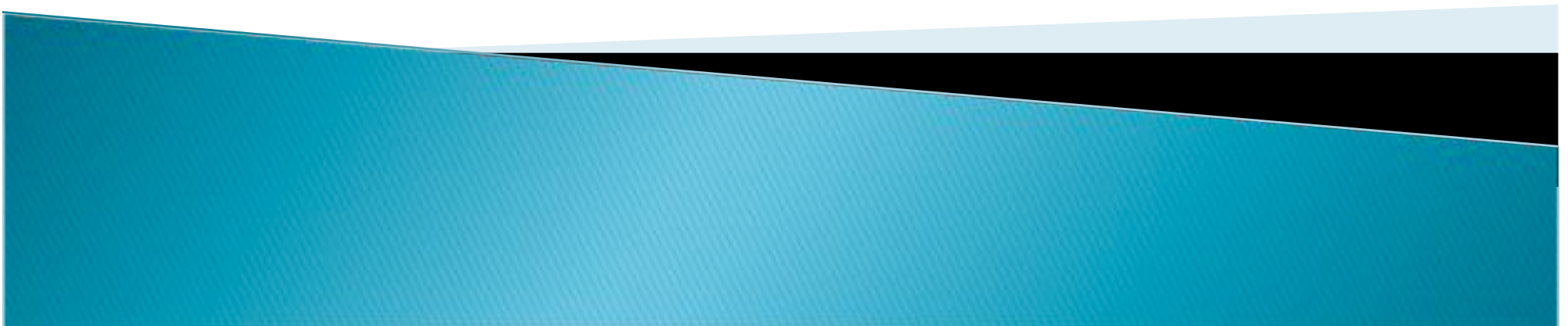


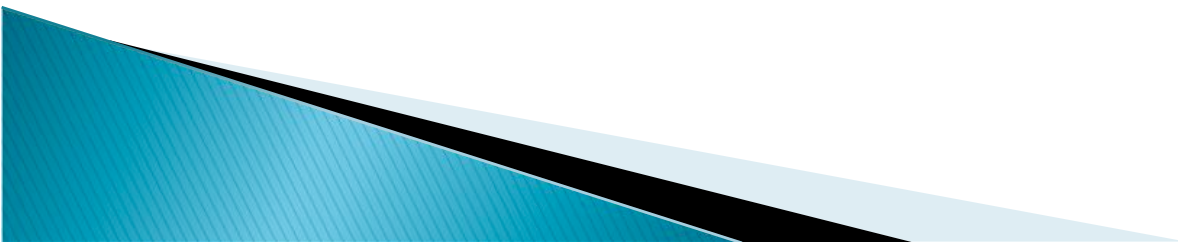
User-generated hate speech

The case of Romania

István Jantó Petneházi
CAMRI, University of Westminster

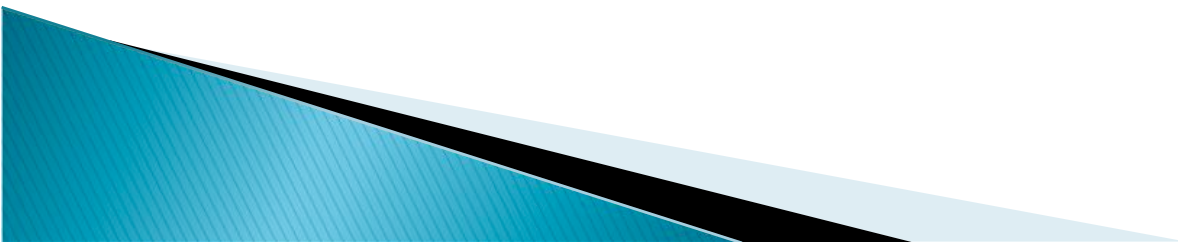


- ▶ “SPIT THE HUNGARIANS WHEREVER YOU FIND THEM/ RAPE THE BOZGOR (*derogatory/insulting reference to hungarian*) WOMEN AND THEN KILL THEM/ BURN DOWN THE HUNGARIAN BUSINESSES/ SPARE BULLETS! SHOOT TWO HUNGARIANS AT ONCE. DEATH TO THE BOZGORS (#526 posted by Alin on 2011-12-29 17:39:00 on gandul.info)
- ▶ “that’s why I say that a good gipsy is a dead gipsy, these are not humans, they are as damaging as the rats” (#2088 posted by Laurentiu on 2012-04-19 17:43:40 on adevarul.ro)
- ▶ ““All the time jidans (*derogatory/insulting reference to jewish*) and holocaust their suffering and all the fables repeated obsessively. Why? (...) We had enough of the filthy jidans and their fairytales!!! DEATH TO THE JIDANS!” (#6299 posted by anti-evrei (*rom. anti-jews*) on 2012-03-20 10:50:55 on adevarul.ro)
- ▶ ...being *homalau* (*derogatory/insulting reference to homosexual*) is a choice!!! ... for those incurably homalau the FINAL SOLUTION should be applied..., ...The homalau-s have to be treated as the pedophiles” (#6790 posted by Misu on 09:20 | 22 April, 2011 on romanialibera.ro)



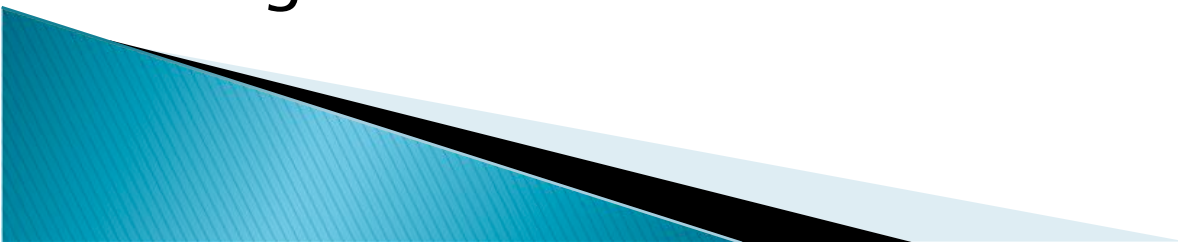
What is user generated hate speech

- ▶ *“Content created by non-professional, usually anonymous users aimed at intimidating or verbally harming particular minority groups, displaying parasitic and viral characteristics by taking advantage of the interactive features of websites and of gaps in media regulation to be published and to reach its targets.” (Janto-Petnehazy, 2012)*

