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Hosting the 'Holohoax': A Snapshot of Holocaust Denial Across Social Media

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Executive Summary

Overview

Holocaust denial has long been one of the most insidious conspiracy theories targeting Jewish communities, with its extremist proponents drawn from across the ideological spectrum, from extreme right-wing to hard left to Islamist. Research has shown that digital platforms have only served to amplify and mainstream this warped strain of thinking in recent years.¹

This briefing paper provides a snapshot of Holocaust denial content across major social media platforms. By analysing the term 'holohoax', which is commonly used by Holocaust deniers, this paper examines the extent to which Holocaust denial content is readily accessible across Facebook, Twitter, Reddit and YouTube. Although this study does not set out to provide a comprehensive overview of the phenomenon, it reveals important insights about how Facebook and Twitter provide a home to an established and active community of Holocaust deniers. While Holocaust denial is present on Reddit, our research suggests that such activity has been reduced through a combination of moderation efforts and pushback from other users. This paper also demonstrates how appropriately applied content moderation policies can be effective in denying dangerous conspiracy theorists a public platform by examining how Holocaust denial content has decreased significantly in the past year on YouTube.

Key Findings

Our research illustrates how Holocaust denial content is readily accessible across Facebook, Reddit and Twitter:

- We identified 36 Facebook pages and groups, which are either specifically dedicated to Holocaust denial or which host Holocaust denial content. The pages and groups investigated were ideologically diverse, with 9 hosting extreme-right communities, 7 anti-Zionist communities, 13 conspiracy theorist communities, 5 pro-Palestine communities, 1 an Islamist community and 1 a Christian community.
- The Facebook pages and groups have a combined number of followers of 366,068 and an average number of members of 10,168.
- We also identified 2,300 pieces of content mentioning 'holohoax' on Reddit, 19,000 pieces of content on Twitter, and 9,500 pieces of content on YouTube, all created between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020.

Our analysis highlights how Holocaust denial content is actively recommended through Facebook's algorithm:

- Using a 'snowball' discovery method we found that when a user follows public pages containing Holocaust denial content, Facebook actively promotes further Holocaust denial content to that user.

Shifts in a platform's terms of service are effective at limiting the spread of Holocaust denial content:

- By analysing the use of the term 'holohoax' we found that the spread of Holocaust denial content dropped significantly on YouTube following changes to their terms of service in 2019. If other platforms adopt similar policies then this would likely limit the spread of such material.
- While the number of posts on Reddit mentioning the term 'holohoax' has not decreased over the past two years, there are a number of factors that limit the visibility of Holocaust denial on Reddit, such as banning of subreddits dedicated to Holocaust denial, moderators deleting comments and pushback from other users.

Background

Holocaust denial is discourse which seeks to deny the reality and extent of the genocide of the Jews by the Nazis in World War II.² Such discourse has been used since the 1940s as a means of attacking Jews. Contemporary Holocaust denial is propagated by individuals adhering to a range of extremist world views including the extreme right and hard left, and has become interwoven with a number of antisemitic conspiracy theories. This speech seeks not only to minimise the suffering of Jews during the Holocaust, but to mitigate criticism of Nazism, and justify ongoing attacks against the Jewish people. Due to the intimate intersection between Holocaust denial and hate targeting Jews, such content should be regarded as inherently antisemitic.³

The legal status of Holocaust denial activities differs markedly across global contexts, as well as in the different terms of use of private technology companies dealing with user-generated content. Holocaust denial is illegal in a number of European countries, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland, as well as in Israel. The enforcement of these laws differs between contexts.⁴ Holocaust denial is protected from prosecution in the US.

The policies of private social media companies, many of which are based in the US, diverge on actions taken against Holocaust denial. Facebook and Twitter do not specifically act against content and those promoting Holocaust denial. At its heart, this approach is based on a conceptual blind-spot, whereby platforms understand Holocaust denial as a debate simply over facts – a problem for misinformation and disinformation teams to handle. This perception ignores the fact that Holocaust denial is a form of antisemitic hate speech, as well as a form of disinformation. Despite having hate speech policies in place that ban content that directly attacks people for having any protected characteristics, which include antisemitic attacks, Holocaust denial is allowed largely unfettered on such platforms.⁵

Twitter has previously acted against accounts engaged in Holocaust denial,⁶ and has hate speech policies in place which include 'references to mass murder, violent events, or specific means of violence where protected groups have been the primary targets or victims'.⁷ However, this policy appears to have been built around instances where individuals were using images of Holocaust victims to explicitly attack Jewish people, rather than individuals denying the Holocaust's occurrence or severity.⁸

Facebook executives, on the other hand, have explicitly rationalised allowing Holocaust denial on their platform. This was explained by Vice President for Global Public Policy at Facebook Joel Kaplan in a 2019 letter to the chairman of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. It explained that Facebook would not remove 'lies or content that is inaccurate – whether it's denying the Holocaust, the Armenian massacre, or the fact that the Syrian government has killed hundreds of thousands of its own people'. Kaplan explained that 'this is because we do believe that people should be able to say things on Facebook that are wrong or inaccurate, even when they are offensive'.⁹ Importantly, this points towards a lack of definitional nuance by Facebook whereby its executives see Holocaust denial as a matter of historical accuracy, rather than a specific tool used to attack minority communities, which helps perpetuate long-standing antisemitic stereotypes and delegitimises the suffering of the Jews.¹⁰

