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A wolf in sheep's clothing: a mixed-methods analysis of the far-right alt-tech social media movement

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Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Far-Right Alt-Tech Social Media Movement

1. The far-right on alt-tech relies on cyclical patterns of hate-filled communication to mobilise support, identifying existential threats to then create calls to action. [Chapter 4]
2. Understanding community dynamics is the first step to delineating alt-tech social media, where the movement relies on a variety of inter and intragroup discursive framings with in-group superiority as the basis. [Chapter 5]
3. Positivity plays a critical role in far-right alt-tech communications. [Chapter 6]
4. A key aim of the far-right's alt-tech media is to create a decentralised ecosystem of dependence with users reliant on these platforms for their psychosocial needs. [Chapter 7]
5. Immersive research methodologies need to play a larger role in studying online extremism if we want to better understand its participants. [field of inquiry]
6. The positivist-fixated field needs some reorientation, wherein developing thick data should be a primary goal. [field of inquiry]
7. There is a definitive disconnect between research and policy which needs to be better brought together to tackle rising far-right sentiments in society. [field of inquiry]
8. Definitional issues continue around the term far-right, with different fields using the umbrella term interchangeably without discussing the intricacies each lens (political, social, radical, etc.) brings. [field of inquiry]
9. Bias is inherent in all research qualitative or quantitative, embrace the idea rather than (thinking to) avoid it. [own choice]
10. Developing both a strong academic and non-academic community around you during the PhD process is the most important step for its successful completion. [own choice]