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Political Clippers on TikTok: Double Gatekeeping, Curatorial Power, and Algorithmic Amplification Beyond Follower Count

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ABSTRACT

The rapid growth of TikTok has transformed political communication by enabling political content to circulate beyond conventional follower-based networks. Existing research, however, has predominantly focused on politicians, influencers, and institutional media, leaving the role of political clippers as curatorial actors insufficiently examined. This study aims to identify and classify political clippers in Indonesia, to examine their curatorial practices, and to explain how these practices contribute to the emergence of Curation Politics. A qualitative descriptive design was employed, integrating netnography, qualitative content analysis, and digital trace analysis. Data were collected from 20 purposively selected political clipper accounts and 100 high-performing TikTok videos observed between March and May 2025. The findings show that political clippers operate along three intersecting dimensions: political-figure orientation, issue orientation, and content logic. Four recurring curatorial practices were identified: selective extraction, compression and editing, framing, and algorithmic optimization. The findings further reveal a decoupling between follower count and political visibility, as accounts with relatively small audiences were able to achieve millions of views. These results indicate that political visibility on TikTok is increasingly shaped by decentralized curatorial power and algorithmic amplification rather than by follower size alone. The study proposes Curation Politics as a conceptual framework for understanding fragmented political meaning and emerging forms of digital political participation.

Keywords: Algorithmic Amplification, Curation Politics, Digital Curation, Political Clippers, TikTok

INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has fundamentally reconfigured how political communication is produced, distributed, and consumed in contemporary societies. Unlike the traditional mass-media era, in which political information was primarily mediated by institutional gatekeepers, the emergence of social media has fostered a more open, participatory, and decentralized communicative environment in which a wide range of actors can engage in political-content production and dissemination without necessarily being affiliated with formal media institutions or political organizations (Benkler et al., 2018; Chadwick, 2017). This transformation reflects a structural shift from institution-centered communication systems toward platform-mediated ecosystems that are increasingly shaped by algorithmic infrastructures and digitally networked actors.

Over the past decade, scholarship on digital political communication has largely emphasized political influencers as the central actors shaping political visibility on social media platforms. Political influencers are typically conceptualized as individuals who leverage large follower bases, personal-branding strategies, and parasocial relationships to shape public opinion and enhance political engagement (Reinikainen et al., 2025; Riedl et al., 2023). Within this influencer-centric paradigm, political visibility has predominantly been understood as a function of audience size, whereby follower count constitutes the primary indicator of communicative reach and influence.

However, the emergence of short-form video platforms such as TikTok has introduced a significant disruption to this conventional logic of visibility. Unlike earlier generations of social media, which rely heavily on social-graph structures, TikTok operates through algorithmically driven recommendation systems that prioritize content-performance signals rather than follower counts (Bucher, 2018; Gillespie, 2018). In this environment, political visibility is no longer determined solely by who produces a message, but increasingly by how content is curated, restructured, and aligned with platform-specific algorithmic logics.

This shift raises a critical theoretical question concerning the continued adequacy of influencer-centered frameworks for explaining contemporary digital political communication. Empirical observation indicates that political-content dissemination on TikTok is not driven exclusively by politicians, mainstream-media institutions, or established influencers; it also involves a growing number of independent actors who actively select, fragment, edit, reframe, and redistribute political content. Although these actors often operate without substantial follower bases and rarely produce original political content, they are nonetheless capable of achieving significant visibility through curation practices that align with algorithmic-amplification mechanisms.

This study conceptualizes these actors as political clippers, defined as digital content curators whose primary activity involves the selection and reconfiguration

of political materials sourced from diverse origins, including political speeches, public debates, press conferences, interviews, podcasts, governmental activities, and media reports. Through processes of selection, editing, and recontextualization, political clippers transform long-form political discourse into short-form video content that is more consumable, emotionally engaging, and compatible with the affordances of short-video platforms. Their influence therefore derives not from personal identity or follower accumulation, but from a curatorial capacity to reframe political meaning within algorithmically optimized environments.

The phenomenon of political clipping has become increasingly salient within Indonesia's digital political-communication landscape. Empirical evidence from multiple TikTok accounts reveals considerable variation in curatorial practice, ranging from accounts that focus on specific political figures, to those that aggregate diverse political issues, to others that primarily repackage podcast discussions or policy-related content. This diversity suggests that political clippers do not constitute a homogeneous category, but rather a heterogeneous spectrum of curatorial actors operating with distinct communicative logics and strategic orientations.

