



Extremism and Disinformation in Europe and North America

Racial Identity, Freedom of Speech, and Political Communication

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Outline

- Definitions of extremism and disinformation
- We should focus on the radical right because this is the *center of extremism and disinformation in our societies*.
- Three key issues:
 - Racial Identity
 - Freedom of Speech
 - Political Communication
- How do we fight back?

Extremism

- **Extremist ideology:** “a collection of texts that describe who is part of the in-group, who is part of an out-group, and how the in-group should interact with the outgroup”
- **Extremism:** “belief that an in-group’s success or survival can never be separated from the need for hostile action against an out-group. The hostile action must be part of the in-group’s definition of success. Hostile acts can range from verbal attacks and diminishment to discriminatory behavior, violence, and even genocide”



Imaginarities: the Red Pill & white genocide



Welcome to...



Because "diversity" = White genocide.

ACTION PLAN AGAINST DISINFORMATION

Disinformation

- “**Disinformation** as defined here includes forms of speech that fall outside already illegal forms of speech, notably defamation, hate speech, incitement to violence, etc. but can nonetheless be harmful. It is a problem of actors—state or non- state political actors, for-profit actors, citizens individually or in groups—as well as infrastructures of circulation and amplification through news media, platforms, and underlying networks, protocols and algorithms” (European Commission, *A multi-dimensional approach to disinformation*, 2018).
- Disinformation is not limited to state actors. As Rone (2019) and Bennett and Livingston (2018) note, the radical right, Brexit, and Trump campaigns all outpace the activity of the Russian Internet Research Agency and were likely more effective. As Kim et al (2018) find, Facebook advertising acts as the “stealth media” which prevents transparent identification of advertising.

Stealth Media, Disinformation, & Extremism

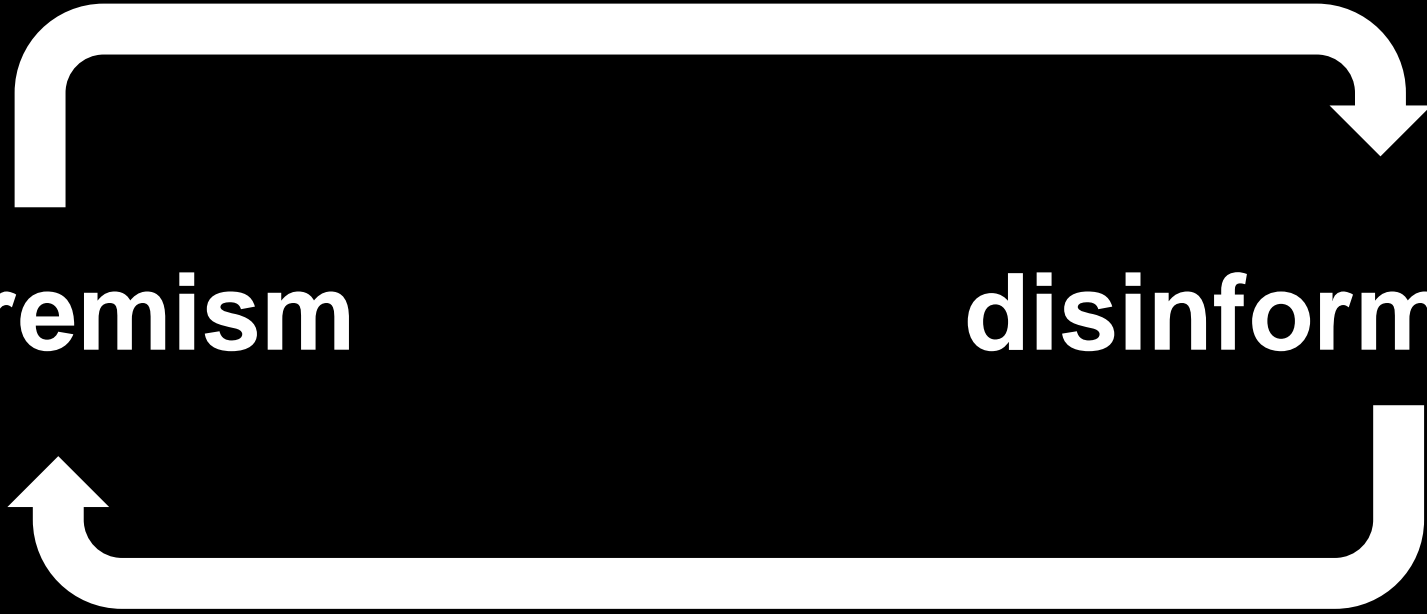
Table 1
Group frequencies and ad frequencies, by group type

