



THE PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA IN THE UNITED STATES

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Research Question

What are the relationships among various points of emphasis expressed by higher education experts related to standardized testing for college admissions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Data

Total of 15 op eds from Inside Higher Ed and Chronicle of Higher Education published during the pandemic (March 2020 to present) that focus on admissions testing (search term: test-optional). Limited to one per author (most recent).

Codebook

Codebook developed through grounded analysis of the data (10 codes):
Academic equity; Institutional prejudice; Underserved groups; Admission selectivity; Socioeconomic privilege; Holistic admissions; Transparent practices; Test prep; Exam bias; Score preference

Coding & IRR

Individual coding of entire dataset by 2 team members, followed by social moderation

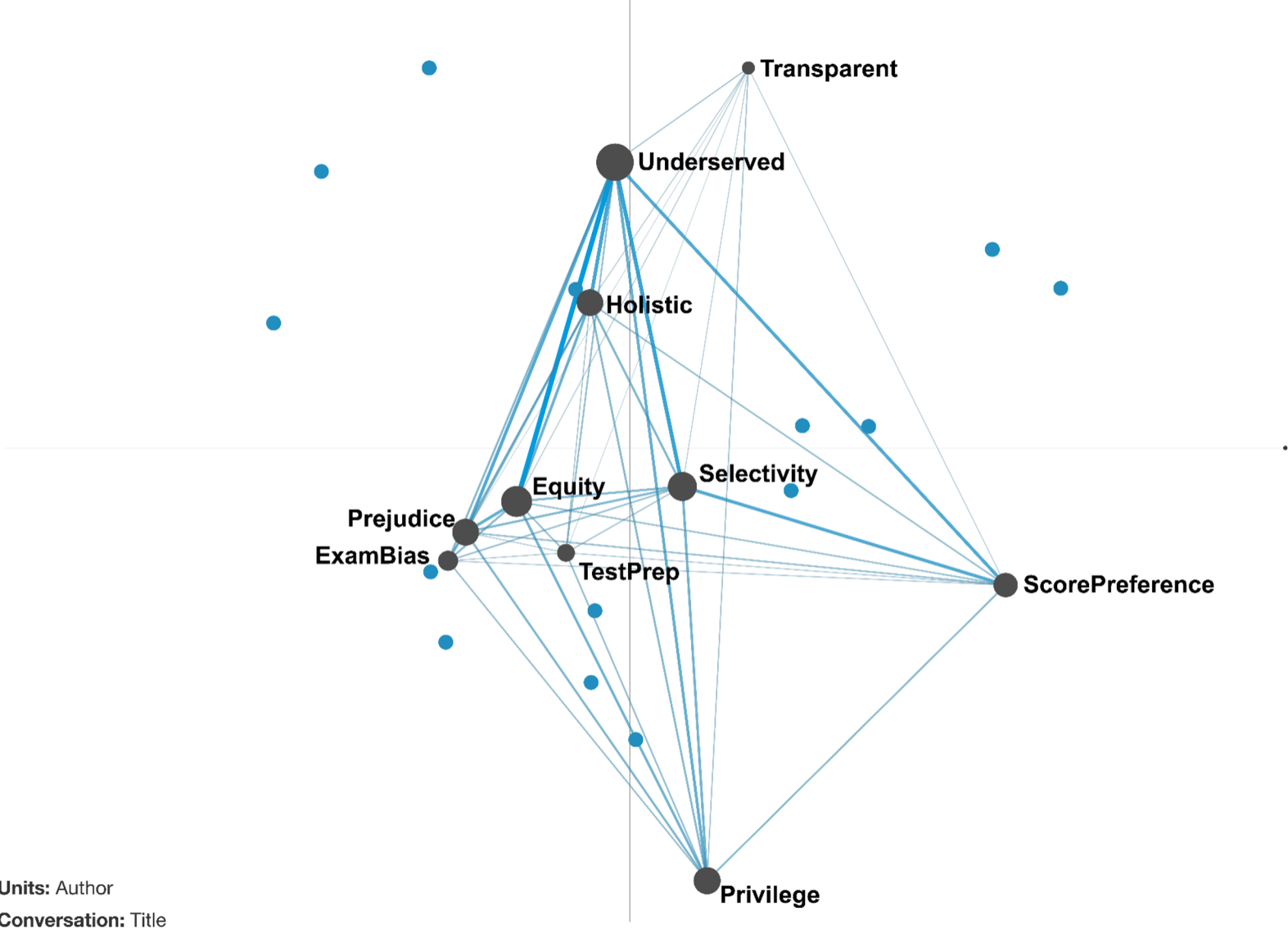
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Segmentation: By paragraph