Despite the rapid expansion of research on political influencers, algorithmic visibility, and digital political communication, scholarly attention to political clippers remains limited. Existing studies predominantly treat politicians, media organizations, influencers, and audiences as the primary analytical units (Cervi et al., 2023). Consequently, a significant conceptual gap remains regarding how political clippers operate within digital ecosystems, how they achieve visibility without substantial follower bases, and how their curatorial practices reshape contemporary political-communication structures.

Beyond its communicative dimensions, this phenomenon also carries plausible pedagogical significance. Short-form political videos may increasingly function as an informal curriculum through which young, digitally native citizens encounter political information outside formal classroom settings, often without the mediation of trained educators or structured civic-education materials. To the extent that political clippers act as *de facto* instructional designers of this informal curriculum determining which fragments of political reality are seen, how they are framed, and how they circulate understanding their curatorial logic may offer a useful empirical basis for developing classroom-based media- and algorithmic-literacy strategies, instructional-media innovations, and digital-citizenship curricula suited to the TikTok era.

This positions the present study within the broader agenda of social-science and civic education: equipping learners and educators with the conceptual tools to critically read algorithmically curated political content constitutes an emerging and urgent instructional-media challenge, rather than a purely communication-studies concern. To address the conceptual gap outlined above, this study draws on Gatekeeping Theory, Participatory Culture, and the concept of Digital Curation.

From a gatekeeping perspective, political clippers function as initial gatekeepers who determine which segments of political events are selected and made visible to the public (Shoemaker & Vos, 2009; White, 1950). Platform algorithms subsequently operate as secondary gatekeepers that further regulate the circulation and visibility of content through recommendation systems. Within the framework of Participatory Culture, digital users are understood as active participants in content production and dissemination rather than as passive audiences (Jenkins, 2006; Jenkins et al., 2013). Meanwhile, the Digital Curation perspective explains how selection, editing, and recontextualization function as key mechanisms in constructing political meaning within digital environments.

Based on this conceptual foundation, this study aims to identify and classify the typology of political clippers within Indonesia's digital political-communication ecosystem, to analyze their curation practices, and to explain how these practices contribute to the emergence of Curation Politics as a novel form of digital political communication with direct implications for media, political, and social-science education. In contrast to influencer-centric paradigms that prioritize follower count and personal branding as the primary sources of influence, the concept of Curation Politics emphasizes that political visibility is increasingly shaped by curatorial practices and algorithmic-amplification logics within platform-mediated environments logics that educators and learners alike must be equipped to recognize and critically evaluate.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design that integrated netnography, qualitative content analysis, and digital trace analysis to examine the emergence of political clippers as curatorial actors within Indonesia's digital political-communication ecosystem, and to explain the development of Curation Politics on TikTok (Hine, 2015; Kozinets, 2015). The combination of these three approaches allowed the study to examine political clipping simultaneously as a digital cultural practice, a process of content selection and transformation, and a platform-mediated phenomenon reflected in observable patterns of engagement. This methodological triangulation was particularly suited to investigating how political content is selected, fragmented, edited, reframed, and redistributed within an algorithmically mediated communication environment (Bucher, 2018; Gillespie, 2018).

Data Collection and Sampling

Data collection was conducted between 1 March and 31 May 2025. During this period, political clipper accounts were identified and screened, sampled videos were systematically examined, and publicly available account- and video-level engagement metrics were recorded. Because TikTok metrics change continuously

as content circulates, follower counts, views, likes, comments, and shares were treated as point-in-time digital traces observed within the designated data-collection period rather than as fixed or longitudinal measures.

TikTok was selected as the primary research setting because the platform provides a short-form video environment in which political content can circulate beyond conventional follower-based networks through algorithmically mediated recommendation mechanisms. The study focused specifically on accounts whose primary activity involved selecting, editing, repackaging, or redistributing political material produced by other actors, rather than generating original political discourse.

