

“Just Questions”: Grievance articulation among anti-trans organizations on Twitter

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ABSTRACT

Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminism (TERF) or Gender Critical (GC) feminism is an anti-trans hate movement using the guise of radical feminism. It focuses on support of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Heterosexual individuals (particularly women) meanwhile actively excluding trans individuals and specifically trans-feminine individuals. Trans individuals have been defined as a sort of boogie-man within TERF and GC ideology, as is the case with other prominent anti-trans groups, and is the target of wide-spread delegitimization efforts. This article hopes to add to existing literature on the topic, by exploring the main grievances articulated by Gender Critical communities. Through gathering the Twitter posts of three prominent TERF and Gender Critical accounts from Twitter’s API, and subsequent analysis using LDA (Latent Dirichlet allocation), I will test the hypothesis that TERFs and Gender Critical individuals online are radicalized and further polarized through a few key thoughts and ideas (focus on reactions of disgust, fear, and anger; a false belief of GCs being silenced, a perception of a pervasiveness of trans women in societies institutions), and that these subsequent ideas are used to delegitimize trans individuals.

INTRODUCTION

Before anything, I would like to mention I am a trans-feminine individual. I do not write under any pretenses of a non-biased attitude. Transgender individuals are discriminated against systematically (Kidd & Witten, 2007) due to the ideology of countless hate movements, including at least 60 documented hate groups in the US alone (SPLC, n.d.). This, inevitably, includes hate crimes based on gender identity, and, though anecdotally commonplace among trans individuals (and especially trans-feminine individuals), these hate crimes have historically been under-researched (Stotzer, 2008). There is no mistaking that trans individuals are discriminated against systematically and a part of these discrimination efforts are through the involvement of TERF and GC ideologies and even act as a vector for other hate ideologies (Burns, 2019; Lorber & Greensmith, 2021).

A TERF is a trans-exclusionary radical feminist who believes the concepts of woman-hood and man-hood are strictly a binary based on the sex someone is born as; a point contrary to decades of feminist scholarship and feminist ideology (Fockens, 2022; Pearce et al., 2020), serving to simplify the concept of *gendering*. There is a movement to call TERFs TES instead (Fockens, 2022; Smythe, 2018) or ‘Trans Exclusionary Separatists’ to devoid them of their feminist guise. TES is a more fit label, as ‘TERFs’ seek to separate feminism from the cause of serving everyone (Fockens, 2022). Meanwhile, GC ideology “[believes] transgender people are malicious actors attempting to deceive ... in order to receive certain social benefits, access gendered spaces, or enact sexual violence” (Fockens, 2022). In reframing TERFs as TES, the links and similarities between “Gender Critical” (an active delegitimization of trans individuals) and “TES” (an active separatist movement to delegitimize trans individuals) becomes, in that both are movements seeking to delegitimize trans individuals. As a result, TES and GC will be used interchangeably, and TERF will not be used throughout the rest of this paper.

Martin, 2003 defines *gendering* or practicing gender “as a ‘system of action’ that is institutionalized and widely recognized but also is dynamic, emergent, local, variable, and shifting.” Transgender individuals fall outside of institutionalized and widely recognized gender roles, and are part of an emergent, shifting, and more inclusive view of gender. A rigid view of *sex* as prioritized over *gender* is incorrect; however, understandable in many individuals as Gansen, 2017 finds heteronormativity and *gendered power* are learned in children as early as the age of three. With gendered power so widely learned among women, and widely fought against in the feminist movement; it is almost inevitable that a small subsection of the feminist movement who strictly adhere to binarized notions of *sex* rather than *gender* would view transgender women as a threat to feminist spaces.

TES ideology inevitably centers on one point: *benevolent sexism* (Blumell et al., 2019). Primarily white women, in TES ideology, are positioned as the weaker sex, and in need of protection from men (Pearce et al., 2020). It plays into the notions of female fragility; and in this viewpoint, giving assigned-male-at-birth trans-feminine individuals autonomy and self-determination poses a threat to cis women (Pearce et al., 2020). It creates a binarized notion of not just “male” and “female” but a dichotomy of “victims” and “aggressors.” Many TES or Gender Critical individuals have been victims of *gendered power* such as sexual assault (which is incredibly

common among women (RAINN)) and can find comfort in this binarized view of aggressors versus those who are 'safe' (Wynn, 2019).

