

SPSP



2024

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The Incel World View

How many Elliot Rodgers are there on an Incel Forum?

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Theoretical background

▶ Incels

- The most misogynic group of men in the Manosphere (Fernquist et al., 2020).
- Incel world view (Kolto-Rivera, 2004; Baele et al., 2019; Ging, 2017).

▶ Incel forums

- Incel terminology (Baele et al., 2019; Jaki et al., 2019).
- Hate and glorification of violence (Baele et al., 2019; Hoffman et al., 2020)

▶ Incel terrorism

- Elliot Rodger
- Discover lone perpetrators of violence (Gill et al. 2014)
- 8 linguistic categories for a “terrorist mind” (Kaati et al. 2016)

Aims

- Contribute to the development of linguistic risk assessment instruments to identify dangerous individuals in specific online risk groups.
- Identify linguistic similarities between incels, lone perpetrators of violence and pro-violence environments.
- Analyze incel language in digital environments in order to identify representative linguistic categories for an incel world view.
- Compare linguistic results of Incels and Elliot Rodgers with a control group (Politics) to identify similarities and differences

Hypotheses

- ▶ There are representative LIWC-categories that can be used to explain and understand an Incel World View and they will show similarities with those found by Kaati et al. (2016): Long Words, 3rd Person Plural, Positive Emotions, Negative Emotions, Anger, Friends, Safety, Drives, and Power.
- ▶ Incels will, compared to Politics, use fewer words from LIWC-categories Positive emotions and friends, and more words from categories Negative Emotions, Anger, Power, Safety, 3rd Person Plural and Long Words.
- ▶ Results from LIWC analysis will show higher similarities between Incels and Elliot Rodger compared to Politics and Elliot Rodger

Method

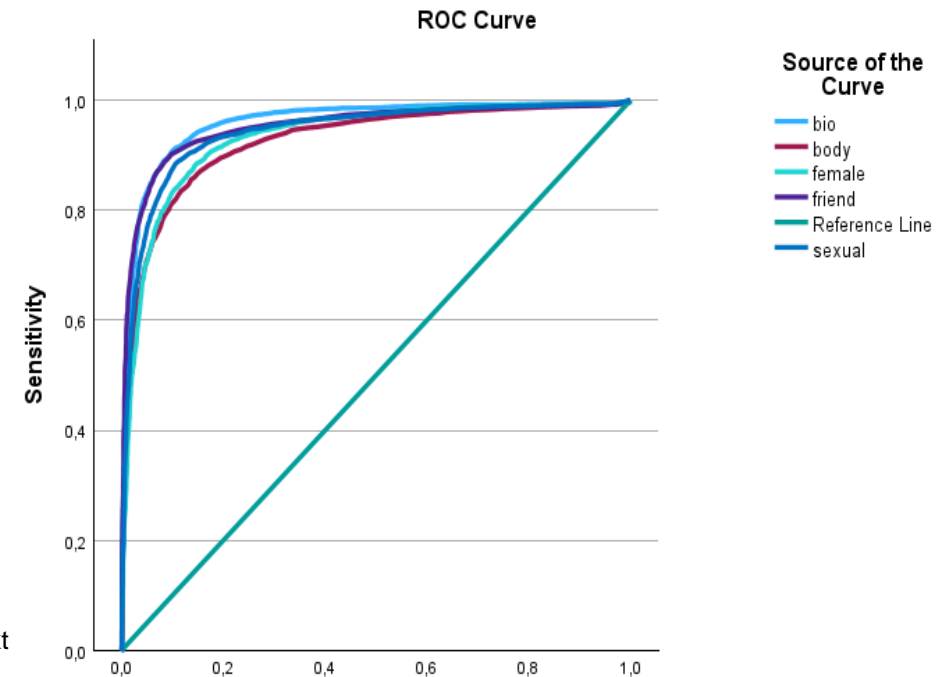
- Text posts from r/Braincel (Incels), five political subreddits* (Politics) and Elliot Rodger's text manifest**. Posts collected in 2020***
- N= 7633
- Text analysis: Jupyter Notebook (JN) to categorize the text from Reddits imported into LIWC
- Statistical analysis: Receiver operating characteristics (ROC), area under the curve (AUC), t-tests, and intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC).

* *r/Braincels* and from *r/progressive*, *r/liberals*, *r/conservative*, *r/democracts*, and *r/republican*, ** www.thenation.com, *** from the n webpage www.pushshift.io

Results

- Results support Hypothesis 1
 - 57 (62 %) of 93 LIWC categories were identified as representative linguistic variables for incels.
 - **Incels' most prevalent** word counts: psychobiology, body, sex, women, friends.

Figure 1. LIWC-categories with excellent ability according to AUC for identifying text written by Incels, compared to Politics.



Results partly support H2 and H3

- **Incels' most prevalent** word counts: psychobiology, body, sex, women, friends.
- **Politics' most prevalent** word counts: work, power, money, articles, big words.
- Some **similarities to Elliot Rodger** in both Politics' and Incels' writings.
- **Differences between Politics and Incels**
 - Incels used significantly more words from categories Positive Emotions and Friends, Negative Emotions, Anger, and Certainty compared to Politics.
 - Politics used significantly more words from Long Words, 3rd person plural, and Power.

PERCENTAGE OF WORD CATEGORIES

LIWC-category	Incels M (SD)	Politics M (SD)	ER (M)
Long words	15.09 (3.03)	19.33 (2.39)	15.15
Friends	0.78 (0.39)	0.20 (0.13)	0.47
3rd person plural	1.22 (0.52)	1.49 (0.55)	1.07
Positive emotions	3.67 (0.99)	3.27 (0.72)	3.29
Negative emotions	3.65 (1.10)	2.83 (0.78)	2.59
Anger	1.89 (0.86)	1.29 (0.57)	0.97
Certainty	1.90 (0.52)	1.81 (0.42)	2.01
Power	2.24 (0.62)	3.56 (0.69)	2.28

Conclusions

- ▶ Representative linguistic variables for incel world view were identified.
- ▶ Results confirm earlier research on risk factors within incel environment
- ▶ Similarities between Incels and Elliot Rodger were identified
- ▶ Politics also showed some similarities with Elliot Rodger
- ▶ Many differences between Incels and Politics

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