FELONY AND IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION THROUGH DIGITAL SPHERE: A STUDY OF DONALD TRUMP'S X POSTINGS IN THE POST-ELECTED ERA (NOVEMBER 2024)

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Abstract

This study focuses on the construction of felony and political identities that derive from Donald Trump's use of X, previously Twitter, in post-elected era (November 2024). It particularly looks at how digital platforms might be used in forming public identities that have social, legal, and political relevance. By using qualitative content analysis of the selected tweets, the study puts into context Trump's narration practices of establishing his identity as a victim of political persecution and a foreteller of national crises while positioning himself as a powerful national leader. It investigates the potential legal consequences of his political discourse in the X, including but not limited to defamation, misinformation, mellowing, and getting the intent to incite. The study identifies ways in which Trump's activity on X contributes to the exacerbation of political polarization, the setting of legislative priorities, and the trust deficit in government institutions. It proposes a new perspective that portrays the phenomenon as multi-dimensional, straddling the intersection of digital identity formation, political engagement, and legal culture, thus confirming that the media persona sculpted by Trump has far-reaching consequences for conceptualizing contemporary communications discourse semantics and communication felonies in politics. In the end, the study makes suggestions on how to deal with the new risk of communication felony in politics. This includes focusing on media literacy enhancement, tightening legal nuances on digital political speech, and positively engaging in political speech on social media. These indeed are the challenges for political communication in the digital age that will require more research.

Keywords*: Felony, Identity Construction, Digital Sphere, Tweets*

INTRODUCTION

Due to the emergence of the internet, identity comes into existence and for people like Donald Trump, who grabs onto digital tools such as X (previously Twitter), he is able to shape the discussions around him. This research focuses on how Donald Trump's X post influenced the construction of his felony identity while considering the effects it has on political discourse, the audience, and accountability under the law. Donald J Trump is newly elected president of the USA in November 2024.

More than simply communicating policies or personal beliefs, Trump has permeated practices that teeter between dangerous speech and political discourse. These include misinformation and inciting actions that could blur the lines of legality. Looking at Trump's digital rhetoric sheds light on the portrayal of identity and its construction. For instance, how one presents oneself as a champion for a certain cause, an outsider, or a victim can both alienate and resonate with specific groups of people (Greenwood et al., 2016). This research will also delve into the link between digital identity and law where the posts on X have been looked into with legal scrutiny which could position Trump's profile under the purview of criminal activity (Carr, 2024).The present study aims to understand the aspects of felony and the identity construction inlaid in the tweet of newly elected American president Donald Trump.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The evolution of technology has made it possible for political communication and the construction of identity to take place on social media sites like X, which serve as critical areas for people to express their opinions. Donald Trump's X (previously Twitter) account is a good example of how people use his tweets to criticize him, as they are deeply intertwined with his social and political image. This article seeks to evaluate how these types of online interactions play a role in shaping identity and focusing on the crime of interest in this study is Trump's posts on X. The problem is in grappling with how This active construction of digital identity impacts discourse, legal responsibility, and other areas of democracy and governance effectiveness.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the identity positioning semantics and rhetoric used by Donald Trump and the possible implications of felonies in relation to his posts on X.

- To analyze how the public, as well as the legal fraternity, responded to the commutations made by X Trump and if they, in any way, altered the public perception of his actions as being criminal.
- To study the effect of Trump's activity on X on the polarization of public opinion, as well as on the general political discourse.
- To analyze how social media can be used to create a framework to understand the relative phenomena of identity construction, political discourse, and legal responsibility amongst political users.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How is Trump's X activity a reflection or construction of his political and private identity and how does this relate to notions of felony?
2. How have Trump's X posts been used or interpreted in a legal sense, and how does this shape the perception of his deeds as criminal?
3. What are the arguments by which Trump's political digital rhetoric has been linked to exacerbating or diminishing public discourse partisan divides?
4. In what ways can the analysis of Trump's X posts speak to the bigger picture of the construction of identity, laws, and the digital media's part in it?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study will expose how leaders utilize digital channels to construct and perform identity for purposes of political engagement and even media literacy campaigns. The research looks at how communication made in digital formats may set off a legal process or prosecution. This will broaden the understanding of free speech, defamation, and incitement in the digital space.The study is concerned with factors like how digital narratives are constructed, identity building of public figures via social media, and whether social media serves as an enabling or manipulative platform. The outcomes of this study may have some impact on the legislative development in relation to the management of digital media, particularly on the responsibility of public figures and the virtual space. The study analyzes how contemporary identity is constructed in civic life especially concerning crime and responsibility.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Silva (2019) described Trump's discourse as a Socratic discourse and highlights the intersection centrality of stigma competition around race, gender, religion, and democracy. Trump X (as Twitter was then) was crucial in weaving a story that certain segments of the electorate responded to and was able to structure his identity in such a way that could pass as either pro or anti a number of groups. This type of structure could, either intentionally or unintentionally, assist in the construction of crime, especially in relation to speech that is deemed hateful or acts that could cause incitement.

