

THE ONLINE SUBCULTURE OF THE INCELS

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What are the Incels?

- The Incels (Involuntary Celibates) are an online community whose members define themselves by their inability to form or access sexual relationships with women.
- Demographically, this community is mostly comprised of young white males.
- Individuals associated with this ideology have carried out a number notable attacks in recent years:
 - 2014: Elliot Rogers - Isla Vista, USA.
 - 2015: Chris Harper-Mercer – Roseburg, USA.
 - 2018: Alek Minassian - Toronto, Canada.
 - 2018: Scott Beierle – Tallahassee, USA.
 - 2020: (unnamed due to age) – Toronto, Canada.
 - 2021: Robert Aaron Long - Atlanta, USA.

Incels outside of the USA and Canada

- Preliminary data indicates that there is a large Incel presence in Germany and Italy; needs to be verified.
- In the UK:
 - 2020: Trial of Anwar Driouich – Middlesbrough, UK.
 - 2020: Trial of Gabrielle Friel – Edinburgh, UK.
 - 2021: Jake Davison – Plymouth, UK.
- Unclear whether these cases were driven by purely ideology or whether there were other factors at play.

See: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/whats-new/publications/incels-first-scan-phenomenon-eu-and-its-relevance-and-challenges-pcve_en

The Incel ideology

- The Incel ideology is a misogynistic one.
- It is based on the notion that attractiveness is pre-determined by genetic factors and that physical features are the only ones that women find attractive in men.
- Incels then believe these physical traits to be substandard in themselves.
- They compare themselves using various forms of *lookism theories*, which is drawn from eugenics to describe the archetypal man.

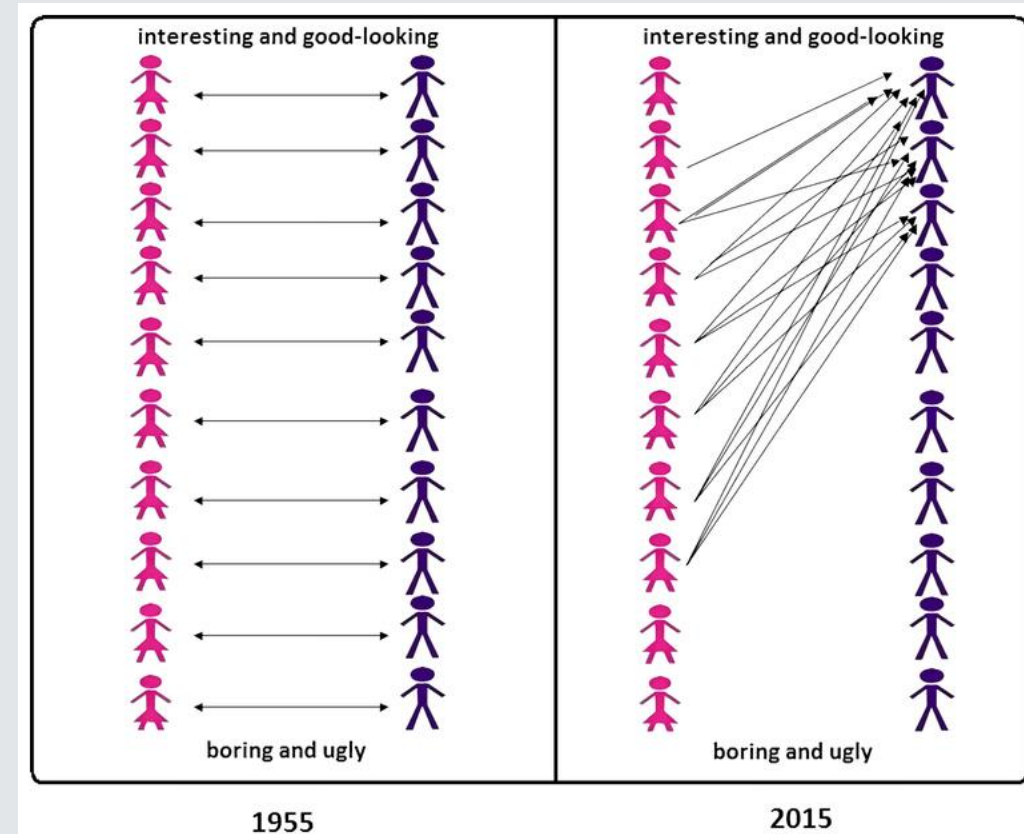


It is widely regarded by lookists that **facial aesthetics** often beats **physicality** in **attractiveness** for women's preference.

