



# Debate Around Feminism in Russian-Speaking Telegram Channels

Analysing affective and structural polarisation

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# Research questions

## 1. Is feminist discourse online polarized ?

- 1.1 What is the sentiment of the discussions?
- 1.2 What is overall polarization score ?

## 2. What is the structure of the two researched communities ?

- 2.1 What are the most popular cited communities ?
- 2.2 Are there echo-chambers within the communities and overall in the debate?

## 3. What is the structure of user's interactions?

- 3.1 Are the interactions homophylic ?

# Sentiment analysis.

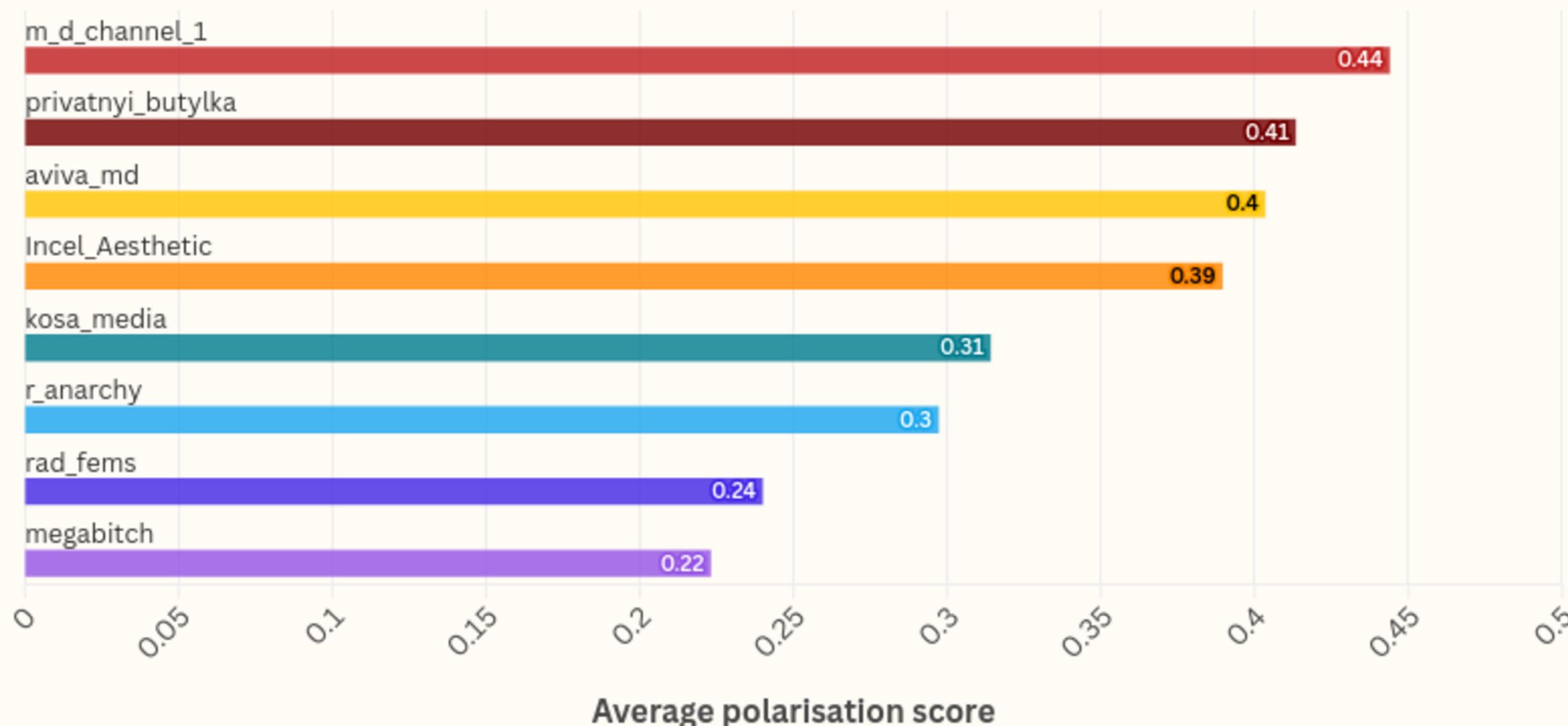
## Overview

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- Overall polarisation
- Sentiment and polarisation score distribution for feminist channels
- Sentiment and polarisation score distribution for antifeminist channels

