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Banned: How Deplatforming Extremists Mobilizes Hate in the Dark Corners of the Internet

Tamar Mitts is an Assistant Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs and a Faculty Member at the Data Science Institute and the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University. Her research advances the study of conflict and security policy in the digital era, with a focus on political behavior and extremism on social media platforms. Her work has been published in journals such as *American Political Science Review*, *International Organization*, and the *Journal of Politics*. She is currently working on a book project on online content moderation and extremism.

In recent years, the world has seen a rapid increase in the use of social media platforms by violent extremists. Hate groups espousing radical ideologies have been using online platforms to communicate, disseminate propaganda, and in some cases, plan violent acts. In response, social media companies have upped their efforts to take down content and prevent the spread of hate speech on their platforms. While these actions reduced the availability of extremist content on mainstream social media, little is known about what happens to suspended individuals after being deplatformed. This project sheds light on the effects of deplatforming among online communities affiliated with the far-right in the United States. Analyzing cross-platform data that includes information on individuals who have accounts both on Twitter (a mainstream platform) and Gab (a fringe platform favored by far-right extremists), I find that Twitter suspensions increase engagement with hate speech on Gab. I discuss several approaches that can help mitigate radicalization on fringe platforms.

<https://tau-ac-il.zoom.us/j/8898406343>

Monday, December 27, 2021
16:15-18:00



Room 527,
Naftali Building