



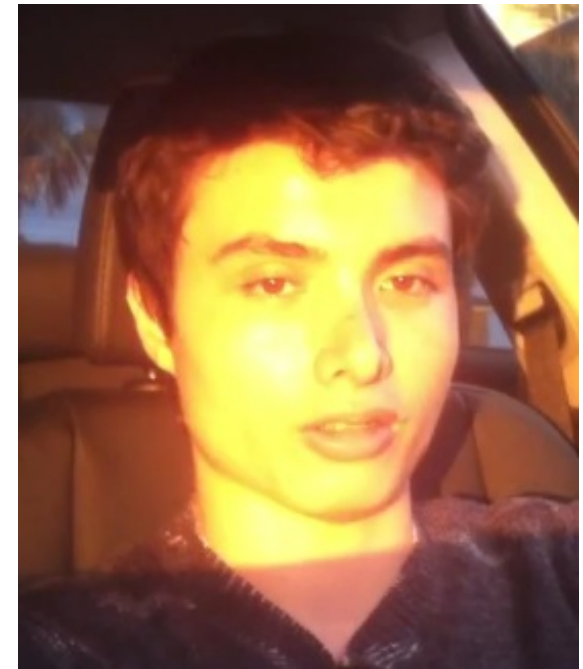
# Construction of male and female identities by a misogynistic murderer: A corpus-based discourse analysis of Elliot Rodger's manifesto

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# Elliot Rodger: 'The Virgin Killer'



- On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014, Elliot Rodger killed 6 people and injured 13 others in Isla Vista, California.
- Left behind a series of YouTube videos and a violently misogynistic 'manifesto'.
- "Humanity... All of my suffering on this world has been at the hands of humanity, particularly women (...) All I ever wanted was to fit in and live a happy life amongst humanity, but I was cast out and rejected, forced to endure an existence of loneliness and insignificance, all because the females of the human species were incapable of seeing the value in me."



<http://www.splcenter.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Elliot-Rodger.jpg>

# Semantic Tagging

- A way of tagging words according to their meaning.
- Wmatrix incorporates the USAS semantic tag set.
- K2: Music and related activities, K6: Children's games and toys, S3: Relationship, S9: Religion and the supernatural etc.

<b>A</b> general and abstract terms	<b>B</b> the body and the individual	<b>C</b> arts and crafts	<b>E</b> emotion
<b>F</b> food and farming	<b>G</b> government and public	<b>H</b> architecture, housing and the home	<b>I</b> money and commerce in industry
<b>K</b> entertainment, sports and games	<b>L</b> life and living things	<b>M</b> movement, location, travel and transport	<b>N</b> numbers and measurement
<b>O</b> substances, materials, objects and equipment	<b>P</b> education	<b>Q</b> language and communication	<b>S</b> social actions, states and processes
<b>T</b> Time	<b>W</b> world and environment	<b>X</b> psychological actions, states and processes	<b>Y</b> science and technology
<b>Z</b> names and grammar			

# Methodology

- Collocation analysis (both word and semantic).
- Definition of search terms.

<b>S2.1 – People: female</b>	<b>S2.2 – People: male</b>
Female	Male
Females	Males
Woman	Man
Women	Men
Girl	Boy
Girls	Boys
Girlfriend	Guy
Girlfriends	Guys
	Boyfriend
	Boyfriends

# The Discourses



- Homogenous Groups
- Appearance
- Hatred and Revenge
- Women are Goals
- Men are Able
- **Women are Unjustly Powerful**

# Homogenous Groups

- Rodger constructs both women and men as homogenous, but separate, groups of society.

destroy it. I will destroy	<b>all women</b>	because I can never have them
and wage a war against	<b>all women</b>	and the men they
will be a god, punishing	<b>women and all of humanity</b>	for their depravity
to finally strike back at	<b>women and humanity</b>	, with all my rage
just proves how ridiculous the	<b>female gender</b>	is. They would g
attractive. My hatred of the	<b>female gender</b>	could grow no stronger

just fight a bitter struggle against all	<b>other men</b>	to reach the top. Humans are
in life. Instead, I had to watch	<b>other men</b>	experience my idea of heaven w
I could never keep up with the	<b>other boys</b>	in the field, so I always
. I still felt inferior whenever I saw	<b>other guys</b>	walking with beautiful girls.