In contrast to Facebook and Twitter, YouTube made a change to its hate speech policy in June 2019,¹¹ which specifically banned content denying that 'well-documented violent events' such as the Holocaust or Sandy Hook massacre took place. Similarly, Reddit has introduced policies that allow the quarantining of subreddits (preventing their content from being accidentally viewed by those who do not knowingly wish to do so) that are engaged in the promotion of 'hoaxes' or 'things that are either verifiable or falsifiable and not seriously up for debate'. The platform specifically mentions the Holocaust as one example of an incontestable reality.¹²

To better understand how Holocaust denial communities use social media platforms we examined the use of the term 'holohoax' on Facebook, Twitter, Reddit and YouTube. This analysis was not intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the extent of Holocaust denial content on these platforms, but instead to give a small snapshot illustrating the ease with which such content can be discovered across different platforms, and the nature of Holocaust denial communities using different social media platforms. It is likely that this research merely scratches the surface of a larger and more pervasive phenomenon.

Crucially we found that changes to platform policies and action can have an impact on the prevalence and ease of accessibility of Holocaust denial and antisemitism online. Following YouTube's change of hate speech policies we found a significant reduction of such content on the platform.

Methodology: Overview

Using the social media analysis tools CrowdTangle and Brandwatch, researchers from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) gathered posts using the keyword 'holohoax' from between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020. We used CrowdTangle to gather relevant posts from public pages and public groups on Facebook, and Brandwatch to gather relevant posts from Twitter, Reddit and YouTube.

The term 'holohoax' is popular among Holocaust deniers, and was selected as it is a particularly explicit means of denying the Holocaust. A significant amount of Holocaust denial content is couched in careful language, codes and tropes, and thus it is highly likely that this analysis only shows the tip of the iceberg of the true extent to which such content is able to spread on social media.

Platform Overviews: Facebook

Methodology: Facebook

To provide an assessment of the scale of Holocaust denial, ISD researchers gathered posts from public Facebook pages and groups containing the phrase 'holohoax'. ISD then created a sub-sample of pages and groups that had used the term 'holohoax' in a non-critical context at least five times. ISD researchers then expanded this list by adding Holocaust denial pages and groups identified in previous research by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)¹³ and ongoing monitoring. This produced a cumulative total of 36 groups and pages.

For each of these pages and groups, ISD analysed the number of followers and their ideological focus and searched for broader keywords to assess the wider scale of conversation around the Holocaust in spaces in which its denial is common. Lastly, we qualitatively analysed the recommendations made by Facebook within Holocaust denial pages to gain additional insights into the nature and mechanisms by which Holocaust denial content can be discovered.

Using the social media analysis tool CrowdTangle, Facebook-owned software which provides researchers and journalists with access to posts from public Facebook pages and groups, ISD researchers initially gathered all posts containing the keyword 'holohoax' between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020 (Figure 1).

Findings: Facebook

ISD identified 415 posts across 283 pages and groups, with a combined engagement of 32,650 (including

10,291 shares). In a sample of 50 posts, we found that 41 posts (82%) contained overt and explicit Holocaust denial, while 9 posts used the phrase to describe an antisemitic incident which had taken place.

Figure 1 Mentions of 'Holohoax' in public on Facebook between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020

