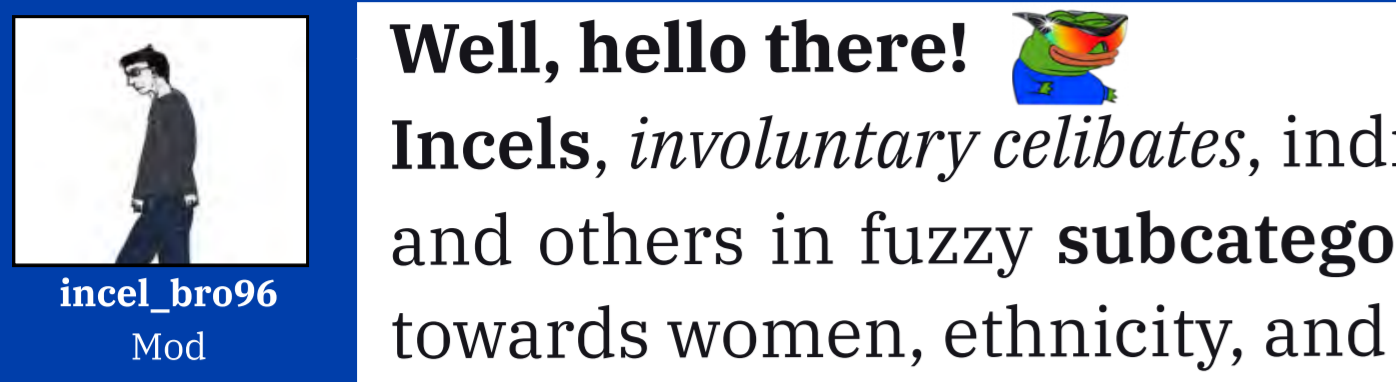


RESEARCH BACKGROUND INFORMATION