Youtuber and investigative journalist CaelenConrad in their three part series *Gender Critical – Inside a Cult* goes over the three step process of how a TES is created. One, they are indoctrinated into TES ideology through the concepts of fear and disgust (CaelenConrad, 2022c). Two, they are convinced to practice their TES beliefs, primarily through engaging in conversion therapy of their children or family members (CaelenConrad, 2022b). Three, they are encouraged to perpetuate TES ideology (CaelenConrad, 2022a).

The TES and Gender Critical movements are a digitally networked public sphere (Tufekci, 2017) overlapping often with conservative and alt-right movements (Shaun, 2022), existing for the purpose of silencing transgender individuals. A digitally networked public sphere is the public sphere which consists of the intersection of public real-world interactions alongside online digital interactions. A nuanced example of this might include JK Rowling, who often will have very publicized meals with other prominent members of TES and GC movements, which will often have both online and offline consequences.

Online spaces such as Twitter or Reddit serve as a vector of political movements and protests (Tufekci, 2017) for all points on a political spectrum. They can also serve as a space for affirmation and unity within trans and minority communities (Fockens, 2022). Before it's banning on June 28, 2020, the description of r/GenderCritical, a prominent Reddit community housing 65,000 members, read as follows:

"Feminism is the movement to liberate women from patriarchy. We stand up for the rights of women to control our own bodies as individuals and to control women-only spaces as a class. Women are adult human females. We do not believe that men can become women by 'feeling' like women. We do not condone the erasure of females and female-only spaces, the silencing of critical thinking, the denial of biological reality and of sex-based oppression. We oppose ... the pressure on lesbians to have sex with men." (Wayback Machine, 2020)

r/GenderCritical transphobia is justified by feminism. The group believes that, if trans women are simply men who 'feel' like women, then their inclusion into women's spaces constitutes an erasure of women's spaces – their only reprieve from patriarchal systems. This ignores the abundant challenges and marginalization trans individuals and trans women receive both socially and systemically (UN OCHR, n.d.). These challenges are amplified by TES and Gender Critical individuals seeking to exclude trans women from women's spaces dedicated to the dismantling of the patriarchy. To do this, though, many TES and GC groups align themselves with men's rights and other manosphere groups dedicated to enforcing the patriarchy (Shaun, 2022).

Research on the Reddit forum r/MensRights centered around the Men's Rights movement, a movement antithetical to feminist ideology by prioritizing men in society and on men's problems rather than a focus on general equality, shows there are two patterns to posts widely shared on the website. The first is online posts on Reddit gain more traction (such as upvotes or comments) when the audience is angered or disgusted; the second is a perceived pervasiveness of feminism throughout societies institutions (Rafail & Freitas, 2019). Events such as #GamerGate led directly to an explosion of the Men's Rights movement and other manosphere communities, as

they believe feminism acts as a sort of Orwellian Big Brother pervasive throughout the whole government and also video game industry (Kychenthal, 2022a).

This article began as a replication of the r/MensRights article hoping to better explore and understand how this methodology can be applied to other extremist ideologies. Certain patterns are initially evident, primarily links to the perceived pervasiveness of trans people mirroring the perceived pervasiveness of feminism in societies institutions. I am not the first person to bring LDA analysis to TERF Twitter (Lu, 2020), however, this previous analysis focuses on classifying TERF vs. Non-TERF ideology. Beyond this, Lu 2020 focuses on micro-targeting individual topics TERFs use in order to categorize users into a binary of TERF vs Non-TERF (Lu, 2020). This research also focuses on individual grievances rather than organizational and *broad* grievances, something explored in the methodology and results sections, which inevitably brings about different results and conclusions.

