



Crossing The Lines

How Digital Tech is Disrupting the Truth about Immigration

Dr Diego Rubio
Professor at IE University
Executive Director of IE's
Center for the Governance of Change



Am.Dr.Khe @congoboy · 5h
This is not a photo of #refugees at the border.
"Some of the hundreds of people in dire need of care wait in a parking lot for 12 hours in below-freezing temperatures for a chance to be seen in #Knoxville"
wapo.st/31R2AxI



1 ↺ ❤️



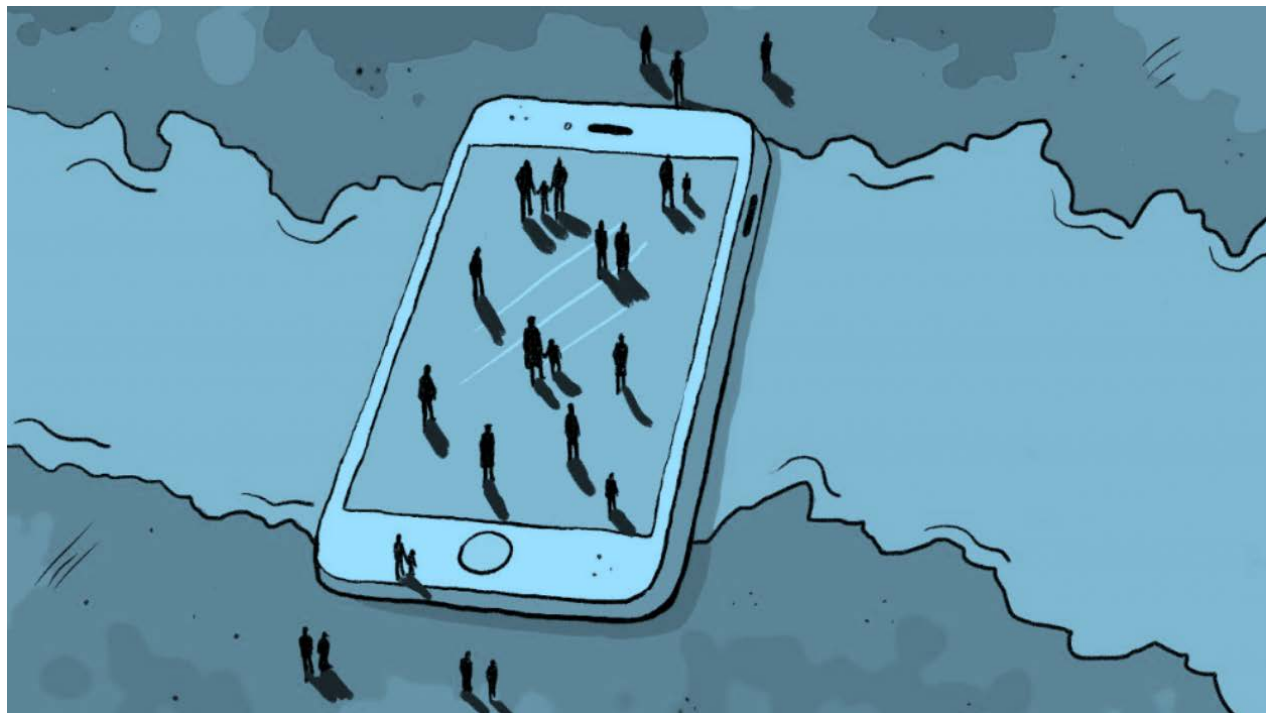
Justin Trudeau ✓
@JustinTrudeau

Following ▼

To those fleeing persecution, terror & war,
Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your
faith. Diversity is our strength #WelcomeToCanada

RETWEETS	LIKES
165,284	256,250

12:20 PM - 28 Jan 2017



MEXICO HELPING UNVETTED AFRICAN MIGRANTS TO U.S. BORDER, MANY FROM AL-SHABAAB TERROR HOTBED

SHARE 19765 EMAIL G+ SHARE 95 TWEET



LONDON'S ISLAMIST-LINKED MAYOR TELLS U.S. AUDIENCE: 'IMMIGRANTS SHOULDN'T ASSIMILATE'

SHARE 27810 EMAIL G+ SHARE 61 TWEET



EDUCATIONAL WATCH CORRUPTION CH

Droves of African Migrants in Mexico Awaiting U.S. Asylum Under Secret Pact

SEPTEMBER 01, 2016

BREITBART STORE

SIX DISEASES RETURN TO US AS MIGRATION ADVOCATES CELEBRATE 'WORLD REFUGEE DAY'

SHARE 23463 EMAIL G+ SHARE



BREITBART STORE

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION CONFIRMS: ILLEGAL ALIENS TO BEGIN COLLECTING BENEFITS IN 2017

SHARE 252233 EMAIL G+ SHARE 316 TWEET

BREITBART STORE

MORE THAN 347,000 CONVICTED CRIMINALS IMMIGRANTS AT LARGE IN U.S.

SHARE 26201 EMAIL G+ SHARE 167 TWEET



Canada's Prime Minister begs Nigeria President for one million immigrants

By newsonline - April 14, 2019

SHARE TWEET G+ P





The Old

There is an on-going Immigrant Invasion

Myth I



“... and, as they have so many children and so many come from across the sea, the day will soon come when they (the Muslims) will be more than us (the Christians) and there will only be mosques in our land”.

Spanish Christian Author, 1572

There is an on-going Immigrant Invasion

Myth I



Translation:

In 2065 quota immigrants in Italy could exceed 40% of the total population.