Carian & Sobotka (2017) continue the discussion on how Trump's campaign language is likely to have been appealing because it came with a silent understanding that he would return to traditional masculinity; such traits can be seen in his X postings. This study helps in understanding this as a part of identity construction that seeks to justify or disregard some legally questionable behavior.

Brill (2018) studied how the use of X for the construction of identity defined by memes and tropes was escalated during Trump's presidency by the alt-right. It raises the question of how this online phenomenon might lead to a situation where serious crimes like hateful speech, or incitement to violence become permissible or applauded.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is qualitative and is conducted in the perspectives to identity the felony and identity construction through the X sphere. The study has adopted six tweets as the purposive sampling and the analysis is made under the following theoretical perspectives.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Crimes of a more serious nature that attract punishment of imprisonment for 12 months or more or death are traditionally categorized as felonies. However, in the case of digital media, the amount of crimes that fit under this umbrella increases to include hacking, identity fraud, and other forms of cyberbullying (Smith 2021). Due to the anonymous character and almost borderless nature of the internet, these digital felonies pose a problem to traditional legal frameworks (Jones & Lee 2019). Identity construction through digital means revolves around what an individual can craft themselves to be, along with the identities that individuals may have in the offline world. This creation can be self-induced or as a result of the digital platforms themselves

(Goffman, 1959; Turkle, 1995). Digital forms of anonymity or pseudonymity can result in identity experimentation that sometimes entails criminal tendencies or the social perception of such actions (Meyrowitz, 1985). The digital world facilitates anonymity which in turn enables unethical behaviors because individuals procrastinate taking responsibility for their actions. This phenomenon has been investigated in cyberbullying research, where it is found that the anonymity of digital platforms can encourage people to do things that are not within their moral compass (Hinduja & Patchin, 2010).

Stolen identity is the major aspect which relates directly to constructing an identity where my activities are criminal. Criminals construct fake identities based on stolen personal information that serves various illegal activities while impacting both the legal and personal identity of the victims (Hoofnagle, 2007). The digital footprint one leaves can have potential legal ramifications. For instance, posts or digital activities can be presented in a court of law as an exhibit to showcase character or motives in a criminal charge against a person (Wall, 2007).

Social platforms such as Twitter or Instagram can be spaces for doxxing and putting out false information which can further flames to a possible conflict. Constructing identity in this instance is not self-presentation but the tell substantiated narratives about a person committing a crime (Marwick & Boyd, 2011). From a postmodern perspective, identity is seen as multi-anchored and constructed through a number of narratives that can deviate into crime or criminal identities in the digital space (Gergen, 1991). Michel Foucault's ideas on power and social surveillance assist in looking into how digital media creates and controls the identities of individuals where the activities tend to be unlawful outcries (Foucault, 1977).

The ways that felony and identity formation through the use of digital media play off each other is quite the story. It generates matters concerning the privacy and legality of an identity. There is a render of identity formation through digital media, and so, there is also the render of crime. This, one realizes, makes the relevance of ethics in these issues very clear as well as the need for new laws and policies.

DATA ANALYSIS

Through the analysis of Trump's post on X, it appears that he is constructing and positioning himself as America's leader which the nation desperately needs during times of transformation and conflict. Thus, Trump's rhetoric centres on enthusiasm for a "Golden Age," which can be connected to the research framework about the utilization of social media in politics.

The post is in relation to Trump's identity as a nationalist leader, advocating for "America First" which is also relevant to the identity politics discourse within political identity formation in identity theory.