In Jessie Gender's YouTube video analyzing the rhetoric of Daily Wire host Matt Walsh's "What is a Woman?", she overviews how right-wing and TES talking heads distort reality to make it seem as if trans women have power in society (Earl, 2022). Among the included evidence is a clip from Tucker Carlson where a guest claims, "the way you can tell who holds all the power in society, is by who you can't make fun of;" which encapsulates two important points: Trans people hold "all the power" and you cannot "make fun of" trans people. TES or GCs, and conservatives perpetuate the idea that trans individuals hold vast amounts of power, and among that power is the ability to silence dissenting voices (TES, GCs, conservatives). There is a perceived *pervasiveness* of trans people in society's institutions, and trans people use this to silence the 'truly marginalized,' (TES) despite TES holding the majority opinion that *gender* is primarily determined by *sex* (Pew Research Center, 2022). As a result, TES have the popular support to silence online transgender rights activists on platforms like Twitter (Tufekci, 2017) and TES ability to claim silencing only shows they are not silenced (Gwenffrewi, 2022). These ideas of pervasiveness and silencing go hand-in-hand, and one cannot exist without the other. TES are silenced because of their claim trans people are pervasive, when in reality this could not be further from the truth.

Preliminary research on this project, in regards to two public figure's posts regarding TES and GC ideology, showcased the concept of *concern* (Kychenthal, 2022b). A large majority of discriminatory movements and conspiracies are framed from the perspective of *questions* and *concerns*. Rosenblum & Muirhead 2020 explain the concept of *conspiracy without the theory*. It is a type of conspiracy that seeks to perpetuate itself through sheer repetition for the sake of delegitimizing primarily political parties and information institutions (i.e. news institutions or universities) (Rosenblum & Muirhead, 2020). Though Rosenblum and Muirhead have received criticism, for example their hyperfixation on the present US moment leading to a blind spot of *new conspiracism* not particularly being *new* (Morone, 2020) or how they engage in a certain degree of ascribing intentionality to movements that likely are not intentionally created (Kalpokas, 2019), *a lot of people are saying* does offer an incredibly insightful look into the dangers of repetition. In this regard, TES and GC ideology offers striking parallels to *new conspiracism*, which makes sense considering influential TES and GC speakers often align themselves with *new conspiratorial* figures in white supremacist and alt-right circles (Shaun, 2022).

TES' *conspiracy without the theory* serves not to delegitimize political institutions or information institutions, but to delegitimize a marginalized population. Matt Walsh and other right-wing or TES-adjacent groups frame attacks on trans individuals (including attacks on the Boston Children's hospital) in a *new conspiratorial* light: "we're just asking questions" (Earl, 2022). They presuppose an answer to their questions, but the questions serve as an innuendo acting to delegitimize trans individual's autonomy and human rights. Verbal attacks such as that on Boston Children's hospital lead to the delegitimization of gender-affirming institutions through baseless claiming that toddlers are put on a path to sterilization and butchery (Media Matters, 2022). As Rosenblum and Murihead as well as Fockens point out, Twitter's relatively low barrier to entry leads to further repetition of *new conspiratorial* claims, and with an accumulation of countless Re-Tweets, claims such as *a lot of people are saying* gain more support. This is all despite many claims being entirely repetition without any self critical nature (Fockens, 2022), and often despite these claims having no logic, consistency, coherency, or tie to reality (Rosenblum & Muirhead, 2020).

Framing TES and GC ideology in this light frames TES and GC Twitter organizations as serving two higher purposes:

1. Delegitimizing trans individuals. Through baseless and repetitive claims, seeking to anger, disgust, and prey on fears, TES and GCs seek to delegitimize trans individuals in such a way that TES and GC groups don't distrust trans individuals, but believe they are a malignant question that needs a final solution.
2. Perpetuating TES and GC ideology. The baseless and repetitive claims need people to repeat them, so TES and GC organizations seek to perpetuate TES and GC ideology for the sake of more retweets and likes, therefore supporting the claims of *a lot of people are saying*.