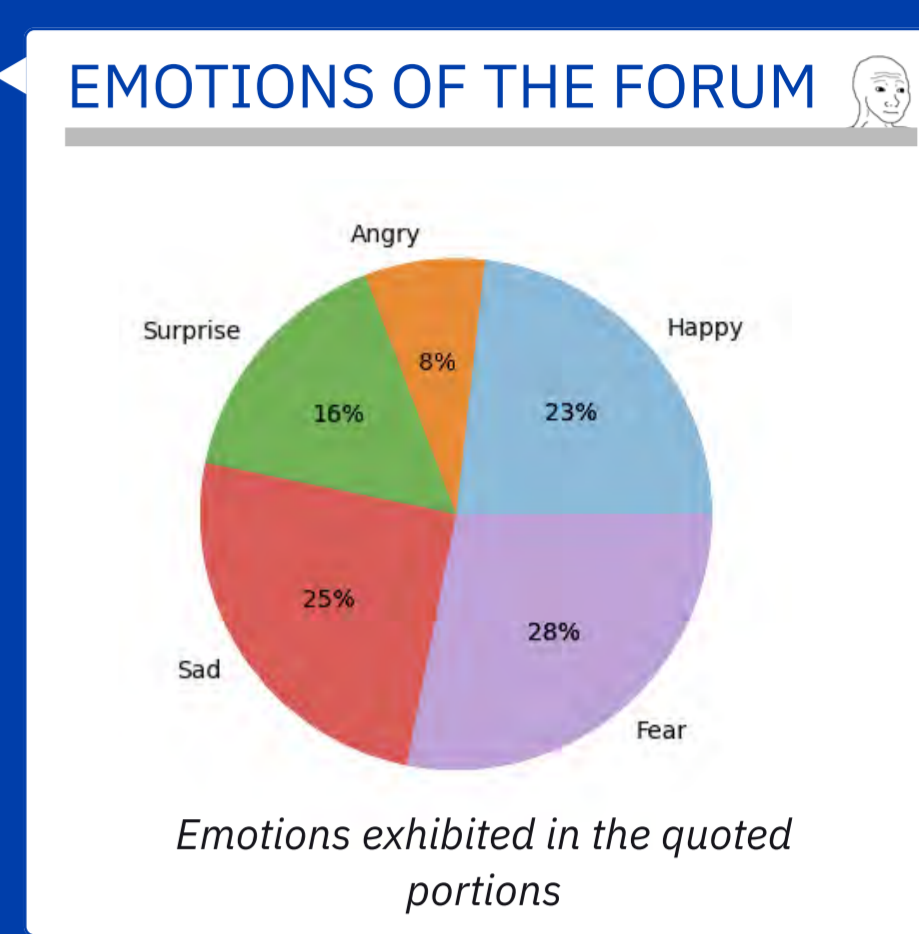
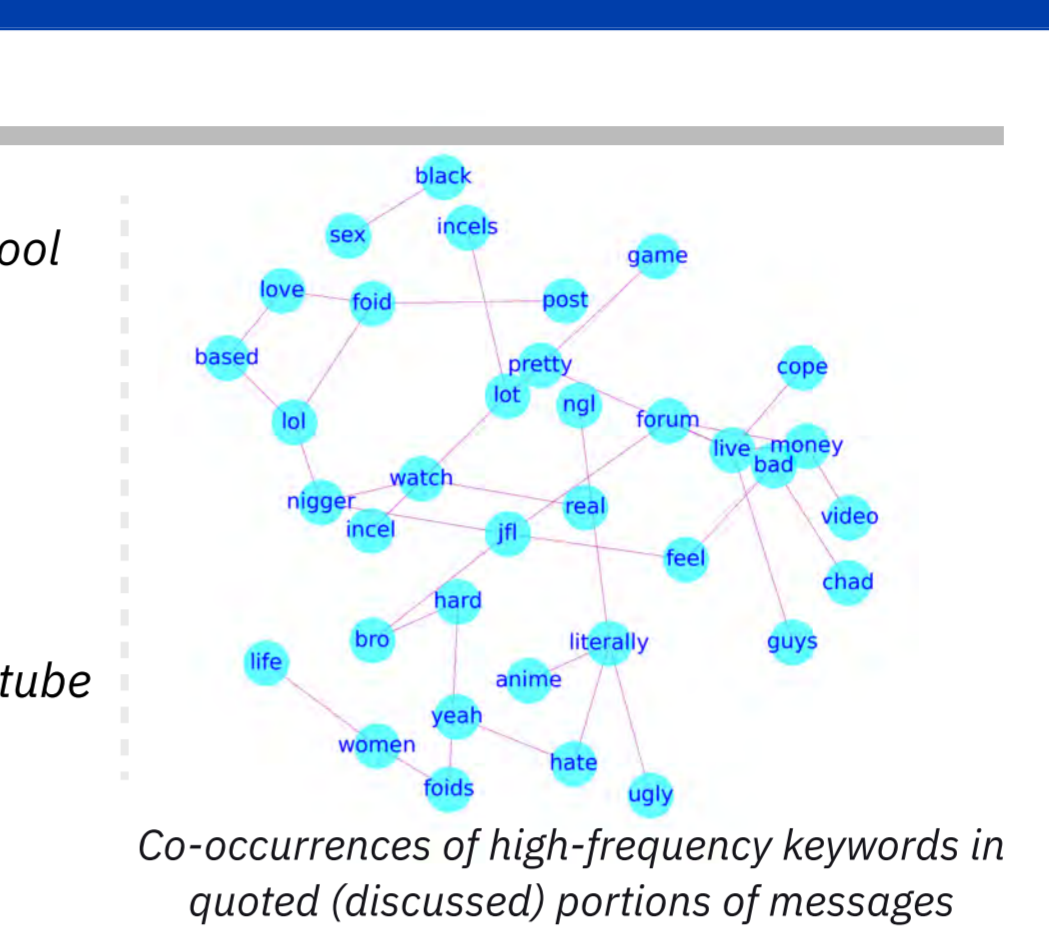
