



# Uncovering and Understanding the Far-Right Online Ecosystem

Online Symposium

Wednesday, 8 September 2021

## Summary:

While right-wing extremist activity on the Internet is not new, the far-right online ecosystem has dramatically expanded over the recent years. The quantity and diversity of websites and online platforms has increased to the point of becoming almost impossible to map in a comprehensive way; the fast-moving character of this ecosystem further complicates scholars' research and security and intelligence practitioners' monitoring and analysis.

In that context, this one-day online symposium brings together a series of academics currently participating in large research programmes focusing on the far-right online ecosystem. Each of the 8 presentations examines one particular aspect or dimension of right-wing extremism on the internet; short, straight-to-the-point, and based on new and rigorous data, these papers examine important online spaces such as Telegram channels, Facebook groups, discussion forums and image-boards, or websites.

Organized under the auspices of the "ExID" (*Extreme Identities*) project (<https://socialanalytics.ex.ac.uk/exid/>) funded by the NORFACE European Consortium (<https://www.norface.net/program/governance/>), this symposium is open free of charge to both academics and government/NGO practitioners.

## Programme (Wednesday, 8 Sept. 2021 – all times below are UK-GMT)

- **General introduction and presentation of the day** (09:45-10:00): *Uncovering the far-right online ecosystem* (Dr Stephane Baele, University of Exeter and ExID project lead).
- **Panel 1 (10:00-11:30): Far-right social media**
  - Paper 1: *Anti-Islam Digital Counter-Publics: How PEGIDA and Generation Identity Use Links on Facebook for Ideological and Mobilization Purposes* (Dr Anton Törnberg, University of Gothenburg)
  - Paper 2: *Exploring US Far-right Telegram channels* (Dr Aaron Rudkin, Trinity College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and ExID project)
  - Paper 3: *A Study of Dutch Far-right Telegram Channels* (Dr Jasper Muis, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- **Panel 2 (11:45-13:00): Far-right websites and online dynamics**
  - Paper 1: *Mapping the German and French Network of Far-right Websites* (Dr Elahe Naserian, University of Exeter and ExID project)
  - Paper 2: *After the Storm: Visual and Digital Translation Strategies in Far-Right Activists' Online Diffusion of the US Capitol Insurrection* (Dr Beth Gharrity Gardner and Dr Nicole Doerr, University of Copenhagen and ExID project)
- **Panel 3 (13:30-15:00): Far-right forums**
  - Paper 1: *Far-Right Forums' "Superposters"* (Dr Lewys Brace, University of Exeter and ExID project)
  - Paper 2: *Comparing the Online Posting Behaviors of Violent and Non-Violent Right-Wing Extremists* (Dr Ryan Scrivens, Michigan State University)
  - Paper 3: *Cyberfascism as Play: 4chan/pol/ as a Subcultural Community* (Dr Cathrine Thorleifsson, C-REX University of Oslo)

## Registration:

Registration is compulsory. To register, please send an email with your name, organization, and email address to Dr. Stephane J. Baele, ExID lead, at [s.baele@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:s.baele@exeter.ac.uk), before 3 September 2021. Mention "Far-Right Symposium" in the title. Registered people will receive a Zoom link to the event a few days before it takes place.