# Polarisation score by channel

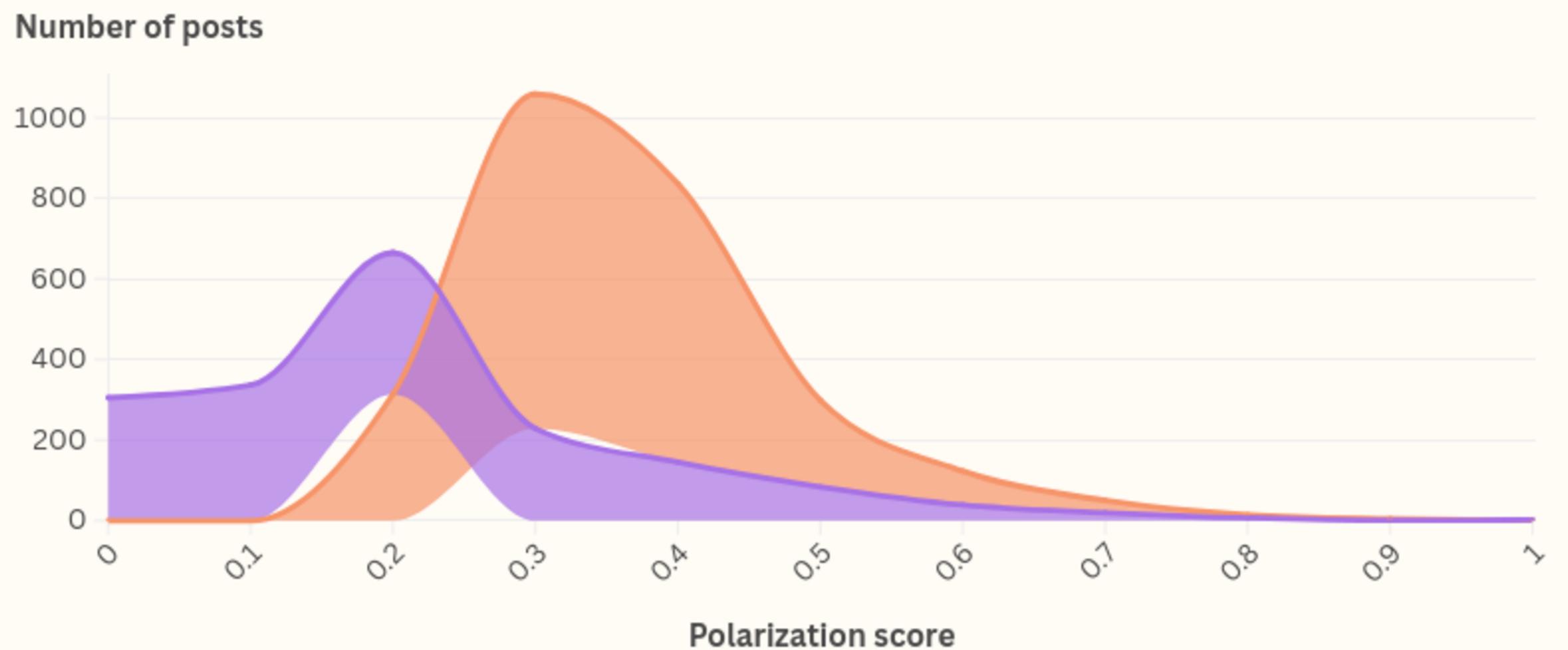
Antifeminist channels: [aviva\\_md](#), [Incel\\_Aesthetic](#), [m\\_d\\_channel\\_1](#), [privatnyi\\_butylka](#) Feminist channels: [r\\_anarchy](#), [kosa\\_media](#), [rad\\_fems](#), [megabitch](#)



Source: The data acquired from listed telegram channels from 01.01.2024 to 01.01.2025

## Distribution of polarization score for posts for each group

Antifem channel Feminist channel



Source: The data acquired from listed telegram channels from 01.01.2024 to 01.01.2025