# Appearance

- Rodger constructs both women and men in terms of their appearance.

with them, even with the	<b>pretty girls</b>	. I would gradually
who has sex with two	<b>hot girls</b>	in a swimming pool.
even be able to get	<b>hot young girls</b>	because
there was this extremely	<b>hot blonde girl</b>	who took the
partying and having sex with	<b>beautiful girls</b>	, living the li

groups of	<b>good looking</b>	teenage boys and girls
eat social life. He was tall,	<b>good looking</b>	, blonde-haired, and a skate
as if he wasn't a	<b>freckled</b>	, chubby-faced imbecile
hone. How could an inferior, ugly	<b>black</b>	boy be able to get a white girl
his is actually true, if this ugly	<b>black</b>	filth was able to have sex with

# Hatred and Revenge



- Rodger constructs women as the cause of his pain, as objects of his hatred, and as targets for his revenge.

had no inkling of the	<b>pain</b>	and misery girls would cause me
my entire life and bring me immense	<b>pain</b>	. The feelings of jealousy I felt at
increased my already boiling	<b>hatred towards all women</b>	. I could not leave my
about as I burned with	<b>hatred towards all women</b>	for rejecting me
Retribution is mainly my war	<b>against women</b>	for rejecting me
and capable of fighting back	<b>against the cruelty of women</b>	. Back when I was
actually going to wage war	<b>against women</b>	and all of humanity



# Women are Goals



- Women are goals to be achieved, but Rodger cannot achieve them.

wealthy so that I could	<b>attract beautiful girls</b>	and live the life I want
matter how hard I tried,	<b>girls were not attracted</b>	to me
no one was paying any	<b>attention to me, particularly the girls</b>	
I never had that kind of	<b>attention from a white girl</b>	!
I never have love . Girls deem me	<b>unworthy</b>	of it , I thought to myself
to remind me that girls think Im	<b>unworthy</b>	compared to other boys
couldnt . I knew they would all	<b>reject</b>	me . What I saw during
those evil , slutty bitches who	<b>rejected</b>	me

# Men are Able



- Whilst Rodger fails to achieve the goal of attracting women, other men are able to have these experiences.

I had none. I saw other	<b>men being able</b>	to experience it with their girlfriends
is very unfair how some	<b>boys are able</b>	to live such pleasurable lives
lonely celibacy while other	<b>boys were allowed to experience</b>	the pleasures of sex
girlfriend. To watch another	<b>boy experience</b>	it, with a beautiful girl
of sex and love. Other	<b>men are able</b>	to have such a life... so why
eve it. The short, chubby	<b>guy was able</b>	to get a girl into his room before

# Women are Unjustly Powerful



- Women have ultimate power over men, but they use this power wrongly.
- **Homogeneity:** ALL women have power over ALL men.
- **Appearance:** Despite some men having the ‘wrong’ appearance, women use their power unjustly by ‘choosing’ these men.
- **Hatred and revenge:** women must be punished for exercising their power over men so wrongly.
- **Women are goals and men are able** to achieve them: Women are something to be attained by men, but it is women who have the power to decide which men get to achieve this goal, and they often choose the wrong men.

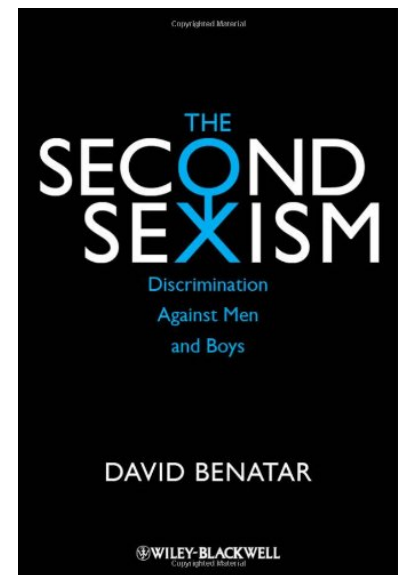
# The New Misogyny

- Women are not oppressed by men, men are oppressed by women.
- “Feminism has reached suffocating heights of power.”
- There is a need for a male version of feminism.



**MEN'S RIGHTS ASSOCIATION**  
*Empowered Men*

<http://cass.lancs.ac.uk>



# Conclusion



- 5 discourses: homogenous groups, appearance, hatred and revenge, women as goals, and men as able. All contribute to the overarching discourse of women as unjustly powerful.
- Analysis of Rodger's manifesto shows that he clearly shares the opinion of Men's Rights Activists and other supporters of the new misogyny.
- Expression of these views is dangerous because it dehumanises women, and positions them as an enemy.