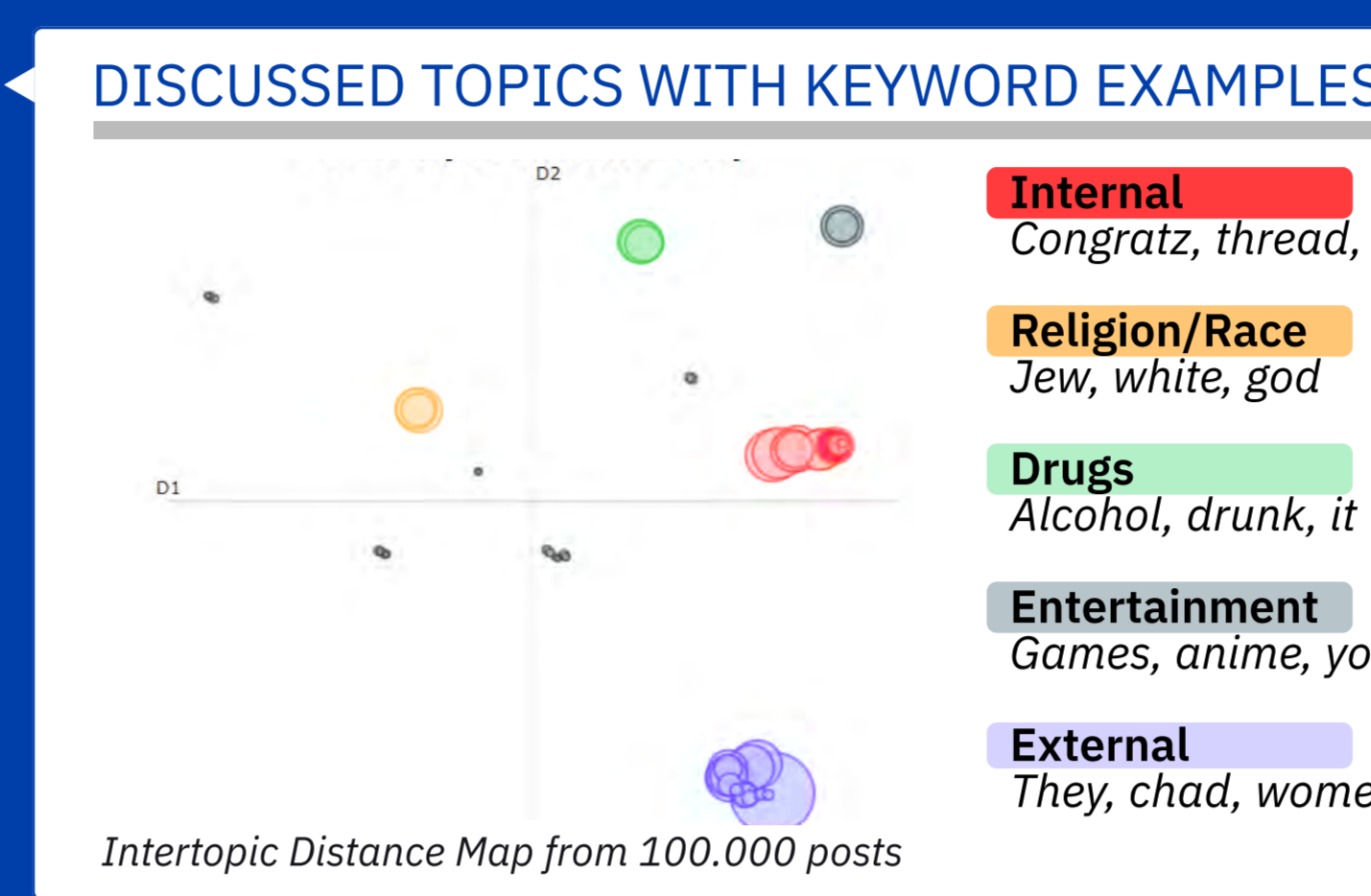
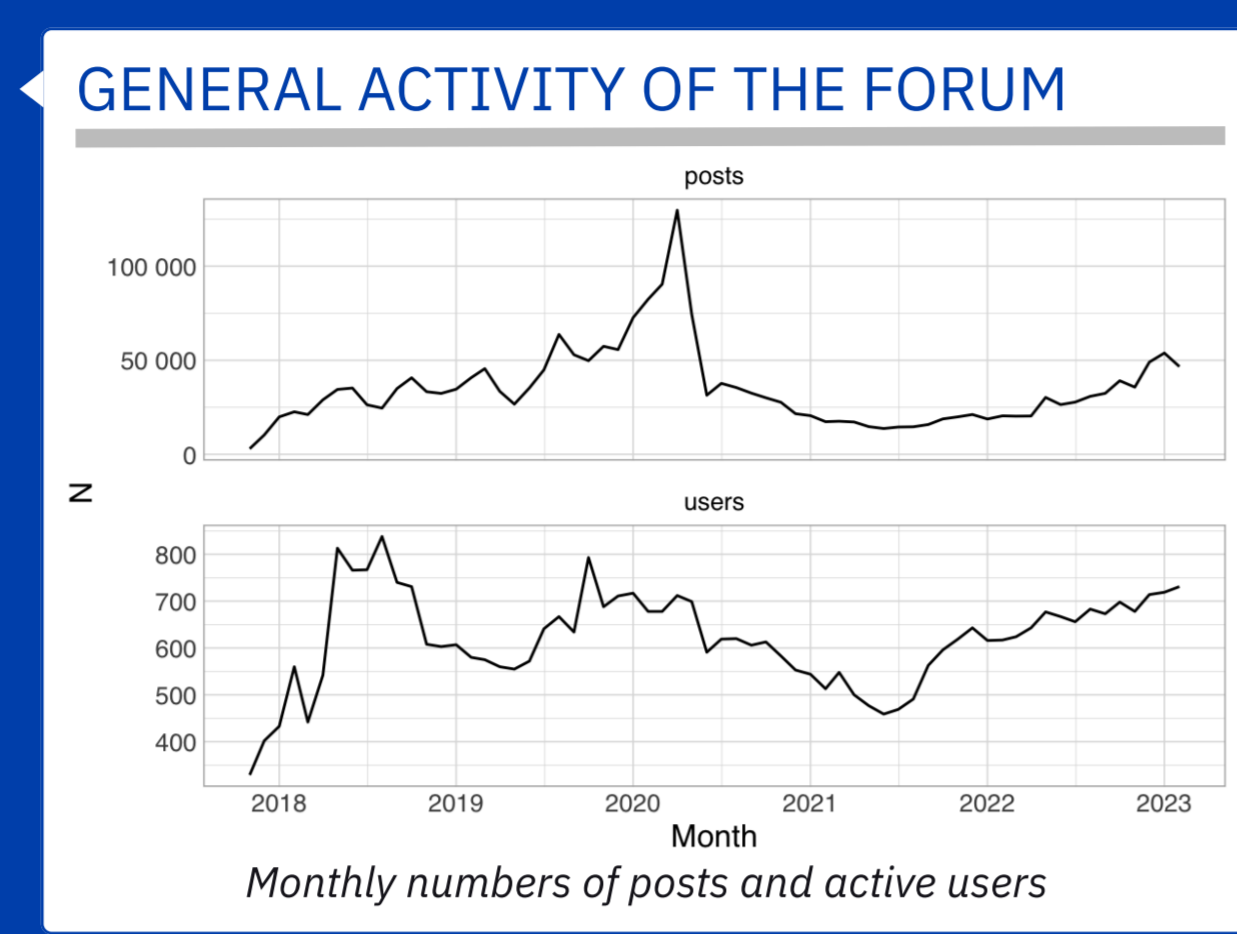
INTRODUCTION



