

Making a Radical Misogynist

How Online Social Engagement with the Manosphere Influences Traits of Radicalization

Hussam Habib, Padmini Srinivasan, Rishab Nithyanand.

Online engagements influence online behaviors. Even limited engagement with the Manosphere: few posts, single elite contact, or one highly upvoted comment, corresponds to measurable shifts toward radicalization-like language.

Background.

Reddit communities may radicalize users, but how do user-to-user engagement influence behaviors linked to radicalization overtime.

Methods.

Using 68 months of Reddit data, we track ~12k users, matching each user with a control counterpart. We monitor how Manosphere participation, elite interactions, and feedback influenced changes in manifestation of fixation, grievance, anger, sentiment, toxicity, and in/out-group language.

Results

Joining or posting in Manosphere communities, interacting with Manosphere “elites,” and experiencing rejection outside or strong approval inside these communities all predict sizable increases in feminist fixation, toxicity, negativity, anger, and out-group language.

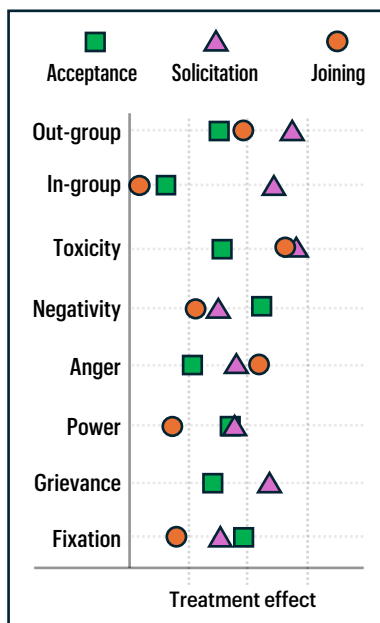


Fig. Change in user behavior, compared with their control counterpart, as they engage online