Source: Sputnik News, 2017



Cultural Overtake by Islam or foreign customs

Myth II



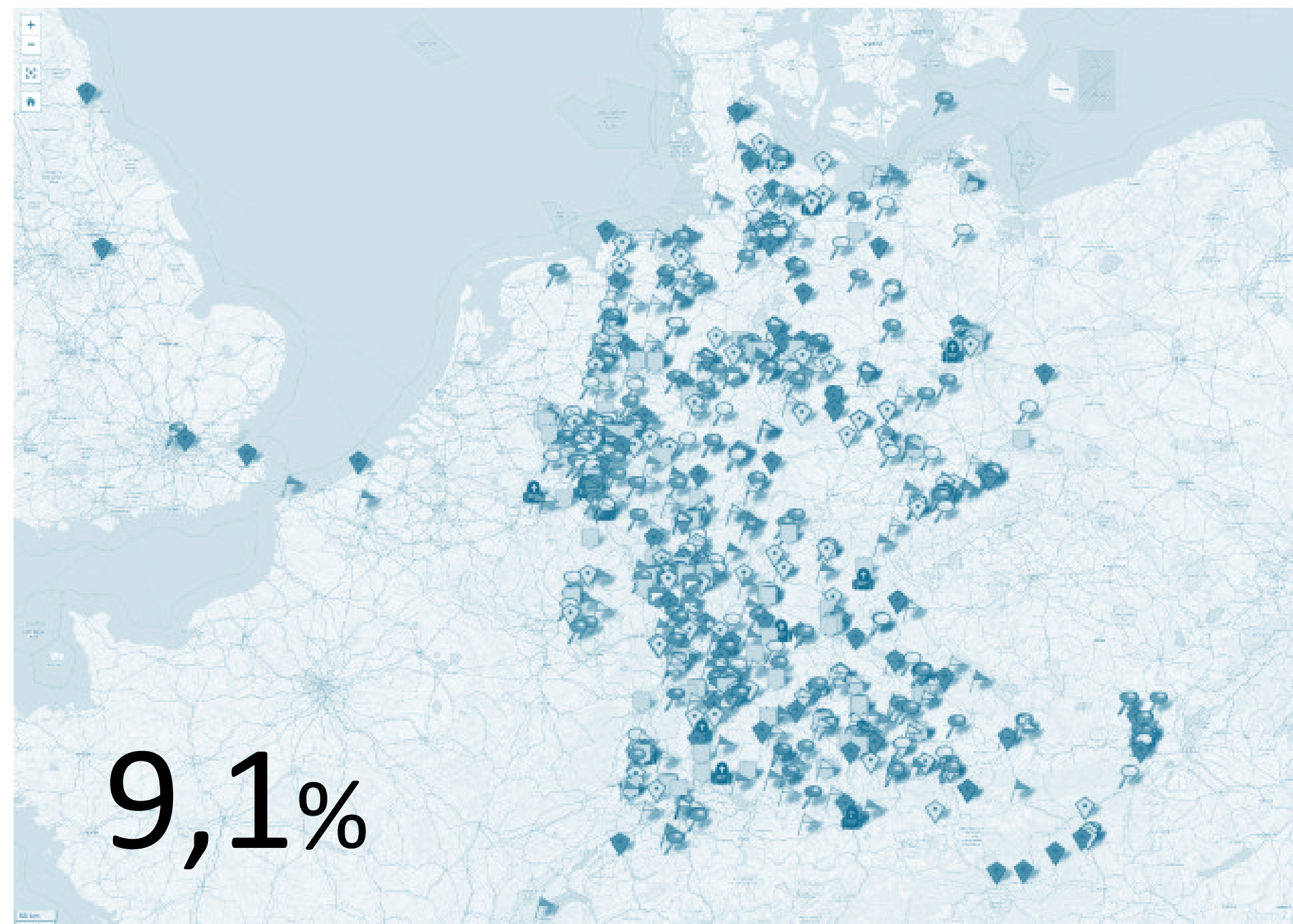
JIHAD WATCH

Macron says Notre Dame should be rebuilt in line with diversity; architect suggests an Islamic minaret be included

APR 25, 2019 4:43 PM BY CHRISTINE DOUGLASS-WILLIAMS

Immigrants are violent and dangerous

Myth III

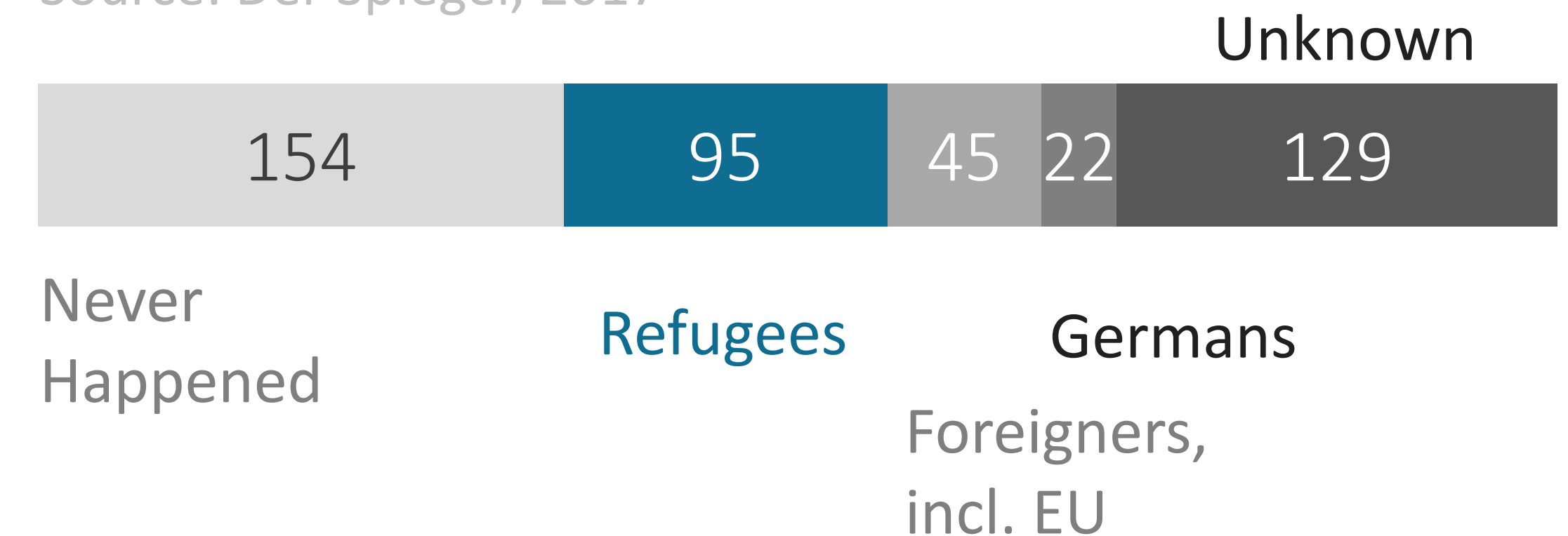


According to [Rapefugees.net](https://rapefugees.net)

Refugees committed 445 sex crimes in Germany, 2016

According to [Official Data](#)

