Understanding digital racism and xenophobia: Toward a theoretical model

Mattias Ekman

Stockholm University

mattias.ekman@ims.su.se

Interactive Racism in Swedish Online Media, Press and Politics: Discourses on Immigration and Refugees at Times of Crisis

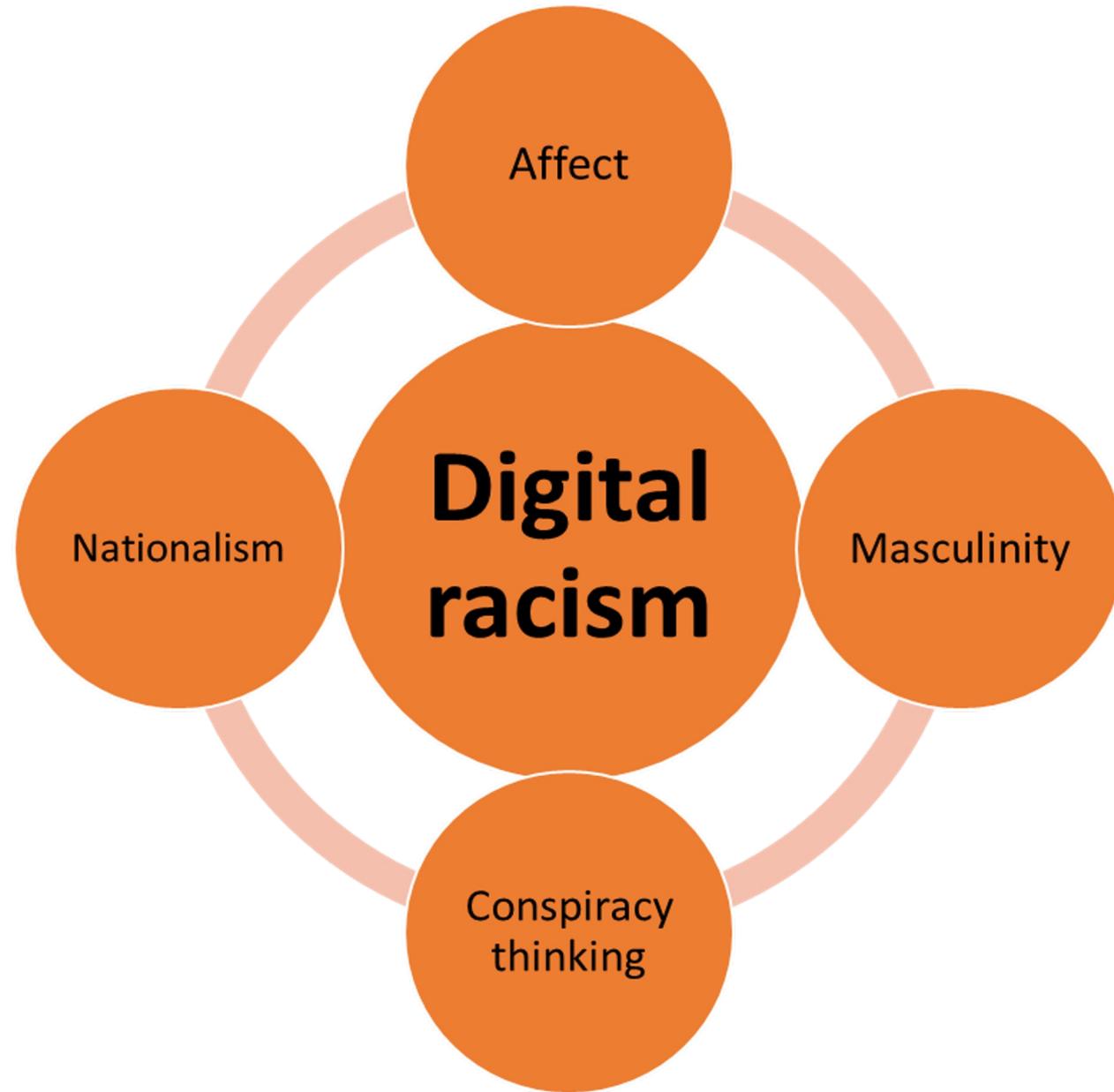Project nr: 2016-05464. The Swedish Research Council (2017-2020).

Immigration and the Normalization of Racism: Discursive Shifts in Swedish Politics and Media 2010-22

Project nr: 2019-03354. The Swedish Research Council (2021-2023).

Vetenskapsrådet

(networked) Affect

- **Online economies of fear and hate**

  Affect as a political driver online

  Cultural politics of emotions

  Shared affective experiences and imaginaries

- **Affective networks**

- **Collective and individual victimization**

- **Everyday digital racism; Ambient racism**

Nationalism

- **Nativism; Ethnonationalism; Ethnocracy**
- **Palingenesis**
- **From securitization** (of borders) **to existential threats**
- **Femonationalism**

    Native (white) women's bodies as ideological "battleground"
- **Everyday, banal & ambient expressions of inclusion/exclusion**

Masculinity

- "Natural" and "genuine" masculinity as response to the "crisis of masculinity"
- Violence
- Anti-feminism
- Masculine identity politics
- Manosphere: "Männerbund", Vigilante groups
- Collective victimization
- Lone wolf terrorists

Conspiracy thinking and theories

- **Anti-Semitic conspiracies as the foundation**
- **The great Replacement**
- **Islamization; Eurabia**
- **Deep State**
- **Conspiracy networks; Q-Anon**
- **Sovereign citizen movements** (and its various versions internationally)
- **Lone wolf terrorists**

	Affect	Nationalism	Masculinity	Conspiracy thinking
Macro level	Affect as a political driver online; Cultural politics of emotions (hate; fear, etc. as drivers for engagment and identity building);	Ideas and ideologies of exclusion/inclusion; Palingenesis; Ethnocracy; Nativism; Femonationalism	"Natural" and "genuine" masculinity as response to the "crisis" of masculinity; Violence; Anti-feminism; Masculine identity politics	Anti-Semitic conspiracies as the foundation; The great Replacement; Islamization; Eurabia; Deep State
Meso level	Communities with closure; Shared affective experiences; Affective networks; Collective victimization; The (online) circulation of emotions	Group cohesion on social platforms; Campaigns targeting out-groups as threats to national security; Nativist discourse by far-right political actors: Native women's bodies as "battleground" in the protection of the nation	Männerbund; Manosphere; Vigilante groups; Collective victimization; Perceived loss of "natural" order and authority	Conspiracy networks; Sovereign citizen movements; Q-Anon; Circulation of conspiracy content; Moralization of in/out-groups; Vigilante groups; Collective victimization
Micro level	Experiences of violence: Articulations and expressions of hate, animosity, fear, etc.; Individual victimization; Everyday digital racism; Ambient racism	Everyday, banal & ambient forms of utterances/attitudes of inclusion/exclusion; Immigration as existential threat to nation, culture; Expressions of palingenesis (personal expressions of idealized pasts)	Lone Wolf terrorists (Incels); Articulations of anti-feminism; Individual victimization; Contempt towards the "hypermasculinity" of immigrant men and the "hypomasculinity" of "feminized" European men	Lone Wolf terrorists; Individual victimization; Articulations of conspiracy, including racial conspiracy, content

Thanks for listening!