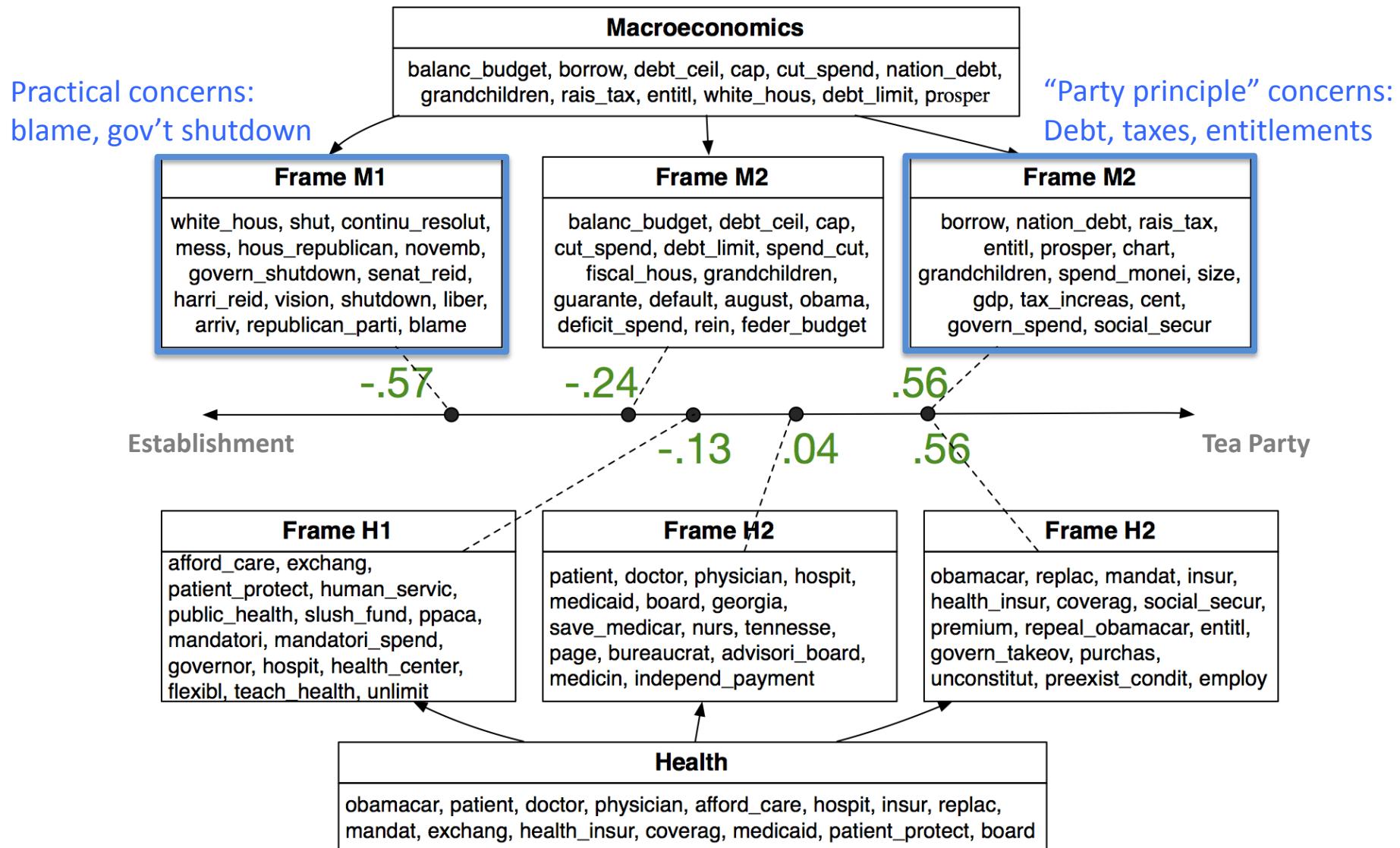
Martin and Quinn, 2002; Bafumi et al., 2005; Gerrish and Blei, 2011