Source: Der Spiegel, 2017



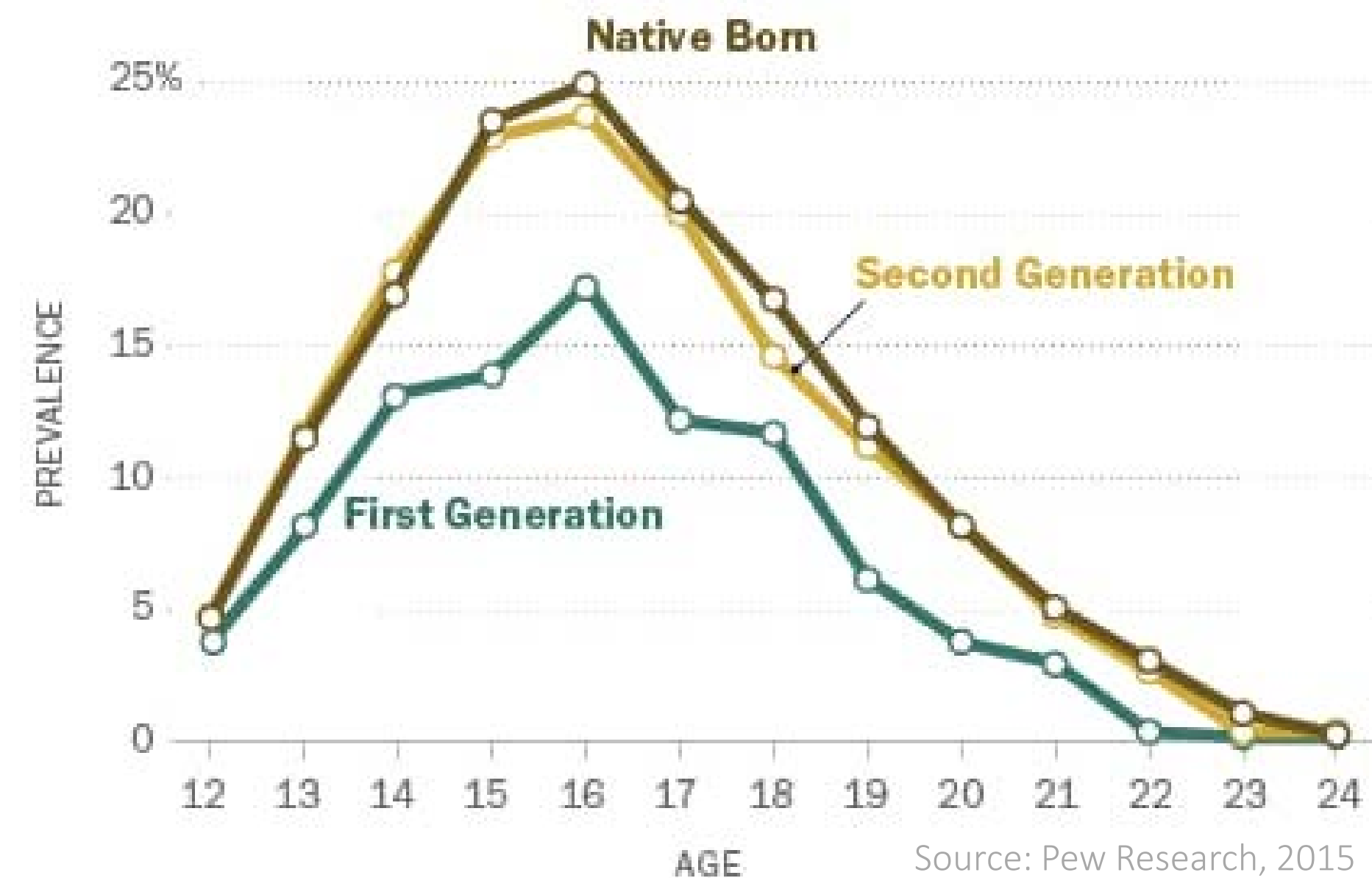
Immigrants are violent and dangerous

Myth III

“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Donald Trump, June 16, 2015

Offending Trajectories in the US, by origin



Immigrants live on Benefits

Myth IV

LA ESPAÑA DEL PSOE Y PODEMOS



JORGE:

ESPAÑOL. ANDALUZ. 93 AÑOS. HA TRABAJADO TODA SU VIDA. DESAHUCIADO DE SU CASA POR EL ESTADO, HA TARDADO UN AÑO EN CONSEGUIR UNA PLAZA EN UN ASILO PÚBLICO.



MOHAMED:

NIGERIANO. 20 AÑOS. DOS EN ESPAÑA EN LOS QUE NO HA TRABAJADO NI DE DÍA NI DE NOCHE. EL ESTADO LE HA DADO ALOJAMIENTO ESTOS DOS AÑOS, UN TELÉFONO MOVIL Y 30 EUROS AL DÍA.

Translation:

THE SPAIN OF THE SOCIALISTS & PODEMOS

Jorge: Spanish, Spanish, 93 years old. Has worked all his life. Evicted from his house by the state. It has taken a year to find a public shelter.

Mohamed, Nigerian, 20 years old. Two (years) in Spain where he has not worked, neither during day nor night. The state has given him shelter these two years, a mobile phone and 30€ a day.

A large crowd of people, mostly men and young adults, are walking along a dirt path in a field. They are dressed in casual clothing, including hoodies, jackets, and scarves. The crowd is dense and stretches far into the background, creating a sense of a large-scale movement or migration. The overall tone is somber and documentary.

The New

I. Misinforming is now faster, easier & cheaper than ever before



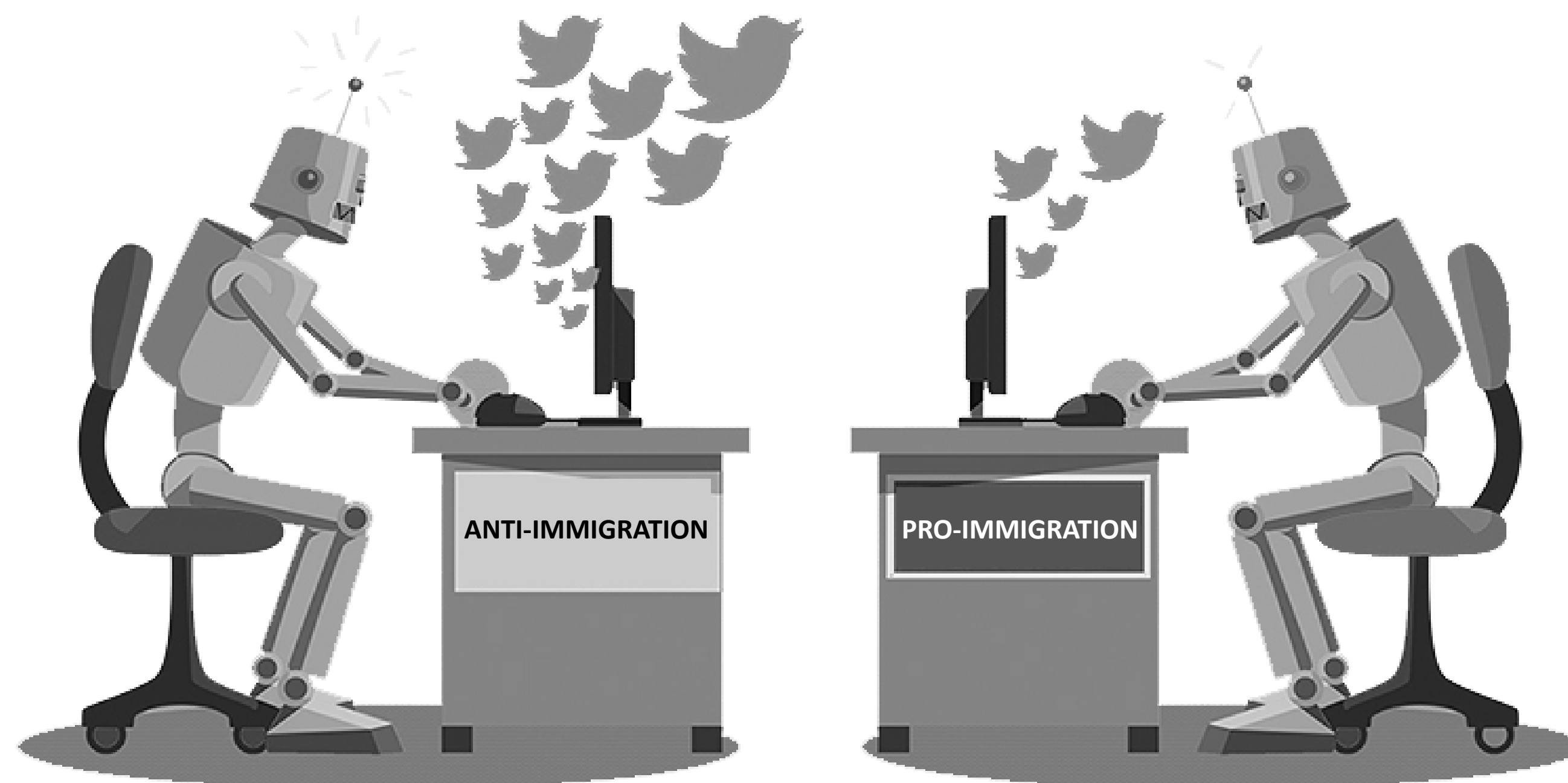
9% - 15%

of all current
accounts on Twitter
are automated

30 - 50 m

million bots active
on the platform

Source: Varol, Onur, et al., "Online Human-Bot Interactions: Detection, Estimation, and Characterization", ArXiv, 2017





