

# DHS Summer Research Team Project

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## **Project Title: Analyzing Twitter Discussions to Discover Sentiment on U.S. Immigration Reform**

**Project Mentor: Dr. Daniel Zeng, National Center for Border Security and Immigration, University of Arizona**

Team Researchers: Wingyan Chung and Daniel Ballard

*Time frame: 5/6/2013 – 7/12/2013*

### *Abstract*

The U.S. border security is heavily influenced by its immigration policy, which now undergoes tremendous changes as policy makers, opinion leaders, and ordinary citizens actively discuss the issues. As social media (SM) are increasingly used in these discussions, policy makers and social researchers are challenged to understand large amounts of messages posted online in various SM sites. In this research, we will collect and analyze social media posted on Twitter regarding U.S. immigration reform. Using a set of tools and resources for collecting SM and extracting sentiment, we will identify key participants, opinion leaders, sentiments, and emotion from Twitter messages. We will conduct further analyses of clustering sentiment emotion by the participants to discover major interest groups and activities of different groups. We will then evaluate empirically the results by studying the representativeness and accuracy. The findings will benefit DHS units such as USCIS and CBP, and will enhance understanding of the use of social media in policy making.