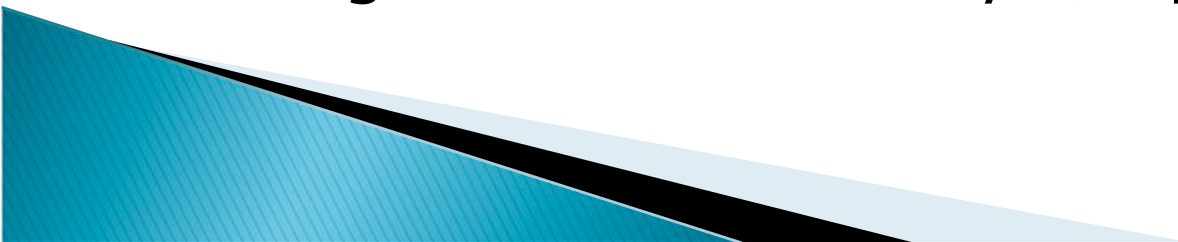


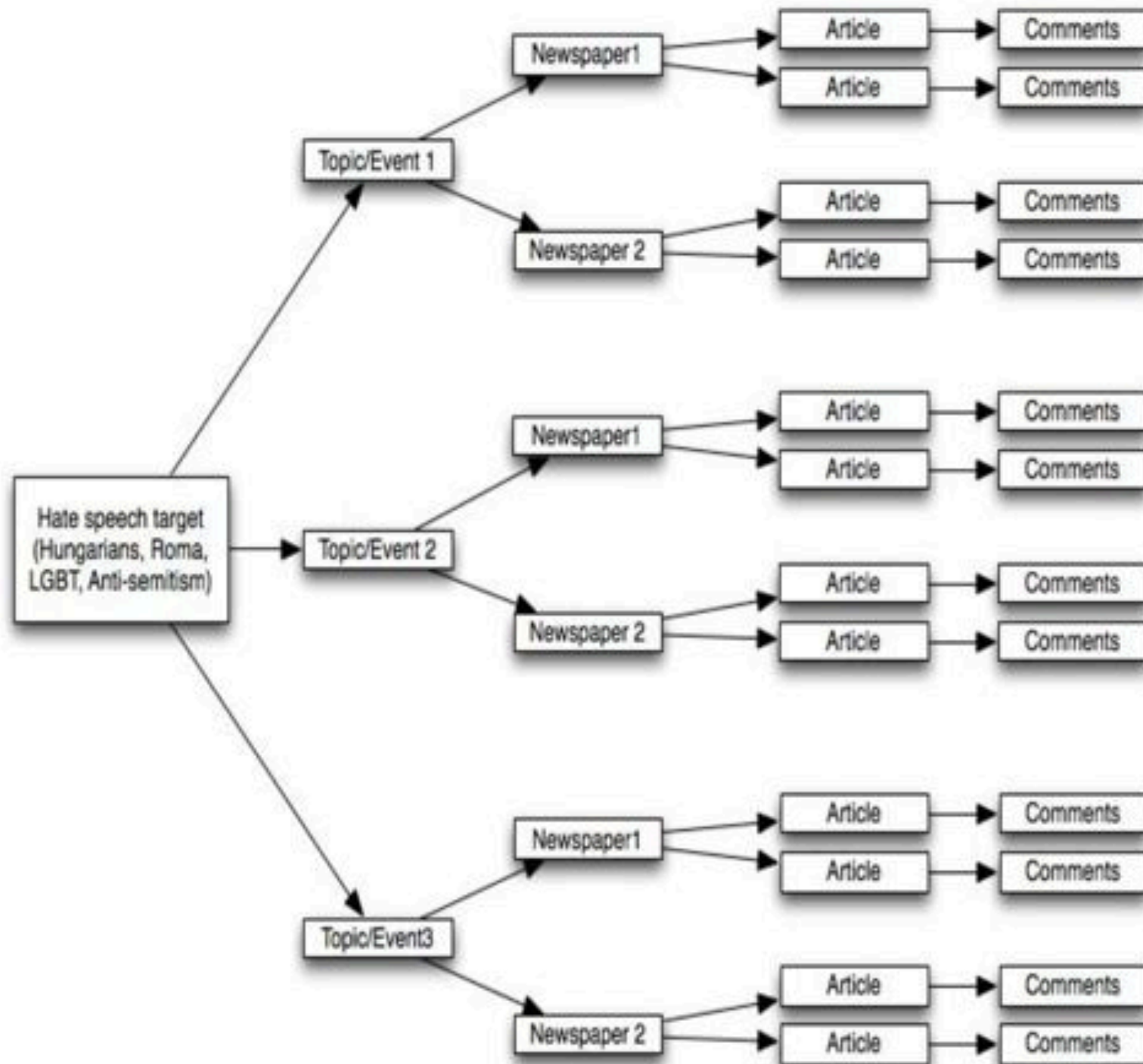
Parasitic characteristics of UGHS

- ▶ Needs a host
- ▶ The host transmits it to the victims (targets) as in a virus.
- ▶ **It exploits weaknesses** of user generated content, hate speech regulations and of media policy, especially the provisions protecting free expression as the lack of regulation regarding the press.
- ▶ Aimed at the general audience and using mainstream sites to reach it
- ▶ It relies on the topic of the host to attract members of the target community to both the legitimate content and the hate-speech.



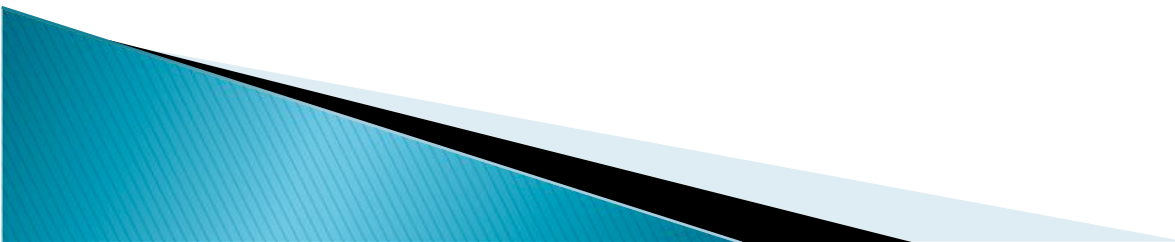
- ▶ MA Thesis: “User-generated hate speech : analysis, lessons learned and policy implications”. (Master Thesis, Budapest: Central European University (CEU), Department of Political Science, 2012)
- ▶ 13 months March 2011 to April 2012. Compared tested and observed the participatory features, usage guidelines, terms of service (TOS) of the four most important national daily newspapers (Adevarul.ro, Evz.ro, Romanialibera.ro, Gandul.info), in Romania, and a news portal (hotnews.ro).
- ▶ **Purposive sample** of 83 articles on controversial topics regarding minorities and 6031 comments.
- ▶ → “give the research questions a fair chance of being answered correctly” (Krippendorf 2004:113)