## Statistics:

Mean polarisation score:

overall	0.33
feminist	0.26
antifeminist	0.4

Maximum values:

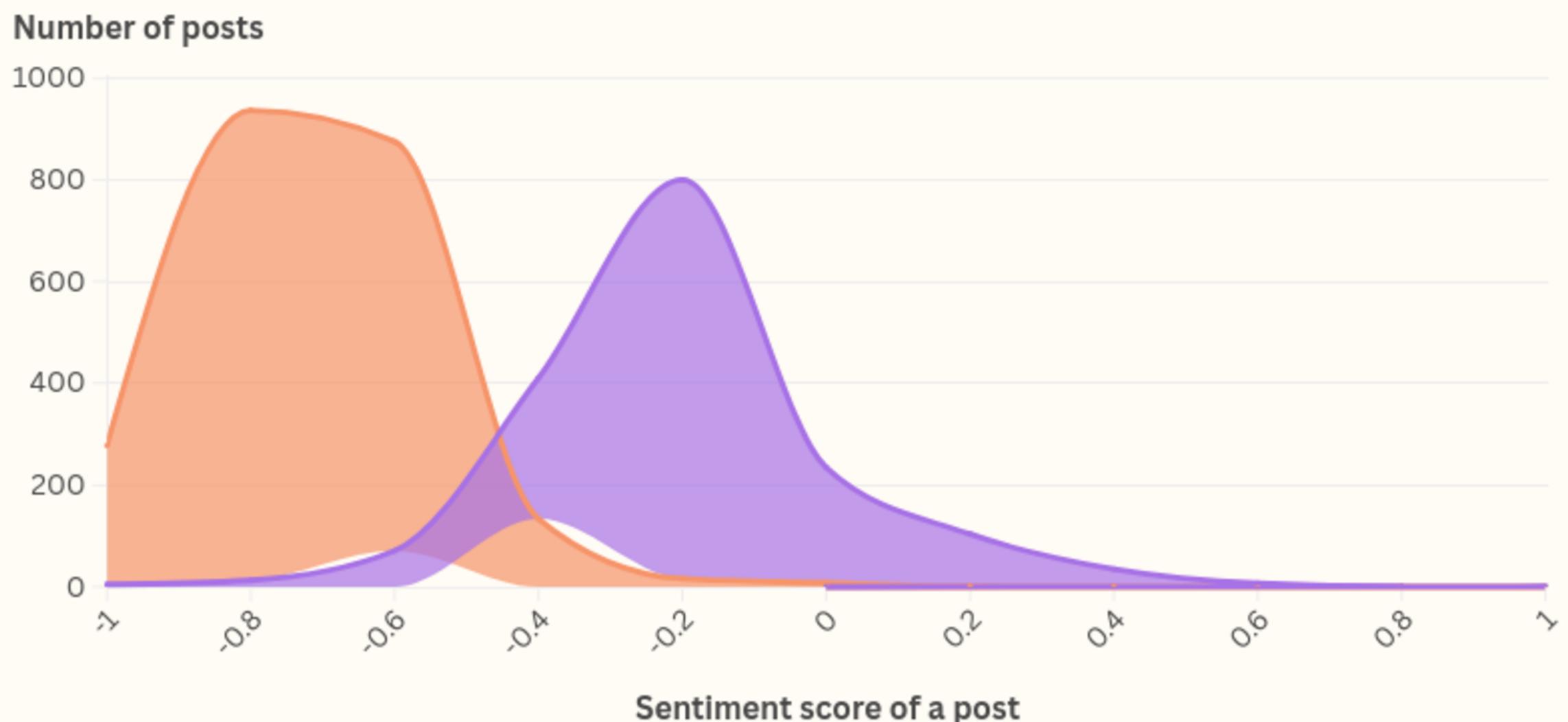
feminist	0.96
antifeminist	0.97

Minimum values:

feminist	0.003
antifeminist	0.2

## Distribution of sentiments score for posts for each group

Antifem channel Feminist channel



Source: The data acquired from listed telegram channels from 01.01.2024 to 01.01.2025

