

## Abstract

This research aims to explore and answer the question: how does the use of Twitter by far-right political parties differ from right-wing extremist movements in terms of their choice of topic and their use of language? Right-wing online extremism is becoming increasingly more relevant, particularly after the 2019 Christchurch attacks, in which the perpetrator seems to have been inspired by consuming significant amounts of online content.

Following from Klein and Muis's research from 2018 regarding followers of right-wing extremist movements and far-right political parties, hypotheses were formulated. It was expected that right-wing extremist movements would tend to mostly discuss Islam and immigration topics, while far-right political parties would mostly focus on the national and European establishment. Moreover, it was expected that right-wing extremist movements would use more extreme language than the followers of political parties.

One party and one movement from three different countries – the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Germany – have been selected. The selected groups are PVV, UKIP, AfD, IV, EDL and Pegida. A mixed methods approach to research was adopted in which the findings of the quantitative statistical analysis were complemented with and enriched by qualitative research methods, namely content analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis.

The analysis confirmed the hypotheses regarding choice of topic by both parties and movements, but the hypothesis regarding tone of language was proved to be incorrect. Instead, this research suggests the novel and significant finding that the groups have adapted their tone to Twitter's policy, in order to avoid getting expelled from the platform.