Figure adapted from Viet-An Nguyen

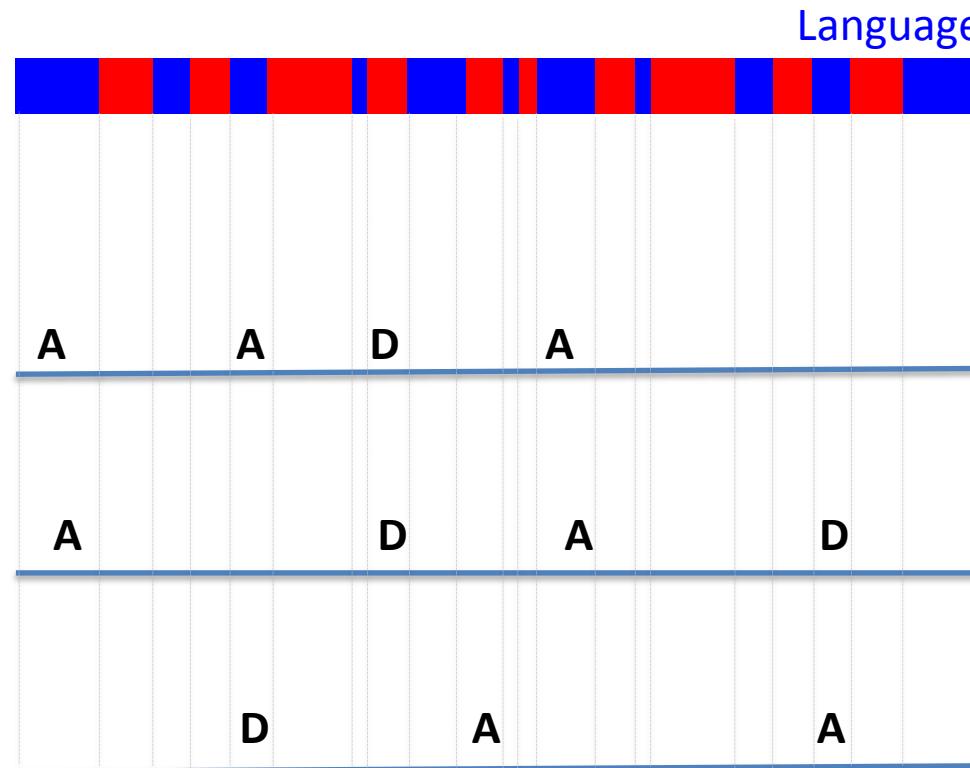
# Triangulating: behavior and language



$$p(v_{a,b} | \mathbf{u}_a, x_b, y_b, \hat{\vartheta}_b) = \Phi \left( x_b \sum_k \hat{\vartheta}_{b,k} u_{a,k} + y_b \right)$$