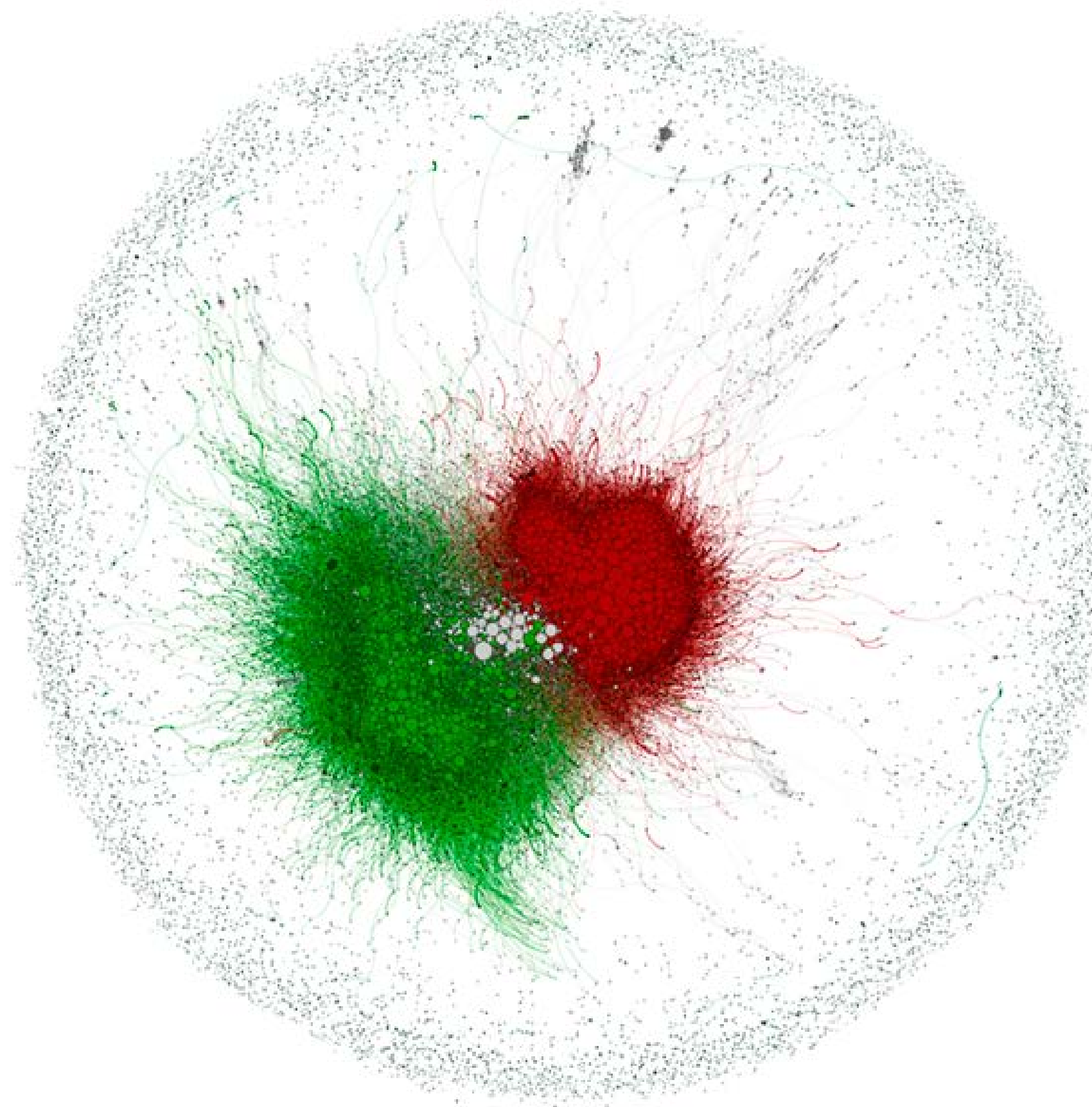
The distorted debate on Immigration

Italy, 2017/18 Twitter

Pro-Immigration Community

42,495 users
(53% of the total)

219,187 tweets
(27% of the total)



Anti-Immigration Community

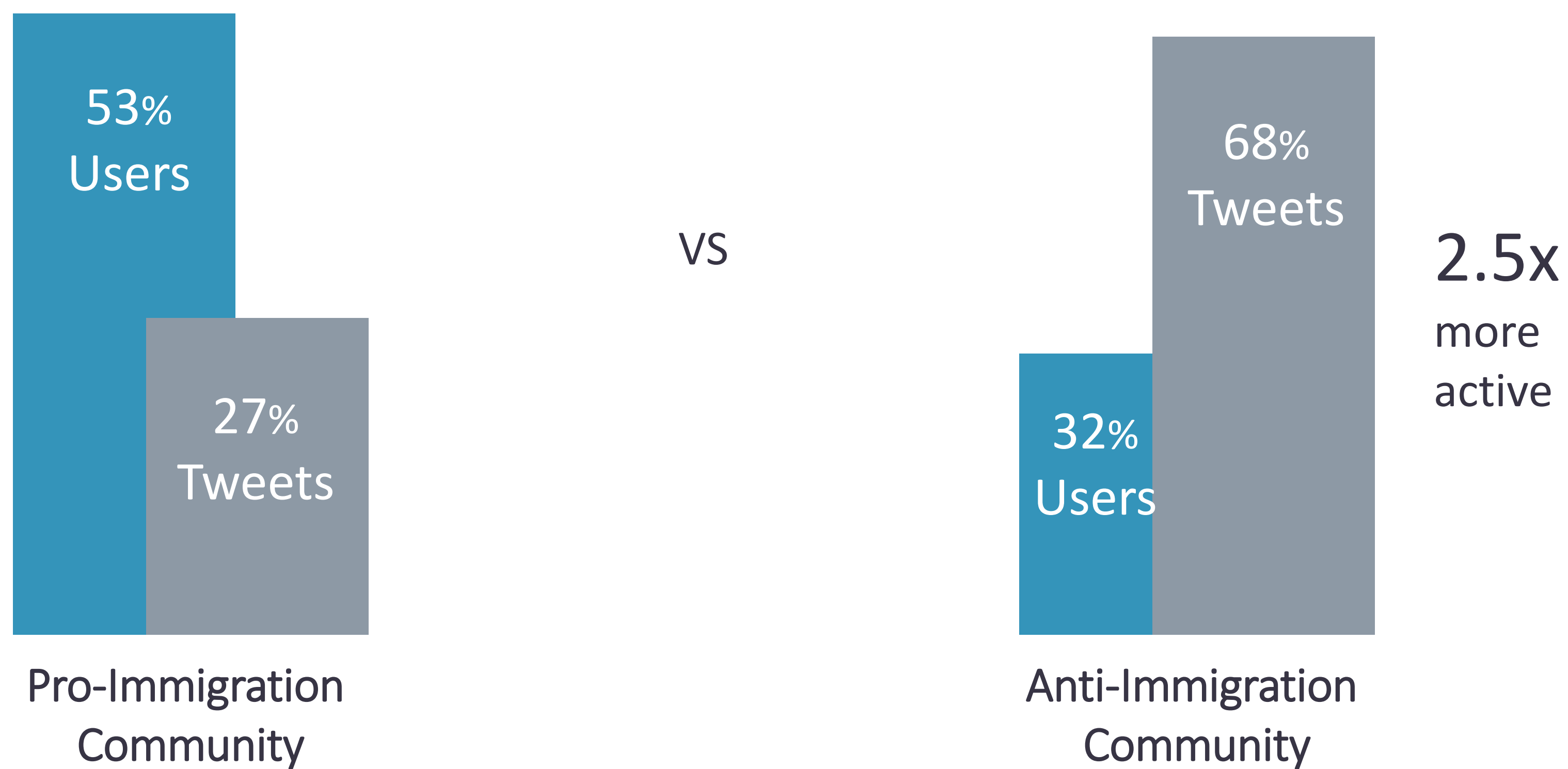
25,325 users
(32% of the total)

