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Presentation title: "Time to abandon Swedish women?" Discursive connections between violent misogyny and violent extremism in online spaces

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This paper explores the discursive linkages between violent misogyny and violent right-wing extremism in the popular Swedish online discussion forum Flashback. We focus on articulations of misogyny, anti-feminism and male supremacism mapped onto narratives of right wing extremism in user comments posted across seventeen Flashback-threads. In doing so, we follow the proposition of Miller-Idriss (2020) who suggests a new lens with which to study the nexus between violent misogyny and violent extremism by directing attention to the unconventional cultural spaces online in which people 'may encounter extremist messages and ideas in their ordinary lives' and to the role that 'mainstream gateways play in shaping extremist engagement' (Miller-Idriss 2020, p. 4). In the context of Sweden, Flashback which has been described as a 'gateway' with 'potential bridging functions' (Åkerlund 2021, p. 7) between mainstream and extreme spheres offers an apt empirical site to pursue such a research agenda. To analyze the extensive data set of online comments, we draw on two methods. First a collocation analysis of user comments (n= 20 359) scraped from the strategic selection of threads on contemporary issues related to gender including the Incel (Involuntary Celibates) movement, men's rights activism, male superiority and sexual violence on the discussion forum allowed us to identify 135 word combinations. From this sample we chose 36 combinations to be considered for the discourse analysis. In a second analytical step, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) helped us unpack the logics of conspiracy and male entitlement, as well as the fantasmatic projections of Swedish women as both 'race traitors' and 'victims in an ongoing race war' at the heart of extreme right narratives in and beyond Sweden today.