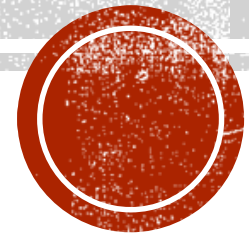


THE HARMFUL IMPACT OF DIGITALLY MEDIATED COMMUNICATION ON DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

A short outline of the problem



by Dr. Ina Holznagel, Düsseldorf



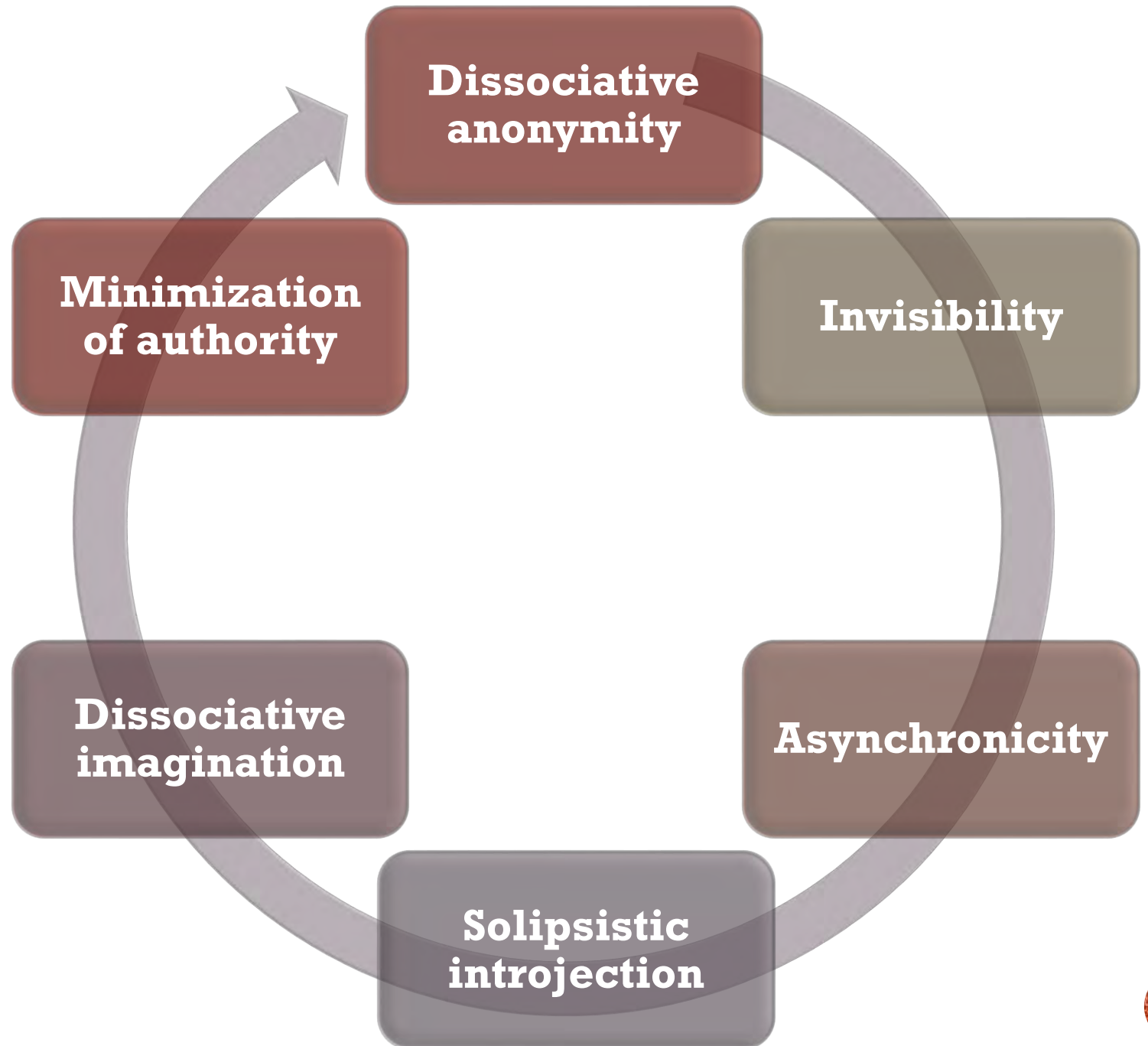
„Demokratie und Streit gehören zusammen. Eine Demokratie, in der nicht gestritten wird, ist keine.“

Democracy and dispute belong together. A democracy in which there is no dispute is not a democracy at all.