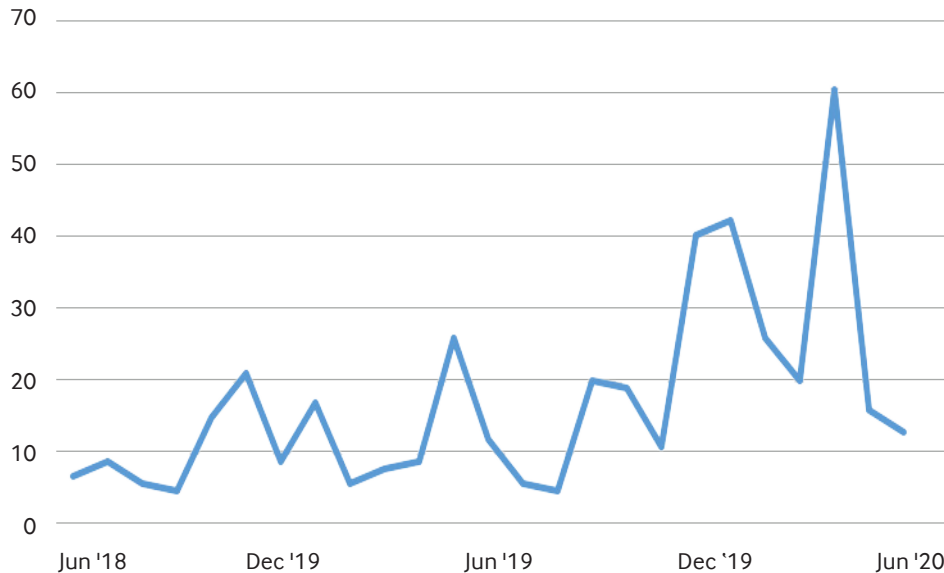
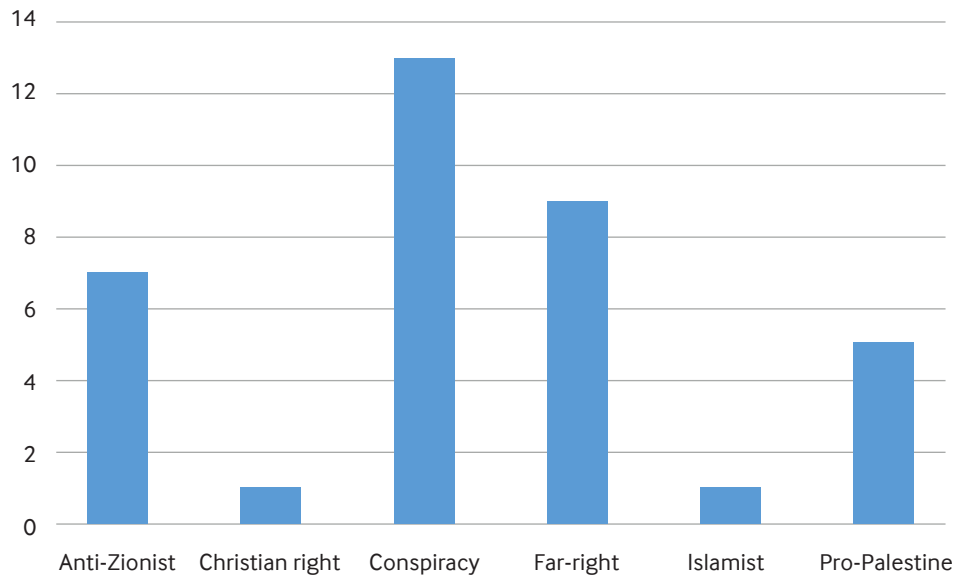


Figure 2 Breakdown of Facebook pages and groups containing Holocaust denial material, by ideology



In order to gain a more accurate scale of the issue on Facebook, ISD therefore created a sub-sample of pages and groups that had used the term 'holohoax' in an antisemitic fashion at least five times. This list of pages and groups was then expanded by adding Holocaust denial pages identified in previous research by the ADL,¹⁴ and others that were identified by ISD's manual research.

This provided ISD with a list of 28 groups and 8 pages that were either dedicated to Holocaust denial or contained at least five pieces of Holocaust denial content; 8 were dedicated single-issue Holocaust denial forums, the remaining 28 engaged with Holocaust denial among other issues.

Followership

The total combined number of followers of these pages and groups was 366,038, with the biggest group having 88,000 followers.

The average number of followers was much lower among single-issue Holocaust denial pages and groups (1,801) than for the pages and groups where Holocaust denial was one theme among many (12,494). -This shows that beyond a relatively small community of dedicated revisionists there is a much wider potential audience of users who could come across Holocaust denial in spaces that are not explicitly dedicated to it.

Ideological breakdown

The entities investigated were ideologically diverse. ISD researchers classified 9 of them as far-right, 7 as anti-Zionist, 13 as conspiracy theorists, 5 as pro-Palestine, 1 as Christian right and 1 as Islamist (Figure 2).¹⁵

This analysis of the ideological backgrounds of pages and groups shows that the spectrum of sources for Holocaust denial is much wider than the far-right and a core group of historical revisionists, however it should be noticed that this research primarily reflects English language Holocaust denial, and more research is required to understand this phenomenon across different languages.

Recommended content

To gain additional insights into the nature and mechanisms by which Holocaust denial content can be discovered, ISD qualitatively analysed the recommendations made by Facebook to the researcher analysing the groups and pages under study.

ISD researchers liked and followed the pages and groups under study, keeping track of the page recommendations provided by Facebook over the course of the research. Simple searches in the Facebook search function for the term 'holocaust' surfaced suggestions for Holocaust denial pages and groups.



Figure 3 Examples of content on pages recommended by Facebook

One of the bigger Holocaust denial pages presents itself as dedicated to 'intellectual freedom' in relation to the Holocaust, which it writes in quotes. Its profile picture shows two hand-cuffs, likely suggesting that its authors feel the desired debate about the veracity of Holocaust is being suppressed (Figure 4).

When entering this Holocaust denial page, Facebook recommends you a series of pages that users might find interesting. These include pages not about the Holocaust (e.g. on the bombing of Dresden, another

¹ This is an ironic reference to the 1984 film *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo*, and the subsequent integration into the popular culture of the term 'Electric Boogaloo' to refer to a sequel (i.e. *'Civil War 2: Electric Boogaloo'*).