The nature of the post in question was made shortly after his administration attempted to find the stranded migrant children, which was thought to be a publicity stunt. It is believed that this is done to strengthen the image of an authoritative and 'decisive' leader in times of crisis, which is also at the core of the framework that states how such digital actions change the narrative.

Trump declaring a new "Golden Age" does act as a strategy of hope and fear rhetoric which digitally constructed identity is analyzed and said to perhaps hide many controversies or other legal issues that are emerging around him like a Shelton. This is

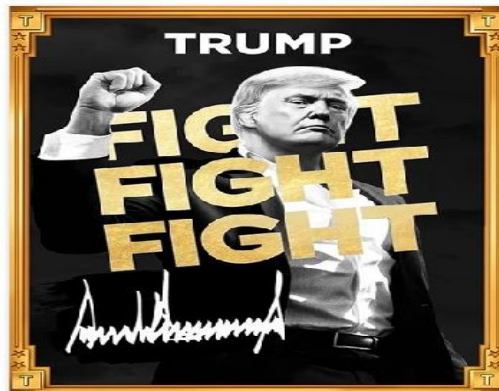analyzed in the tremendous work regarding digital identity and felony.

The post-title is significant as it depicts national pride and serves the purpose of focusing on a vertical type of leadership. Both their supporters and opponents can interpret this differently, which leads to the expansion of political identity narratives through digital media.

This post was intended to foster an understanding of the construction of digital identity and goes hand and hand with the missing migrant children reports during Trump's presidency.

The successful tweet is an obvious winning achievement and that wins is the central reality that Trump wants to incorporate into his image. This would explain why he is constantly criticized and mocked by the mainstream media as a reality show star but praised by the followers who want to see America prosper and flourish (Greenwood et al., 2016). Trump builds an identity where his supporters can feel part of an elite group by calling them to join his very special Trump Community, resulting in the Trump community. This community-building feature is a strategic application of digital media to promote affection and place identity, as what is argued by Meyrowitz (1985) regarding the effect of the media on society.

Branding: Trump modifies the content digitally with the phrase My NEW Official Trump Meme, bringing it into the personal scope within the socio-political environment. This form of personal branding shows Trump as a micrometer of the political and cultural world. Silva (2019) argues this form of identity construction can cement the gap between the image of a politician and that of a celebrity.

The use of the words "$TRUMP" and luring followers to "gettrumpmemes.com" raises questions when viewed from a cryptocurrency perspective, especially if the government has reason to believe that this cryptocurrency in question is engaged in some form of illegal activity, or if phishing and other forms of scams are taking place at the site as BlockBeats (2024) has warned. This point raises the possibility of a digital identity coming together with issues of legality, in this particular instance of financial regulation, which was alluded to earlier.

Promoting begging followers to go to a website to get a meme could, depending on the level of authenticity of the site, lead to the issues of disinformation and scams, thereby paralleling Hoofnagle's (2007) concern about identity fraud and digital frauds. Trump uses the aspect of fun and enjoyment to frame the tweet in a completely different manner thereby helping himself to gain the attention of the public and possibly avoiding deep political or legal conversations. This Step demonstrates Trump's playful nature in wanting to engage the audience in important discussions and at the same time, Turkle's (1995) observation of one possessing an identity in modern times which can be simultaneously useful for fun and politically. This tweet may lead to the increased use of identity politics that furthers polarization. Trump's political identity greatly relies on the 'them' versus 'us' idea, and this tweet may further strengthen that. While this may galvanize his supporters, it may leave others out of the conversation. This greatly impacts public discourse, as analyzed by Marwick & Boyd (2011) concerning digital manipulation of identity and audience behavior.

There is also the risk, as pointed out by Trump's actions and the subsequent legal verdicts, that promoting something like $TRUMP or a website may lead to a lawsuit based on something like financial fraud or even a data breach. This sketchy legal territory might serve as a methodological framework for how political figures are allowed to construct digital identities.