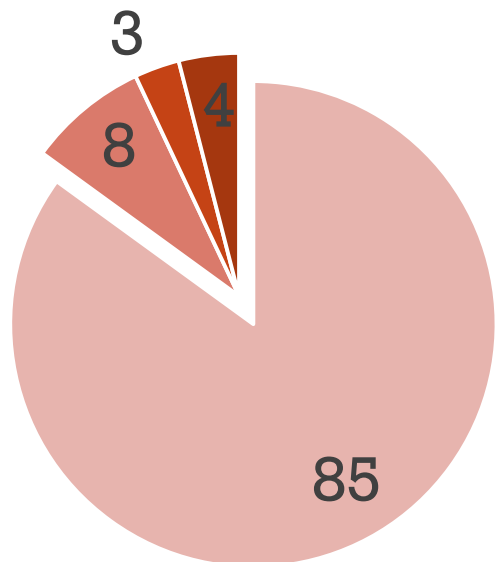


The Online Disinhibition Effect

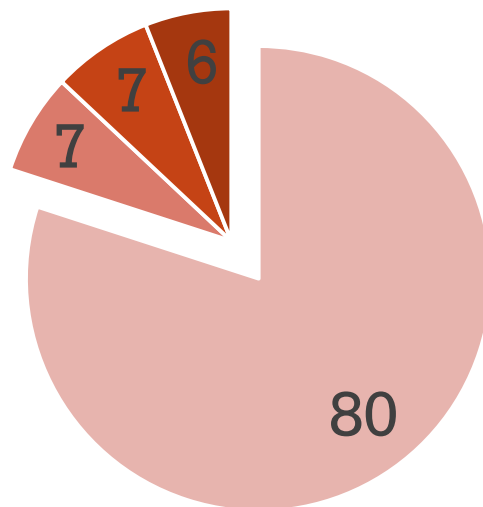
By JOHN SULER, Ph.D
Published in
CYBER PSYCHOLOGY &
BEHAVIOR
Volume 7, Number 3, 2004