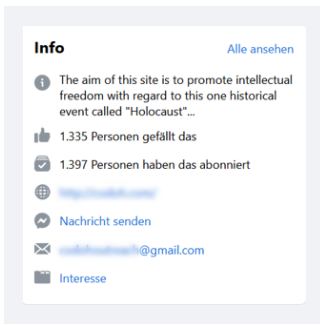


Figure 4 Holocaust denial page

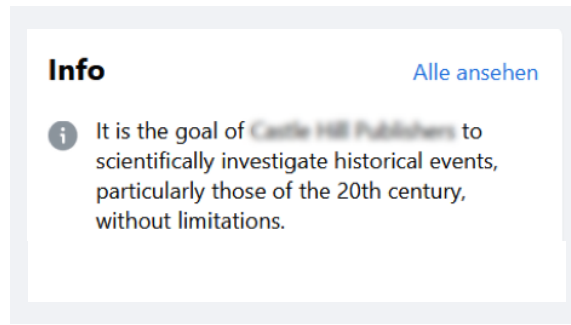


Figure 5 Holocaust denial page on Facebook

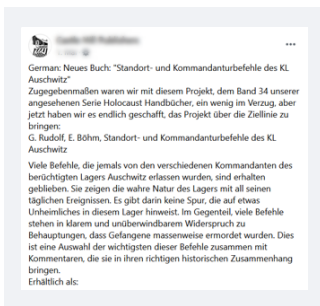


Figure 6 German-language Holocaust denial content

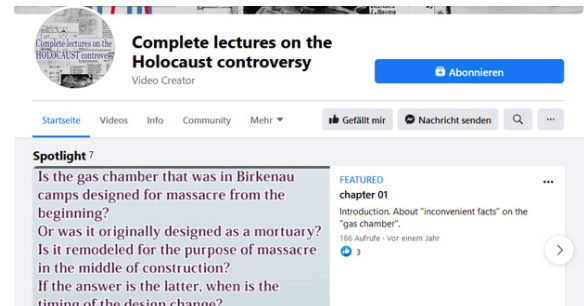
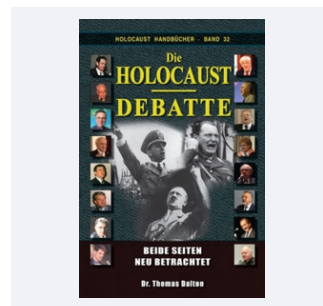


Figure 7 Other Holocaust denial pages on Facebook

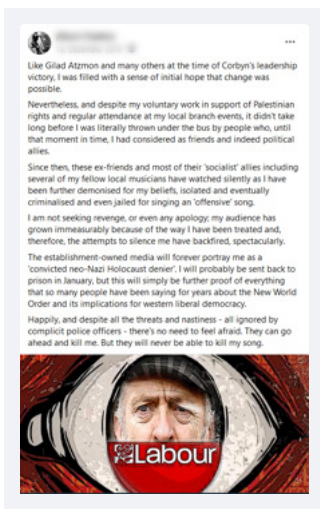


Figure 7 Holocaust denial pages recommended by Facebook

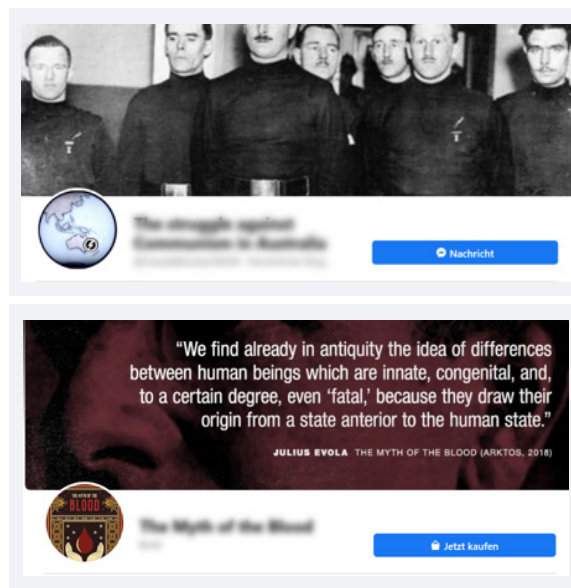


Figure 8 Far-right pages recommended by Facebook

popular topic among historical revisionists¹⁶), but also pages dedicated to the notorious British Holocaust denier David Irving, and to publishers which sell revisionist and Holocaust denial literature. These pages present themselves as interested in the 'scientific investigat[ion of] historical events', rather than as being antisemitic or sympathetic to Nazi ideology (Figure 5).

Notably, one of these pages also publishes and promotes German-language Holocaust denial literature, although German-speaking countries are among the strictest in enforcing their laws against Holocaust denial (Figure 6).¹⁷

From clicking through to these Holocaust denial pages, Facebook's recommendation algorithm led ISD researchers to further Holocaust denial pages.

Apart from these, Facebook also appears to promote content on the extreme right to those demonstrating an interest in Holocaust denial content. The platform recommended to researchers to visit Australian pages supportive of Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British Union of Fascists, and the works of the fascist Italian philosopher Julius Evola, published by a New Right publishing company.