> **Donald J. Trump** ✔
> @realDonaldTrump
>
> Members of Congress are getting to work on one powerful Bill that will bring our Country back, and make it greater than ever before. We must Secure our Border, Unleash American Energy, and Renew the Trump Tax Cuts, which were the largest in History, but we will make it even better – NO TAX ON TIPS. IT WILL ALL BE MADE UP WITH TARIFFS, AND MUCH MORE, FROM COUNTRIES THAT HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE U.S. FOR YEARS. Republicans must unite, and quickly deliver these Historic Victories for the American People. Get smart, tough, and send the Bill to my desk to sign as soon as possible. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!
>
> 7:11 AM · 06 Jan 25 · **63.7M** Views
>
> **52.1K** Reposts   **3,470** Quotes   **335K** Likes

Policymaking is the business of America and Turner suggests that Trump sells himself as the American Saviour by claiming that the powerful Bill, which he and other Republicans like Turner seek to pass, will enable him to rebuild the country. Silva (2019) supports this, saying it fits the prototype for strong leaders as summed in the title 'the messiah of America' and undergirds the rhetoric Trump always uses. Trump seems to enjoy the view of himself as an economic populist. He argues that tariffs may be an appropriate response to the negative economic impact of tipped paycheck taxation. In this case, rhetoric serves as a tool for building a robust identity that suggests positive discrimination on behalf of the working class. It also builds on what Ouyang & Waterman tell us from 2019 about normalizing right-wing populism discourse: Trump's communication does just that it makes it normal in American politics.

The assertion that there is a need for the Republican Party to coalesce suggests that he considers himself a unifier of the party, which means he assumes a leadership that dismisses intra-party differences over policies. The intention to offset some of the tax reductions by imposing tariffs could be open to criticism for possible economic harm and infringement of international trade

agreements, which is revealed in the reviews of Trump Tax and Tariff Ideas (Tax New Foundations, 2024). This issue is closely linked to how digital policy language can result in policy initiatives that attract legal challenges.

About economic claims that tag themselves as 'the largest in history', in consideration of misrepresentation, run the risk of being considered misleading or false advertising, which could have legal repercussions, as Carr (2024) points out regarding Trump's use of technology. Trump engages with social media networks in a manner that connects his image with the law by proposing border control, energy, and tax policies, which will enable him to win the support of his followers. This has a resemblance to how Greenwood et al. (2016) examined legislative behavior on social media and formed a political identity.

Concentrating on uniting Republicans around such tweets could deepen the political division as it strengthens us against their narrative. This corresponds to the observations of MDPI (2021) who argued that Trump's election messaging propelled extreme far-right populism globally and may have thinned political fabrics domestically. The controversy behind policy proposals coupled with their effectiveness can raise legal issues at home or abroad. This could pardon the claim that such legal communications will be influenced by political figures' digital communications. The troubling scenario has already been raised by Hoofnagle (2007) and Wall (2007) when they address their concerns pertaining to digital actions and legal adjudication.

Trump uses the online space to craft a political persona resourced in economic development, national security, and military spending on one hand, and the dodging of socio-legal issues on the other. This tweet makes it pretty clear supportive public discourse through legislation is a tough ask. It spotlights the beauty challenge begging the identity construction problem, which in this case is to harness the words-and-construct public preconceptions, implement the policies, and prep for possible legal concerns of it all.

4

> Our Country is a disaster, a laughing stock all over the World! This is what happens when you have OPEN BORDERS, with weak, ineffective, and virtually nonexistent leadership. The DOJ, FBI, and Democrat state and local prosecutors have not done their job. They are incompetent and corrupt, having spent all of their waking hours unlawfully attacking their political opponent, ME, rather than focusing on protecting Americans from the outside and inside violent SCUM that has infiltrated all aspects of our government, and our Nation itself. Democrats should be ashamed of themselves for allowing this to happen to our Country. The CIA must get involved, NOW, before it is too late. The USA is breaking down – A violent erosion of Safety, National Security, and Democracy is taking place all across our Nation. Only strength and powerful leadership will stop it. See you on January 20th. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

As political vengeance, Trump claims the DOJ, FBI, and Democrat prosecutors criminally targeted him instead of addressing far more pressing issues in the country. This fits within the construct of identity building that Carian & Sobotka (2017), present, with Trump's image as a coalest image as a persecuted figure is very appealing to his base in which Trump is posed as an outsider fighting the corrupt establishment. He employs the strategy that the country is a mess as a result of weak and passive leadership, which in turn renders himself a powerful one who is capable of putting everything back in its place. This is also consistent with Ouyang & Waterman's (2019) masculinity and leadership identity thesis for Trump, which maintains that his rhetoric online is centered on strength, firmness, and lack of hesitation.

