

Curated Hatred: Emotion and Ideology as Conditions for Constrained Writing

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Abstract

This paper investigates discourse on the social media platform X, specifically comments on posts from British newspapers which were critical of the far-right political ideology. The author will attempt to reframe constrained writing not as an emancipatory experimental writing technique, but as something practiced by the far-right on X through the constraints of emotion and ideology. Discussed are the psychological, social and technological constraints applicable to this ideological group. The paper also documents the artist's novel adaptation of erasure poetry which employs the creation of fonts to depict the obliteration of oppositional ideas. These fonts are animated in order to enact the 'cognitive erasure' that occurs when an adherent encounters identity-threatening information online. This is paired with a series of comments online which hold anti-media sentiment expressed in strong language, indicating that ideology and emotion constrain the diversity of opinion and quality of discourse among the far-right on social media.