

SOCIAL MEDIA RADICALIZATION: Definitions, Theories, Methods

Location: Metropolitan State University Auraria Campus
Tivoli Student Union
900 Auraria Pkwy, Denver, CO

Date: Wednesday June 11, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Program

8:30 – 9:00	Registration Coffee and donuts	Room 640
9:00 – 9:15	Opening remarks Ryan Stoldt, <i>Drake University</i>	Room 640
9:15 – 10:15	Keynote address Samuel Woolley, <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	Room 640
10:15 – 10:30	Break Coffee and donuts	
10:30 – 12:00	Morning concurrent sessions	
	Panel 1: Methodological Advances in Studying Social Media Radicalization	Room 640
	“Netspeak as A Hidden Language: A Sign of Group Radicalization in Social Media” Ke Jiang, <i>Communication University of China</i> , & Yang Song, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	
	“Social Media as Catalyst of Political Denialism: Is Radical the New Normal?” Susana Salgado, <i>University of Lisbon</i>	
	“What Motivates Users to Engage in Toxic Online Behavior?” Dyuti Jha, <i>Purdue University</i>	
	“Negotiating Journalistic Legitimacy in Conspiracy Media: A Case-Study of Flanders and the Netherlands” Matthias De Bondt, Stef Aupers & Roel Vande Winkel, <i>KU Leuven</i>	
	Moderator: Katy Biddle, <i>University of Southern Mississippi</i>	

Panel 2: Social Media Radicalization in Understudied Contexts**Room 444**

“How Online Engagement with Greenfluencers Sparks Environmental Radicalization: An Eight-Country Study” Ariadne Neureiter, *University of Vienna*, Ruta Kaskelėviciute, *Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München*, Konstantin Schmandt, *University of Vienna*, Alice Binder, *University of Vienna*, Mokhtarrudin Bin Ahmad, *Multimedia University*, Ploypin Chuentarawong, *Chulalongkorn University*, Jeong-woo Jang, *Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology* & Jörg Matthes, *University of Vienna*

“Faith, Politics, and Resistance - The Quest for Religious Freedom in India” Shivangi Asthana, *Hong Kong Baptist University*

“America’s Rightward Shift Out of Love, Not Hate: Mundane Radicalization on Ethnic Social Media Platforms” Jingsi Christina Wu, *Hofstra University*

“Visual Provocation and Political Radicalization: The Role of Satirical Imagery in Shaping Kenya’s Digital Dissent” Wangari Njathi, *Pepperdine University*, & Teresia Nzau, *University of Missouri*

Moderator: Brian Ekdale, *University of Iowa*

12:00 – 1:00**Lunch****Room 640**

Denver Style Street Tacos Buffet
Strawberry Fields Salad
Assorted Desserts

1:00 – 2:30**Afternoon concurrent sessions****Panel 3: Theorizing Social Media Radicalization****Room 640**

“The Logic of Connective Faction: How Digitally-Networked Elites and Hyper-Partisan Media Radicalize Politics” Curd B. Knüpfer, *University of Southern Denmark*, Yunkang Yang, *Texas A&M*, & Mike Cowburn, *European University Viadrina*

“Social Media Memes and Campaigns as Radicalization Among the Kenyan Z Protestors” Henry Njiru, *Georgia State University*

“The Spiral of Mediated Polarization” Arnon Kedem and Motti Neiger, *Bar-Ilan University*

““My Real Concern about Radicalization is Somewhere in the Middle:” Conceptions and Concerns About Radicalization” Ryan Stoldt, *Drake University*, Javie Ssozi, *University of Iowa* Brian Ekdale, *University of Iowa*, & Tim Havens, *University of Iowa*

“Social Media and Radicalization: An Affordance Approach for Cross-Platform Comparison” Heidi Schulze, Simon Greipl, Julian Hohner & Diana Rieger, *Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München*

Moderator: Raven Maragh-Lloyd, *Washington University in St. Louis*

"Taking Play Seriously: Radicalization, Gamers, and Toxic Geek Masculinity"

Adrienne Massanari, *American University*

"The Popularization of a Far-Right Conspiracy Theory: The Strategic Circulation and Construction of the Term 'Omvolkung' ('The Great Replacement') by the Flemish Far-Right Party" Priscilla Hau, Steve Paulussen & Pieter Maesele, *University of Antwerp*

"Engagement with Political Extremism from Far-Right Female Politicians and Pundits on Twitter" Caley Hewitt, *Louisiana State University*

"Lurking in the Shadows: Understanding Radicalization Among Passive Users on Right-Wing Platforms" Aly Hill, Naman Rastogi & Marina Kogan, *The University of Utah*

Moderator: Tim Havens, *University of Iowa*

2:30 – 2:45

Break

Coffee and desserts

2:45 – 4:15

Featured panel

Sang Jung Kim, *University of Iowa*

Meredith Pruden, *Kennesaw State*

Susana Salgado, *University of Lisbon*

Moderator: Javie Ssozi, *University of Iowa*

Room 640

4:15 – 4:30

Closing remarks

Preconference organizers

Room 640

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