Group Type	Groups		Ads	
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%
Suspicious Group	102	44.7	4148	11.2
Suspicious Group, Russian	19	8.3	2081	5.6
Astroturf/Movement/Unregistered	39	17.1	7443	20.1
Nonprofit Non-FEC	17	7.5	7447	20.1
FEC Groups	8	3.5	3973	10.7
News, Questionable	36	15.8	1935	5.2
News, Bias	4	1.8	15	0
Other (Clickbait, meme)	3	1.3	9919	26.8
Total	228	100	36,961	100


- “ads on immigration and nationalism were particularly salient and intensively focused on white voters. Our results clearly demonstrate that data-driven political campaigns are adopted not just by resourceful political parties (Hersh, 2015; Kreiss, 2016), but also relatively low-resourced groups (Karpf, 2016...the system [enables] deliberate operations of political campaigns with undisclosed sponsors/sources, furtive messaging of divisive issues, and imperceptible targeting?” (Kim et al, 2018).

extremism

disinformation



Racial Identity: Synthetic White Victimhood

<p>Die Besetzung Frankreich in 100 Jahren</p>  <p>Die letzten nicht fertigen Franzosen bilden die große Attraktion der Durdur Zoo</p> <p>“...In 100 years, the French will be a zoo attraction.” - A National Socialist prediction of the 30s.”</p>	 <p>WHY</p> <p>“RT @ [redacted]: Something incredibly weird going on in the West...”</p>	 <p>“RT @ [redacted]: Mass Immigration = The End of Britain. Please RT to Wake People Up.”</p>
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“in America today, post-civil-rights legislation, white people’s conviction of their natural superiority is being lost. Rapidly lost. There are “people of color” everywhere, threatening to erase this long-understood definition of America. And what then? Another black President? A predominantly black Senate? Three black Supreme Court Justices?”

Toni Morrison, 2016





we are prepared to take the country back from the sjw [social justice warrior] filth that are destroying it!! I love God, friends, and country, and will take a bullet for them!

(Twitter user description, slightly modified)

White identity politics aspires for the *return* of the institutional recognition of their superiority over others. What is termed “identity politics” (often as a pejorative) strives for the institutional recognition of the equality and dignity of minorities.

See Bhabra, G. (2017). Brexit, Trump, and ‘methodological whiteness’: on the misrecognition of race and class. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 68 (S1), S214–S232.

Only one set of claims is morally acceptable. But what has happened is that white identity politics constantly claims its own victimhood in order to camouflage its extremism as a righteous struggle for equality.

Weaponization of Freedom of Speech



“Let them call you racists. Let them call you xenophobes. Let them call you nativists. Wear it as a badge of honor.”

Steve Bannon, 11 March 2018, to National Front

Political Communication




Facebook Facilitates Disinformation (and Russia exploited an existing ecosystem)

Free software

Ad performance

Paul Anthony Golding
Sponsored • Paid for by Paul Golding

FOLLOW the official Facebook page of Britain First leader Paul Golding....