# Triangulating: behavior and language

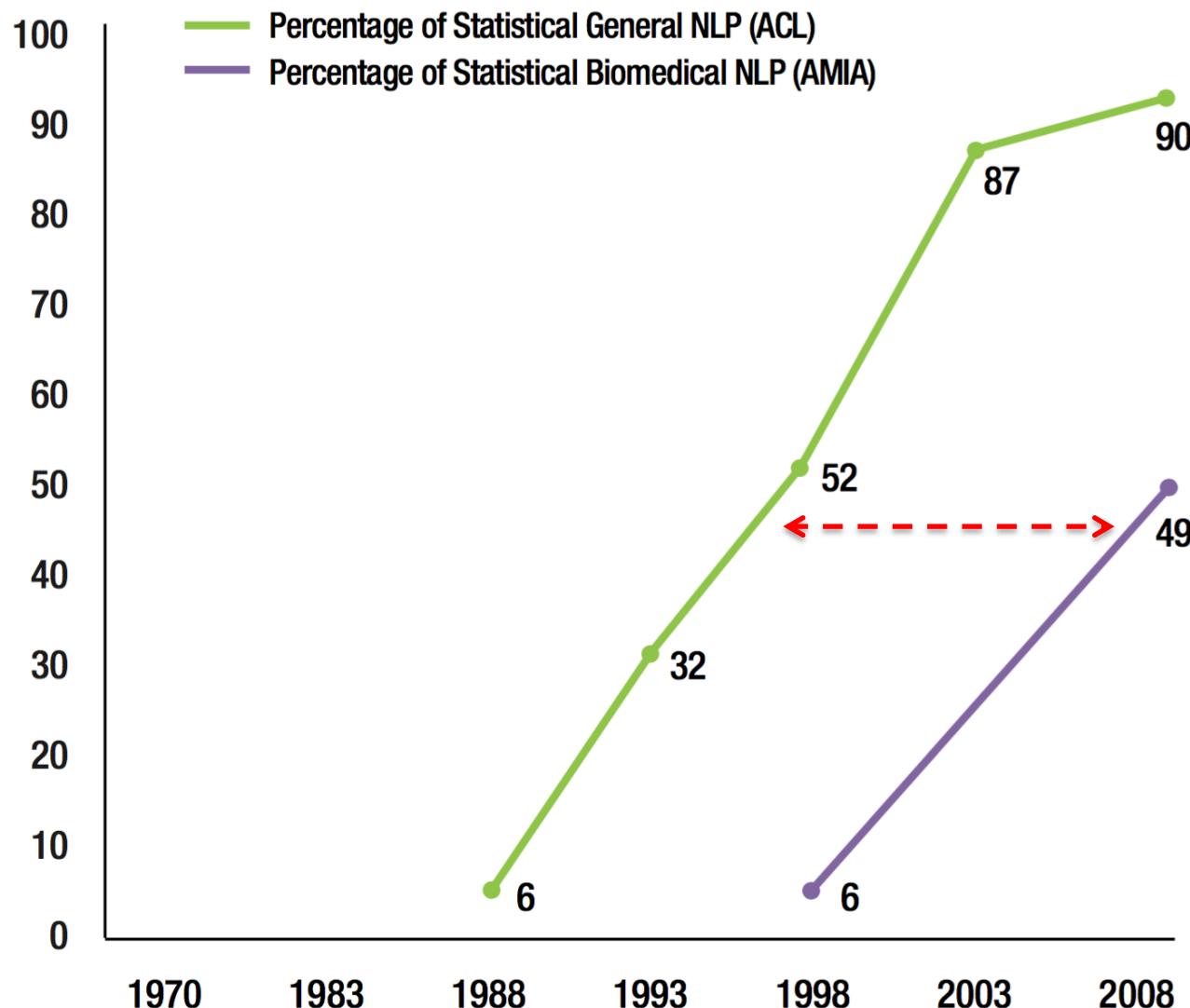


**Non-political  
actors**

**“Votes”**  
**Real-time responses**  
**Social media sentiment**

Data

Healthcare



**1970-mid 1980s**  
Natural language  
understanding

**1988**  
Data-driven  
approaches

**1994-1999**  
The field  
comes  
together

**2000**  
The rise of  
machine learning

# A sampling of NLP research datasets

**Blog Authorship Corpus:** consists of the collected posts of 19,320 bloggers gathered from blogger.com in August 2004. **681,288 posts and over 140 million words.** (298 MB)

**Cornell Movie Dialog Corpus:** contains a large metadata-rich collection of fictional conversations extracted from raw movie scripts: **220,579 conversational exchanges between 10,292 pairs of movie characters, 617 movies** (9.5 MB)

**Enron Email Data:** consists of **1,227,255 emails** with 493,384 attachments covering 151 custodians (210 GB)

**Hansards text chunks of Canadian Parliament:** **1.3 million pairs of aligned text chunks** (sentences or smaller fragments) from the official records (Hansards) of the 36th Canadian Parliament. (82 MB)

**Reddit Submission Corpus:** **all publicly available Reddit submissions** from January 2006 - August 31, 2015). (42 GB)