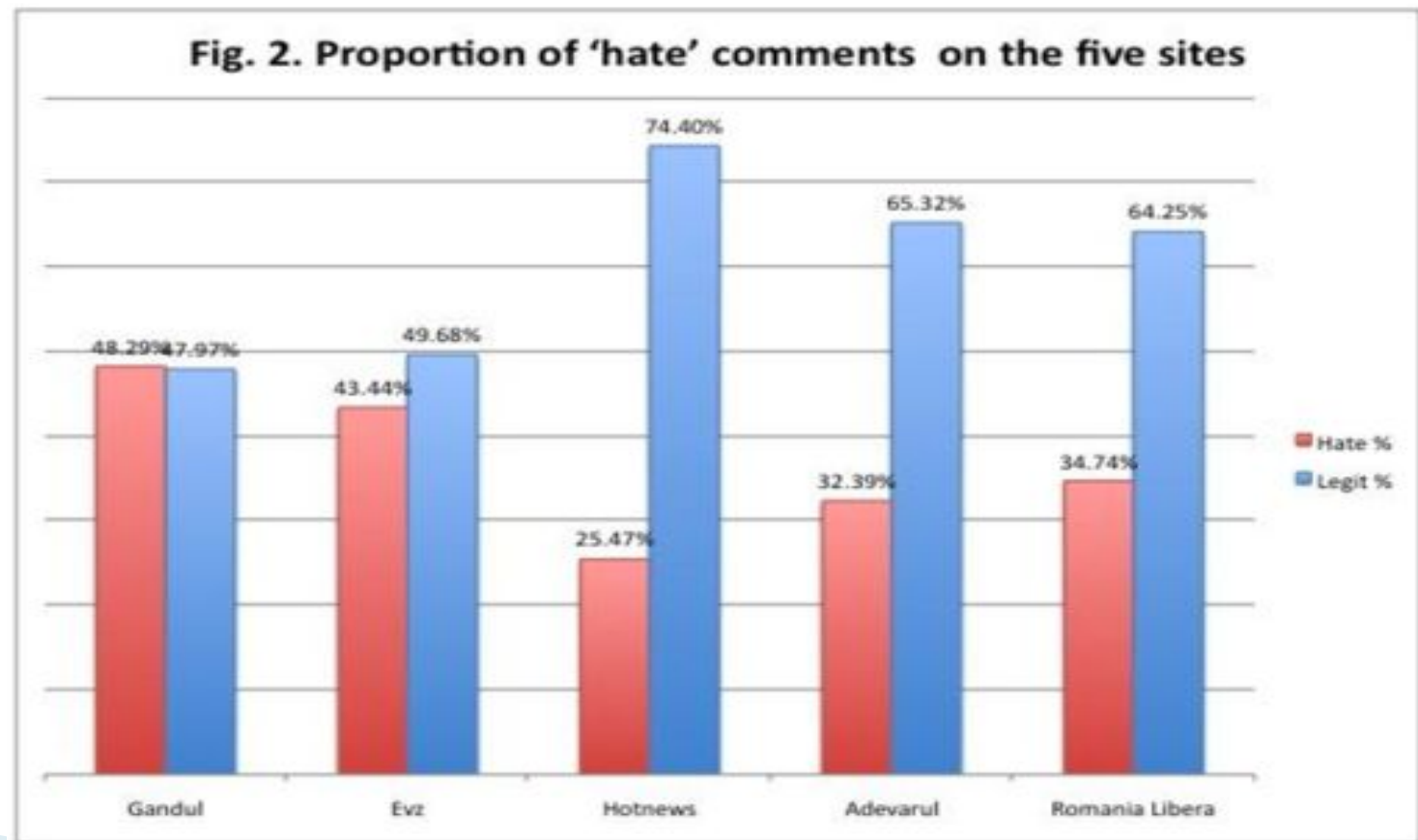
Hate

- ▶ Comments containing speech aimed to terrorize, humiliate, degrade, abuse, threaten, ridicule, demean, and discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or gender (Encyclopedia of Political communication, 2007:301) Expressing prejudice, and contempt, promoting or supporting discrimination, prejudice and violence. Seeking to distort the history of targeted groups, to eliminate their agency, to create and maintain derogatory cultural, racial, and ethnic illusions about targeted groups . Also including pejoratives and group based insults, that sometimes comprise brief group epithets consisting of short, usually negative labels or lengthy narratives about an out-group's alleged negative behavior. (International encyclopedia of Communication:2051). Discrimination is considered to be **any differentiation, exclusion, restriction or preference** based on group appartenance and any other criteria, that is aimed or has the effect of restricting, limiting recognition, use or exercise in conditions of equality, of human rights, and of fundamental freedoms, or of rights recognized by law, in the political, economic, social and cultural and any other domains of the public life (Art. 2 of OUG 137/31 Aug. 2000)



Results

- ▶ 38 percent of comments in the sample contained hate speech. 4% (245 comments) were open calls for murder, genocide or rape of the target minorities.