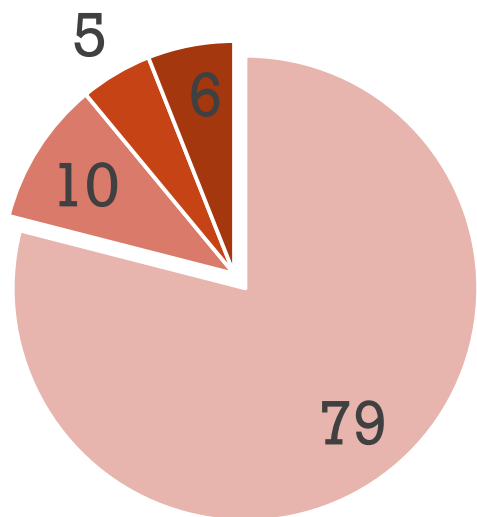
Women 2020



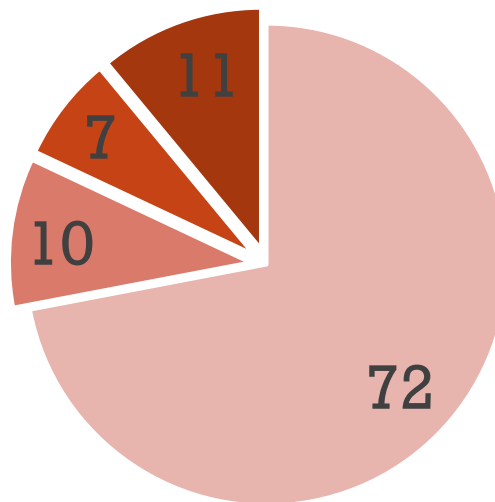
Men 2020



Women 2022



Men 2022

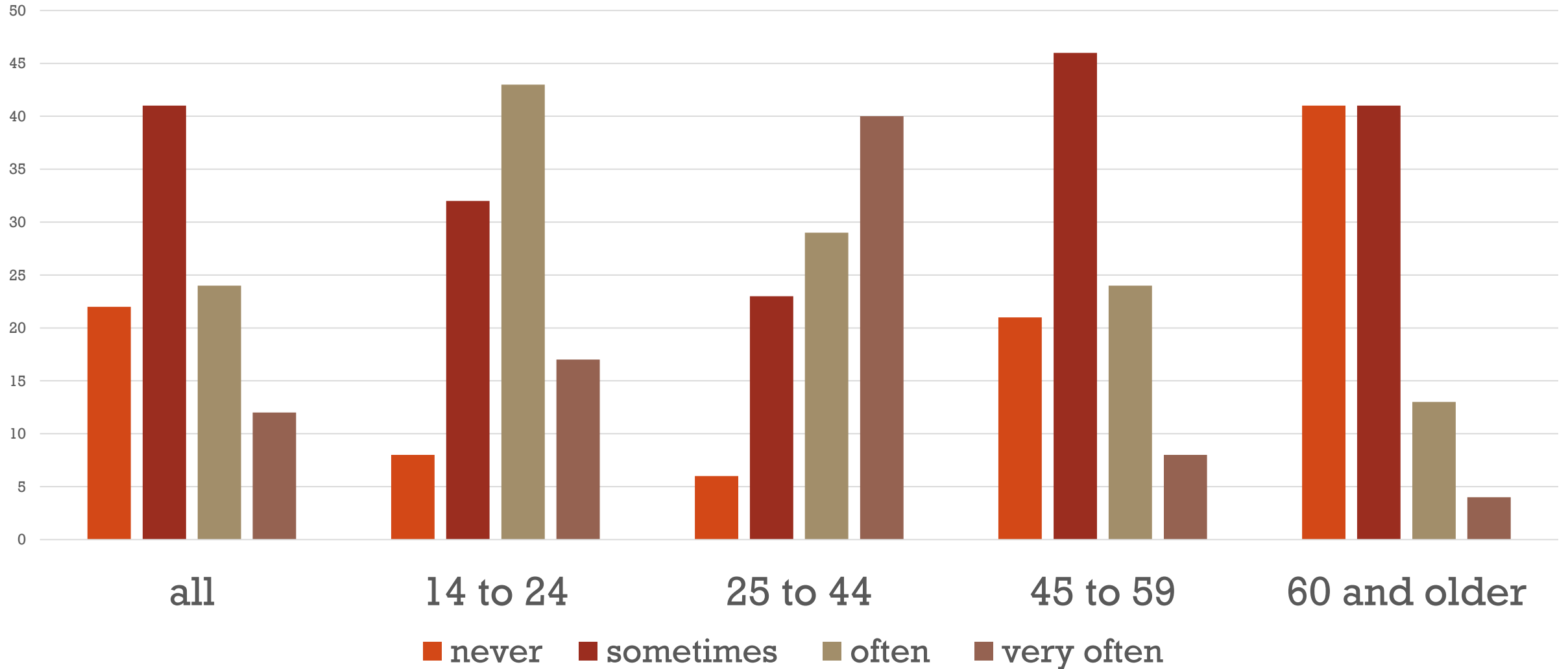


Study by
 Prof. Elisa Hoven,
 University of Leipzig
 and the g/d/p
 research group
 August 2022:

