

INCELS, Misogyny, and Mass Violence

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Introduction

- "INCEL" is a portmanteau of "involuntary" and "celibate," a self-identifying badge for a growing internet subculture of mostly white, mostly young men who are celibate, but not by choice (Beauchamp, 2018).
- Persons began self-identifying as involuntarily celibate online in the late 1990's, though this earliest iteration was characterized by the presence of women and men, mutual loneliness, and a desire for connection and support (Burgess, Donnelly, Dillard, & Davis, 2001).
- Due in part to a reaction against feminism, globalism, and deindustrialism, among other factors, recent years have seen the rise of the "Manosphere," a loose network of men's rights advocacy online, which mostly consists of harassing feminists, and inciting violence on their own forums in cyberspaces like reddit.com (Ging, 2017; Jane, 2014).
- The INCEL phenomenon became exclusively male, angry, and reactionary (Ging, 2017; Jane, 2018).
- INCEL is characterized by misogyny, anger, and, in recent years, the perpetration of mass violence (Ging, 2017).
- Since 2014, there have been at least 5 attacks in the US and Canada attributable to members of this internet subculture, including:
 - Elliot Rodger's attack in Isla Vista, California (7 killed, 14 injured)
 - Chris Harper's attack in Roserburg, Oregon (10 killed, 8 injured)
 - William Atchison's attack in an Aztec, New Mexico high school (3 killed)
 - Nikolas Cruz's attack in Parkland, Florida at Stoneman Douglas High School (17 killed, 17 injured)
 - Alek Minassian's van attack in Toronto, Canada (10 killed, 14 injured)
- (Allen, Briquet, & Lorenz, 2018; Hanks & Amend, 2018; Healy & Lovet, 2015; Ohlheiser, 2018)

Terms & Themes Related to INCELS

Alpha	Men who have a tremendous amount of sexual prowess, have many female partners, and are often athletic. A caricature of stereotypical masculinity to which INCELS compare themselves negatively.
Beta	Lesser men than alphas, incapable of sexually satisfying women, yet often used by women for relationship stability and financial support. Betas wish they were as desired as alphas, and hate women for not desiring them sexually. Betas reject women who are not highly sexualized and very attractive.
MRA	Men's Rights Advocate. A highly toxic belief system centered around a conceptualization of women as shallow, promiscuous, irrational, subhuman, and primarily motivated to exploit men financially, emotionally, and sexually at any possible opportunity. Its central belief is that men are the victims of women.
MGTO	Men Going Their Own Way is an identifier adopted by men who have stopped dating or interacting with women in any romantic or sexual way.
Manosphere	The internet communities where MRAs, INCELS, and Pickup artists (PUA) are active, primarily Reddit, 4chan, and a few other websites. Extremely misogynistic, racist, and often homophobic.

Red Pill Philosophy
 Taken from the movie The Matrix. By taking the red pill, men become enlightened to the misandry and brainwashing of feminism. Central to INCELS, MRAs, and the underlying philosophy of the manosphere.

- Source: Ging (2017)

Forensic Applications

- A deeper understanding of this growing culture of violent misogyny online is necessary because the generation currently graduating from college has been raised with the internet.
- This generation's social norms are deeply formed by dynamics playing out in social media.
- INCELS, now identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group because of their penchant for virulent language and violence, may not be comprised of more than a few thousand individuals, yet has spawned several high-profile episodes of mass violence within the past decade (Hanks & Amend, 2018). The INCEL phenomenon poses a dangerous threat to women and men, and it was born online (Burgess et al., 2001; Ging, 2017).

Conclusions

- INCEL, misogyny, and mass violence form three corners of a unique and new division of domestic terrorism, and the relationship between these three themes merits study.
- The current presentation seeks to define new terms, to introduce and familiarize forensic psychologists and investigators with this culture of violent misogyny online, and to begin a series of investigations and research projects to explore the relationship between INCEL, misogyny, and mass violence.

Conclusions continued

- Once forensic psychologists gain further understanding of the connections between INCEL, misogyny, and mass violence, they are further able to work with offenders and victims of this relatively new phenomena.
- Furthermore, familiarity amongst investigators will be able to enhance their investigative skills to stop current instances of INCEL, misogyny, and mass violence while alerting other law enforcement officials to warning signs of these behaviors.
- It remains a goal of this endeavor to uncover any predictive elements for violence in and among online forums used by INCEL groups.

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