Well, hello there!
Incels, *involuntary celibates*, indicate people who **feel unable to find a sexual or romantic partner** and **express hatred** towards those they blame for this. They divide themselves and others in fuzzy **subcategories** based on identity-related attributes. This phenomenon is part of a broader *masculinist backlash*. They share: The *Red Pill* ideology, hostility towards women, ethnicity, and LGBTQA+ individuals, slang, practices, and a reliance on pseudo-scientific theories to justify essentialist views and perpetuate stereotypes.

BACKGROUND

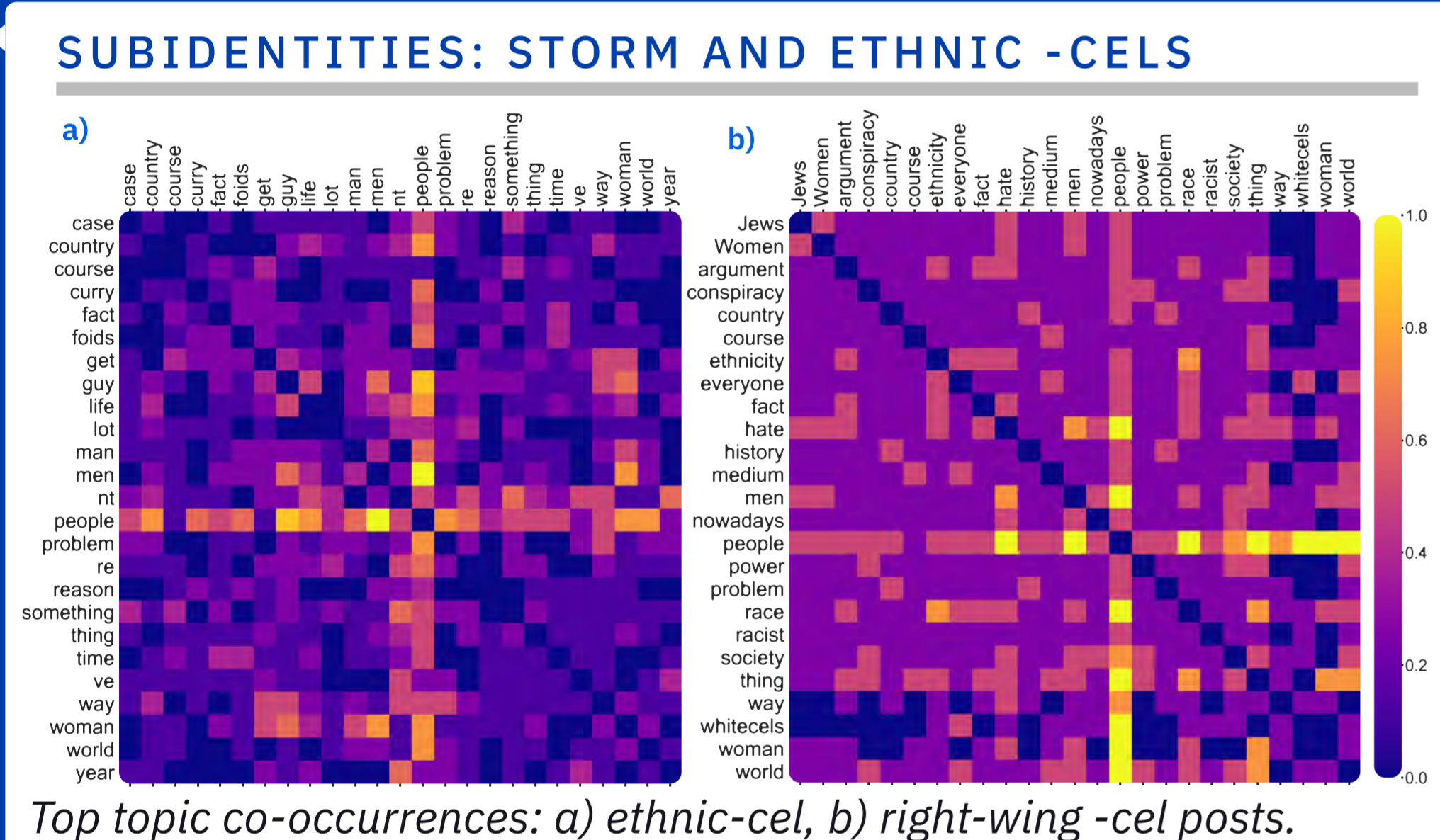
Redpill: Incels' theory stating the world being under a feminist and far-left delusion
Chad: Archetypal white alpha male supremacist idealized characteristics of the aryan men
Foid/femoids: Short for *female humanoid*, used to depict women as not entirely human
Cope: Strategies used to face adversity
Cuck: Negative term for users perceived to be weak
jfl: just a fucking lol
ngl: Not gonna lie
Stacey: A female counterpart of Chad