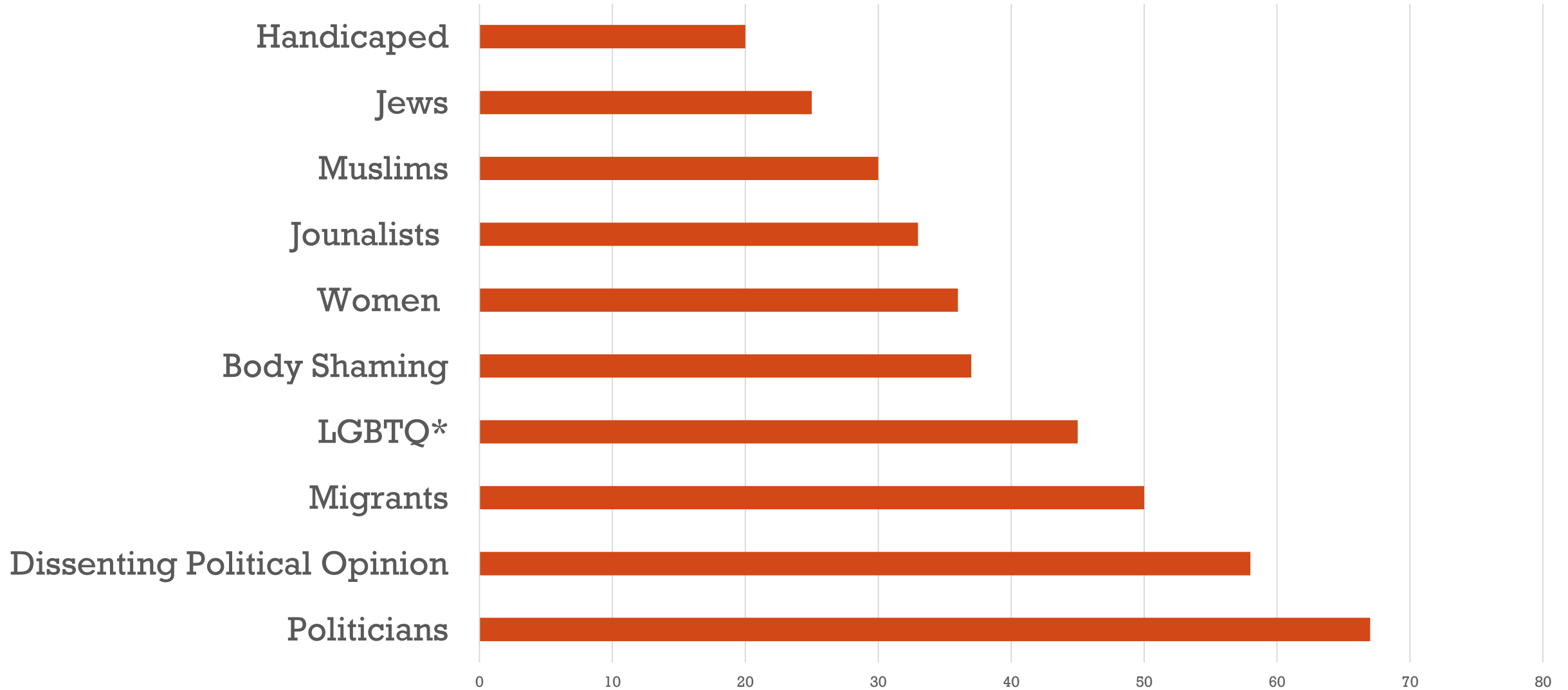
**„Have you
 personally ever
 been affected by
 hate speech?“**



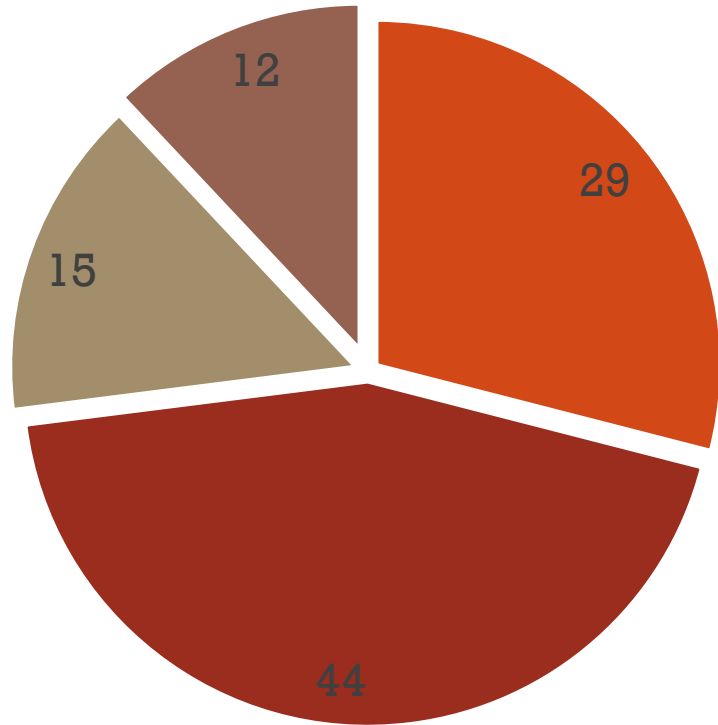
Have you personally noticed hate comments on the internet?