Twitter and online platforms are vital to the repetition, reproduction, and perpetuation of TES and GC ideology, so this research hopes to strengthen already existing research on how to analyze and combat TES and GC ideology. It serves as framing TES and GC ideology in a unique light, as a sort of virus whose only purpose is to recreate itself and colonize the hearts and minds of individuals (Munn, 2019) in a way likely similar to that of an alt-right pipeline. And, like a virus, there is likely not one individual or shadowy group who controls this process, as is a pitfall Murahied and Rosenblum fall into (Kalpokas, 2019). Like a virus, there is likely no single brain, just an almost instinct to reproduce and perpetuate. This is what I hope to better explore and understand as a theory.

METHODOLOGY

An analysis will be conducted using the Twitter platform to ascertain the prominence of certain TERF and GC concerns and grievances. Using Twitter’s API, an algorithm will scrape all Tweets, Re-Tweets (RT), Quote-Tweet (QRT), and Replies made by three separate Twitter accounts. Figure 1 describes what accounts will be used and for what reasons, alongside the amount of tweets collected (discounting RTs and QRTs).

Account	Reason	Tweets
@ALLIANCELGB	LGBA (LGB Alliance) is regularly trending on Twitter, with The LGBA (particularly the British branch with a total of over 50,000 followers) at the head.	3235
@LGBFightBack	Grass-roots organization similar to the LGBA with over 3,000 Twitter followers.	360
@Sexnotgender_	Website and Twitter profile focusing on “equality” monitoring the <i>equality act</i> of 2010 proposing equality to be diametrically black and white (male or female). Over 4,000 Twitter followers.	3182

Figure 1. Twitter accounts used for the study with an explanation of why specific organizations and accounts were used alongside a count of how many tweets were scraped from each Twitter account. A total of 6,777 tweets were used across all three accounts.

All tweets made by these organizations, without RTs or QRTs, before November 5th, 2022 will be condensed into a text document of about 200,000 words for data analysis or 6,777 total tweets. Text will be cleaned to ignore hashtags, quotation marks, line breaks, hyperlinks, and non UTF-8 characters and emojis. The Gensim python library will be used to split the tweets into sentences, then lemmatization of text will be done using the Spacy python library, with added keywords and dog whistles specific to the TES community such as “GC”, “TERF”, “Womyn”, “Wombyn”, “TRA”, “TIW”, “TIM”, “Transgenderism”, or “Radfem” to further prepare the text for analysis. Lemmatization of the text will include nouns (‘trans’, ‘transgender’), adjectives (‘personal’, ‘lawful’), and verbs (‘predate’, ‘harass’). After cleaning, 83,000 words remain for data analysis.

LDA using the Sci-Kit Learn python library (Chen, 2018) will then be used to gather the most prevalent topics among TES and GC communities alongside what keywords correlate. LDA is used to most accurately mirror the existing research done on r/MensRights (Rafail & Freitas, 2019). The number of topics will be chosen based on a subjective balancing act of gathering the maximum amount of topics before topics begin repeating themselves.

In regards to ethics, individual users online generally don't realize their online information can be used by researchers, (Fiesler & Proferes, 2018) often think their actions online are "moderately sensitive", and prefer explicit consent before having their tweets used (Hemphill et al., 2022). As a result, this research will primarily look at political organizations, such as the LBGAlliance or SexNotGender_, who openly seek to influence public opinion and/or political decisions. QRTs and RTs these organizations make will not be used, as these may violate the privacy of individual users. Twitter will be the focus of this research, instead of Reddit, due to the banning of r/GenderCritical on June 29, 2020.

Based on the research done on r/MensRights (Rafail & Freitas, 2019), these tweets will then be categorized by complaint or grievance, and then organized by community support. Compared to research done on Reddit, research done on Twitter has more options to explore in terms of categorizing community support. *Quote-retweets* or comments could be used to denote criticism of a complaint, however, Twitter's API gatekeeps these metrics to enterprise and premium members. Therefore, the focus will be *likes*, similar to the research done on r/MensRights.

Posts will be given a value of *Support*. This is the amount of likes and out of the pool of all likes and an account has received. Based on this categorization, a tweet will never have more than 1 support as all tweets by an account added together will add to 1.