Stanza: Whole conversation

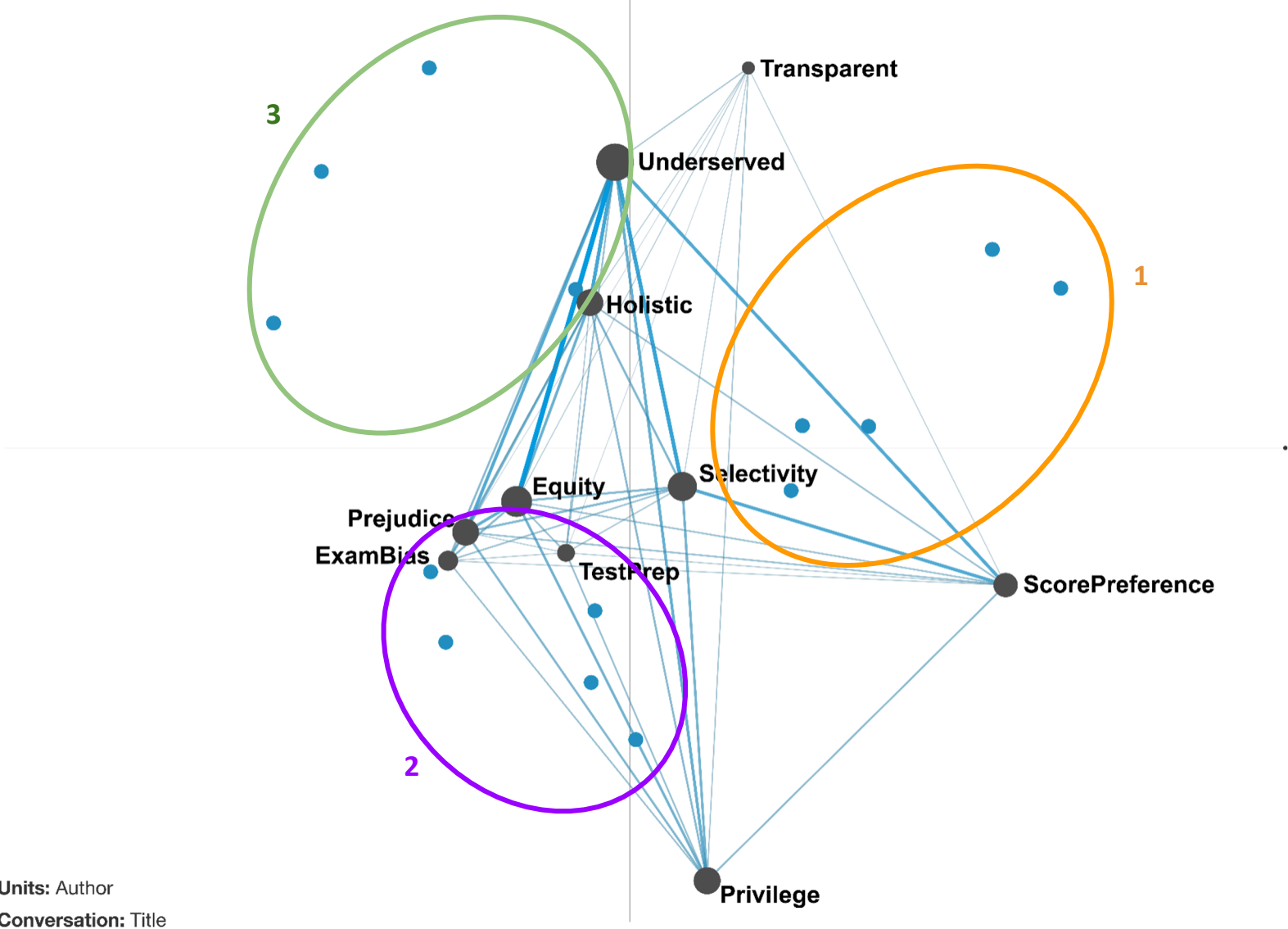
Preliminary Results

Points of emphasis expressed by higher education experts on college admissions testing in the pandemic context

