

I felt like a eunuch: conversations with ex incels.

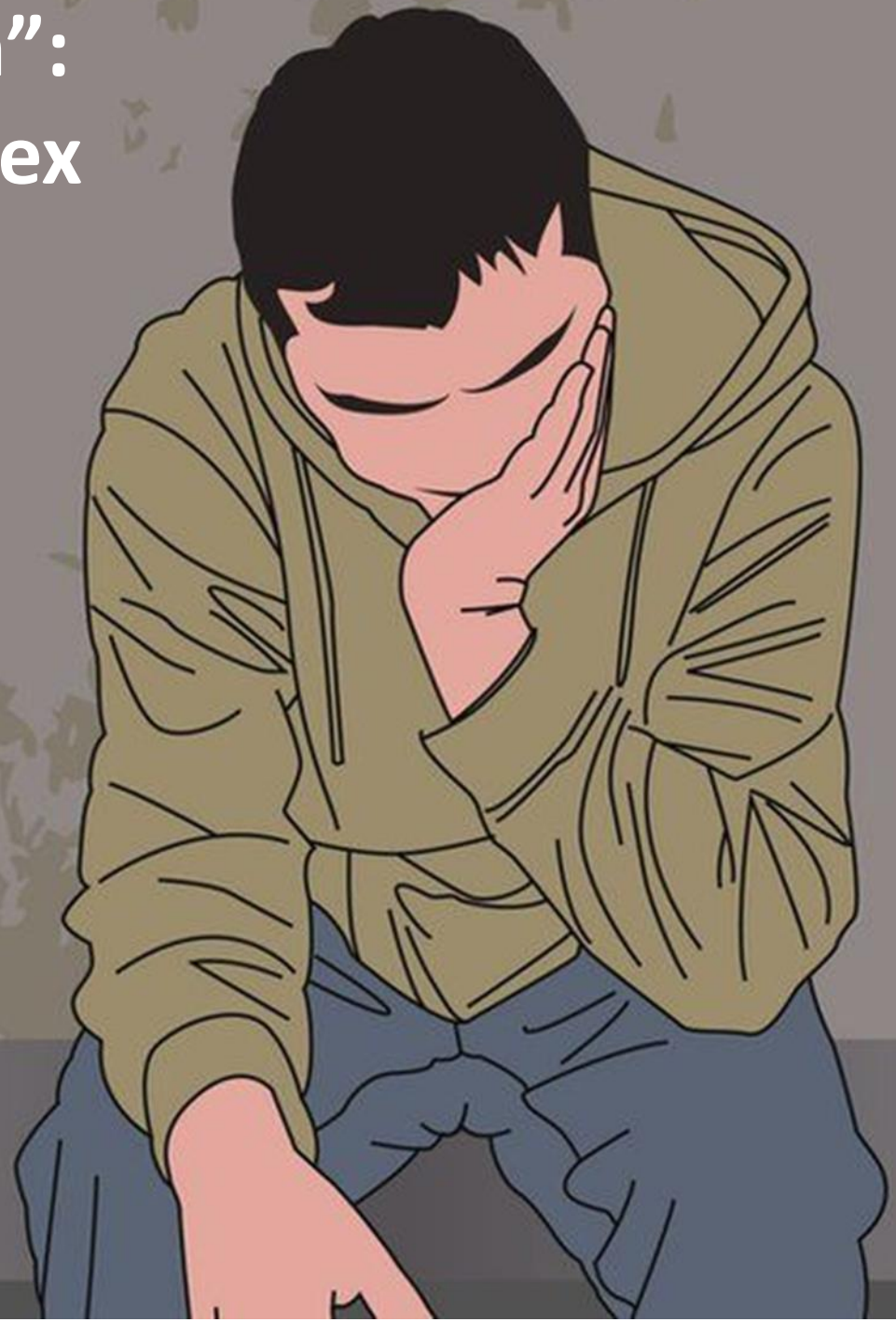
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2022



**“I felt like a eunuch”:
conversations with ex
incels**

Dr David S. Smith



Incels

Elliot Rodger

- May 2014: killed 6, injured 14
- Canonised by incels: Saint Elliot (Witt, 2020)