A purposive sampling strategy was used to identify accounts meeting the operational definition of a political clipper adopted in this study. Accounts were included when they satisfied five criteria: (1) the account primarily focused on political content; (2) at least 70% of its uploads consisted of political clipping or re-edited political material; (3) the account had remained active for a minimum of six months; (4) it had published at least 20 political posts; and (5) it was not an official account belonging to a politician, political party, government institution, or mainstream media organization. Application of these criteria yielded a final sample of 20 political clipper accounts.

Unit of Analysis and Video Selection

The individual TikTok video constituted the primary unit of analysis. Five videos with the highest view counts were purposively selected from each of the 20 sampled accounts, producing a final dataset of 100 videos. The use of high-performing videos was intended to identify the curatorial characteristics associated with comparatively strong political visibility and algorithmic circulation, rather than to statistically represent each account's complete posting history.

This sampling strategy necessarily prioritized content that had already achieved relatively high visibility, and may therefore underrepresent routine or lower-performing uploads within the same accounts. Accordingly, the findings should be interpreted as reflecting the characteristics of the sampled political clippers' most visible content, rather than as a comprehensive representation of every political video produced by those accounts.

For each account and selected video, the study documented both account-level and video-level information. The recorded digital traces included follower counts, video views, likes, comments, and shares. Qualitative observations included the original source of the political material, the political figures featured, issue orientation, forms of content extraction, editing techniques, textual and visual framing, narrative emphasis, and practices of content recontextualization.

Data Analysis

Data analysis was conducted in three sequential but interconnected stages. The first stage involved netnographic analysis to examine the characteristics, recurring practices, and communicative patterns of political clipping as a form of digital culture (Kozinets, 2015). The selected accounts were systematically observed throughout the research period to identify recurring political subjects, content sources, posting patterns, forms of content transformation, and communicative strategies. Netnographic observation provided the contextual basis for understanding political clippers not simply as individual content accounts, but as emerging actors embedded within a broader platform-mediated political-communication environment.

The second stage applied qualitative content analysis to the 100 selected videos to identify systematic patterns of curation, editing, source selection, framing, and recontextualization (Schreier, 2012). Coding was conducted manually using a structured coding sheet developed from the initial observations and progressively refined through iterative comparison across the dataset. The coding process focused on several analytical dimensions, including the political figures represented, issue orientation, source material, extraction techniques, compression and editing practices, textual and visual framing, narrative emphasis, and orientation toward content visibility.

Recurring patterns were subsequently compared across accounts and videos to develop a typology of political clippers. This typological analysis considered three principal dimensions that emerged from the dataset: political-figure orientation, issue orientation, and content logic. These dimensions formed the basis for distinguishing different forms of political-clipping practice within Indonesia's TikTok political-communication ecosystem.

The third stage employed digital trace analysis to examine patterns of political visibility in relation to account-level audience size (Rieder et al., 2018). Publicly displayed engagement metrics were manually recorded from the TikTok interface for the sampled accounts and videos, with particular attention given to follower counts and video views in order to assess whether comparatively small accounts were nevertheless capable of generating disproportionately large visibility.

The digital trace analysis was descriptive rather than inferential. Its purpose was not to establish a causal relationship between follower size and video performance, nor to statistically predict virality, but to identify observable patterns in which political videos achieved reach substantially exceeding an account's existing follower base. These patterns were interpreted together with qualitative evidence concerning content selection, editing, framing, and recontextualization to explain how political clippers may achieve substantial visibility within TikTok's algorithmically mediated environment.

Analytical Framework

The findings were interpreted through an integrated theoretical framework comprising Gatekeeping Theory, Participatory Culture, and Digital Curation. Gatekeeping Theory was used to explain how political clippers perform an initial filtering function by determining which fragments of political events, speeches, debates, interviews, podcasts, or media reports are selected and transformed into short-form content (Shoemaker & Vos, 2009; White, 1950). Within this process, political clippers operate as first-layer gatekeepers, while platform recommendation mechanisms constitute a subsequent layer that regulates the broader circulation and visibility of the curated content.

Participatory Culture was used to explain how ordinary digital actors increasingly participate in political-information production and distribution, rather than functioning solely as passive audiences (Jenkins, 2006; Jenkins et al., 2013). Political clippers exemplify this participatory shift, as they actively transform existing political materials into new communicative forms that can circulate independently of the institutions or political actors that originally produced them.