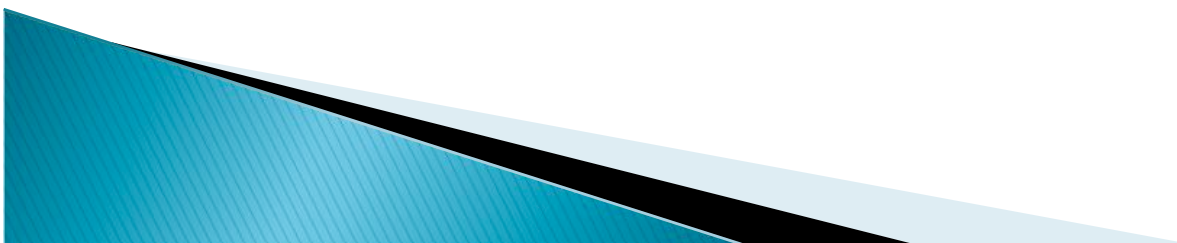


Hate speech sub-types

HATE	Comments	Percent	Percent of Hate
Insults	1106	18.08%	47.59%
Stereotypes/Generalization/Prejudice	522	8.53%	22.46%
Conspiracy/Foreign interests/Enemies/Threat	397	6.49%	17.08%
Exclusion/This is our country	341	5.57%	14.67%
Extermination/Murder/Rape	245	4.01%	10.54%
Superiority/Inferiority/Normality	194	3.17%	8.35%
Denying rights (political/civil)	186	3.04%	8.00%
Expulsion	165	2.70%	7.10%
History	158	2.58%	6.80%
Threats	148	2.42%	6.37%
Violence	141	2.31%	6.07%
Animals/Sub-human	120	1.96%	5.16%

Hate speech types and target groups

Subcategory	Hungarians	LGTB	Jewish	Roma
Insults	18.79%	19%	13.80%	18.34%
E/M/R	3.74%	2.28%	5.42%	8.80%
Prejudice/ Stereotype	7.12%	8.78%	10.02%	18.09%
This is our country	8.35%	1.18%	2.12%	1.22%
Conspiracy/ Threat	6.29%	5.15%	9.91%	5.62%



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(2) to any moral rights in the material submitted;

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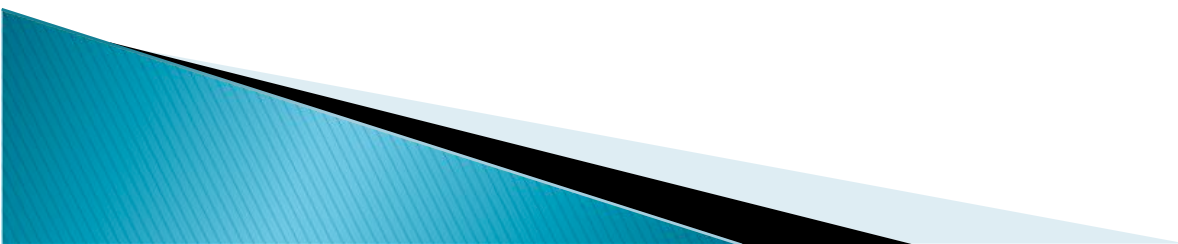


7. Third party content and links available on this Site

7.1. We are not liable or responsible for the third party content on this Site. Third party content includes, for example, comments posted by users and the content of advertisements.

Causes – Gray areas?