**Twitter Sentiment140:** **1.6 million Tweets** related to brands/keywords. (77 MB)

**Yahoo! Answers Comprehensive Questions and Answers:** Yahoo! Answers corpus as of 10/25/2007. **Contains 4,483,032 questions and their answers.** (3.6 GB)

# A sampling of *healthcare* NLP research datasets

**SemEval-2017: Clinical TempEval.** 400 manually de-identified **clinical notes and pathology reports from cancer patients at the Mayo Clinic.**

**CLEF eHealth 2016.** Suominen H, Zhou L, Hanlen L, Ferraro G. Benchmarking Clinical Speech Recognition and Information Extraction: New Data, Methods, and Evaluations. *JMIR Med Inform* 2015;3(2):e19 **Synthetic dataset of 101 handover records.**

**MIMIC-III, a freely accessible critical care database.** Johnson AEW, Pollard TJ, Shen L, Lehman L, Feng M, Ghassemi M, Moody B, Szolovits P, Celi LA, and Mark RG. *Scientific Data* (2016). **~2M free text notes from ~40K critical care patients at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.**

**CLPsych 2015.** Triage of posts from a **mental health forum; 65K posts.**

Choudhury, Munmun De et al. "Discovering Shifts to Suicidal Ideation from Mental Health Content in Social Media." *CHI* (2016). **~80K posts from mental health related forums** on Reddit.

**CLPsych 2016.** Triage of posts from a **mental health peer support forum; 65K posts.**



***Not clinical ground truth***

# What's the problem?

- HIPAA balkanizes research
- Language data is hard to fully de-identify
- EHRs create pressure to avoid language
- **It's easy to just work on something else**

# How NLP can help cure cancer?

Regina Barzilay  
CSAIL, MIT



## Interpretable Neural Models

**Goal:** Generate rationale behind the predictions

this beer pours ridiculously clear with tons of carbonation that forms a rather impressive rocky head that settles slowly into a fairly dense layer of foam. this is a real good lookin' beer, unfortunately it gets worse from here ... first, the aroma is kind of bubblegum-like and grainy. next, the taste is sweet and grainy with an unpleasant bitterness in the finish. ... ... overall, the fat weasel is good for a fairly cheap buzz, but only if you like your beer grainy and bitter .

### Ratings

**Look:** 5 stars

**Aroma:** 2 stars

### *Key properties of rationales:*

- short and coherent pieces of text from the original input
- sufficient for prediction as substitution of the original input

**Rationals are not provided during training**

# What's the problem?

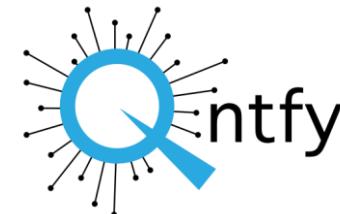
- HIPAA balkanizes research
  - *Researchers can't fix HIPAA*
- Language data is hard to fully de-identify
  - *High accuracy automation isn't enough*
- EHRs create pressure to avoid language
  - *NLP is helping, but not fast enough*
- **It's easy to just work on something else**
  - *We need to find a different way*