My Twisted World

- 141 page memoir/ manifesto
 - Instrumentalisation: women = status
 - Shooting = Day of Retribution for rejection
- Also: Jake Davison (UK), Alek Minassian (Canada)

Involuntary celibates i.e., incels

- Subculture of the "manosphere"
- Socially inhibited young men (Bates, 2020)
- Beta male identity: social identity based around social/ biological inferiority
- Red pill: gynocentric, status quo empowers women to date above market value
- Black pill: recognising incelhood as permanent (Bratich & Banet-Weiser, 2019)



Smith et al., (in prep)

The present study

Research questions:

1. What draws young men to incel communities?
2. What does the incel social identity mean to them?
3. Why/how do former incels leave their communities?
4. Were their emotional needs met by incel communities?



Method

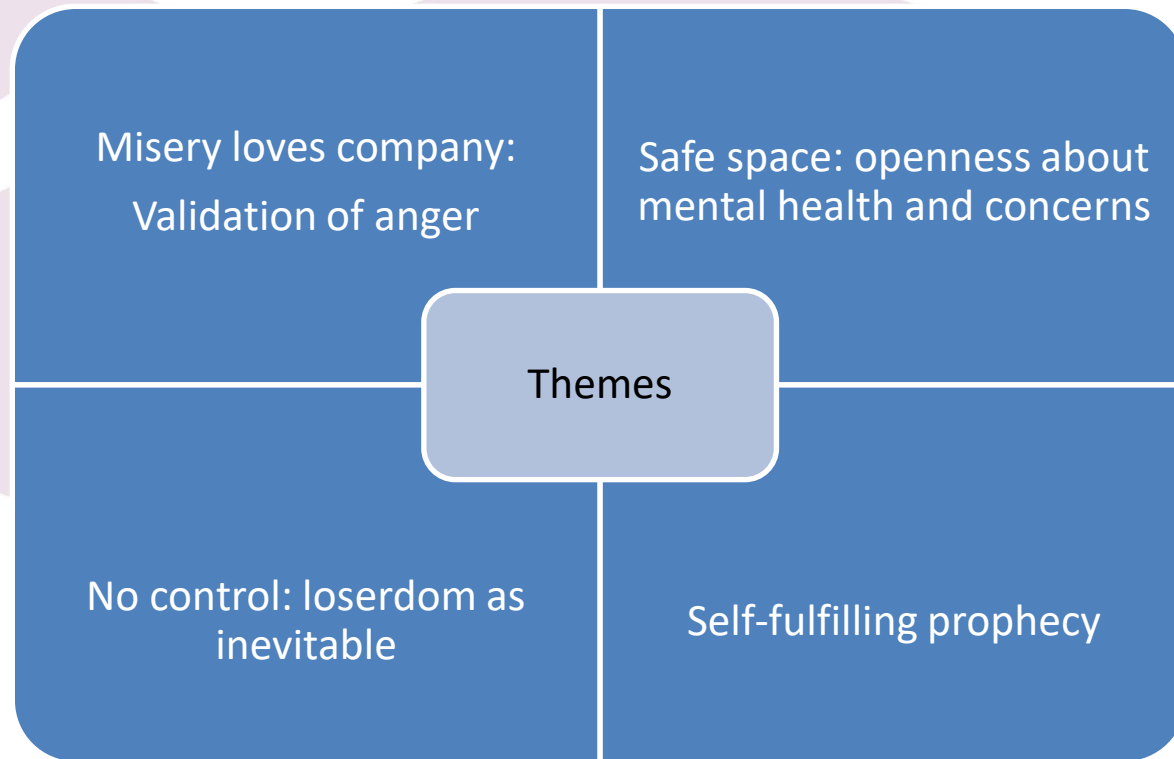
- Participants: 7 members of digital ex-incel support groups
- Interview based research about experiences in incel communities
- Asked about life before, what they got out of it, leaving and changes since
- Data presently being analysed via thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2012)
 - Transcription, reading and familiarization, coding, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining/naming themes, finalising analysis.

To our knowledge, among first studies to speak with former incels

Smith et al., (in prep)

Very early analysis...

- Discourse analysis: 4 key themes identified, with sub themes



The end

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