- ▶ Causes: newspapers decline to users all responsibility for comments → Sites are free to choose to moderate comments or not, the moderation method and level
- ▶ Policy loopholes:
 - Internet (host model)
 - Media (press – regulation free)
- ▶ Poorly managed comment sections → effective delivery platform of readers to hate-speech
- ▶ “nobody knows yet who is responsible for that content” (Singer et. al, 2011: 134)
- ▶ “It’s a grey area” (Wan-IFRA, 2013:7)



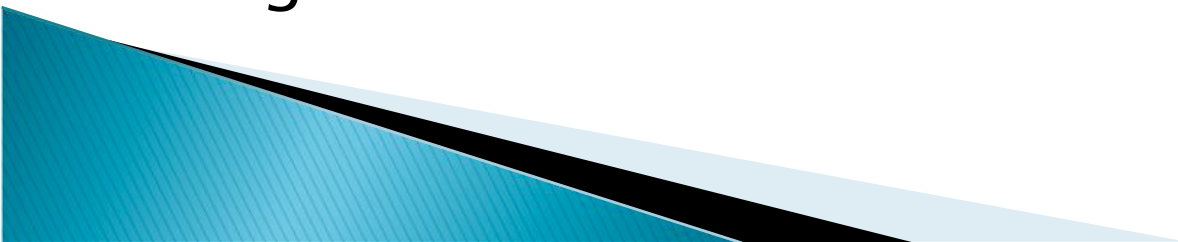
Relevance

- ▶ Poorly managed comment sections → effective delivery platform of readers to hate-speech
- ▶ Responsibility free space on the online newspaper
- ▶ Dedicated blog/forum vs. comments → No need to assemble an audience
- ▶ Reach targets better
- ▶ Possible targets
 - Minorities
 - Readers with negative attitudes towards groups



Parasitic characteristics of UGHS

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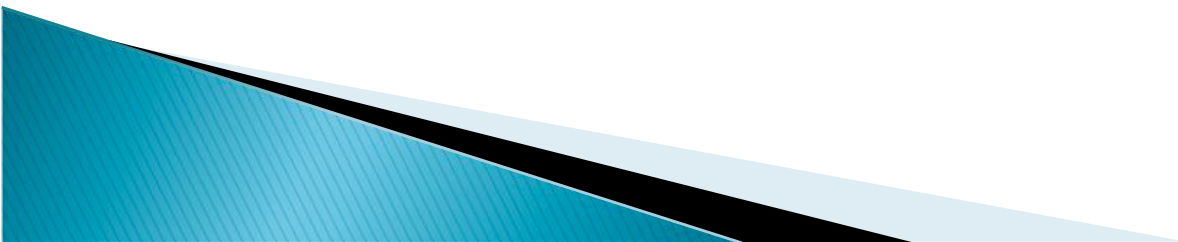
Dangers / Arguments against UGHS

- ▶ *Tolerating online hate could reverse the trend according to which “society no longer tolerates open expressions of prejudice.” (Biegel, 2003)*
- ▶ *“if anything can be said about a group of persons with impunity, anything can also be done to it” (Parekh, 2006)*
- ▶ *“tolerating speech abusing racial or ethnic groups would lend respectability to racist attitudes” (Barendt: 2010:171)*



End of Anonymity

- ▶ Rowe compared levels of online uncivility on the website and the Facebook page of Washington Post and found that the number of uncivil comments was lower on Facebook.
- ▶ (Ian Rowe, “Civility 2.0: A Comparative Analysis of Incivility in Online Political Discussion,” *Information, Communication & Society* 18, no. 2 (February 2015): 121–138.)



Hanging every single one of them is the only way out - revolution, start again.

Like · Reply · 🔄 2 · 2 hours ago



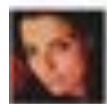
Ummah Assad Discusting, the devil really pooped with your mind. Repent before you regret. ,very lost human being.

Like · Reply · 46 minutes ago



AbuAla Almaarri Tell me what is interesting about that ? why do Europeans encourage Homosexuality and enjoy extending European social diseases to other Nations? is it not an abnormal behavior to encourage same sex Marriage ?

Like · Reply · 50 minutes ago · Edited



Nadia Lahlal This world is becoming disgusting!! Hope an end is sooner

Like · Reply · 🔄 4 · 3 hours ago



Thomas Kessel I know just what you mean, here we have an



David Jazzon Lord You're such an ignorant fat woman, which God are you telling to bless this nasty, evil, abnormal, demonic lifestyle??? ...Put some little sense in that fat head of yours next time before you display your stupidity and ignorance in public...