Platform Overviews: Twitter

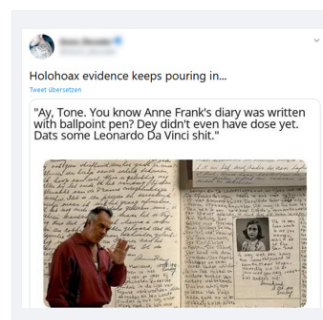
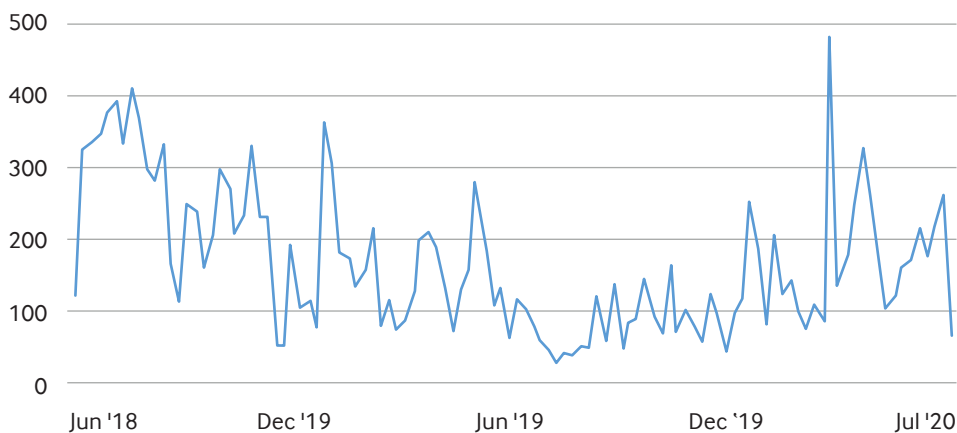
Methodology: Twitter

Using the social media analysis tool Brandwatch, ISD researchers gathered all tweets using the keyword 'holohoax' from Twitter between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020 (Figure 9), and then analysed the 20 tweets that had the furthest reach and most retweets in order to assess if these tweets did actually deny the Holocaust or not.

Findings: Twitter

Between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020 there were roughly 19,000 posts mentioning the term 'holohoax' on Twitter. The number of tweets containing the phrase 'holohoax' was constant, with periodical peaks and down periods, matching trends on Facebook.

Figure 9 Mentions of 'holohoax' on Twitter between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020



Out of the top-20 tweets with the widest reach¹⁹ containing the phrase 'holohoax', 11 denied the Holocaust happened, while 9 others criticised the term and those who use it. Of the top-20 tweets with the most retweets containing the phrase 'holohoax', 14 contained explicit Holocaust denial.

This indicates that while there is pushback on Twitter against 'holohoax' posts, these voices are in a minority of those using the term. Examples of widely shared Holocaust denial content included a survey questioning the

Figure 10 Holocaust denial content on Twitter

fact and/or scope of the Holocaust, posted by an account with other 14,000 followers. Similarly, an account supporting the QAnon movement with 48,000 followers alleged that Anne Frank's diary was a fraud, and that this weakened the evidence for the Holocaust. Another account claimed that the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust had been published before the end of World War II, suggesting that therefore the number was made up (Figure 10).

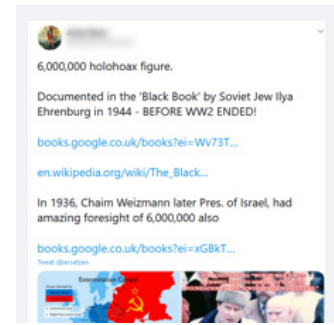


Figure 10 Holocaust denial content on Twitter

Platform Overviews: Reddit

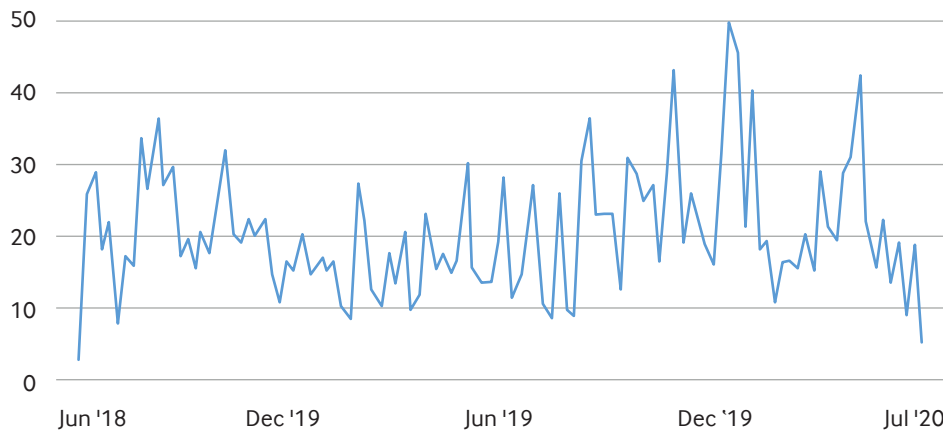
Methodology: Reddit

Using the social media analysis tool Brandwatch, ISD researchers gathered all posts and comments using the keyword 'holohoax' from Reddit between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020 (Figure 11). They then analysed a randomised sample of 50 'holohoax' posts and comments to find out whether these were denying the Holocaust, had been deleted, had received more upvotes than downvotes, and whether they received pushback from other users.

