

IDEA 1:

Project title 1 (Descriptive title that captures your idea1)

Your response

Collective social identity across platforms

What you want to do?

Your response. Longer response that provides a bit more description than what's in the title.

NOTE: Focus on the problem that you are trying to solve. Think in terms of driving research questions (RQs). You don't have to focus on methods at this stage. For e.g., your answer should not start with.. "Using sentiment analysis, I would do this...", "I wish to use unsupervised learning methodology for this task"

I am interested in the role that identity plays in driving digital conversation. Previous research has shown that collective identities are formed in digital spaces and have a large impact on the style of conversation users have. In this project I would attempt to measure the consistency of digital identities by tracking user behavior across platforms. I hypothesize that users will adjust their behavior depending on the platform they are on/group they are interacting with. A large part of this study would be developing a methodology for tracking users cross-platform. If successful, future projects could focus on interventions designed to disrupt strongly held identities that have been associated with increased affective decision making (instead of analytical decision making).

Why should we care?

Your response. Provide a motivation of why this project is worth pursuing? That is, if you are successful, what difference will it make?

If successful, this project would lay the groundwork for interventions to slow the spread of mis/disinformation. Past research has shown that when prompted to think about accuracy, people are better at identifying misinformation on Twitter. This suggests that when they are not prompted to think about accuracy, they are prioritizing other cognitive heuristics (or affective ones). I believe that a major heuristic involved in decision making is collective social identity – in other words, belonging to a group makes people much more likely to agree with the group even if they might otherwise recognize information to be false. If we can better understand how collective social identity functions in digital spaces, particularly how it translates from community to community, we can design interventions that not only treat the symptoms of affective decision making, but propose design solutions to prevent it from happening in the first place.

Keywords – To mark topic and domain of the idea.

Your response. Comma separated keywords

Identity, misinformation, disinformation, cross-platform, psychology

IDEA 2:**Project title 2 (Descriptive title that captures your idea2)**

Your response

The role of mis/disinformation in online radicalization

What you want to do?

Your response. Longer response that provides a bit more description that what you have in the title

With the January 6th Capitol Riot it is clear that digital extremism has spilled offline into the physical world. This project is centered around tracking if there is an association between mis/disinformation and the events of January 6th as a case study of digital radicalization. In particular, I am interested in attempting to identify if there is a causal connection between the two, but know that may be an impossible link to establish. This project would also likely rely on cross-platform tracking of users to establish change in behavior over time.

Why should we care?

Your response. Provide a motivation of why this project is worth pursuing? That is, if you are successful, what difference will it make?

This phenomenon is important to understand because as January 6th illustrated, the digital and physical worlds are not separate. If we can identify the factors that led to the actions of Jan. 6th, we will be better prepared to prevent them in the future and hopefully begin to heal some of the radicalization that has already occurred. On a side note, I hypothesize that radicalization is heavily influenced by identity but have not had the opportunity to research its mechanisms at this point. If it is, both of my proposed projects would benefit from understanding the role of identity in guiding behavior.

Keywords – To mark topic and domain of the idea.

Your response. Comma separated keywords

Digital radicalization, misinformation, disinformation, cross-platform, longitudinal, Capitol riot