Digital Curation provided the conceptual lens for examining the transformation of political material through processes of selection, extraction, compression, editing, framing, and recontextualization. Through iterative analysis of the 100 videos, four recurring curatorial practices were identified: selective extraction, compression and editing, framing, and algorithmic optimization. These practices were subsequently examined in relation to the patterns of digital visibility identified through the digital trace analysis.

Together, the integration of netnographic observation, qualitative content analysis, and digital trace analysis enabled the study to connect three analytical levels: the characteristics of political clippers as digital actors, the curatorial practices embedded in their content, and the patterns of visibility generated within the platform environment. The synthesis of these findings provided the empirical foundation for conceptualizing Curation Politics as a form of digital political communication characterized by decentralized curatorial power, algorithmically amplified visibility, and fragmented political meaning.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Political Clippers as an Emerging Actor in Indonesia's Digital Political Communication

The findings point to the emergence of a class of digital actors that cannot be adequately explained through the conventional frameworks of political influencers or institutional mass media. Political clippers are defined in this study as TikTok accounts whose core activity involves selecting, fragmenting, editing, and redistributing political content sourced from external materials such as speeches, debates, press conferences, interviews, podcasts, and mainstream media coverage, rather than producing original political discourse. Their value therefore lies not in

information production but in curatorial and transformative capacity: raw political material is cut, sequenced, re-edited, and enhanced with attention-oriented elements (titles, textual overlays, background music) to align with short-form video consumption patterns. Table 1 summarizes the profile of the 20 sampled accounts, including their follower counts, cumulative account-level likes, and thematic focus.

Table 1 Profile of Sampled Political Clipper Accounts (N = 20)

No.	Account	Followers	Total Account Likes	Focus Content
1	Undergreen	212.6K	9.8M	Public policy, national politics, governance
2	Spaling Clipper	93.2K	7.2M	Sherly Tjoanda
3	Mastaka Files	40K	5.7M	Digital archive of Indonesian political figures
4	Purdimple	20.9K	3.2M	Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa (political-economic figure)
5	Adlina	12.5K	2.4M	Prabowo Subianto
6	Clipper Bennix	41.4K	2.3M	National politics, political economy, governance
7	Clipper Super Informatif	26.4K	1.4M	National politics, public policy
8	Kingclipper	25.7K	1.2M	Political economy, economic policy
9	Badan Gosip Netizen	27.2K	915.7K	National politics, political elites, governance
10	Darf Politics	7.4K	723.4K	Public officials, government affairs
11	Jclipper.Id	3.5K	378.4K	National politics, geopolitics
12	Politik Clips	17.8K	213K	Public policy criticism
13	Elka Clipper Podcast	2.5K	129.1K	Political podcasts, political economy
14	Vidben Clips	2.6K	124.8K	National politics, governance
15	Creative Sonix	2.4K	122.5K	Political economy, official statements
16	Ivl Clipper	4.1K	81.5K	Sherly Tjoanda, regional politics (North Maluku)
17	Politalk Genz	1.1K	60.9K	Political podcasts, political figures
18	Clipper Demokrasi	1.9K	53.9K	Democracy, public policy
19	Slide Politik	2.1K	41.3K	Political podcasts, political discussion

No.	Account	Followers	Total Account Likes	Focus Content
20	Clip Politik Today	371	6.9K	National political news coverage

Source: Researcher' compilation from TikTok public account data, collected during the research period (1 March–31 May 2025)

The sampled accounts differ substantially from political influencers in the basis of their perceived legitimacy. Whereas influencers typically derive authority from personal identity, credibility, and parasocial relationships with followers, a substantial share of political clipper accounts operate anonymously or semi-anonymously, placing emphasis on the curated content itself rather than on an identifiable creator. This suggests that political clippers' visibility rests on what may be termed curation-based influence the capacity to select, repackage, and redistribute politically relevant material rather than personal branding. The accounts also vary considerably in thematic focus, ranging from single-politician-centered accounts (e.g., Adlina on Prabowo Subianto) to issue-based accounts covering public policy, economic governance, and geopolitics, and to podcast-repackaging accounts. This heterogeneity indicates that political clipping constitutes a differentiated ecosystem of curatorial specialization rather than a uniform practice of reposting.