Like · 🔄 2 · 4 hours ago



Thomas Konarski Oi you ignorant little shit, go fuck yourself, we don't like your kind around these parts, take your sexist, bigoted ass and shove it

Like · 3 · 4 hours ago · Edited



Alin Olteanu Lasa ca o sa va vad eu pe voi , antireligiosilor, can o sa fiti nevoiti sa va lasati copiii in grija vreunui poponar, ca deh voi aveti viziuni moderne, sau cand copiii vostri vor vedea pe strada si vor fi invatati la scoala, ca nu este nici o problema daca fica sau fiul tau , se vor casatori cu vreun poponar , sau cu vreo lesbiana. Atunci sa va vad, si nu spuneti ca nu o sa v-i se intample voua, deoarece voi sunteti primii vizati.

[See Translation](#)

Like · Reply · 3 · 14 hours ago



Mirela Neagu Si care.i problema???

[See Translation](#)

Like · 14 hours ago



Alin Olteanu De fapt da ca intre voi ...va iseti. Scuze Mirela.

~~~~~~

I will see you anti-religious people when you will need to leave your children in the care of a *poponar* (romanian derogatory reference to homosexual approx: bugger) because you have modern visions, or when your children will see on the street and will be taught at school that there is no problem if your daughter or son will marry some *poponar* or some lesbian. I want to see you then!!!



**Marius Floricel** Aviz tuturor tarfulitzelor cărora le place 'Măciuca ' de cămila ,tigani ai islamici sunt mai rau decat animalele !

[See Translation](#)

Like · Reply · 2 · 9 hours ago

“Let this be a warning to all the little bitches who like Camel;s bludgeon (romanian slang to male genitals), those islamic gypsies are worst than animals



**Edward Loris** jihadistii criminali nici nu te mira ca se-n china lui alah







**Stoica Horia** Singura solutie pentru oprirea animalului criminal de Putin este ca SUA sa le tranteasca cateva bombe atomice in cap acestor salbatici betivi de la rasarit si sa le scoata expansionismul din cap odata pentru intotdeauna, Rusia trebuie stearsa de pe harta globului.<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=767065136683221&set=a.155626974493710.35411.100001392268825&type=1>

[See Translation](#)



“The only solution for stopping that animal Putin is for the USA to throw a few atomic bombs on the head of these drunken savages from the East and to take expansionism from their head for once and for all. Russia has to be deleted from the face of the Earth”



**Samuel Tessier** Colin fuck you come tell that in my face mother fucker racist prick

You scum bag have rotten a perfect place to live and are turning it into nazie Germany. If Muslim really attack our contry... let's make some real good inquiry and figure out why people we supposedly help so much.... hate us so much

..

U want to insult me little cunt... come and tell that to my face fucker

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · about an hour ago



**Jasonn Glass** Fuck the church. Let them die a dinosaur's death like it should have centuries ago.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [👍 9](#) · about an hour ago



**Stanley Joseph Allison** Dont Pay it Tell them To F. Off

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3 hours ago



Write a reply...



**Roberto Ziviani** Piazzate una mitragliatrice e levamoseli dar cazzo



**Lino Maruca** lo vedo solo in sto paese del cazzo gente che dorme x terra x le strade e maggiormente nelle stazioni... Il governanti di merda hanno bassato il livello di questa italietta pari alla foresta amazzonica.... Vomitevole....

[See Translation](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 4 hours ago

# Hate

- ▶ Comments containing speech aimed to terrorize, humiliate, degrade, abuse, threaten, ridicule, demean, and discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or gender (Encyclopedia of Political communication, 2007:301) Expressing prejudice, and contempt, promoting or supporting discrimination, prejudice and violence. Seeking to distort the history of targeted groups, to eliminate their agency, to create and maintain derogatory cultural, racial, and ethnic illusions about targeted groups . Also including pejoratives and group based insults, that sometimes comprise brief group epithets consisting of short, usually negative labels or lengthy narratives about an out-group's alleged negative behavior. (International encyclopedia of Communication:2051). Discrimination is considered to be **any differentiation, exclusion, restriction or preference** based on group appartenance and any other criteria, that is aimed or has the effect of restricting, limiting recognition, use or exercise in conditions of equality, of human rights, and of fundamental freedoms, or of rights recognized by law, in the political, economic, social and cultural and any other domains of the public life (Art. 2 of OUG 137/31 Aug. 2000 )