## Statistics:

### Mean sentiment:

overall	-0.36
feminist	-0.1
antifeminist	-0.61

### Maximum values:

feminist	0.86
antifeminist	0.09

### Minimum values:

feminist	-0.72
antifeminist	-0.99

# Sentiment analysis

## Results<sup>i</sup>

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- Overall polarisation and sentiment do not indicate affective polarisation
- Feminist channels are not affectively polarised with a slightly negative sentiment
- Antifeminist channels are not affectively polarised with a highly negative overall sentiment

**Low scores may indicate not absence of polarisation but:**

- a presence of a dominant sentiment within community
- an existence of echo-chambers

# Social Network Analysis

## Overview

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- The network of channels
- The network of users

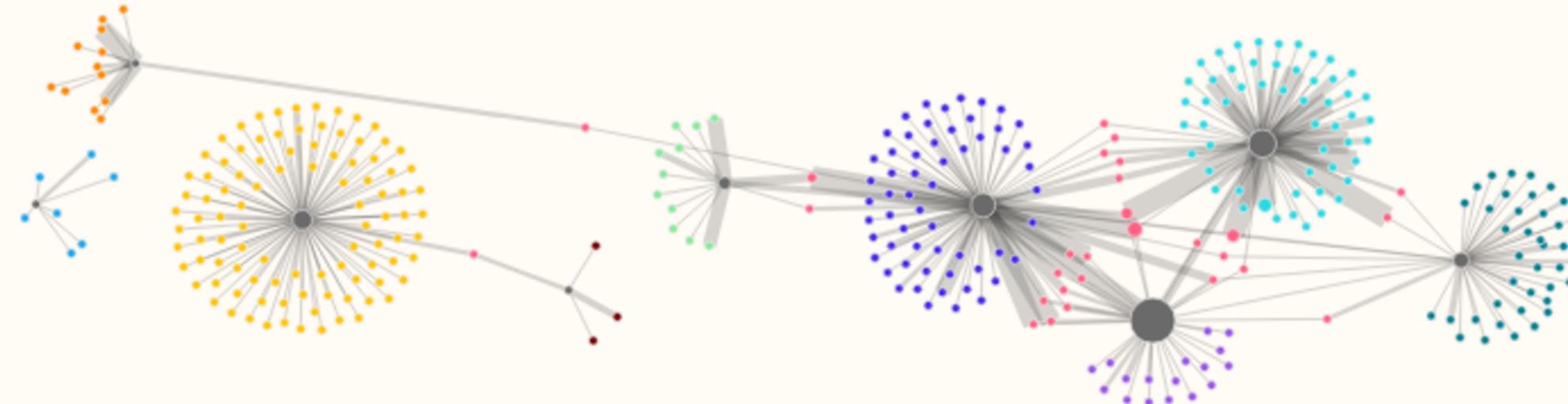
# Channel's Network

## Analysis

- Overall it collected **367** nodes
- Multiple common points within feminist network
- *glasnaya\_media* – the most cited channel

### Network of channels

Channel title: ● main node ● multiple ● r\_anarchy ● femagainstwar ● rad\_fems ● kosa\_media ● megabitch  
● MFRradfem ● aviva\_md ● Incel\_Aesthetic ● privatnyi\_butylka ● m\_d\_channel\_1



Source: The data acquired from listed telegram channels from 01.01.2024 to 01.01.2025.  
Size: for nodes represents number of mentions, for edges represents number of mentions by main channel  
Color: channel where other channels was mentioned or if it was mentioned in multiple channels