Paul Anthony Golding
Politician

Like Page

Ad performance

Paid for by Paul Golding

When an advertiser categorises their ad as being related to politics or issues of national importance, they are required to disclose who paid for the ad. Learn more

Ad performance

Inactive
Started running on 11 Mar 2019

5K-10K Impressions | <£100 Money spent (GBP)

Audience breakdown

Age and gender


Age	Gender	Percentage
18-24	Men	24%
18-24	Women	25%
25-34	Unknown	...

Left: ads on Facebook by Britain First and identitarians
Right: Network graph of interests targeted by Russian IRA in US, 2015-2017

Ad performance

The Identitarian
Sponsored • Paid for by The Identitarian

The leader of an Identitarian movement in the UK was featured on Newsnight on Friday as part of feature on the tragic attack in New Zealand. He said that Identitarian movements in Europe have always been committed to peaceful, non-violent activism, but also explained that mass immigration has helped create a cycle of violence by forcing people with radically different ways of life to try and coexist. Only through peaceful, non-violent activism will things begin to change and



The Identitarian

Learn More

Ad performance

Paid for by The Identitarian

When an advertiser categorises their ad as being related to politics or issues of national importance, they are required to disclose who paid for the ad. Learn more

See additional disclaimer information

Ad performance

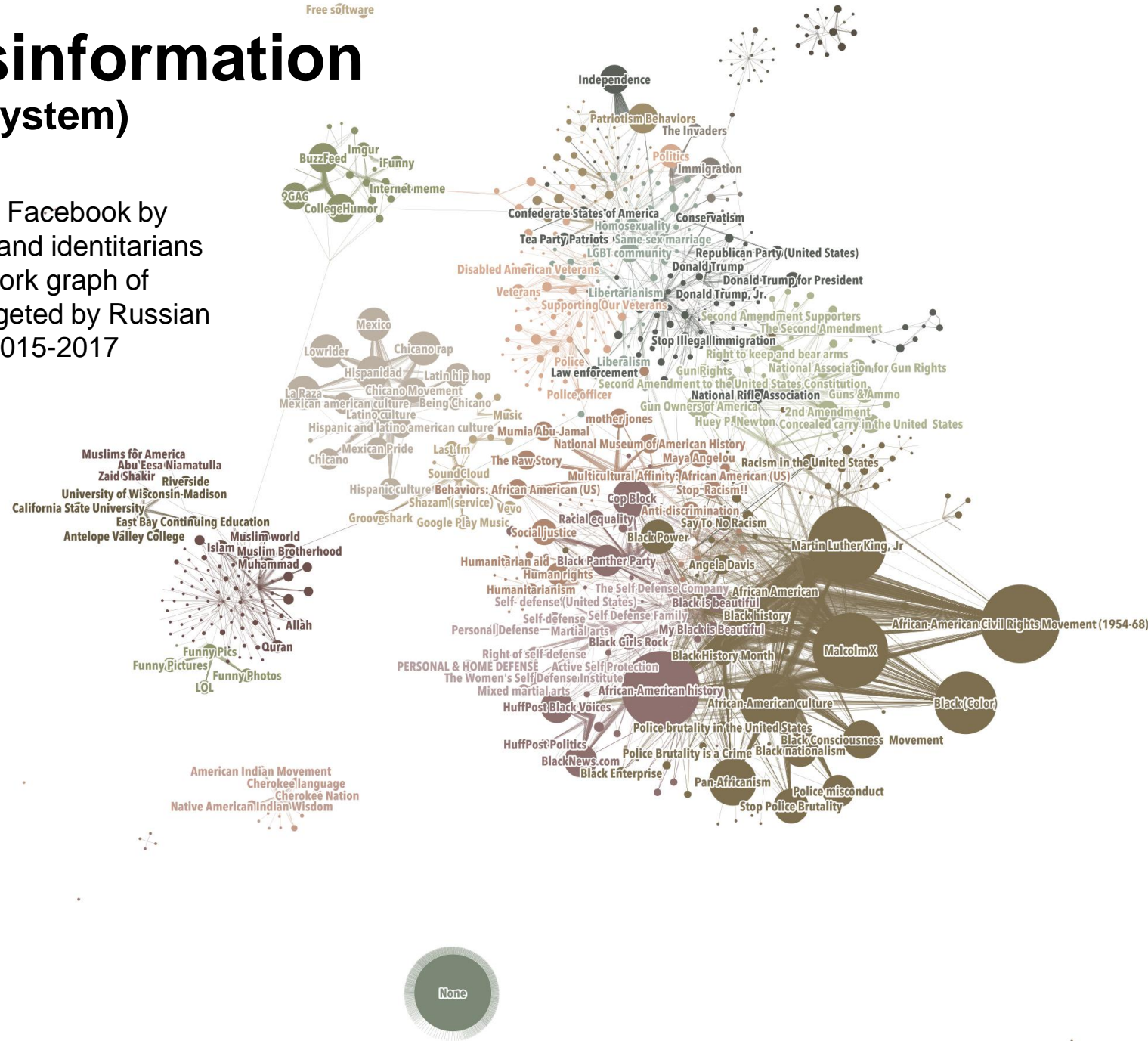
Inactive
17 Mar 2019-20 Mar 2019

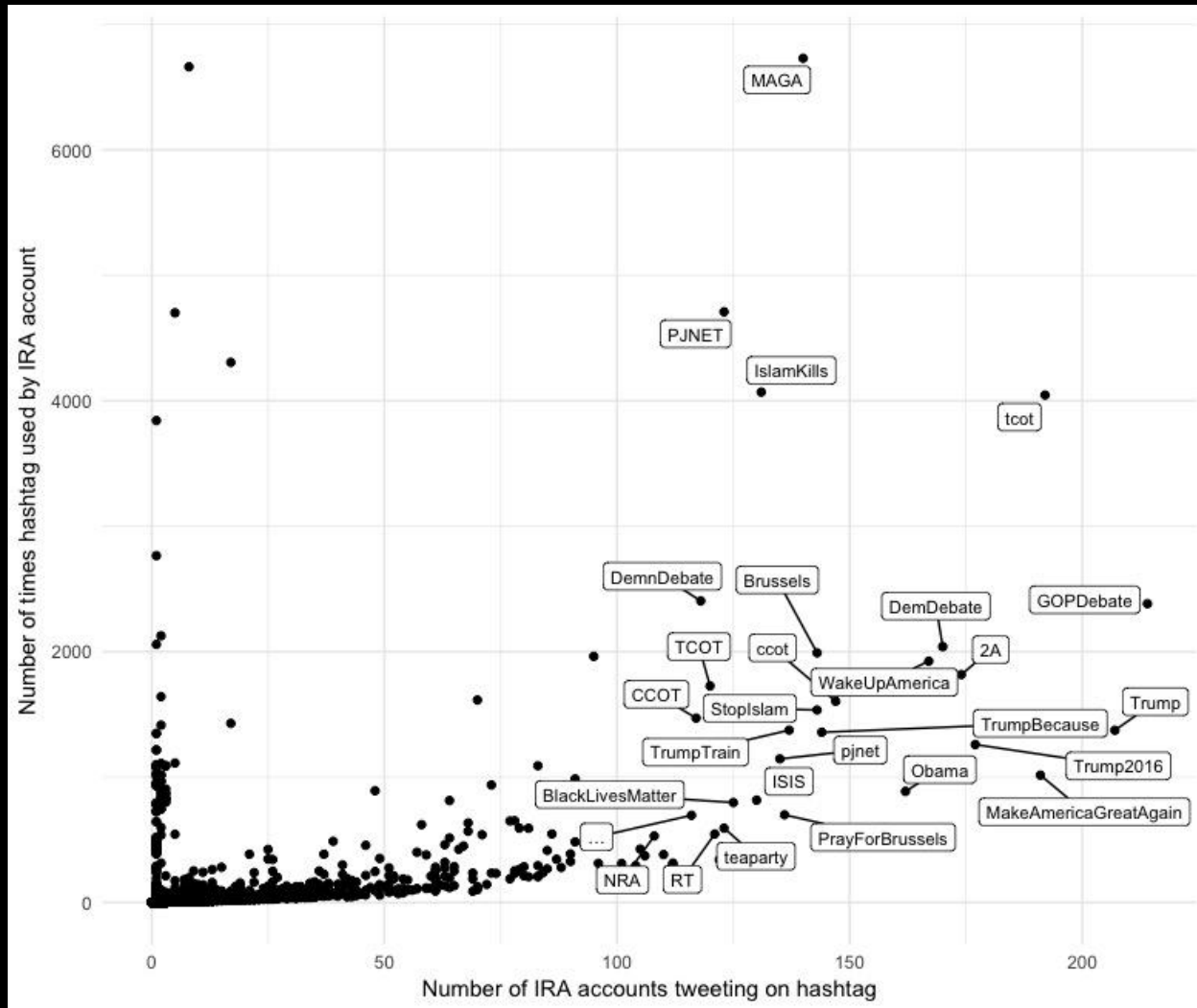
5K-10K Impressions | <£100 Money spent (GBP)