Findings: Reddit

We found 2,300 posts mentioning the term 'holohoax' on Reddit, with a relatively stable use over time, comparable to the use of 'holohoax' on Twitter. This could suggest that Reddit's policy that subreddits promoting misinformation on issues 'not seriously up for debate', including the Holocaust, may not limit Holocaust denial content effectively.²⁰

Figure 11 Mentions of 'holohoax' on Reddit between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020



ISD researchers found various comments on Reddit including claims that the Holocaust had been 'debunked' and that the emigration of a few Jewish intellectuals who were part of Frankfurt School to the US was proof that there could not have been a genocide of the Jews. This was connected to the broader far-right conspiracy theory of 'cultural Marxism', which alleges that the supposed influence of these intellectuals encouraged harmful social behaviour ('degeneracy') to undermine the US (Figure 12).

However, several factors limit the visibility of Holocaust denial on Reddit. Within a randomised sample of 50 'holohoax' posts and comments on Reddit, ISD researchers found that 4 were posted in private or banned subreddits. While of the remaining 46 posts only 3 did not clearly deny the Holocaust, 17 had been deleted, 9 received either no upvotes or more downvotes than upvotes, and 14 received pushback from other users. Only 12 serious Holocaust denial posts within our sample received more upvotes than downvotes and no pushback.

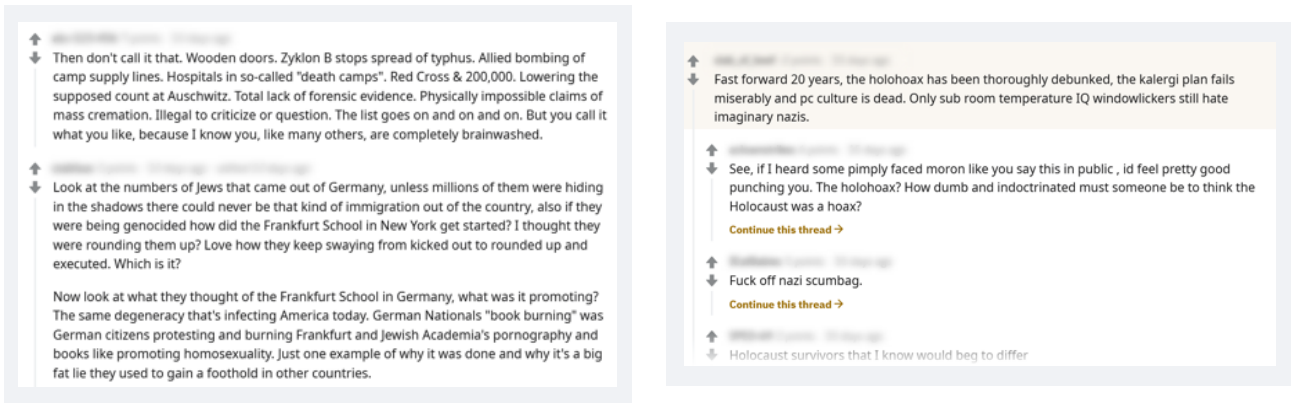


Figure 12 Holocaust denial content on Reddit

Platform Overviews: YouTube

Methodology: YouTube

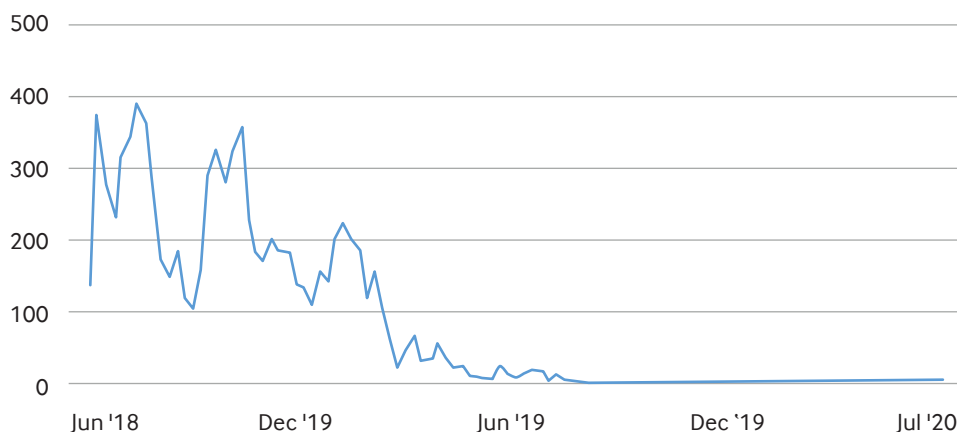
Using the social media analysis tool Brandwatch, ISD researchers gathered all comments, video description texts and video titles using the keyword 'holoHoax' from YouTube between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020 (Figure 13). To help stress-test whether YouTube actually follows its own policy banning Holocaust denial, ISD searched the platform manually for terms associated with Holocaust denial.

