Disquieted by Online Hate: Negative Experiences of Finnish Adolescents and Young Adults

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* Disquiet
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## Authors

Savimäki T.;Kaakinen M.;Räsänen P.;Oksanen A.

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## Sample

1726 Finnish participants between 15 and 30 years old who had seen online hate content during past 3 months

# Abstract

Online hate is becoming a growing public concern, but so far, the phenomenon hasnot been studied from the perspective of fear of crime. This study examined why some peopleare disquieted more by hateful online content than others. The data consist of Finnishparticipants (n= 1726) between 15 and 30 years old. The main analysis focused on participantswho had seen online hate content during the past 3 months. The feeling of being disturbed bythis type of material is, in this article, operationalized with the concept of disquiet referring to afeeling of anxiety or uneasiness. The findings, based on ordinary least-squares regressionanalysis (OLS), show that the intensity of such negative experiences was stronger for women,immigrants, and those who had faced previous online and offline victimization. Risk-takerswere less likely to be disquieted by online hate. In addition, those worrying about becomingonline hate victims were more disquieted by online hate than others. The findings emphasizethat online hate content may have a strong impact on those who are already in a vulnerableposition. Overall, the study supports the idea that online and offline worlds are not twoseparate realities but rather coexisting dimensions of one social sphere.

# Outcome

The feelings of being disturbed occurred more strongly for women, immigrants, and those who had faced previous online and offline victimization. Risk-takers were least easily disquieted by online hate. Those who were using online services extencively and were worrying about becoming online hate victims were more disquieted by online hate.