Against which groups have you noticed hate comments?

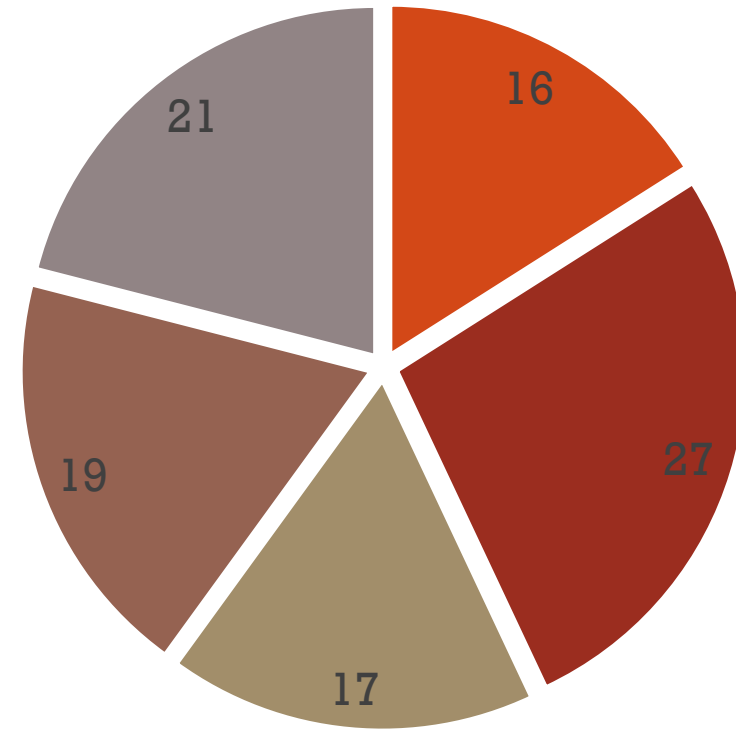


Affected by Hate speech



■ yes ■ sometimes ■ rather not ■ no

Not affected by hate speech



■ yes ■ sometimes ■ rather not ■ no ■ never noticed hate speech

Study by Prof. Elisa Hoven, University of Leipzig and the g/d/p research group; August 2022:

„For fear of hate speech, I deliberately formulate more carefully or refrain from posting.”