RESEARCH EXPERIMENTS

SELF-REPRESENTATION

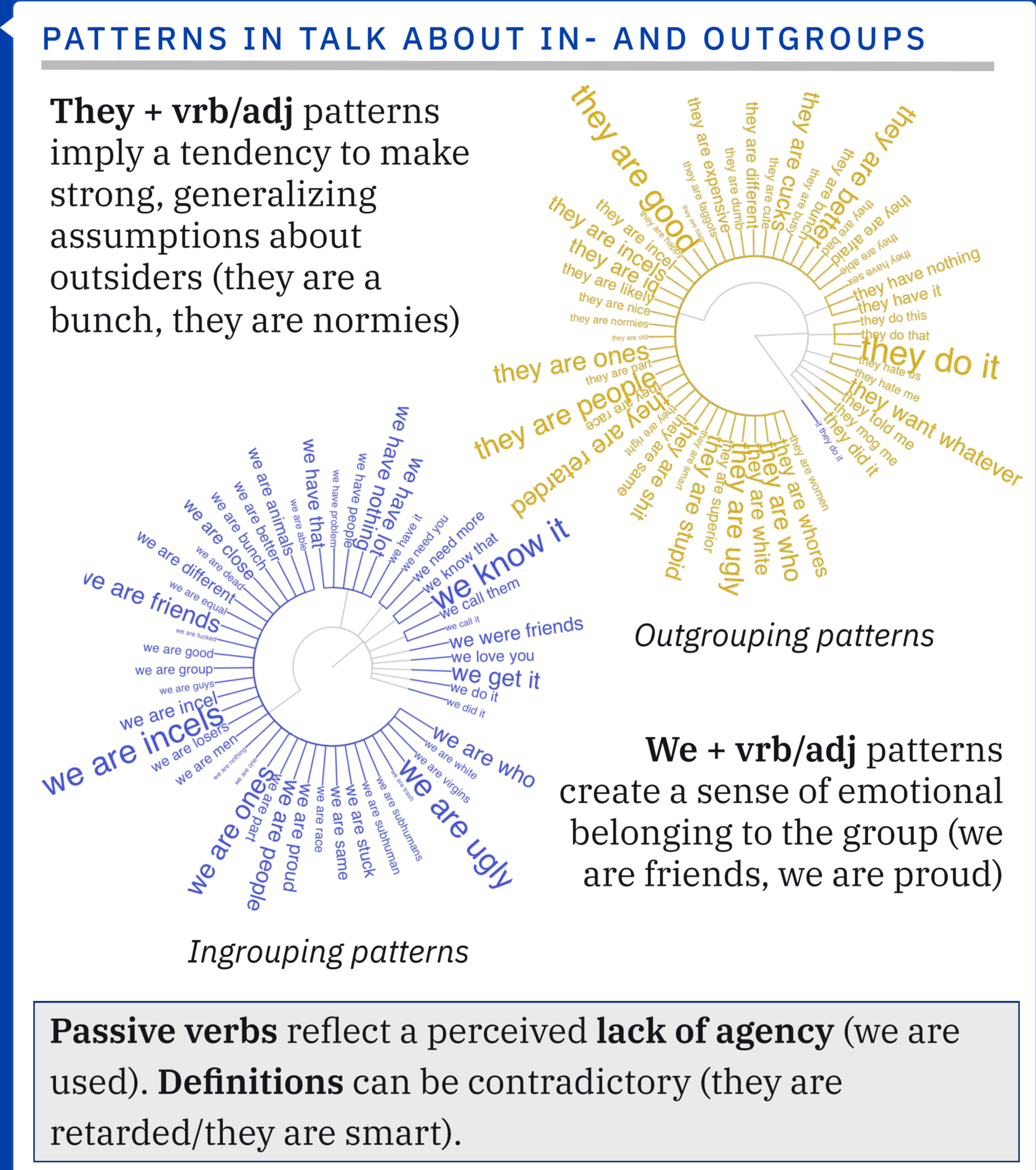
-CEL IDENTITY
The members of the forum use the **-cel suffix** very productively to negotiate identity. Altogether **10,987 different constructions** were identified, of which the 149 on the right (categorised by type) appear at least 50 times.



Right-wing *stormcel* discussions are tightly focused compared to *ethnic-cel* discussions.
While the topic *people* is the most prominent in both sets, topics related to it are different: *people-country*, *people-guy*, *people-life* for the *ethnic-cels*, and *people-hate*, *people-race*, *people-whitecel* for *stormcels*.
While both groups engage in the racist discussions, the sheer number of topics *ethnic-cels* cover **dilutes the racist discourse**, making them **invisible**.