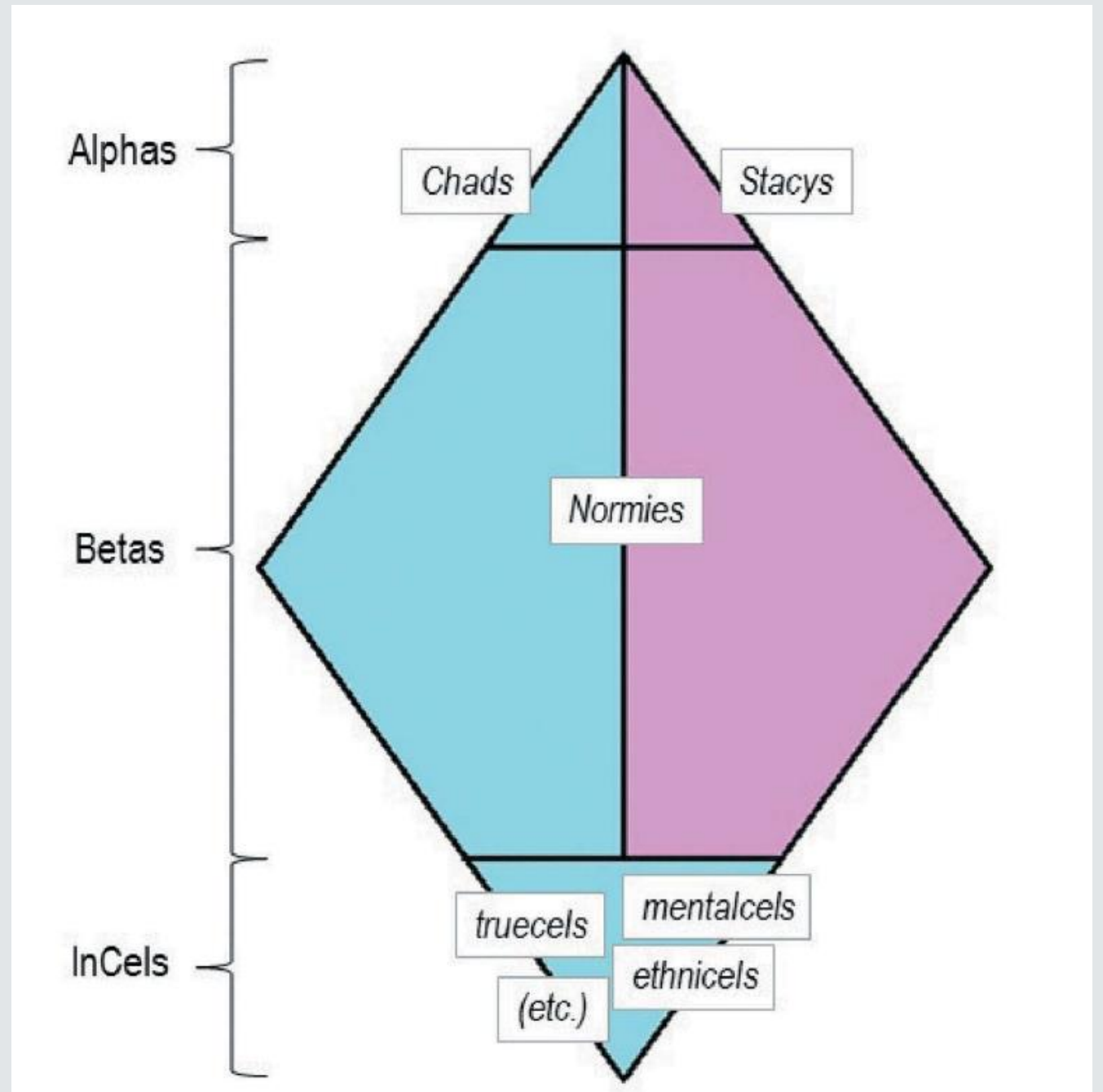
From the lookism article on incels.wiki

Incels view of women

- Incels believe that women are evolutionarily predetermined to seek out mates through a process called hypergamy.
- Women are seen as driven only by their desire to sexually reproduce with attractive men.
- Hypergamy = the notion that women are more sexually selective, have more narrow views of attractiveness, and lower levels promiscuity than men.
- Thus, women only seek out the most attractive men.
- They believe that prior to advancements in women's rights, hypergamy was kept in check due to the need for social and financial security.
- Now the hypergamous behaviour of women dominates the sexual marketplace, with women opting for sexual relationships with a small number of highly attractive men; the 80/20 rule.



The Incel social hierarchy



Pilling

- Blue pill = Those who are ignorant to the way that the world “really is”; i.e. those who do not abide to Incel ideology.
- Red pill = Those who are aware of the aforementioned social structures and dynamics.
- Black pill = Knowing that these social structures and groupings are immutable.

- The notion of the black pill is often used in discussions of suicide.
- This black pill is relatively unique amongst extremist ideologies.