Reasons for not participating in public discussions on the internet

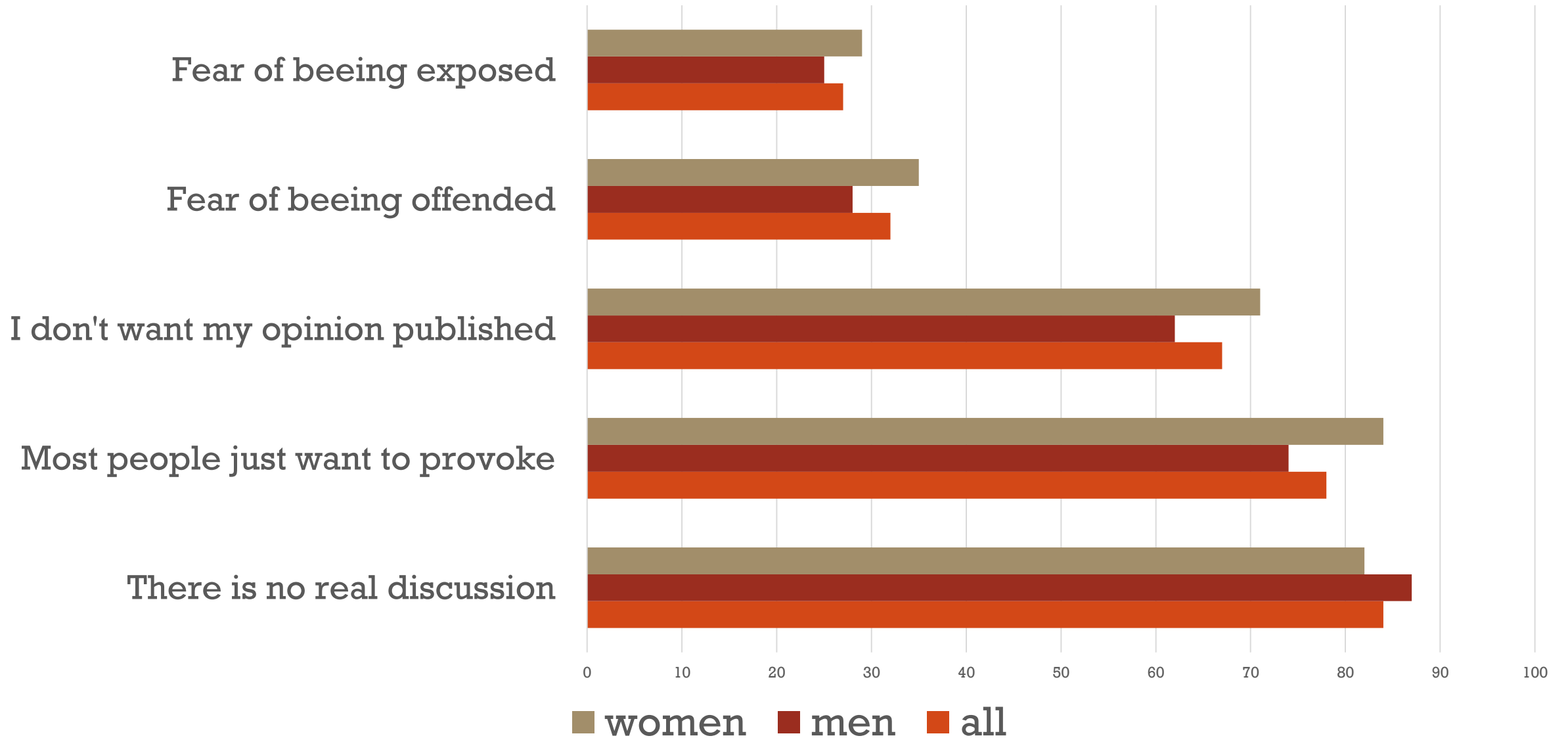


Figure 1: AfD Facebook Usage per Capita and Anti-Refugee Incidents



Müller, Karsten/ Schwarz, Carlo:
„Fanning the Flames of Hate: Social Media
and Hate Crime“
(June 5, 2020).

Princeton University/
University of Warwick.

Available at SSRN:

<https://ssrn.com/abstract=3082972> or
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3082972>



'Bye Bye Twitter Und Facebook': German Green Party Chief Quits Social Media

January 8, 2019 - 2:14 PM ET

DANIELLA CHESLOW

The co-chairman of Germany's Green party says he is quitting Twitter and Facebook after a cyberattack exposed his personal communications and because he committed several gaffes via tweet.

"Twitter rubs off on me," Robert Habeck writes, announcing his departure from both platforms. "There is no medium with so much hate, malice, and incitement."

Habeck was one of the primary victims of a sweeping data breach that saw private chats from his family published online. Prominent members of nearly every German political party had their cellphone numbers, credit card data and private communications exposed, as NPR's Bill Chappell has reported. Only the far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, was spared. The stolen information was posted to Twitter in the days before Christmas.



German Green party co-chief Robert Habeck has said goodbye to Twitter and Facebook.

Dennis Williamson/Robert Habeck

Robert Habeck, German Vice-Chancellor, in 2019:

"After a sleepless night, I come to the conclusion that Twitter is rubbing off on me. ... Apparently Twitter triggers something in me: to be more aggressive, louder, more polemical and more pointed - all at a speed that makes it hard to leave space for reflection. Apparently I am not immune to it."