IN/OUT-GROUPING STRATEGIES

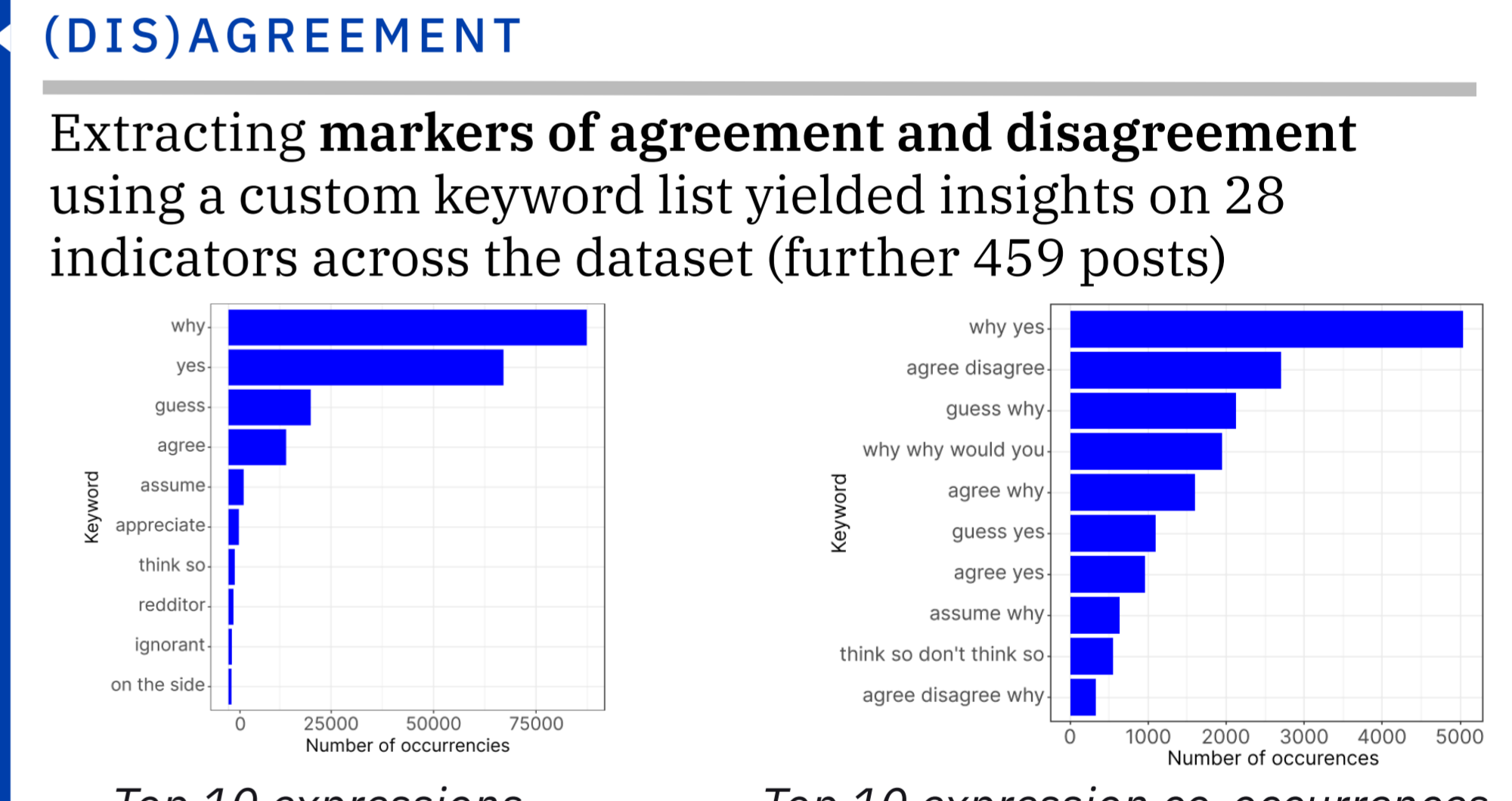
INCELDOM IS UNDER CONSTANT NEGOTIATION
Through **close reading** of 72 threads, what unites the forum is framing women as the common enemy. Yet, opinions vary:
• Only whites can be truecels ↔ all races pretty much same
• Women are the true enemy ↔ women are talked about and sexual encounters wanted
• Normal morals don't apply ↔ own strict behaviour codes
• Chads are stupid ↔ incels are worse than average people



Passive verbs reflect a perceived **lack of agency** (we are used). **Definitions** can be contradictory (they are retarded/they are smart).

DISCUSSION DYNAMICS

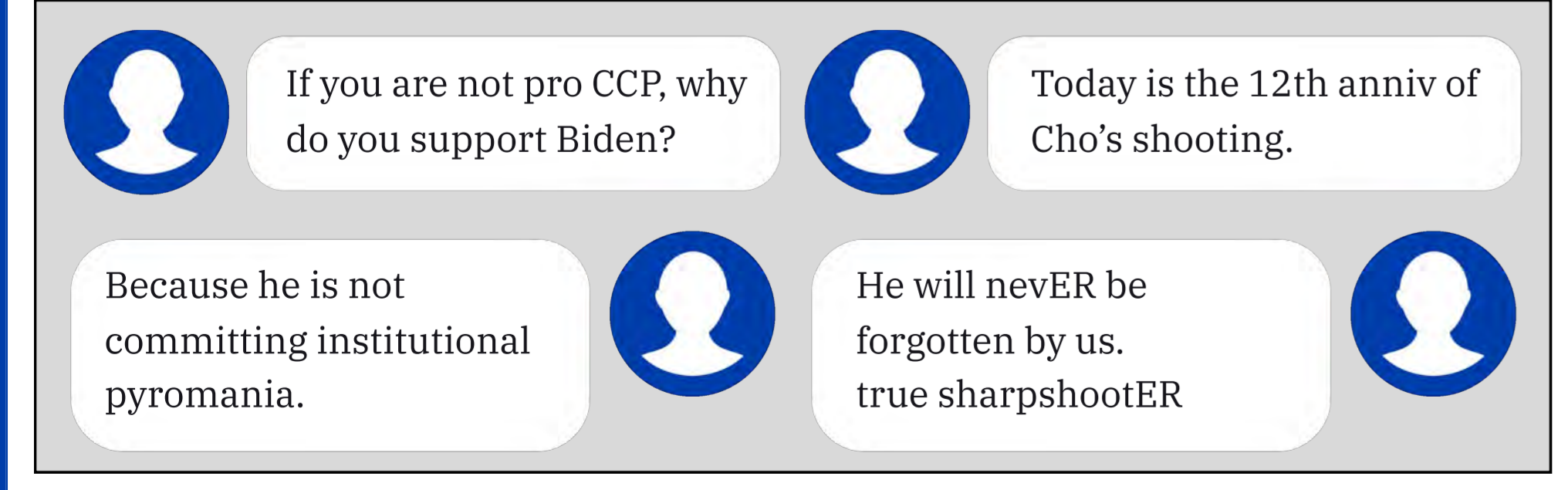
TYPES OF ENGAGEMENT
Looking at **threads with lots of unique posters and posts that get lots of replies**:
• Most engaging posts: short posts and opening posts
• Most engaging threads forum-wise:
• Language sub-communities (e.g. Polish, Portuguese)
• Large megathreads (e.g. image, World Cup threads)
• New Zealand shootings (event that interests incels)
At the same time, most threads have less than 100 posts. Below are a few examples:



Extracting **markers of agreement and disagreement** using a custom keyword list yielded insights on 28 indicators across the dataset (further 459 posts)
• *why* → **potentially a request** for further explanation or **openness** to discussion
• indicators of clear disagreement, e.g. *redditor*, **infrequent**
• **Disagreement found around particular topics:**
• Race and ethnicity,
• Inceldom,
• Religion, and
• Men/Women

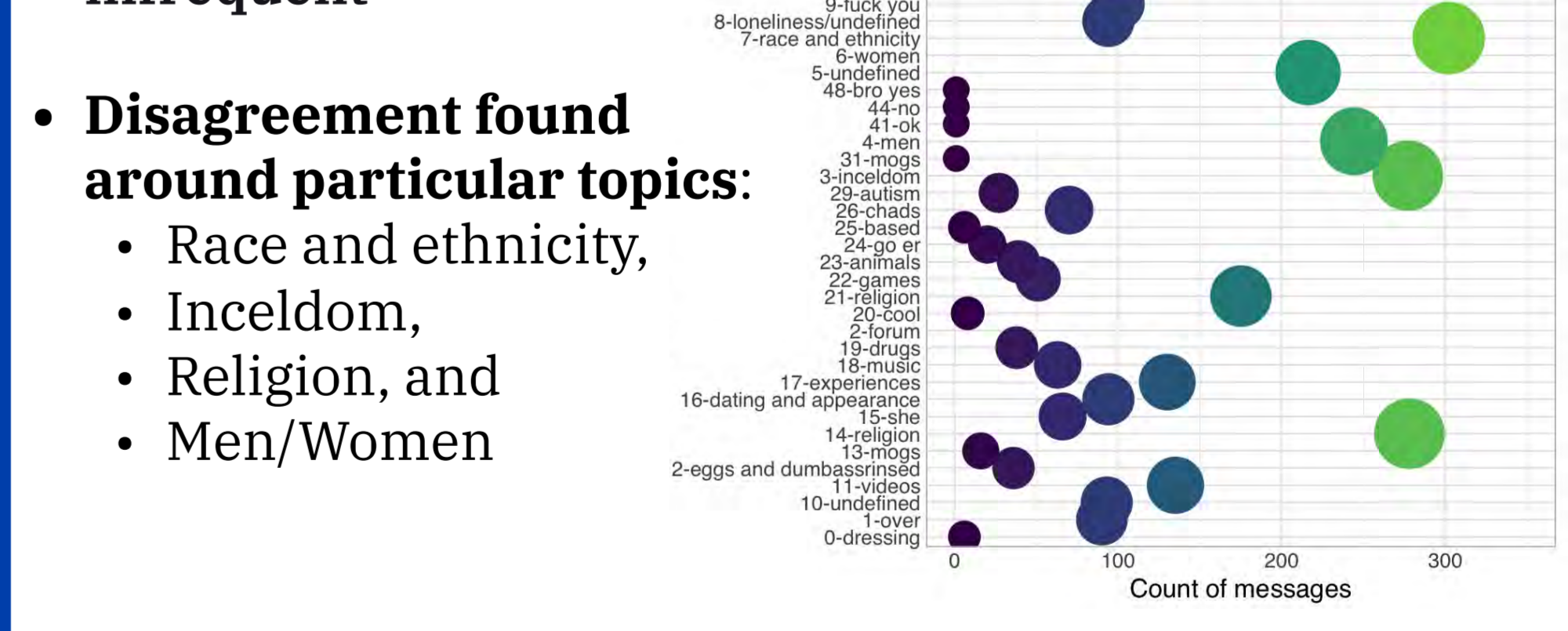
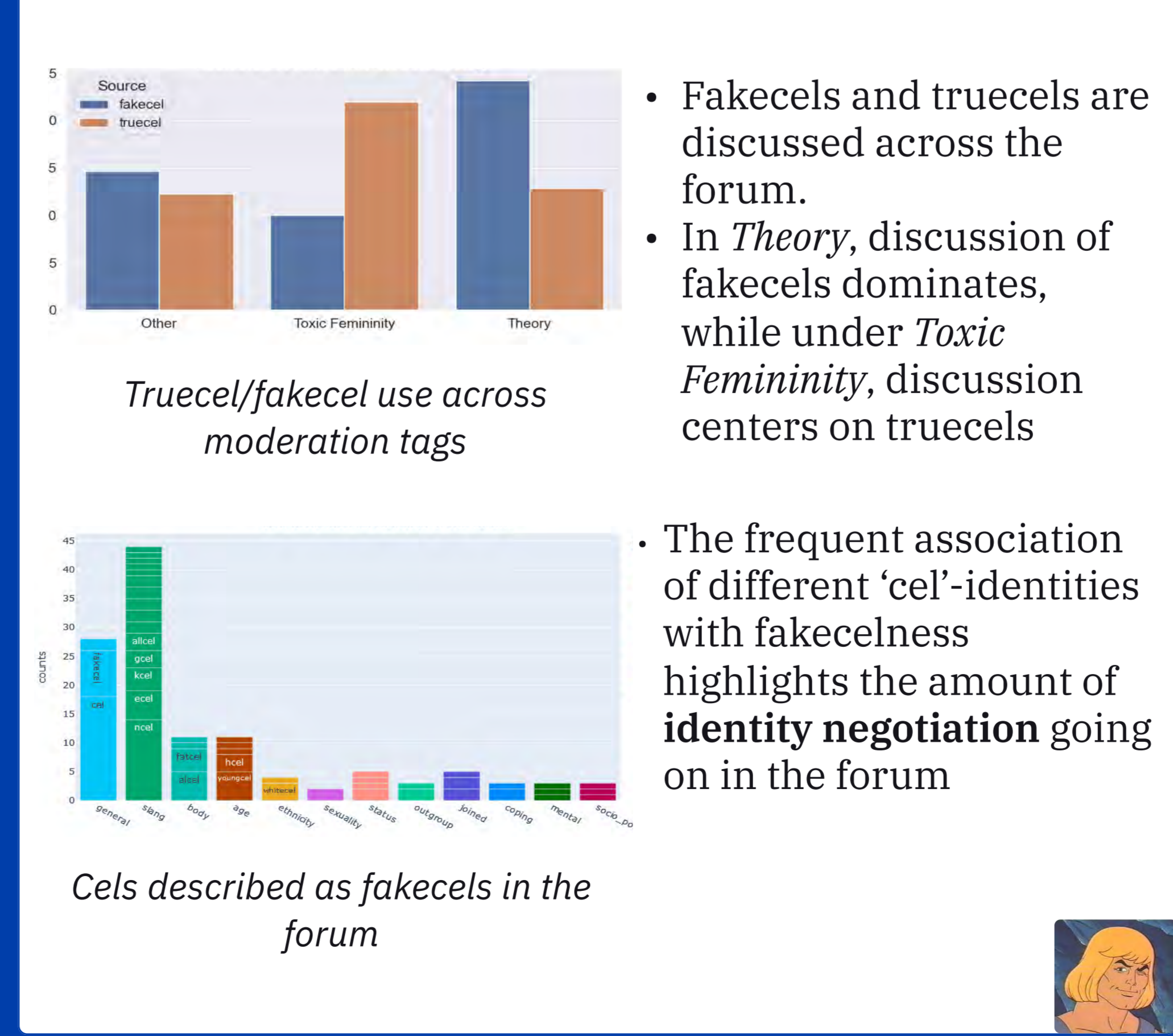
AT THE SAME TIME, -CEL IS NOT ENOUGH! MANY LINGUISTIC VARIABLES CODE IDENTITY

Close reading 138 posts covering incel-focused and other topics, we extracted 726 expressions of opinion, experience, group self-determination/differentiation, choice of language, etc. The number and style of expressions varied immensely. E.g., opinion markers appeared 0.2-2.5 times per post.



Thus, methodologies focusing only on the incel register **miss a significant part of the dynamics!**

TRUECELS AND FAKECELS



CONVERSATION STRUCTURE ('FAKECEL' MENTIONED)

• **sub-conversations** started by 'fakecel' posts are **not long** ((avg = 2.4 posts)
• posts with 'fakecel' receive **more replies than normal posts** (p < 0.05)
• **Long line** conversations happen between 2 users, more users could shorten the conversation

RESEARCH CONCLUSION

While incels construct **strong boundaries** around their community under the **duality of hatred and desire of women** and basing on **strong opposites** (good vs evil), they also constantly **disagree on identities and boundaries**. Inside the forum, there are distinct **sub-communities** around sexuality, ethnicity, social roles and classes. To facilitate this discussion, the incels employ **sophisticated customs and strategies of politeness**. **Mostly, their conversations are short**, with long exchanges happening **between closed pairs of users**. Yet there are also **"super contributors" who inject themselves into conversations**. Still, the cornerstone of discussion is **the notion of the true- and the fake-cel**.