RESULTS

LDA results were scored by two factors: log likelihood and perplexity. Higher log likelihoods and lower perplexities are considered to be more accurate models. Early in the process of training LDA, one thing became evident: the number of components used with LDA could not be a single value. LDA was considered most accurate when the number of topics were 3 or 4, yet, 3 or 4 topics is not enough to categorize TES ideologies. Therefore, two numbers of components would be decided, one for *broad* topics and one for *narrow* topics. Figure 2 represents the number of topics LDA found most efficient for *narrow* and *broad* topics. Figure 3 represents the specific topics alongside their key words for both *narrow* and *broad* topics. Figure 4 is a representation of the assumed concerns for each topic.

As some of the *narrow* topics are almost identical to each other or to *broad* topics, and because many of the *narrow* topics can be categorized as extensions of, or subcategories of *broad* topics, a visual representation (Figure 5) was created in order to better visualize the prevalence of certain categories. This representation of broad vs. narrow as umbrella categories can better help dissect TES arguments.

	# of topics	Log Likelihood	Perplexity	Decay	Offset	DF
Narrow	8	-67975	235	0.8	130	15
Broad	4	-67150	248	0.8	152	15

Figure 2. The number of topics chosen for *broad* and *narrow* topics. The vectorized data fed to LDA a minimum character length of 4 and a DF of 15. DF is the amount of times a word needs to appear to be included in the vectorized data. This excludes incredibly specific terminology and also created the best log likelihood and perplexity scores. Log likelihood is the score given to each topic, decay is the learning decay or kappa, offset is the learning offset where early iterations are devalued, and iter is the number of iterations done (scikit-learn, 2022). Once a number of topics, df, decay, and offset were decided on, the values were inputted into LDA once more with an iteration value of 100 and a batch size of 256 to find the log likelihood, perplexity, and topics for the final combination. This process was tried with a third category of broad topics (# of topics = 12), however, many topics were repetitions of both *broad* and *narrow* topics, so a third number would be excessive.

Once this was done, LDA would run through all 6,777 tweets and categorize them under the four *broad* categories. They would also be given a ranking of *support* which has been defined above.

Topic	Keywords
Topic #1	Thank, respond, conference, support, time, year, therapy, make, point, report, people, today, conversion, review, correct
Topic #2	Gender, people, right, lesbian, woman, identity, appear, young, issue, good, trans, child, sexual, body, bisexual
Topic #3	Equality, process, duty, public, information, term, rely, monitoring, datum, application, employer, vital, provide, gender, note
Topic #4	Characteristic, protect, gender, female, male, define, discriminate, datum, note, information, option, personal, reassignment, term, like
Topic #5	Conference, great, year, today, hear, want, come, speak, debate, happy, event, consider, wish, join, issue
Topic #6	Lesbian, gender, people, young, child, therapy, woman, body, bisexual, conversion, change, homophobia, homophobic, need, identity
Topic #7	Thank, support, make, point, people, time, help, raise, need, look, feel, love, view, know, good
Topic #8	Right, people, woman, information, state, good, transgender, follow, person, status, trans, confusion, access, prevent, category
Topic #9	Protect, characteristic, gender, define, identity, reassignment, list, sexual, orientation, term, different, issue, option, information, possible
Topic #10	Equality, datum, discriminate, note, process, personal, report, characteristic, application, employer, duty, discrimination, collect, protect, information
Topic #11	Female, male, vital, recruitment, option, word, applicant, important, public, gather, birth, term, datum, require, aware
Topic #12	Respond, term, rely, question, concept, role, review, correct, wish, ensure, gender, policy, report, sure, relate

Figure 3. Each topic picked by LDA. Topics 1 through 4 are the *broad* topics meanwhile topics 5 through 12 are the *narrow* topics.

