

Studying Radicalized Individuals and Their Passive Social Media Use:

A Person-Centered and Privacy-Sensitive Approach

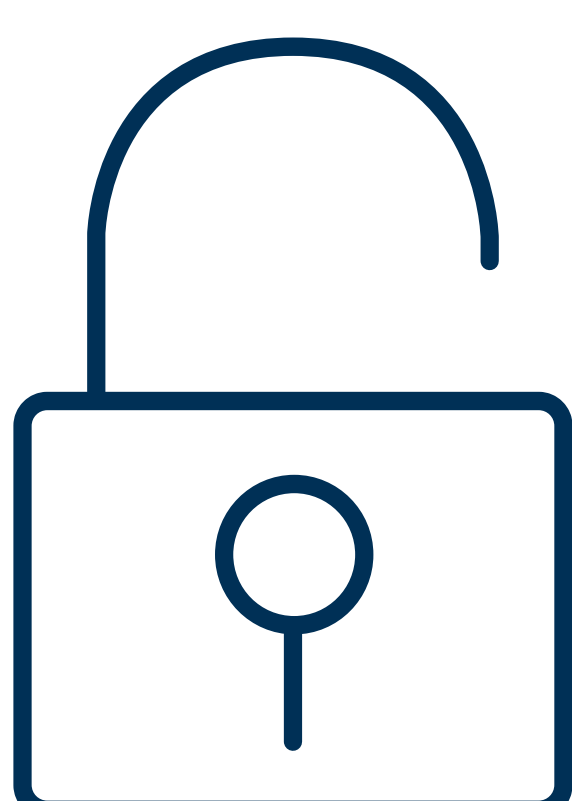
Frieder Rodewald, MZES, University of Mannheim
Nina Osenbrügge, MZES, University of Mannheim



- We study how **politically radicalized** individuals passively consume content on **YouTube**.
- The project uses a **privacy-sensitive data donation** approach instead of self-reports or tracking.
- **Actual user behavior** is analyzed, including watch history, search history, and subscribed accounts.



- By integrating behavioral data with survey data, the project advances **insights into online radicalization**.
- We collect participants' **passive social media use**, which would not be possible with traditional survey methods.
- The findings **inform counter-radicalization strategies**, policy, and public awareness of the consumption of extremist content online.



- All code, data, and workflows are **openly shared via GESIS and GitHub**.
- We provide a **how-to guide** for working with data donation, including data documentation and how to handle ethical challenges and data protection issues.
- The **final processed dataset** (excluding raw, sensitive data) is openly published for transparency and reproducibility.