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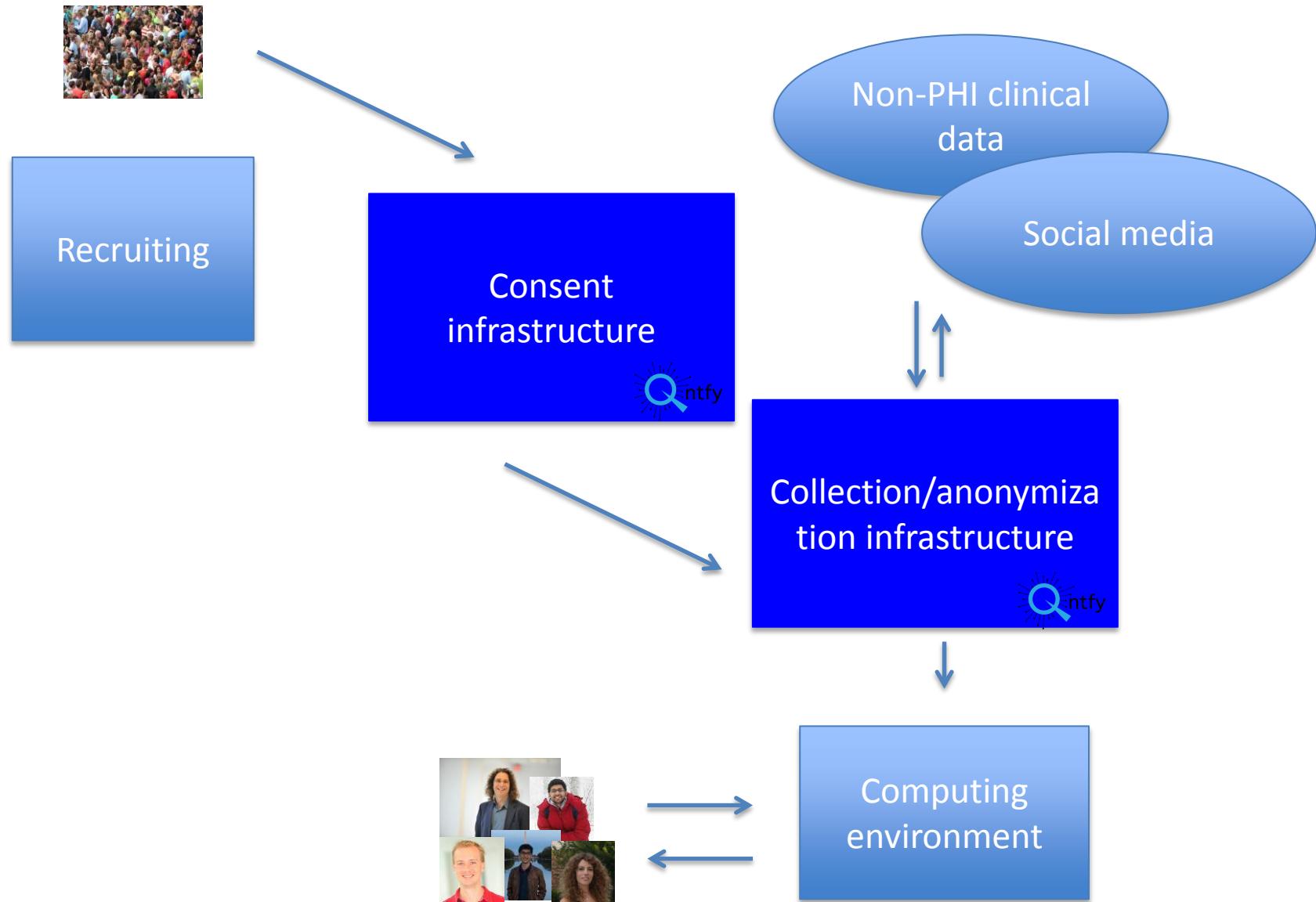
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We need your help!

We are learning how language usage and language changes may be connected to emotional and psychiatric symptoms. The data you donate will be used by researchers in the departments and laboratory below to help learn how these may be connected.

umd.ourdatahelps.org



# Progress

- UPenn Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC)
  - Framingham Heart Study project
- Health Natural Language Processing Center (hNLP)
  - LDC-like repository/dissemination of healthcare data
- NIH “All of Us” (Precision Medicine Initiative)
  - “EHR data may be sent directly by the participant’s health care provider or sent by the participant to the program through [Sync for Science](#) ... The initial data types to be included are demographics, visits, diagnoses, procedures, medications, laboratory tests, and vital signs, **but may be expanded to all parts of the EHR, including health care provider notes.**”
  - A chicken-egg problem:
    - The unstructured data problem requires more investment
    - We need progress with unstructured data to justify it

# Take-aways

- Healthcare is a national security issue
- Language data is a hugely valuable resource for triangulation
- We have a *lot* of catching up to do
- More needs to be done faster