Topic	Assumed Concern
Topic #1	Gratitude from organizations to the TES and GC community and the recruitment of new members
Topic #2	Gender identity as an “issue” impacting on lesbians, children, and “women’s rights.”
Topic #3	Equality and monitoring: TES and GC individuals are “portrayed badly” by the media, are fired from jobs, etc. and organizations are attempting to monitor “discrimination” against TES.
Topic #4	Dichotomies: sex as a binary of male and female, of abuser and victim, of protector and protected with trans individuals falling in as an anomaly.
Topic #5	Same as topic #1
Topic #6	Trans people as “having a mental illness”, predators on lesbians, and as needing of therapy and change, plus defence of this ideology (which is, to be clear, conversion therapy) as not homophobic.
Topic #7	Same as topic #1
Topic #8	Gatekeeping of female identities
Topic #9	Protecting people from gender reassignment surgeries
Topic #10	Focus on employers, statistics, and “equality.”
Topic #11	Spreading public awareness of TES and GC ideology.
Topic #12	Spreading public awareness of TES and GC ideology.

Figure 4. The topics picked by LDA, categorized manually. Topics 1 through 4 are the *broad* topics meanwhile topics 5 through 12 are the *narrow* topics. Some *narrow* topics repeat almost identically *broad* topics or to other *narrow* topics.

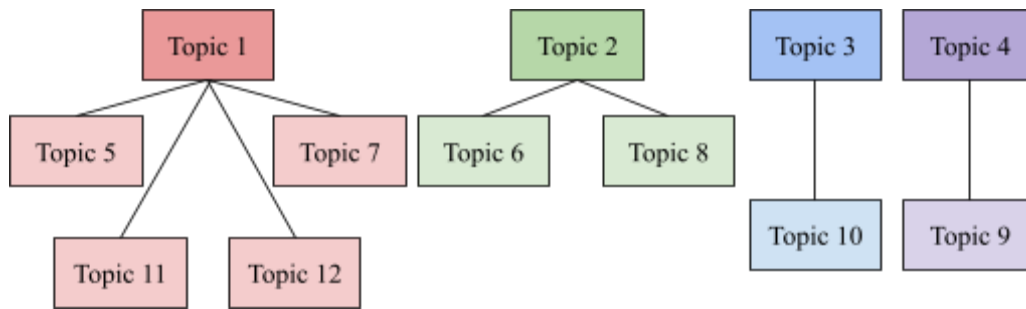


Figure 5. The topics are split into four *broad* umbrella topics. The categories are split as topic #1 (red), topic #2 (green), topic #3 (blue), and topic #4 (purple). The majority of repeated or extension topics are either *narrow* topics identical to topic 1 or very similar to topic 1. Topic 2 received two repeats or extensions. And topics 3 and 4 received only one repeat or extension each.