562,168 tweets
(68% of the total)

Source: Alto, 2018

The distorted debate on Immigration

Italy, 2017/18 Twitter



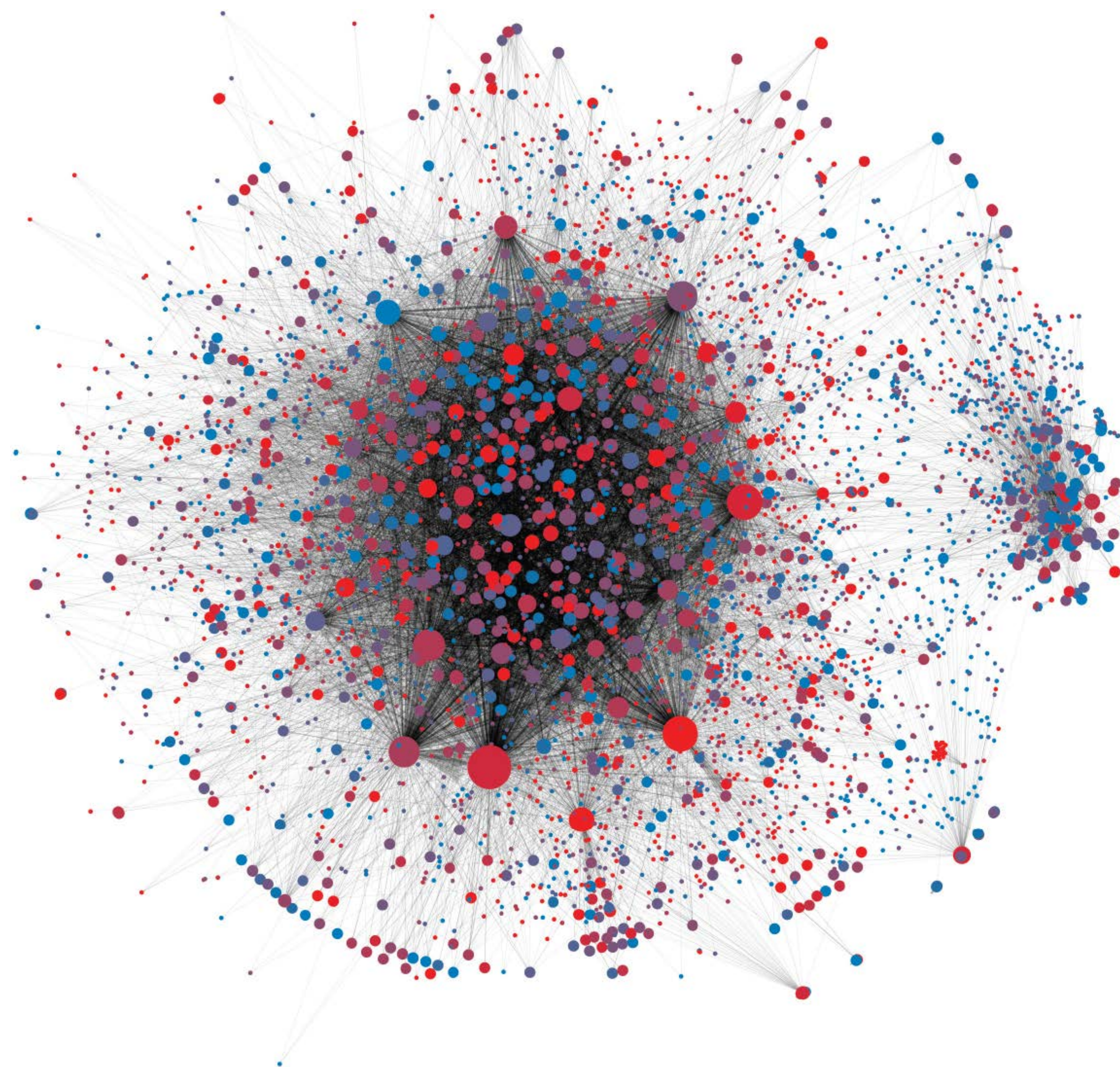
II. There are new, small, non-state actors involved

In the game of disinformation



TELLING
THE UNTOLD
SPUTNIKNEWS.COM

Source: Ferrara, E. et al. "The Rise of Social Bots",
Communications of the ACM, July 2016, Vol. 59, 7.