Audience breakdown

Age and gender

Age	Gender	Percentage
18-24	Men	33%
25-34	Women	...
35-44	Unknown	...





Stop A.I. Sponsored · 🌐 Like Page

We are under attack. Even there is no open action the war has already started. The enemy is smart and ruthless. We are losing so far, because our leader is one of them. Obama has betrayed America and now he is just executing orders of his bosses.

Obama was always a mere pawn in the hands of Arabian Sheikhs. His latest orders are just proving it. All these refugees, which we are about to take in, are soldiers with one simple goal. They are going to try to terrorize the nation ... [See More](#)

1K Reactions 145 Comments 514 Shares

Like Comment Share

- *What we don't know is how they overlap—because we don't have an ads archive!*

Broader typology of harm?

- Direct Violence
 - Hate Crime
- Structural Violence
 - (a great start on Islamophobia here is work by Irene Zempi, Neil Chakraborti, Chris Allen, and Imran Awan)
 - Discrimination
 - Alienation and anxiety
- Trauma



The image is a screenshot of a BBC News article. At the top, the BBC logo is visible on the left, and navigation links for 'Sign in', 'News', 'Sport', 'Weather', 'iPlayer', and 'Sounds' are on the right. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'UK', 'World', 'Business', 'Politics', 'Tech', 'Science', 'Health', and 'Family & Education'. The 'UK' link is highlighted. Below this is another navigation bar with links for 'UK', 'England', 'N. Ireland', 'Scotland', 'Alba', 'Wales', 'Cymru', and 'Local News'. The 'UK' link is also highlighted here. The main headline of the article is 'Children whitening skin to avoid racial hate crime, NSPCC finds'. Below the headline is the date '30 May 2019' and social media sharing icons for Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Email, and a general 'Share' button. The article features a photograph of three young women. The woman in the foreground is wearing a red sweater and looking down at her smartphone with a sad expression. Two other women are in the background, one in a grey hoodie and one in a green hoodie, both also looking at their phones. The word 'THINKSTOCK' is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo. At the bottom of the article, there is a black box with white text that reads: 'There were over 10,500 race hate crime offences against children across the UK in 2017-18'.

Taking Care of Extremism

- We should not be afraid to balance the freedom of expression with the fundamental rights of dignity and a life free from fear. I did not speak much about work on victims of white identity politics, but those who bear the effect of its hate and hostility should be first on our minds when we conceive a response, not the media outlets, politicians, and “moral entrepreneurs” that claim their oppression.
- Does the free speech argument reinforce white supremacy by claiming that the (white) entitlement to offend is greater than another’s entitlement to live free from fear?

Speculative Mapping of Extremism and Disinformation System

