

# Appendices for “*Wangbao* (Cyberbullying) and *Jubao* (Reporting): Strategic Ambiguity in Collaborative State-Society Influence Operations in China”

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## Appendix A: Survey respondent demographics

- $N = 52$
- Gender:
  - 55.8% female
  - 15.4% male
  - 1.9% else
  - 26.9% prefer not to answer
- Age:
  - 15.4% younger than 25
  - 63.5% between 26-35 years old
  - 19.2% between 36-45 years old
  - 1.9% older than 46 years old
- Years of experience in journalism or content creation:
  - 46.2% 1-5 years
  - 36.5% 6-10 years
  - 17.3% more than 10 years

## Appendix B: Survey questions

*Note:* This article is part of a larger study. The following is a selected list of survey questions. I have removed questions that have been asked in the actual survey but are not relevant to this article.

**How many years have you worked in journalism or content creation?**

\_\_\_\_\_ years

**What is your current type of employment?**

- Full-time employee
- Freelancer / part-time employee / self-employed
- Both

**Which of the following categories best describes your current position? Please select all that apply**

- Journalist / reporter / correspondent
- Editor
- Publisher / owner / founder
- Producer
- News writer
- News anchor
- News director
- Photographer
- Camera / sound people
- Media support worker
- Content creator
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**To what degree are the content you produce relevant to China?**

- Highly relevant
- Quite relevant
- Neutral
- Quite irrelevant
- Not relevant at all

**As a journalist or content creator, have you, personally, experienced each of the following?**

	Never	Once	A few times	Sometimes	Often
Hateful language abuse					
Unwanted private messages					
Reputational threats (e.g. threats designed to cause people to question their ethics or morality)					
Threats to professional standing (e.g. false allegations about misconduct drawn to the attention of their employer)					
Threats of physical violence					
Threats of sexual violence					
Manipulated images shared publicly without permission					
Doxxing or threats to expose your personal or family members' information on China social media such as Weibo and WeChat					
Threats to report / or reported you to China's national security department					
Threats of violence against those close to you					
Knowledge of other colleagues being harassed online					

**Are there other types of online violence that you have experienced but are not included in the previous question? If yes, please specify**

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**Did the online threats or harassment you experienced occur on any of the following platforms or targeting at the following accounts? Please select all that apply**

- Online comment section on news article
- Professional Twitter account
- Personal Twitter account
- Professional Facebook page
- Personal Facebook page
- Personal Instagram account
- Professional Instagram account
- Personal Weibo account

- Professional Weibo account
- Professional email
- Personal email
- Private messaging platforms
- SMS message
- Voice message on work phone
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Can you list some hateful language you have been accused of?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**The harassment messages were written in: (Please select all that apply)**

- Simplified Chinese
- Traditional Chinese
- English
- Other language
- Emojis/memes
- images/videos

**Please select all the factors that you believe have contributed to you being harassed:**

- The geographic area where I work
- My nationality
- My age
- My race or ethnicity
- My gender / sexuality
- My religion
- My political position or ideology
- The content I produce
- The angle I took for the way I reported a story
- The media organization for which I was working
- The changing reputation of journalists
- The current media climate, including accusation of “fake news”
- The current political environment
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Who were the top identified sources of online violence directed at you?**

- Unknown or anonymous people
- Sources or contacts
- Colleagues
- Government officials
- Politicians
- Political party officials / workers
- Rival media organization staff
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Which story or conversation subjects do you think trigger the online abuse directed at you? Please select all that apply.**

- Gender
- Politics and elections
- Human rights and social policy
- Disinformation
- Investigative journalism
- China related issues
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

**How concerned are you about your online safety in fulfilling the duties of your job?**

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Neutral

- Not too concerned
- Not concerned at all

**As a result of being harassed, please indicate whether or not you are experiencing or have experienced each of the following. Please select all that apply.**

- Thought about getting out of your field
- Negative impact on your career advancement
- Have / had trouble establishing rapport with interviewees
- Have / had trouble remaining impartial during a story
- Alienated a source
- Have gotten scooped or missed a story on a beat
- Considered requesting a transfer or different beat
- Requested a transfer or different beat
- Mental health impacts
- Feeling physically unsafe as a result of online violence
- The need to seek medical or psychological support because of the emotional/psychological impacts
- Missing work due to the emotional/psychological impacts
- Missing work due to the potential for physical violence triggered by online attacks
- Increased physical security in response to online violence
- Changed your social media settings due to online harassment
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**How does online violence affect your journalism/content creation practice and audience engagement? Please select all that apply.**

- Self-censor on social media
- Only 'broadcast' on social media - avoiding all interaction
- Avoid bylines
- Avoid audience engagement online
- Avoid certain beats / rounds
- Avoid certain sources / contacts
- Avoid pursuing particular stories

**Does online violence lead to your concerns about your family members? Please select all that apply.**

- Potential physical harm to them
- Potential mental stress to them
- Potential loss of pension for them
- Potential loss of current jobs for them
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- None

**How would you evaluate the overall changes of online harassment targeting at you and people similar to you over the past 5 years?**

- Worsened
- Stayed relatively the same
- Improved

**Why do you think it has worsened/stayed the same/improved?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**In your opinion, to what extent the following actors are responsible for the online harassment and violence at you?**

	1 (not responsible at all)	2	3	4	5 (very much responsible)
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Western social media platforms

Chinese social media  
platforms

Media organization your  
work for

Chinese government

US or other Western  
government

Chinese nationalistic  
media

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**What is your age?**

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**Which gender identity do you most identify with?**

- Female
- Male
- Else
- Prefer not to answer