Findings: YouTube

Our analysis revealed over 9,500 comments, video description texts and video titles on YouTube containing the phrase 'holoHoax'. Crucially, an analysis of the volume of these mentions over time reveals a dramatic drop in content around spring 2019, demonstrating the effectiveness of YouTube's ban on Holocaust denial content.

This demonstrates platform policies and action can have an impact on the prevalence of Holocaust denial and antisemitism on the platform, when enforced. To help stress-test this finding, ISD researchers searched the platform manually for terms associated with Holocaust denial.

Figure 13 Mentions of 'holoHoax' on YouTube between 1 June 2018 and 22 July 2020



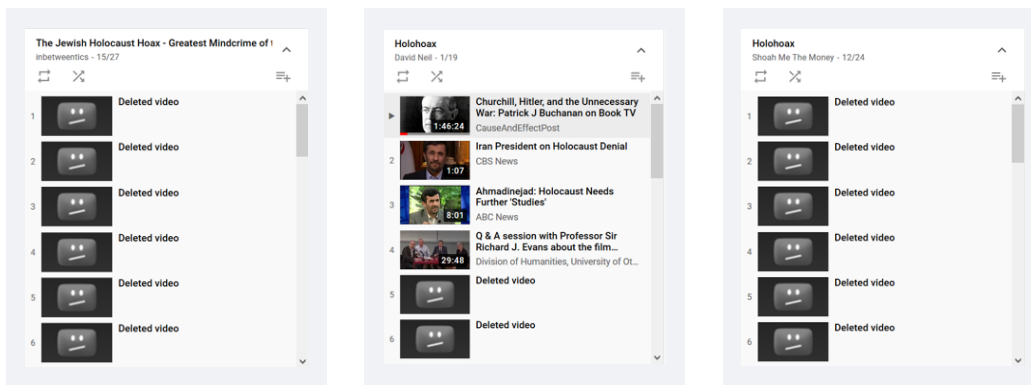


Figure 14 Holocaust denial playlists on YouTube, with videos removed

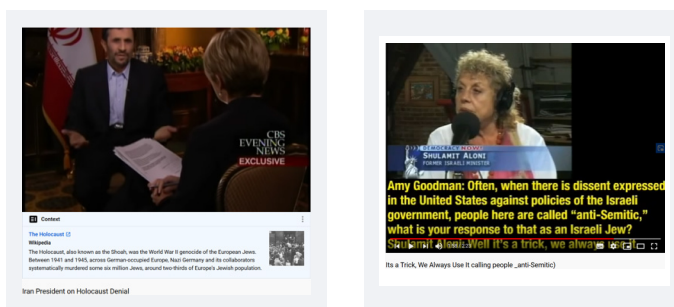


Figure 15 Examples of content remaining on Holocaust denial playlists on YouTube

This analysis revealed that while playlists such as 'holohoax' or 'The Jewish Holocaust Hoax – The Greatest Mindcrime of the 20th Century' could still be found, videos explicitly denying the Holocaust had been deleted (it is unclear whether these have been removed or deleted by users from the information available) (Figure 14).

The remaining videos on these playlists included content that Holocaust deniers could find interesting, but did not deny the Holocaust. These included news interviews with the

former Iranian president Mahmud Ahmadinejad, or videos of Jewish left-wing activists claiming that Israel is weaponising false allegations of antisemitism to stifle criticism of its policies towards Palestinians (Figure 15).

Conclusion

Although only presenting a small case study around Holocaust denial, this paper provides a snapshot of how such content can be found on four social media platforms. Specifically the report highlights how Facebook, which has been unwilling to recognise Holocaust denial as a form of hate speech against Jews, has a small but well-established and ideologically diverse community of Holocaust deniers on its platform. We also found that Twitter similarly contains a small but persistent level of conversation denying the Holocaust.

The research highlights how YouTube, which recognised the denial of well-documented violent events as a form of hate speech, was effective in limiting the spread of such content on its platform after it banned posts that deny the Holocaust. The implications of similar policy design at Reddit are also notable: while potentially less effective at removing specific pieces of Holocaust denial content on the platform, the community-level policy for quarantining spaces dedicated to such content seems to have been effective at demoting Holocaust denial content for new users, to the extent that it is now not easily discoverable. The platform was also identified as a forum in which counterspeech was accessible where Holocaust denial content was identified.

These findings point towards several key recommendations, which could be effective in limiting the spread of Holocaust denial content. Primarily, they suggest that companies should implement amendments to their policies, in line with companies like YouTube and Reddit, and recognise how historical disinformation is used as a tool of hate speech. Comments made by Joel Kaplan suggest that Facebook's decision to keep Holocaust denial content on its platform is in part driven by a conceptual blind-spot in its understanding of such issues – such activity is primarily seen as an issue of historical accuracy rather than a direct weapon

used by individuals targeting minority communities. Recognising genocide denial as a form of hatred could have a significant impact on the prevalence of hateful content targeting minority communities online.