From a Gatekeeping Theory perspective (Shoemaker & Vos, 2009; White, 1950), political clippers function as a first-layer gatekeeper that filters raw political material before platform algorithms operate as a second-layer gatekeeper through recommendation systems, forming what this study terms a double gatekeeping mechanism. This pattern simultaneously reflects an expansion of Participatory Culture (Jenkins, 2006; Jenkins et al., 2013), in which individuals previously positioned as passive consumers of political information now function as curators capable of reaching mass audiences without institutional affiliation.

The Decoupling of Follower Count and Political Visibility

A central finding of this study is that political visibility on TikTok, as measured by the highest view count achieved per account, does not follow a consistent pattern in relation to follower size. Table 2 presents six illustrative cases selected from the dataset that most clearly demonstrate this pattern.

Table 2 Illustrative Cases of Follower–Visibility Decoupling

Account	Followers	Highest Video Views
J.Clipper.Id	3.5K	3.0M
Darf Politics	7.4K	4.8M

Account	Followers	Highest Video Views
Adlina	12.5K	6.5M
Clipper Super Informatif	26.4K	4.1M
Purdimple	20.9K	7.9M
Mastaka Files	40K	25.5M

Source: Processed by the researcher (2025)



Figure 1 . Conceptual illustration of the conventional influencer logic, in which follower count functions as the primary input driving reach and, consequently, visibility

Source: Processed by the researcher (2025)

Figure 1 depicts the linear model that has historically dominated influencer-centered accounts of digital political communication: follower count functions as capital that determines reach, which in turn determines visibility, such that high visibility is expected only when an account already commands a large audience.

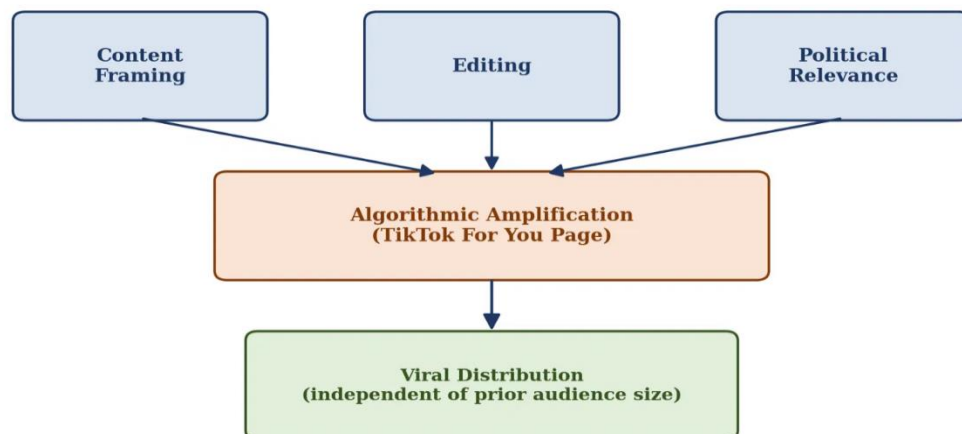


Figure 2 Conceptual illustration of the curation-based (“clipper”) logic, in which content framing, editing, and political relevance interact with algorithmic amplification (TikTok's For You Page) to produce viral distribution independent of prior audience size

Source: Processed by the researcher (2025)

Figure 2 illustrates the alternative logic identified in this study. Rather than beginning with an existing follower base, the process originates from curatorial

input framing, editing, and the political relevance of the extracted moment which is then evaluated by TikTok's For You Page algorithm on the basis of real-time engagement signals, producing viral distribution that is largely independent of an account's pre-existing audience size.