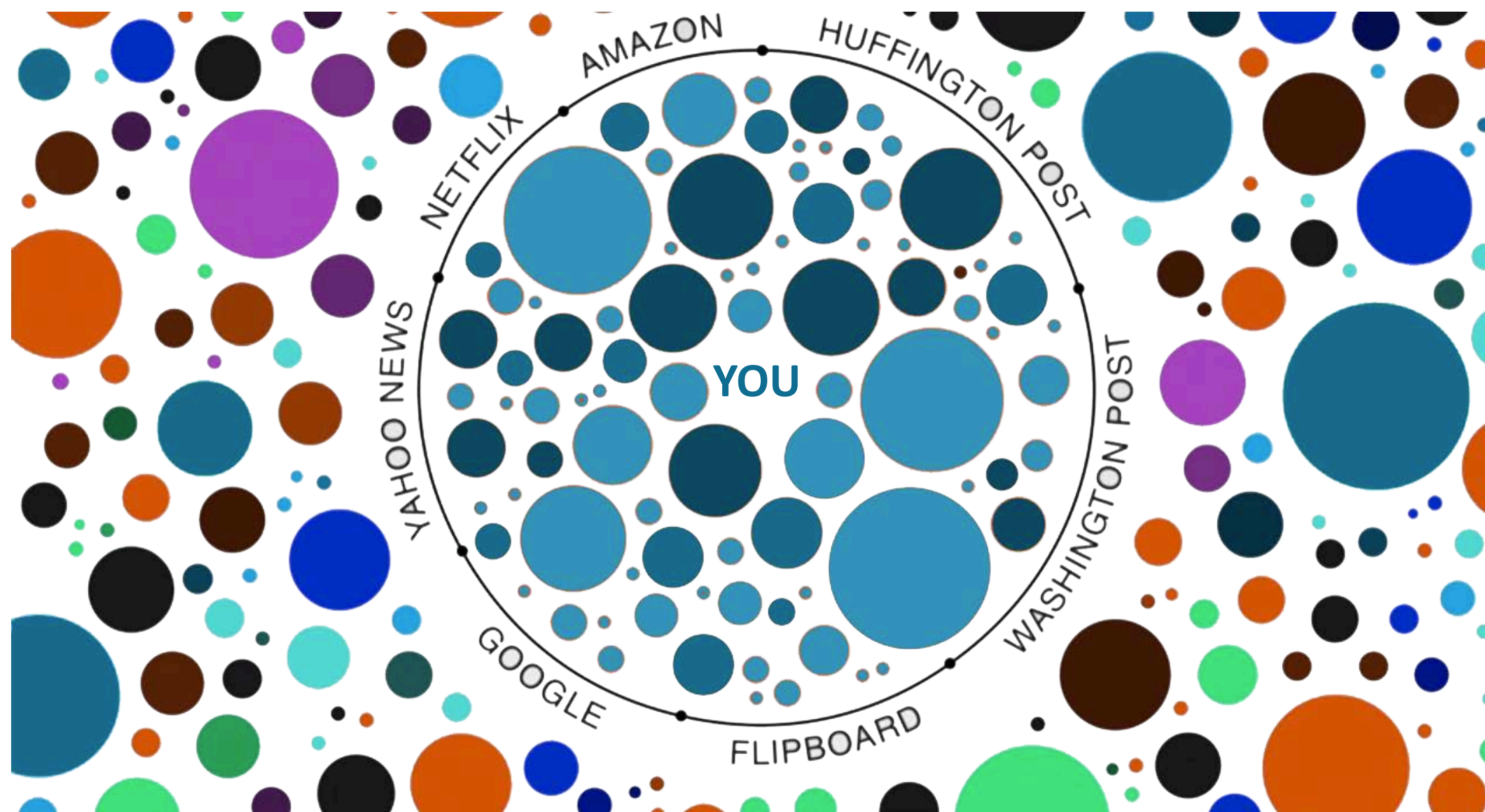
III. Lies about Immigrants are being weaponized

To weaken the European Union and the West



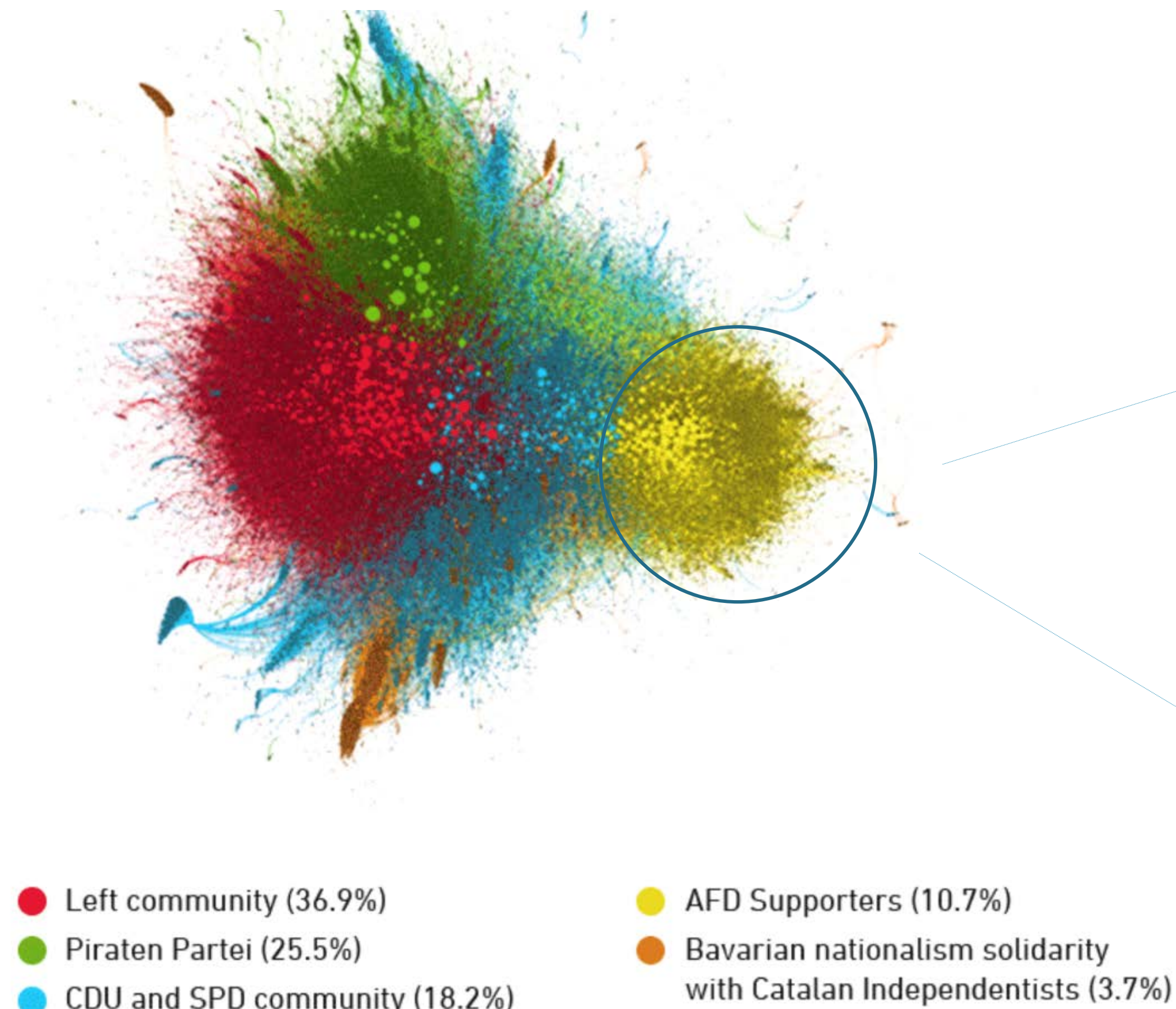
IV. Misinformation resonates in Eco-Chambers

And that is polarizing the Immigration Debate



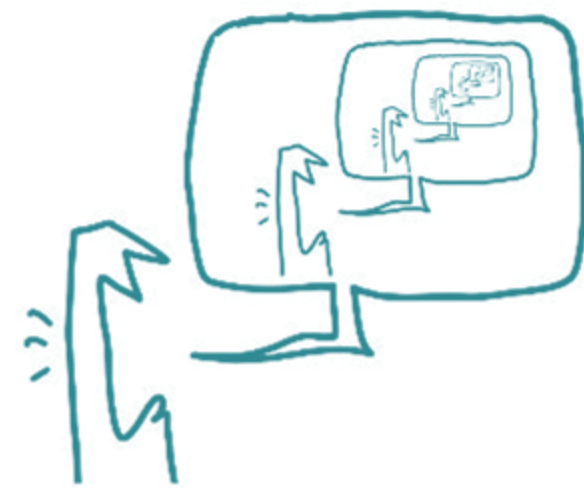
IV. Misinformation resonates in Eco-Chambers

