

Cults, Conspiracy Theories and Thwarting Online Radicalization

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Mis- and disinformation has driven individuals to embrace fringe, radical views. Its roots go back decades as a cyclical relationship between public curiosity and the media and entertainment industry have led to the dramatization and amplification of cults and conspiracy theories. The advent of social media and tech platforms gave rise to algorithmic targeting and private online groups, driving people deeper into partisan camps and fabricated belief networks resulting in [dangerous](#), disinfo-fueled events [around the world](#).

Reading Resources:

[I Escaped the Cult. But I
Couldn’t Escape the Cult
Mentality](#)

(Narratively, Daniella Young)

[What we can learn from
conspiracy theories](#)

(BBC, Zaria Gorvett)

[How to talk to conspiracy
theorists—and still be kind](#)

(Technology Review, Tanya
Basu)

[Why Countering Violent
Extremism Programs Are
Bad Policy](#)

(The Brennan Center for
Justice)

[Online Extremism: Research
Trends in Internet Activism,
Radicalization, and Counter-
Strategies](#)

(International Journal of
Conflict and Violence)

[Could One of Your
Facebook Friends Be The
Next QAnon Shaman?](#)

(John Semley, The Nation)

[Facebook’s Militia Mess](#)

(Tech Transparency Project)

[7 Insights From Interviewing
Conspiracy Theory Believers](#)

(Jigsaw)