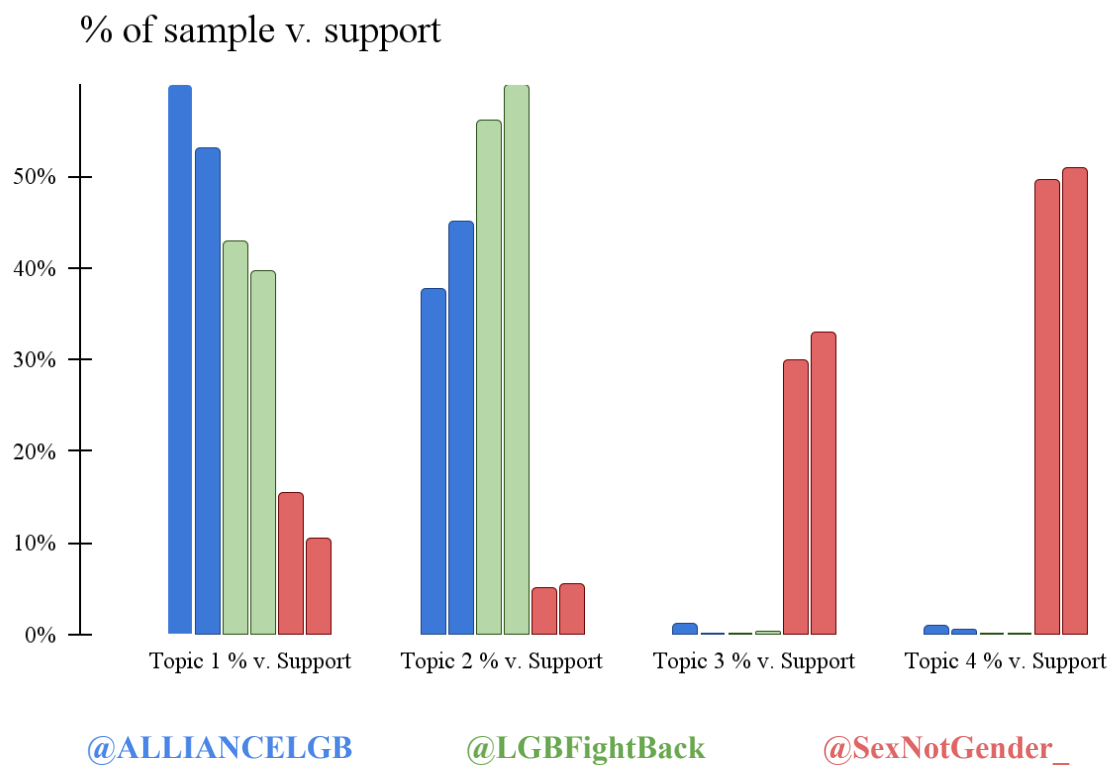


Figure 6. For each of the three accounts, % of sample (left-hand for each color) indicates how many tweets for each account were categorized with a respective topic, while *support* (right-hand for each color) indicates the level of support each topic received compared to the total amount of likes a whole account occupies. Due to space constraints, Appendix B contains the exact amounts for each topic's % of sample vs. support.

DISCUSSION

One of the most surprising outcomes from this experiment was the dichotomy between @ALLIANCELG & @LGBFightBack compared to @SexNotGender_. @ALLIANCELG and @LGBFightBack almost exclusively focused on Topics 1 and 2 while the much smaller @SexNotGender_ focused almost entirely on topics 3 and 4. It should be noted that @SexNotGender_ is an organization whose primary focus is “equality” monitoring in relation to the Equality Act in the UK, but it is interesting to see the other organizations almost exclusively not engage in this form of employer “discrimination” monitoring.

Accounts such as @SexNotGender_ focus on the lack of the term ‘gender’ within the Equality Act hoping to enforce a strict binary of Male and Female where trans individuals are born in a binary, then work towards achieving the other binary (SexNotGender_, n.d.). This categorization serves to validate transgender individuals, but only through rigorous gatekeeping of medical procedures through the concept of Gender Dysphoria (Thorn, 2022), and an in-validation of non-binary individuals. This is sometimes called Trans-Medicalism. Other experiments might discount @SexNotGender_, then restrict the number of LDA topics to two or three, but I believe it is important to also include Topics 3 and 4 as well as @SexNotGender_ to exemplify the differences between accounts focused on reproduction and accounts focused on education and resistance.

@SexNotGender_ is an account that engages in two things: education and resistance. Their form of education is re-enforcing the dichotomy of male and female, while also backing up their “educational” materials with skewed and mischaracterized statistics. This can even be exemplified in news media that is traditionally considered to be reputable such as The BBC’s article, “we’re being pressured into sex by some trans women” (Shaun, 2021). Their resistance is their form of “equality monitoring”, directly framing themselves as a grass-roots political organization that enforces the Equality Act as a strict binary, not a protection of gender.

In regards to @ALLIANCELG and @LGBFightBack, topics 1 and 2 are especially interesting. Topic 1 received proportionally less support than the total in the pool of tweets for both accounts (60% to 53% and 43% to 39.7%), while topic 2 received proportionally more support than the total in the pool of tweets for both accounts (37.7% to 45% and 56% to 60%). This supports, though not expansively, Rafail & Freitas’ claims that extremist groups are most engaged in online content when their emotions of anger or disgust are targeted.

It can be concluded from Figures 5 and 6 that there are four primary goals of these accounts:

1. To perpetuate themselves through conferences and meetings. This is the primary goal for an organization such as @ALLIANCELG and an important objective for an organization such as @LGBFightBack. These organizations regularly engage in giving gratitude to those who spread TES and GC ideology.
2. To pose trans individuals as an “issue” or to delegitimize trans individuals. There is a presupposition there that trans individuals are prevalent enough in society to pose a threat to any other marginalized communities. Based on the collected tweets, this topic focuses on emotions of anger, disgust, and fear to perpetuate

TES and GC ideology. Tweets labeled with this topic also uses strong keywords such as “right” (either with the connotation of “correct” or the connotation of civil liberties) and often engages in framing trans people as child abusers, for example through framing puberty blockers as “butchery”, “sterilization”, or “chemical castration” and framing education on the existence of trans people to children as a form of indoctrination. This repetition of mischaracterizations serves to delegitimize trans individuals.