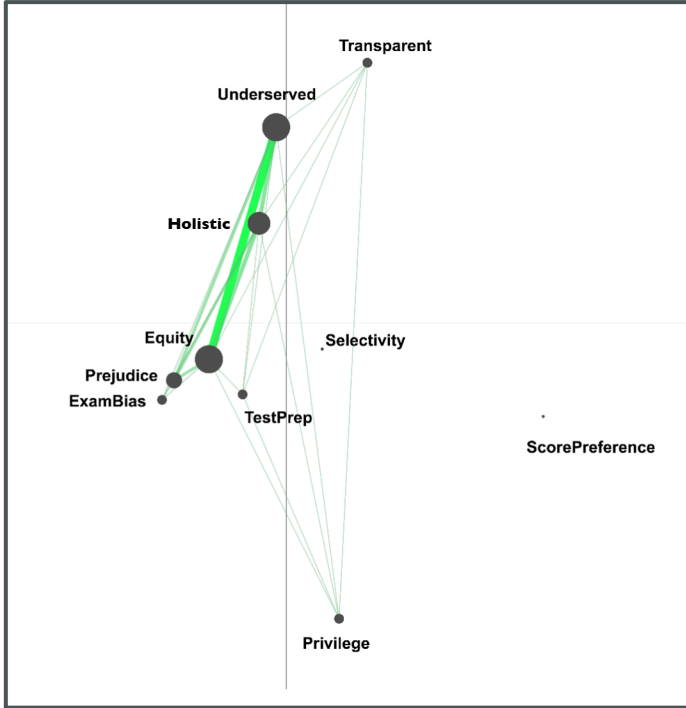


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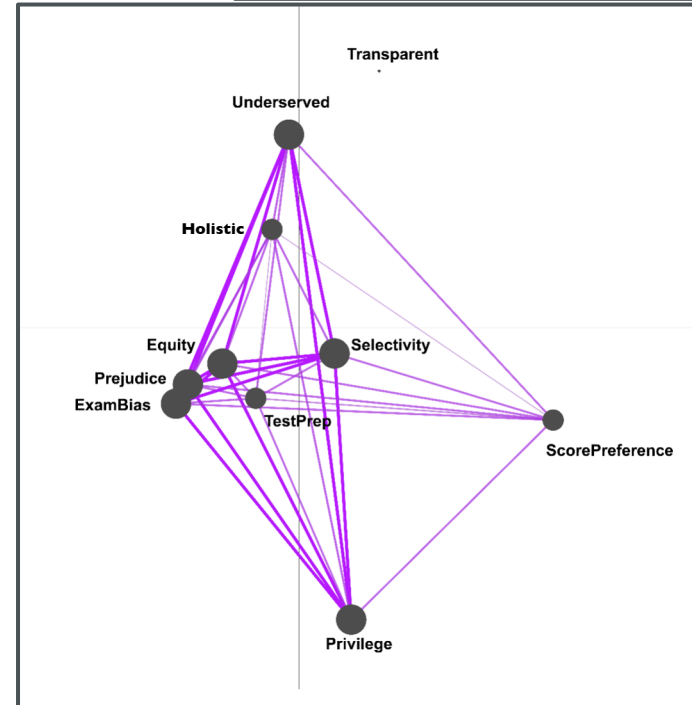
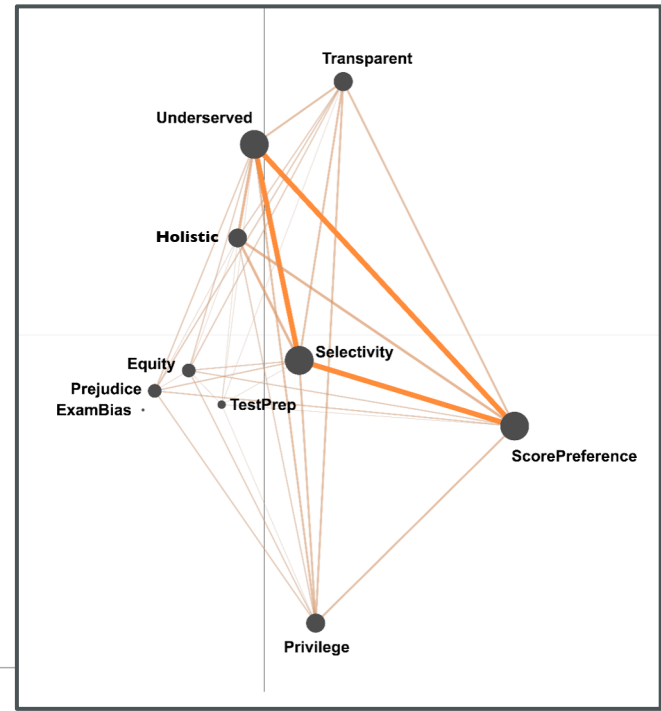


< Discourse patterns by group >



Group 3
 | Advocacy Group
 | Academic Faculty
 | Enrollment Management
 | Test Preparation

Group 1
 2 Test Preparation
 2 Enrollment Management
 1 Academic Faculty



Group 2
 4 Academic Faculty
 2 Journalist/Author

