

Extended abstract

Understanding the Radicalisation Process of Incels

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The increase in online presence and more violent attacks has led to the recognition of the Incel movement as a domestic terror threat. Incels are an online community associated with extreme misogyny, who radicalise at home on the internet. To better understand the systemic radicalisation of Incels and to explore potential policies, the System Dynamics approach was used. Criminological theories on radicalisation form the foundation of the system dynamics model. The model shows the interconnectedness of various elements of the radicalisation process. Due to uncertainties surrounding the Incel community, exploratory analyses were performed to provide insights into the behaviour of the radicalisation process of Incels in different scenarios. The results of this study show that early interventions aimed at reducing the potentially interested individuals, minimising Incel content on the internet and social media, and addressing mental health issues among young men, help reduce the growth of the Incel community. Recent trends in Incel violence highlight the need for understanding the susceptibility to extremist ideologies and the process of radicalisation. This research has attempted to shed light on the major feedback mechanisms and influential variables to understand and prevent the growth of the Incel community. Further work could focus on testing different extremist ideologies using this radicalisation model to gain an understanding of all online radicalisation processes.

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