Resembling the securitization of issues by Academia.edu (2017), Trump maintains that the CIA needs to intervene which he augments by suggesting the country is under siege by violent SCUM from within and outside. He forms an image of himself as the national protector and defender of democracy. This helps rally support against potential fears of being rendered weak as a country and the underlying subtext of needing strong leaders.

The soft suggestion of "When it is not too late" for CIA action could be interpreted as trying to stir action that borders the legal limit of proposing actions that contravene standards of law. Perhaps these are within the arguments for misuse of power or

incitement as such positions lack the restrictions of common terminology and lean towards permitting. Trump contextualizes the DOJ, FBI, and Democrat prosecutors as "incompetent and corrupt," which allows him to advocate rhetoric that may be legally scrutinized for defamation of character or abuse of these Government institutions. This concern was raised by Carr (2024) on how Trump's rhetoric on social media affects the legal proceedings against him. The use of the term SCUM identifying armed groups is indicative of a narrative that is a conspiracy. Such a narrative is likely to add to the public terror and paranoia. This is likely to set dangerous precedents if it leads to policies or actions that are, indeed, not justified. This is in line with Researchgate's (2022) analysis of how extreme rhetoric can shape and distort the belief system.

Social media has greatly exaggerated political division by essentially making Democrats, and some branches of the government, the enemy of the state. The 'us vs them' division line has been greatly enhanced. This is consistent with MDPI's (2021) report on how Trump's rhetoric while campaigning, greatly aided the far-right populism across the world. Such Trump rhetoric greatly discredits National institutions as ineffective or downright corrupt. This phrase can lead to a loss of trust on a public level which rivals already democratic governance systems. Silva (2019) attempts to tackle themes of Trump's rhetoric and how it affects public perception and national institutions. The CIA is in need of leaving the deep current national crisis, which makes painful political talk possible, something that Michalowkski infers about digital politics on Twitter.

Trump deftly multiplies as a victim, a strong leader, and a national shield, while he trumpets principles and acts in a manner that remains sketched within legally contestable waters. It speaks to the difficult balance of the emerging realities of political conflict and identity construction in the digital arena, which informs the public about governance and the politics of social media.

Donald J. Trump ✔
@realDonaldTrump

With the Biden "Open Border's Policy" I said, many times during Rallies, and elsewhere, that Radical Islamic Terrorism, and other forms of violent crime, will become so bad in America that it will become hard to even imagine or believe. That time has come, only worse than ever imagined. Joe Biden is the WORST PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA, A COMPLETE AND TOTAL DISASTER. What he and his group of Election Interfering "thugs" have done to our Country will not soon be forgotten! MAGA

10:21 AM · 03 Jan 25 · **53.9M** Views

41.6K Reposts   **1,818** Quotes   **250K** Likes

In reference to his previous claim about the effect of Bidens rule, President Trump claims he is a believer. This aligns well with the identity construction Silva (2019) discussed where Trump has to chisel himself as a believer. Trump cultivates an understanding of himself as a protector from outside dangers such as 'Radical Islamic Terrorism' and crime and in doing so builds on his self-characterization as a strong of the strongest erect Nationalists. The phrasing of "Election Interfering 'thugs'" aids in depicting Trump as the victim of political scheming, which resonates with his crafted identity as an outsider against the badly damaged system, as Carian & Sobotka (2017) discussed concerning masculinity and victimhood appeal.

Speaking of predicting increases in 'Radical Islamic Terrorism' or violence due to increasing crimes as a result of Biden's policies can be construed as merely the act of fear-mongering without any constructive purpose, and instead, is raised only to instill terror or promote blood vigilantes, which comes dangerously close to inciting violence or fear and depending on the marking area, touches on felony as per the discussions raised by Carr (2024). Accusing Biden by proclaiming, "the WORST PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA" and simultaneously casting his group as "Election Interfering 'thugs'" can be restrictively

definable like defamation if they unequivocally smear Biden's image and lack to provide supportive evidence, reverberating the concerns raised by Hoofnagle (2007) about digital deception.