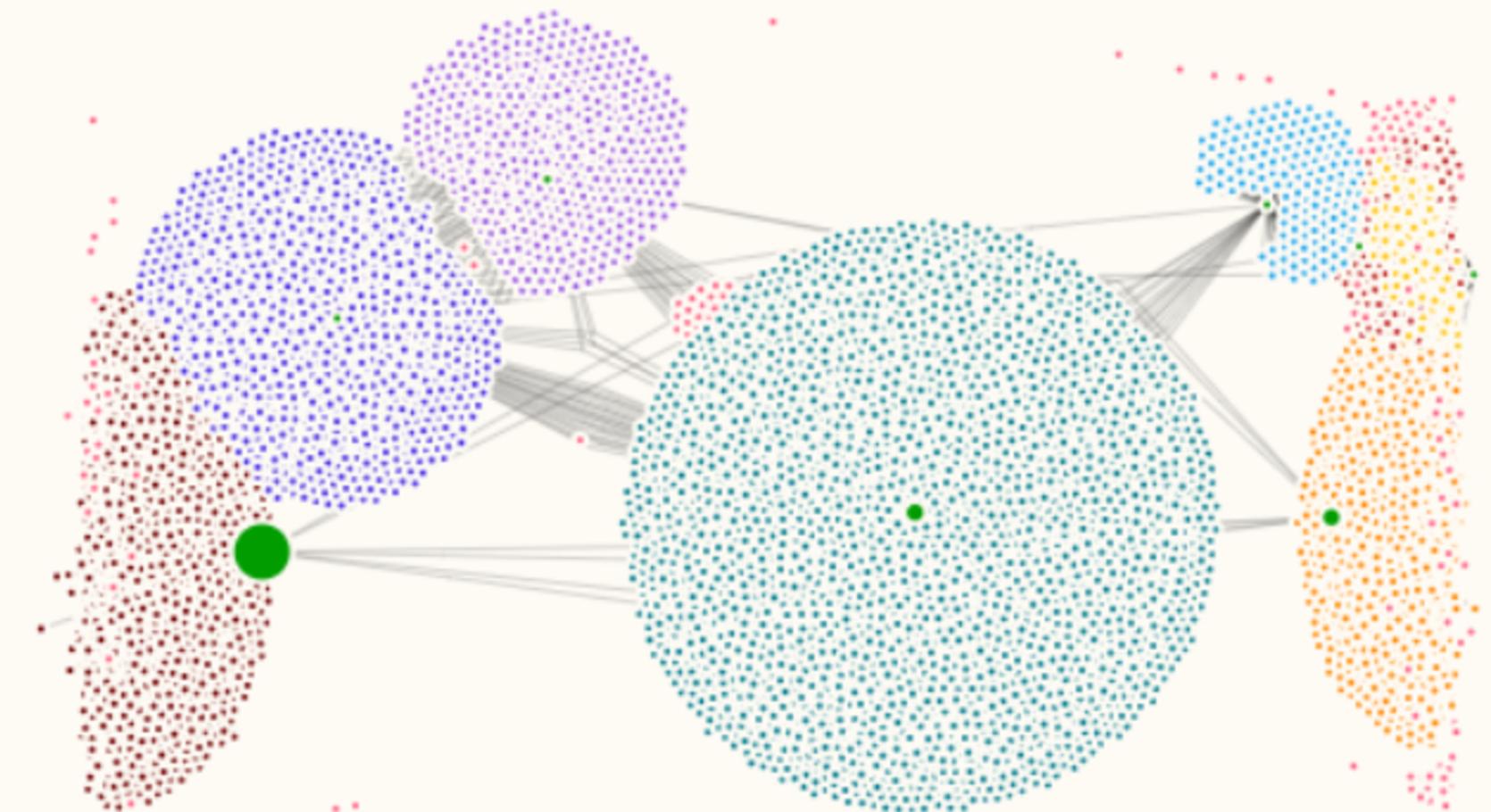
# The User's Network

## Analysis

- 2.5% of all users interact with multiple channels
- < 1 % of users interacted in both communities
- Feminist channels on average share 8 users, antifeminist – 5

### The User's Social Network

channel  
privatnyi\_butylka  
multiple  
Incel\_Aesthetic  
m\_d\_channel\_1  
aviva\_md  
r\_anarchy  
rad\_fems  
megabitch  
kosa\_media  
main\_node



# Social Network Analysis

## Results<sup>i</sup>

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- Existence of channels echo-chambers: communities get their information from different sources
- Existence of homophylic interactions: users interact with likeminded individuals

**Lack of affective polarisation can be explained by strong structural polarisation**

# Results

## 1. Is feminist discourse online polarized ?

1.1 feminist discourse online is structurally polarised.

1.2 Predominant sentiment is negative in both communities but it is much higher in antifeminist ones

## 2. What is the structure of the two researched communities ?

2.1 The network of channels is divided into feminist and antifeminist echo-chamber

## 3. What is the structure of user's interactions?

3.1 User's interactions are primarily homophytic. They do not interact with users outside their we-group