3. To monitor discrimination and harassment against the TES and GC community. This serves to protect against their perceived silencing.
4. To enforce the dichotomy between male and female through repetition and delegitimization efforts.

In terms of new conspiracism, there are two methods existing within these four topics. The first is perpetuation and repetition. Particularly, topic one serves to perpetuate anti-trans sentiments through encouraging the consistent repetition of anti-trans new conspiratorial claims. The second is to delegitimize. Particularly, topic two feeds off anger, disgust, a fear of silencing, and more in order to delegitimize the voices and personhood of trans individuals.

CONCLUSION

“Bigotry is a pernicious and tenacious virus for which no one has yet found a cure.” (Foxman, 1997) This is just as true for the TES and GC movement as is for any other hate group. TES and GC organizations such as LGB Alliance have two main goals outlined in this paper: reproduce and delegitimize. In this sense, they are like a virus. TES and GC groups hijack individual’s sensibilities, ranging conservatives (Shaun, 2022) to heterosexual women to queer women such as GetTheLOut (Compton, 2019) to trans individuals such as Blaire White (White, 2022a, 2022b). Once hijacked, the goal is to reproduce. This is well outlined by CaelenConrad, 2022 and evident from how accounts such as @ALLIANCELGB focus their primary efforts on reproduction. And, inevitably, any virus harms the host. This would need more studying, but I argue this is important to understanding how the TES and GC hate movement grows.

This research is meant simply to help explain a social phenomenon for the sake of better exploring it, for providing further reference, and for hopefully combatting TES and GC ideology. *New conspiratorial* claims such as the ones the right or TES and GC groups engage in do not replace the existing agenda with a new one, they only serve to delegitimize and harm (Rosenblum & Muirhead, 2020).

This does, however, open a door for malicious actors who hope to capitalize off of the hate by offering a final solution (USHMM, n.d.-a). This final solution, as articulated online, is a pipeline where online sayings inevitably lead to offline extremism (Kychenthal, 2022a). And, as many point out, conservatives, TES and GC groups are already gearing up and continuing a path of holocaust (Ron The Anarchist, 2022; St. James, 2022; Vienna, 2022). Transgender individuals suffer life-long exposure to abuse, both psychological and physical, are actively discriminated against by the healthcare industry, are portrayed as groomers unable to be around children, are often targetted by conversion therapy efforts, and often have to resort to drastic measures to simply survive (CaelenConrad, 2022a; Earl, 2022; Kidd & Witten, 2007; Stotzer, 2008). This aligns with categories two (mental and bodily harm), three (targetting quality of life to bring about physical destruction), four (preventing births or parenting), and five (forcibly transitioning children to another group) of what constitutes a genocide by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM, n.d.-b) with the only step missing being an encouragement and active engagement in the murder of transgender individuals.

This violence is legitimized using the delegitimization from TES and GC groups. Bathroom bills, the debate on women’s sports, attacks on healthcare and living conditions, accusations of grooming, and the countless talking points of TES and GC individuals serve to delegitimize a group, all for the sake of presupposing the answer to the *question* is *extermination*.

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APPENDIX A

All code for the proposal and eventual project can be found at:

<https://github.com/SkyMocha/TERF-LDA>

APPENDIX B

For space reasons, the following is the numerical distribution of % of sample vs Support outlined in Figure 6.

	%	Support	%	Support	%	Support
Topic 1	60%	53%	43%	39.7%	15.4%	10.5%
Topic 2	37.7%	45%	56%	60%	5%	5.6%
Topic 3	1.24%	0.04%	0.2%	0.4%	30%	33%
Topic 4	0.9%	0.5%	0.2%	0.03%	49.5%	51%

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