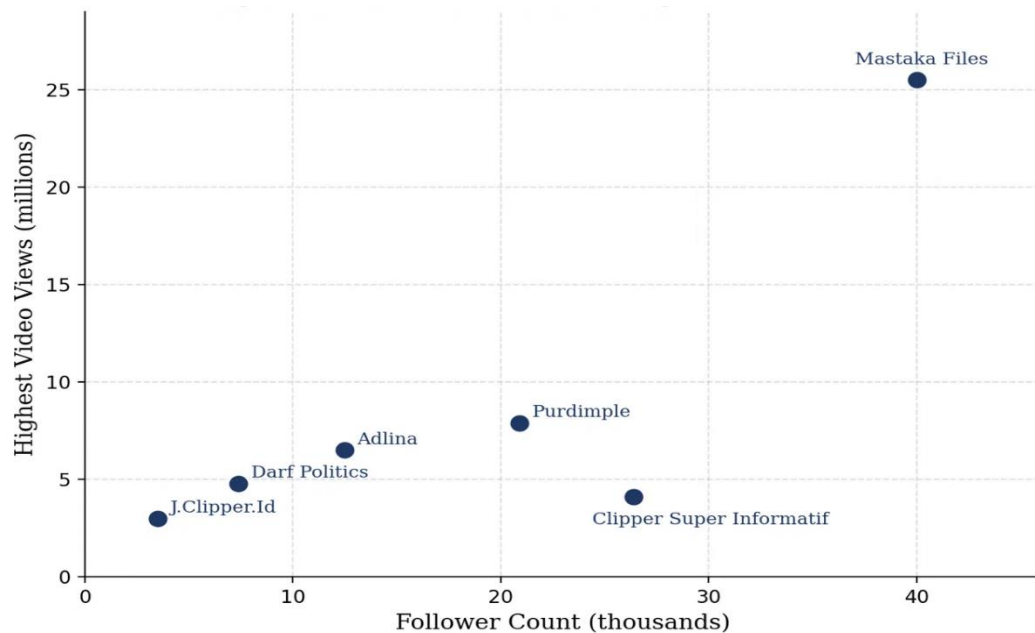


Figure 3 Scatter plot of follower count against highest video views for the six illustrative accounts listed in Table 2

Source: Processed by the researcher (2025)

Figure 3 visualizes the data reported in Table 2. As shown, accounts with comparatively small follower bases such as J.Clipper.Id (3.5K followers) and Darf Politics (7.4K followers) achieved millions of views on their top-performing videos, while Mastaka Files, despite having a larger base of 40K followers, achieved a disproportionately higher peak of 25.5 million views. Notably, Clipper Super Informatif (26.4K followers) recorded fewer highest-video views (4.1M) than several accounts with smaller follower counts, such as Adlina (12.5K followers, 6.5M views) and Purdimple (20.9K followers, 7.9M views). Because this study did not apply an inferential statistical test, these observations are interpreted descriptively: no consistent pattern is observed between follower count and peak video visibility within this dataset, rather than a formally tested statistical relationship. This observed pattern is consistent with the broader dataset of 100 videos, in which numerous accounts with relatively modest audiences generated reach that substantially exceeded their follower base, while some larger accounts did not display proportionally higher performance.

This pattern is consistent with TikTok's algorithmic architecture, which prioritizes content according to engagement-based indicators watch time, retention rate, shareability, and engagement velocity rather than pre-existing social-graph connections. Political content appears particularly compatible with these indicators,

as it tends to be emotionally condensed, rapidly edited, framed around conflict or controversy, and centered on recognizable political figures, all of which are conducive to early-stage algorithmic amplification. These observations are consistent with Riedl et al (2023), who argue that influence in platform-mediated environments increasingly emerges from the interaction between content characteristics and algorithmic infrastructure rather than from audience size alone. Accordingly, follower count functions in this ecosystem as a secondary rather than a primary determinant of political reach.

Typology of Political Clippers

The analysis of the 100 sampled videos indicates that political clippers do not constitute a homogeneous category but can be systematically classified along three interrelated dimensions. Political-figure orientation distinguishes single-politician clippers, which consistently curate content centered on one political actor (e.g., Adlina on Prabowo Subianto), from multi-politician clippers, which curate a heterogeneous range of political figures, including presidents, ministers, and legislators.

Issue orientation distinguishes pro-government framing clippers, which construct narratives supportive of official policies and institutional achievements, from critical-government clippers, which foreground policy critiques, opposition voices, and governance controversies. This distinction indicates that clipping is not a neutral technical practice but carries an ideological dimension that shapes the direction of circulating political narratives.

Content logic distinguishes three further types: documentary clippers, which function as digital archives that preserve source material with minimal alteration; framing clippers, which actively interpret political events through editing, textual overlays, and narrative emphasis; and virality clippers, whose content selection is driven primarily by algorithmic and attention-based potential rather than strict political relevance. These three dimensions figure orientation, issue orientation, and content logic are not mutually exclusive but overlap to form a differentiated ecosystem of digital political curation, indicating that political clippers function as active curatorial agents rather than as uniform technical intermediaries.