Origins of the Incel community

- The Incel ideology stems from a loose conglomerate of online anti-woman communities known as the “manosphere”.
- The Incel community was originally a self-help group.
- The manosphere included groups such as Men’s Rights Advocates (MRA), Men Go Their Own Way (MGTOW), Pick-up Artists (PUA), and more recently, the Incels.
- Over time, these groups have become increasingly hateful and misogynistic, with ever-more discussions of violence.
- Some contain discourse scoring similar levels of “toxicity of discussion” measures as well-known far-right platforms like Gab.
- We have recently seen a migration of the user base from more open platforms, such as online forums, to closed groups; i.e. Telegram groups and Discord.



Is the Incel ideology and extremist one?

- The Incel ideology:
 1. Exhibits all of the hallmarks of an extremist ideology, such as in-groups/out-groups and crisis/solution narratives.
 2. Is a supremacist ideology.

In-groups and out-groups

- In the aforementioned hierarchy, the out-groups (featuring women as well as alphas and betas) are depicted in an extremely negative way and dehumanised through the use of negative adjectives and specific terms; i.e. “femoids” or “roasties” for women.
- Women are also portrayed as only capable of simple emotions, such as sexual desire, and guided by anti-social values; i.e. cheating on their partners or manipulating men for sex or money.
- Incels are unique in that they are highly critical of the in-group while still holding it in regard.

Crisis/solution narratives

The crisis:

- The Incel worldview's crisis/solution narratives draw on the "politics of profound nostalgia".
- This characterises the broader men's rights movement in the form of a mythical past golden age of a patriarchal society.
- This society was characterised by traditional gender roles, where women married young and monogamy was the rule.
- In this society, all men were entitled to sex with women, which was never denied, and romantic practices guided social interactions and practices.
- Thus rendering looks and pleasure largely irrelevant.
- Hypergamy was tamed during this golden age due to laws and social norms/conventions that, therefore, ensured a "fair" distribution of relationships.
- Over time, this worldview has integrated with several beliefs about the nature of society and politics; i.e. the "lookist" society and that feminism, liberalism, and technological progress are to blame for these changes
- All of which are oppressive to men such as themselves.

The solution:

- The solution is unique amongst extremist ideologies because it is so nihilistic.

Incels and male supremacy

- White supremacist extremism is the most common and most lethal form.
- But male supremacy, Western supremacy, religious supremacy, etc, all rely on the same logic and hierarchies of superiority.
- Inferiority that dehumanise the “other” while simultaneously presenting “them” as posing an existential threat to “us.”
- Supremacists also see themselves as entitled to a world in which inferior groups exist to fulfil their needs.
- Thus, perceived violations of that entitlement are met with extreme rage and sometimes violence
- Ironically, while Incels view themselves at the bottom of their hierarchy, they consider all men, including themselves, as superior to women.

Incels and the far-right

- There does appear to be some link between the Incel movement and the broader far-right, but the exact nature of this relationship is yet to be examined empirically.
- This comes in a number of forms:
 1. There are ideological overlaps between some aspects of far-right ideology and that of Incels, particularly in their use of racially charged and misogynistic language.
 2. Both communities often exhibit similar online sensibilities regarding their use of memes, etc.
 3. Some have even posited that parts of the far-right are preying on the insecurities of some of these young men and using their anti-female supremacist views as a gateway to lure them into forms of white supremacy; mostly anecdotal.
- As we have seen in other ideologies, there is likely to be a “lockdown effect” with the Incels.

Incel terminology

- Like any subculture, the Incels have their own language, customs, and norms.
- For Incels, this is extensive.

Chad: The archetypal alpha male believed to be favoured by society due to stereotypically Aryan good looks, genes, bone structure, hair, and height.

Chaddam: An Arab Chad.

Chadfshing: A form of catfishing where Incels create dating profiles using images of conventionally attractive men. It is usually used to prove that women are more likely to interact with someone online if they are physically attracted to them.

Chadlite: A term used to refer to a lower tier Chad.

Chadpreet: An Indian Chad.

Chang: An East Asian Chad.

Going ER: Named after Elliot Rodger, this term is used by Incels to describe or laud the act of committing mass murder, or murder-suicide.

Goy/Goyim: Hebrew and Yiddish term for a non-Jewish person, synonymous with “gentile.” Used by far-right and occasionally Incel forum users to signify their non-Jewish ethnicity, reclaiming what they interpret to be a derogatory term used by the Jewish community as a way of taking pride in the fact that they are not Jewish.

Gymmmaxxing: Going to the gym to improve one’s physical attractiveness in order to access sex

Jihadpill: Accepting that the only way of accessing sexual and romantic relationships is by becoming a jihadist or committing jihad.

Jihadmaxxing: Accessing sexual and romantic relationships by becoming a jihadist

THANK YOU

Any questions?

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- A Short Introduction To The Involuntary Celibate Sub-Culture – Brace:
<https://crestresearch.ac.uk/resources/a-short-introduction-to-the-involuntary-celibate-sub-culture/>
- From “Incel” to “Saint”:
Analyzing the violent worldview behind the 2018 Toronto attack – Baele, Brace & Coan:
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2019.1638256>