

The Manosphere: Laura Bates [B2]

Laura Bates, una delle voci femministe più potenti del nostro tempo, autrice di vari bestseller e fondatrice del progetto Everyday Sexism, parla dell'influenza pervasiva della manosfera, un insieme di siti web, blog e forum online che promuovono la misoginia.

The manosphere is a collection of websites, blogs and online forums that promote misogyny and racism. The purpose of the manosphere is to make a few people a lot of money by radicalising young men and convincing them to send donations to "the cause". Its most [high-profile](#) representative at the moment is a British-American man called Andrew Tate.

CELEBRITY CRIMINAL

Tate, a [former](#) kickboxing world champion, is currently the most googled man on the internet. He has appeared in countless videos, [showing off](#) a luxurious lifestyle of fast cars, private jets and [yachts](#) and [bragging](#) about their "enormous emissions." Tate is a ridiculous figure. But he is also frightening: he is currently under investigation in Romania for [rape](#), human trafficking and forming a criminal gang.

ONLINE SCAMS

On the internet, there are many ways to create the illusion of popularity. With the help of algorithms this can turn into actual fame and global influence. Fake comments and reviews can be posted to manipulate public opinion, a practice known as 'astroturfing'. False online identities, known as '[sock puppets](#)', facilitate this process. Internet robots or 'bots', also known as 'spiders' or '[crawlers](#)', [spread](#) this misinformation online.

NICHE TO MAINSTREAM

Some 37 per cent of all downstream traffic (that is, data received by a computer or network) is [accounted for](#) by YouTube alone. 70 per cent of the videos that are watched on YouTube are recommended by the algorithm. 89 per cent of young people who use YouTube describe it as a [news source](#), rather than an entertainment platform; but what keeps people watching is not news but extreme content.

EVERYDAY SEXISM

Some [mainstream media](#) have promoted such [trends](#) in an irreverent way. They ask whether feminism has “gone too far” or present gender equality as a “battle of the sexes.” This can lead to women being portrayed as “woke snowflakes” or “false feminists” who complain about “minor things”, or “[make things up](#)”. This myth is so prevalent that 28 per cent of men in America say that they’d no longer have a one-to-one meeting with a woman in the office, because she might make [unfounded allegations](#) of workplace [harassment](#) against him.

MURDER / SUICIDE

In truth, most [rapes go unreported](#), and in the UK, only 1.4 per cent of those that [are reach court](#). Still, manosphere platforms promote the idea that men are victims who need to defend themselves. They manipulate feelings of ‘[aggrieved entitlement](#)’, a sense that something [rightfully](#) yours is being taken away from you. Hurt and fury can cause irreparable damage. School shootings in the US, for example, are almost always committed by young men, and many of these crimes end in suicide.

Glossary

- **unfounded allegations** = accuse infondate
- **are reach court** = giungere il tribunale (denunciare)
- **aggrieved entitlement** = diritto infranto
- **high-profile** = di alto profilo
- **yachts** = panfili
- **rape** = vantarsi
- **mainstream media** = mezzi di comunicazione di massa
- **go unreported** = non essere denunciato
- **crawlers** = spider, robot (software)
- **spread** = diffondere
- **accounted for** = rappresentare
- **news source** = fonte di notizie
- **harassment** = molestia sessuale
- **rightfully** = giustamente
- **trends** = tendenze
- **make things up** = inventare le cose
- **former** = ex
- **showing off** = mostrare
- **bragging** = vantarsi
- **sock puppets** = truffatori (pupazzo fatto con un calzino)