

Fear of Isolation, Online Efficacy, and Selective Exposure in Online Political Discourse

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Abstract : This study explores how individual motivations in political psychology will lead to political expression and online discourse, and how those online political discourses result in individuals' exposure to extreme/ personally-entertaining/ disinhibiting content. This study argues that a new framework beyond the conventional paradigm (e.g., selective exposure based on partisanship/ ideology) is needed for better grasp of non-ideological/ anarchic, and/or of nonpartisan yet anonymity-/ extremity-/ disinhibition-related online behaviors regarding political conversations. Further, this study proposes a new definition of 'selective exposure,' with special attention to online efficacy and psychological motivations/gratifications sought in the online sphere.

Keywords : selective exposure, fear of isolation, political psychology, online discourse

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