There is a range of policy responses and sanctions possible for Holocaust denial content, as displayed by the approaches taken in the YouTube and Reddit cases. Removal of content or channels is one option; a less robust response is to down-rank Holocaust denial content or channels to ensure that they are not recommended to or searchable by new users. This is more in line with Reddit's current approach to the problem, though still enables hateful antisemitic content to remain online. ISD's research showed how Facebook's content recommendation algorithms can actively point users towards Holocaust denial content: preventing its recommendation to users would be the minimal first step that Facebook could take in order to reduce the visibility and accessibility of such content.

As well as changes of policies around hate speech, observations of platforms made in this study also point towards other areas of programming which could help limit the spread of Holocaust denial content. On Reddit, our researchers observed how community counterspeech had been effective in hiding and discrediting the Holocaust denial content that we identified. Investing in community-focused campaign work, such as the recent #NoDenyingIt campaign launched in July 2020,²¹ could help to raise awareness among the users of the platform and inspire community pushback against those engaged in Holocaust denial. In the long term, well-established Holocaust education organisations can play an important role in promoting digital civility as a component of their educational materials, to empower new generations to push back against those perpetrating hate against Jewish communities online.

Endnotes

- 01 <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/21/holocaust-denial-changing-antisemitism-far-right>
- 02 <https://www.Holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-Holocaust-denial-and-distortion>
- 03 <https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/Holocaust-denial-and-distortion>
- 04 <https://www.yadvashem.org/Holocaust/Holocaust-antisemitism/Holocaust-denial-laws.html>
- 05 https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards/hate_speech
- 06 <https://cst.org.uk/news/latest-news/2016/11/28/twitter-shuts-down-antisemitic-accounts-following-close-work-with-cst>
- 07 <https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/hateful-conduct-policy>
- 08 <https://cst.org.uk/news/latest-news/2016/11/15/twitter-unveils-new-policy-on-hateful-conduct-following-dialogue-with-groups-including-cst>
- 09 <https://jewishinsider.com/2019/05/facebook-to-allow-holocaust-denial-on-its-site/>
- 10 <https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/holocaust-denial-and-distortion>; <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/holocaust-denial>
- 11 See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/youtube-bans-holocaust-denial-videos-policy-reversal-190605220848529.html> The policy states that to 'deny that a well-documented, violent event took place' contravenes YouTube's rules concerning hate speech. See also <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2801939?hl=en>
- 12 <https://www.reddithelp.com/hc/en-us/articles/360043069012>
- 13 <https://www.adl.org/blog/facebook-has-a-Holocaust-denial-problem>
- 14 <https://www.adl.org/blog/facebook-has-a-Holocaust-denial-problem>
- 15 While there may of course be overlaps between anti-Zionist and pro-Palestinian entities, ISD researchers classified pages and groups as pro-Palestinian their focus was on the promotion of Palestinian causes, rather than merely the expressed opposition to Zionism.
- 16 In 1963, David Irving published the book *The Destruction of Dresden*, in which he claimed the bombing of Dresden had been the 'biggest massacre in European history', seemingly downplaying the Holocaust. His estimate of there having been 150,000–200,000 deaths was based on a single source. Irving later admitted he was only repeating rumours in this reference, and he gradually corrected his estimate in later decades. An official inquiry by the city of Dresden estimated the death count to be between 22,700 and 25,000. See <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/david-irving> and <https://www.history.com/news/dresden-bombing-wwii-allies>
- 17 <https://www.yadvashem.org/Holocaust/Holocaust-antisemitism/Holocaust-denial-laws.html>
- 18 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-47230443>
- 19 Brandwatch's reach metric estimates how many of your followers would likely see a post on average, on the basis of the likes, retweets and shares that content tends to get on Twitter per amount of followers. For more information, see <https://www.brandwatch.com/blog/introducing-the-brandwatch-reach-score-making-reporting-simpler-and-more-trustworthy/>
- 20 <https://www.reddithelp.com/hc/en-us/articles/360043069012>
- 21 <https://time.com/5873184/facebook-holocaust-denial-posts/>

About the Institute for Strategic Dialogue

We are a global team of data analysts, researchers, innovators, policy-experts, practitioners and activists - powering solutions to extremism, hate and polarisation.

The Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) is an independent nonprofit organisation dedicated to safeguarding human rights and reversing the rising global tide of hate, extremism and polarisation.

We combine sector-leading expertise in global extremist movements with advanced digital analysis of disinformation and weaponised hate to deliver innovative, tailor-made policy and operational responses to these threats.

ISD draws on fifteen years of anthropological research, leading expertise in global extremist movements, state-of-the-art digital analysis and a track record of trust and delivery in over 40 countries around the world to:

- Support central and local governments in designing and delivering evidence-based policies and programmes in response to hate, extremism, terrorism, polarisation and disinformation
- Empower youth, practitioners and community influencers through innovative education, technology and communications programmes.
- Advise governments and tech companies on policies and strategies to mitigate the online harms we face today and achieve a 'Good Web' that reflects our liberal democratic values

Only in collaboration with all of these groups can we hope to outcompete the extremist mobilization of our time and build safe, free and resilient societies for generations to come.

All of ISD's programmes are delivered with the support of donations and grants. We have the data on what works. We now need your help to scale our efforts.

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