Curatorial Practices: From Selective Extraction to Algorithmic Optimization

Across the dataset, political clippers were found to apply a broadly consistent four-stage curatorial process when transforming long-form political material into short-form video content. The first stage, selective extraction, involves identifying specific segments of a political event such as a controversial statement or an emotionally charged exchange considered most likely to attract attention, rather than using the full-length source material. The second stage, compression and editing, condenses and simplifies these segments, a process that often results in meaning reduction, whereby the contextual complexity of the original political

discourse is not fully preserved. The third stage, framing, employs textual overlays, captions, and visual emphasis to reinforce a particular interpretation, often more decisively than the source material's original context. The fourth stage, algorithmic optimization, involves adapting content consciously or otherwise to indicators such as watch time, retention, and engagement velocity, thereby increasing the likelihood of recommendation through TikTok's For You Page. Collectively, these four stages indicate that political clippers function not merely as distributors but as active agents in the reconstruction of digital political reality, operating through continuous interaction between human curatorial judgment and platform-based algorithmic systems.

Toward Curation Politics: A New Paradigm of Digital Political Communication

Synthesizing the findings above, this study introduces Curation Politics as a concept describing a communicative system in which political visibility, reach, and influence are shaped primarily by curatorial processes and their algorithmic amplification, rather than by institutional authority or follower count. This paradigm is characterized by three interrelated dimensions: (1) decentralized curatorial power, reflecting the dispersion of curatorial authority from institutional media toward numerous small-scale digital actors; (2) algorithmically amplified visibility, in which content-performance metrics rather than social-network size determine reach; and (3) fragmented political meaning, whereby political events are reconstructed as discrete, short-form units rather than coherent narratives.

These findings extend the literature on digital political communication by demonstrating that the influencer paradigm alone is no longer sufficient to explain contemporary political visibility (Reinikainen et al., 2025; Riedl et al., 2023). Beyond its communication-studies contribution, this shift also carries plausible relevance for social-science and media education: as short-form political clips increasingly function as an informal source of political knowledge for young audiences, the curatorial mechanisms identified here selective extraction, compression, framing, and algorithmic optimization may offer a concrete empirical basis for designing classroom-based algorithmic- and media-literacy instruction that equips learners to critically evaluate curated political content. In this sense, Curation Politics is proposed not only as an analytical lens for communication scholarship but also as a conceptual bridge toward media- and civic-literacy education in the platform era.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that political clippers have emerged as significant curatorial actors within Indonesia's TikTok-based political-communication ecosystem. Unlike conventional political influencers, whose visibility is largely

associated with follower size and personal branding, political clippers derive their visibility from their capacity to select, extract, edit, frame, and redistribute political content. Based on the analysis of 20 political clipper accounts and 100 high-performing videos, the study identified three dimensions of political-clipper typology: political-figure orientation, issue orientation, and content logic and four recurring curatorial practices: selective extraction, compression and editing, framing, and algorithmic optimization. Together, these findings demonstrate that political clippers do not merely redistribute political information but actively reconstruct political meaning within an algorithmically mediated environment. The observed decoupling between follower count and video visibility further indicates that political reach on TikTok cannot be sufficiently explained by conventional influencer-based models.

Building on these findings, this study proposes Curation Politics as a conceptualization of digital political communication in which political visibility and influence are increasingly shaped by decentralized curatorial power, algorithmic amplification, and fragmented political meaning. The findings extend Gatekeeping Theory by demonstrating a double gatekeeping mechanism, in which political clippers perform an initial selection function while platform algorithms subsequently determine the broader circulation of curated content, and they reinforce the relevance of Participatory Culture and Digital Curation in explaining how ordinary digital actors participate in political-information production and dissemination. From an educational perspective, the emergence of Curation Politics highlights a plausible need for stronger media, algorithmic, and civic literacy so that learners can critically evaluate selective extraction, contextual reduction, framing, and algorithmically optimized political content. Curation Politics thus offers both an analytical perspective for understanding contemporary political communication and a conceptual starting point for developing educational strategies responsive to the growing role of short-form political content in informal political learning.

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