The Immigration debate in Germany

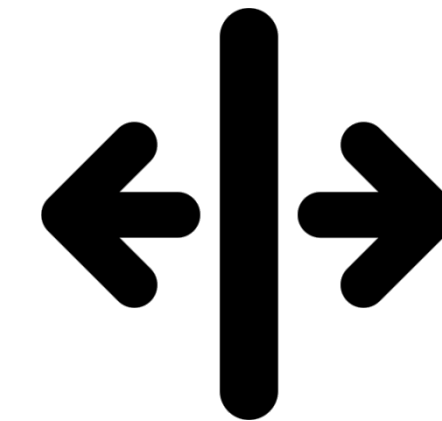


Main Anti-Immigration and Anti-Islam websites in Germany and their visitors

journalistenwatch.com (99%, Affinity to AfD)
 bild.de (89%, Affinity to AfD)
 jungefreiheit.de (98%, Affinity to AfD)
 tichyseinblick.de (93%, Affinity to AfD)
 epochtimes.de (97%, Affinity to AfD)
 philosophia-perennis.com (99%, Affinity to AfD)
 pi-news.net (99%, Affinity to AfD)
 ffd365.de (100%, Affinity to AfD)
 afbundestag.de (99%, Affinity to AfD)
 anonymousnews.ru (98%, Affinity to AfD)



Digital Misinformation is
NOT behind the increase in
Anti-Immigration feelings



But it is causing a
polarization of
the debate



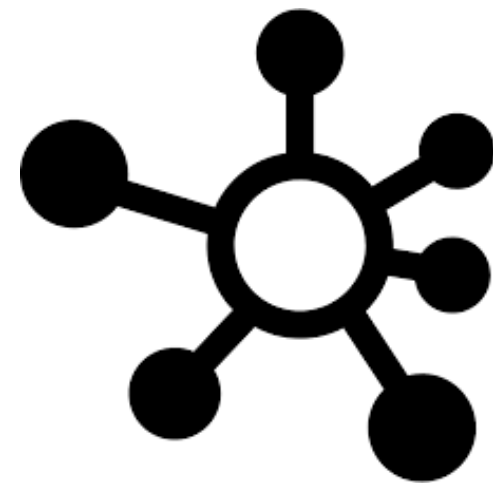
Solutions?

Fact-Checking



The Limitations of Fact-Checking

Two main points

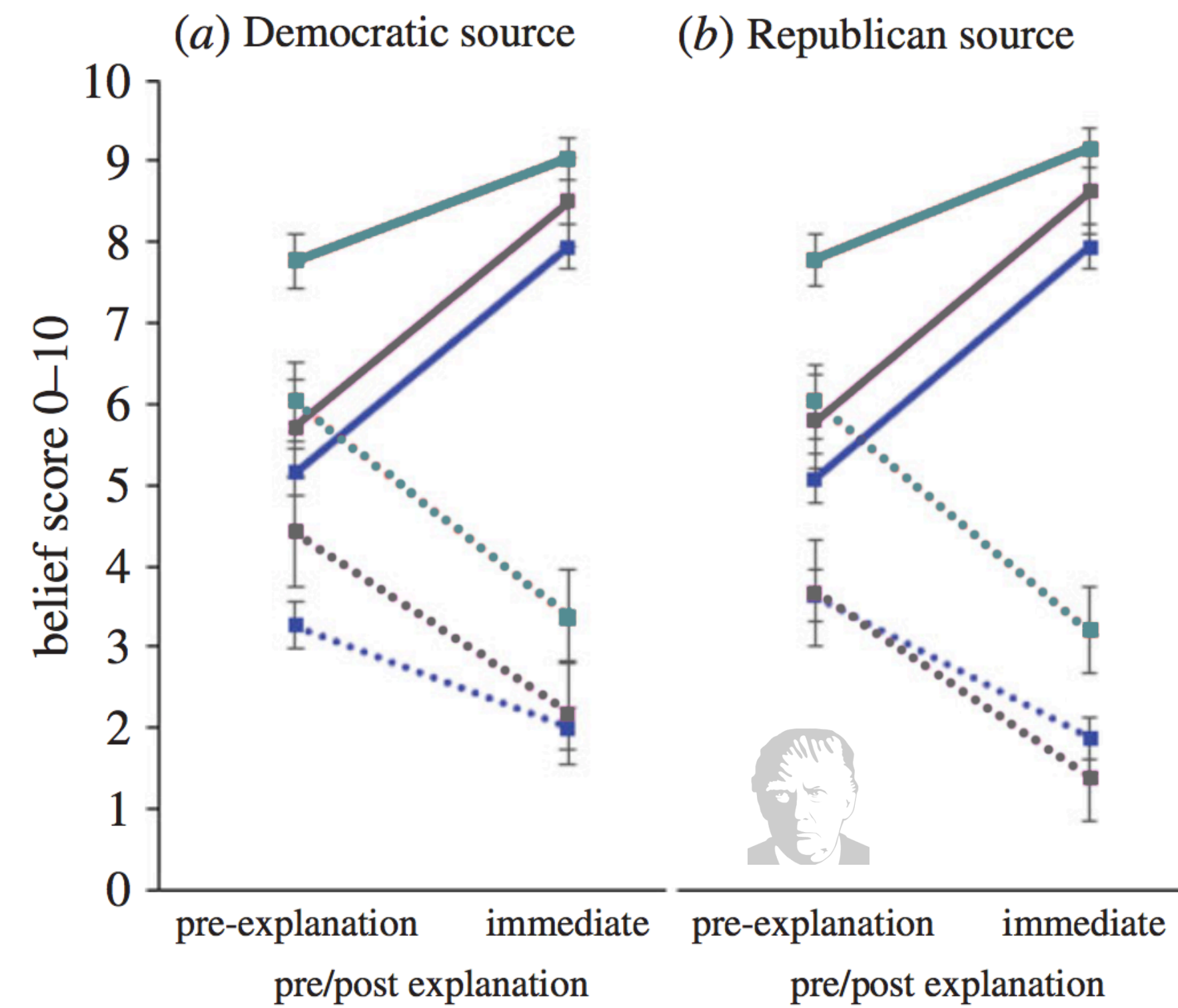


Impossibility to fact-check every single digital content



Impossibility to fact-check every single digital content

Brendan Nyhan, and Jason Reifler. 2015.
“The Effect of Fact-Checking on Elites: A
Field Experiment on U.S. State
Legislators.” *American Journal of Political
Science* 59 (3): 628–640.