There is potential for Biden's policies to be criticized through this claim, as they have the ability to fuel more misinformation which could cause 'public disorder' or policies to be crafted based on lies, a problem of social concern regarding the law as discussed by Wall (2007). This tweet paints a more damaging image of Biden's presidency than is necessary which only further splits the already fragile political landscape. This somewhat correlates with the analysis of MDPI (2021) on how Trump's digital rhetoric fuels global right-wing populism. Trump's vehement attacks on Biden's presidency only add fuel to the fire regarding the political legitimacy issue which further undermines trust in the broader public's government as put forth in the analysis by Silva (2019).

Political vigilantism, if left unquestioned or unbalanced, has the ability to interfere with an election which does raise the possibility of questions from the legal sphere as this is one of the issues Ouyang & Waterman (2019) have tried to explore, especially with Trump's use of technology as a political weapon.

> **Donald J. Trump** ✔
> @realDonaldTrump
>
> The Republican Party will use its best efforts to eliminate Daylight Saving Time, which has a small but strong constituency, but shouldn't! Daylight Saving Time is inconvenient, and very costly to our Nation.
>
> 2:40 AM · 14 Dec 24 · **78.9M** Views
>
> **43.9K** Reposts　　**8,905** Quotes　　**444K** Likes

Trump acts like it is the Republicans who are taking the lead in tackling policies that he thinks are unilateral and excessively burdensome, building an identity as someone who is a leader in pragmatic, day-to-day issues that are relevant to the country. This

fits with the narrative construction that he has to target policy reform as Ouyang and Waterman (2019) have claimed. Most of Trump's communication is focused on him being identified as a leader who gets things done.

While calling out the expenses and hassle of Daylight Saving Time, Trump builds an identity of protecting national interest from even the most minute of problems. This identity suggests to the citizens that he has a larger protective measure over the country's well-being which aligns with the securitization of issues addressed by Academia.edu (2017).

Stating that Daylight Saving Time has a "small but strong constituency" is good for framing Trump as a politician who speaks for the masses and is willing to rial against loud-mouthed minority groups for the greater good, as Silva (2019) describes in his analysis of populist rhetoric.

It is fair to assume that during his presidency, Donald Trump claimed that the American public was misled into thinking that Daylight Saving Time was beneficial. During the presidential race in 2020, there were accusations made against him that propelled him into the category of broad misinformation. Misinterpretation, although having no criminal implications, can be a severe issue. In a March 2024 article discussing Trump's Twitter conduct, CARR mentions legal aspects that relate to this claim.

There are major political issues that arise concerning Trump's claim in 2020 of abolishing Daylight Saving Time. His lobbying may not be illegal for the American public, but if claims arise that he was lying it could possibly bring other major legal issues down the line. Such claims were made by HOOFNAGLE around the year 2007.

Such claims by Trump, whether accurate or inaccurate, shape public opinion. Since opposition parties would have to avoid Trump's style of rhetoric, using his opinion on Daylight Saving Time would add more polarizing views toward party loyalty, which is the case made by the MDPI report in August 2021.

This tweet might incite legislative or public action against Daylight Saving Time. It exemplifies how Trump utilizes social media to influence policy in the same way ResearchGate (2022) found that his messages serve as propaganda to set public and political agendas. If the goal of stopping Daylight Saving Time is seen as purely political instead of in the interest of the country, this issue might further increase the general public's distrust of political

motives and concern of political legitimacy, as Silva (2019) addressed.

CONCLUSION

This research has delved into how Donald Trump uses X (formerly Twitter) about the creation of crime and the construction of identity in the digital world and all the intricacies connected with it. We have studied the speeches in the tweets in a manner that enables us to depict how Trump uses the media to define who he is politically, to interact with the base, and to attack his opposition, often finding ways to blend these moves with arguments that touch on issues related to public felony and legal accountability. The results highlight the important role social media has played in the development of politics today where identity is argued for and against and constructed within the debate, with consequences for legal, social, and political issues.