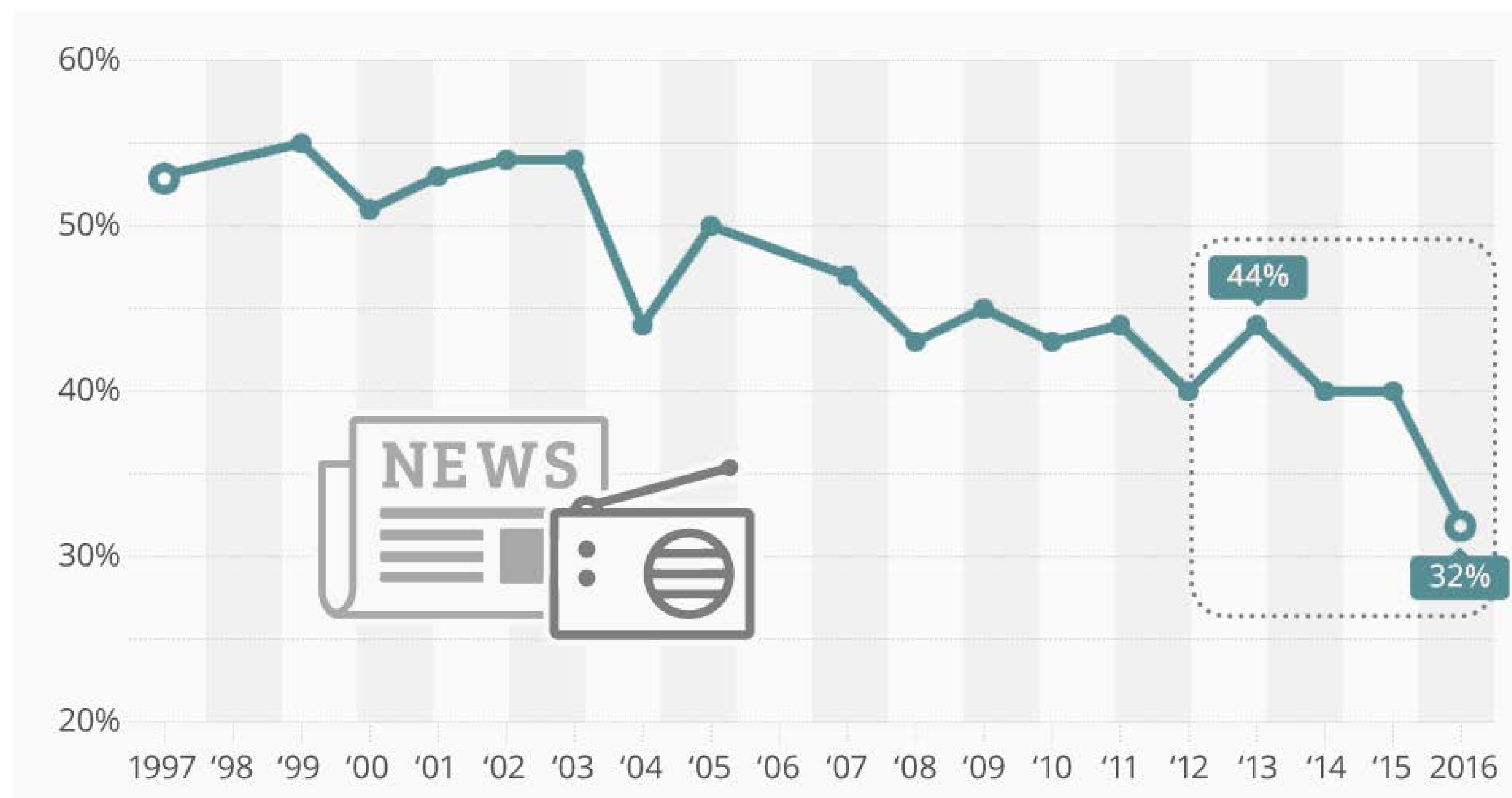
Correction (providing the accurate facts) **does not necessarily** leads to a change of opinion.

people use political figures as a **heuristic** to guide evaluation of what is true or false.

Swire B, Berinsky AJ, Lewandowsky S, Ecker UKH. 2017
 'Processing political misinformation: comprehending the
 Trump phenomenon'. *R. Soc. open sci.* 4

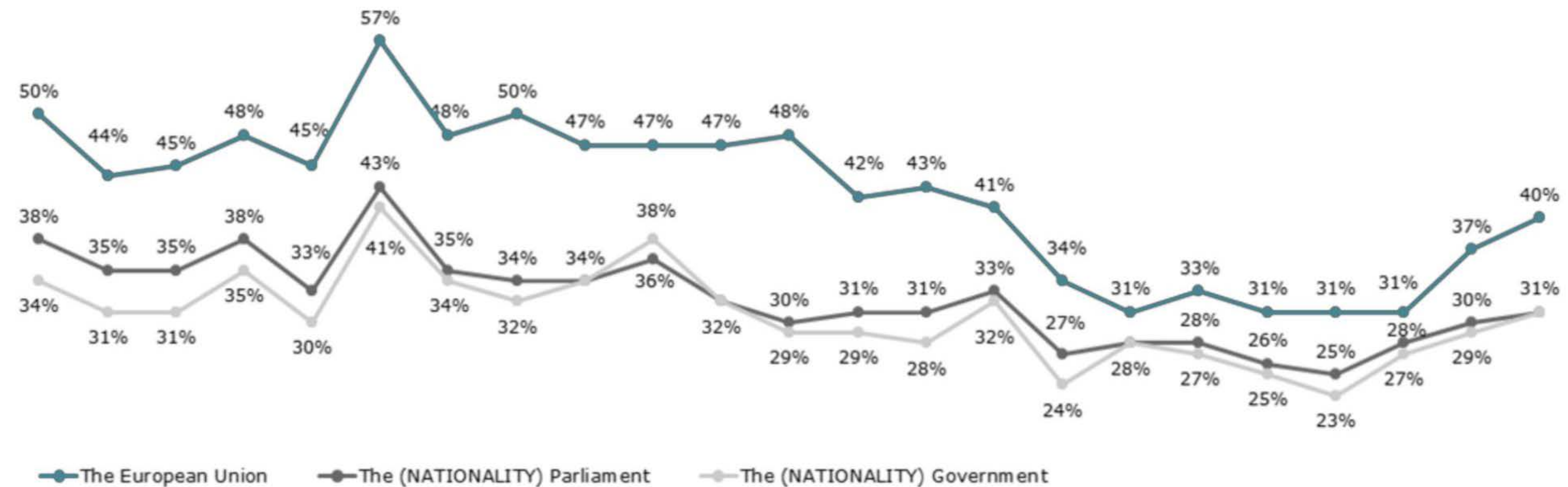
Lack of Trust in the Gatekeepers

% of Americans who have a great deal/fair amount of trust in mass media



Lack of Trust in the Gatekeepers

% of Europeans who trust their political institutions



Lack of Trust is fuelling the spread of Misinformation

On Immigration issues, UK

Brits who think that

The Government is deliberately
hiding the truth about how many
immigrants really live in the country

Brits who think that

Immigration to the UK is part of a
bigger plan to make Muslims a
majority of the country's population

Source: University of Cambridge
and YouGov , 2018

Lack of Trust is fuelling the spread of Misinformation

On Immigration issues, US

Americans who think that
The Government is deliberately
hiding the truth about how many
immigrants really live in the country

Trump voters

44

Clinton voters

12

Americans who think that
Immigration to the UK is part of a
bigger plan to make Muslims a
majority of the country's population

Trump voters

41

Clinton voters

3

Source: University of Cambridge
and YouGov , 2018



Inclination to
believe in conspiracy
theories



Lack of Trust in
Governments



Tendency to believe
fake news about
immigration



‘Truthfulness is a form
of truthworthiness.’

Bernard Williams, 2002



Thanks!
Stay in touch:
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