FINDINGS

- From X postings, it is possible to discern that Trump systematically constructs an identity that ranges from a political victim to a national leader, to someone who champions crises. Such identity is multi-faceted, appealing to some aspects of his supporters in the sense of shared victimhood, in dire need of authoritative leadership, and in accordance with identity construction theories on the Internet.
- The analysis highlighted several instances where Trump's rhetoric could attract legal litigation. This spans to possible defamation, disinformation, and incitement through fear-mongering. He often posts about issues that may test the limits of legal speech, which warrants the refinement of the regulations of political speech on social media.
- Trump's digital words have a worsening effect on political polarization, depicting a binary of 'us' versus 'them.' This has resulted in diminishing faith in government institutions, affecting public perception, and discourse in a manner that increases tensions.
- The tweets analysis suggests Trump's use of X has legal consequences, especially in terms of how his utterances may affect cases or policymaking. They point to a balance that needs to be struck between free speech and the obligations of political actors in cyberspace communications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is useful for every citizen to receive education on the deconstruction of political rhetoric on social media. Being aware of the intricacies of identity development and disinformation can empower citizens to take part in political discourse more effectively.
- The policymakers need to bear in mind that some legal frameworks need to be developed or refined regarding political speech on some digital platforms because they pose some unique challenges. This implicates defining terms such as defamation, incitement, and mis and disinformation MORE clearly within the scope of the digital context where effects might be instant and far-reaching.
- Social media platforms are expected to improve their policies and enforcement activities pertaining to political speech to avoid the circulation of unethical language that might provoke violence or seriously misinform the public. The public must know how these policies will be implemented.
- Further, there is an important need for sustained research into how different political actors construct identity through the use of digital media. This research should center on democracy trust, and legal accountability and try to establish all the long-term implications and provide insights to formulate policies and enlighten public opinion.
- There should be the establishment of constructive dialogue regarding politics on all digital platforms. This can include spaces for moderated discussions and fact-oriented policy debates along with increased engagement in nonpartisan civic activity.
- Funding for independent fact-checking institutions is for X postings political messengers. These institutions can authenticate claims by politicians in real-time and improve public communication.

RESEARCH GAPS FOR THE FUTURE

As the particular episode of Trump's activity on X was the primary focus of this study, it would be interesting for future studies to focus on Trump's digital rhetoric over time, especially as it relates to political, legal, and social dynamics. Such an observation would shed light on the processes and consequences of digital identity construction and transformation in the context of its perception and legal responsibility. A gap can be identified in comparative studies that focus on how the political community of a country

engages in the use of digital tools for identity formation and the possible consequences of the speech styles that they deploy. It would be interesting to study Trump's approaches to see whether he uses such methods as other leaders or whether it is a culturally or politically dependent matter. Although this study seemed to scratch the surface of legal ramifications, there is very little that has been captured about the legal benchmarks or legal decisions that were directly influenced by Trump's use of social media. Further studies might analyze whether Trump was involved in some of the debates and discussions in X legally, how his arguments were presented, and the outcome of such arguments in the context, and legal debates on digital speech, ones that the number of TRUMP mentions increased.

The current study is based on qualitative research. There is a gap in quantitative research measuring engagement (likes, retweets, comments) towards Trump's X posts that contain delinquent or identity themes. Audience reception and the dissemination of misinformation through the utilization of various rhetorical components could be examined. As much as this study scrutinized polarization, more efforts will need to be put into understanding how exactly Trump's X rhetoric on felony, security, and identity issues affects voter behavior like voting, party affiliation, and participation or lack thereof. This will link the gap between digital rhetoric and political action in the sphere outside of the rhetoric.

The gap lies in the understanding of how Trump's digital rhetoric impacts the psyche of his proponents versus his opponents. Research could be conducted on the workings of confirmation bias, cognitive dissonance, or on the different psychological aspects of the audience which tends to subscribe to or reject the constructed identity through X posts.

Though the initial question was directed at X (Twitter), further research can be done on how Trump constructs his identity and how he discusses the concept of a felony on other platforms like Truth Social, YouTube, and Instagram. These platforms also have their own unique settings and audience which can affect how and in what manner his messages are received.

There is an issue regarding the balance between freedom of expression and responsibility placed on the speaker, particularly those in political positions on the digital divide. Further studies can focus on determining how effective existing laws permit offensive jokes to be made, and what changes may be needed. The algorithms used by social media have to be studied – how do they

enhance identity-related and email messages, how do they mitigate it, and what is their impact on political identity? Such studies will help identify forms of bias that divide politics and democracy on digital platforms. The study concentrated on how Trump developed a political narrative, however, little has been documented on how his opponents use digital space to counter or resist him. Understanding these relationships may explain how political identities endure opposition.

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