

Morphed, Entangled, and United: Introducing the Hybridity of Radicalization in the COVID-19 era



COVID-19 misinformation has emboldened right-wing extremist rationale, and vice-versa.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- COVID-19 misinformation has been resonating with right-wing extremist beliefs, transnationally

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

- Mutual reinforcement that expands the strength and scope of extremist influence
- Rising challenge of isolating groups and containing radicalization

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES & QUESTIONS:

Objective 1:
Patterns of Reasoning

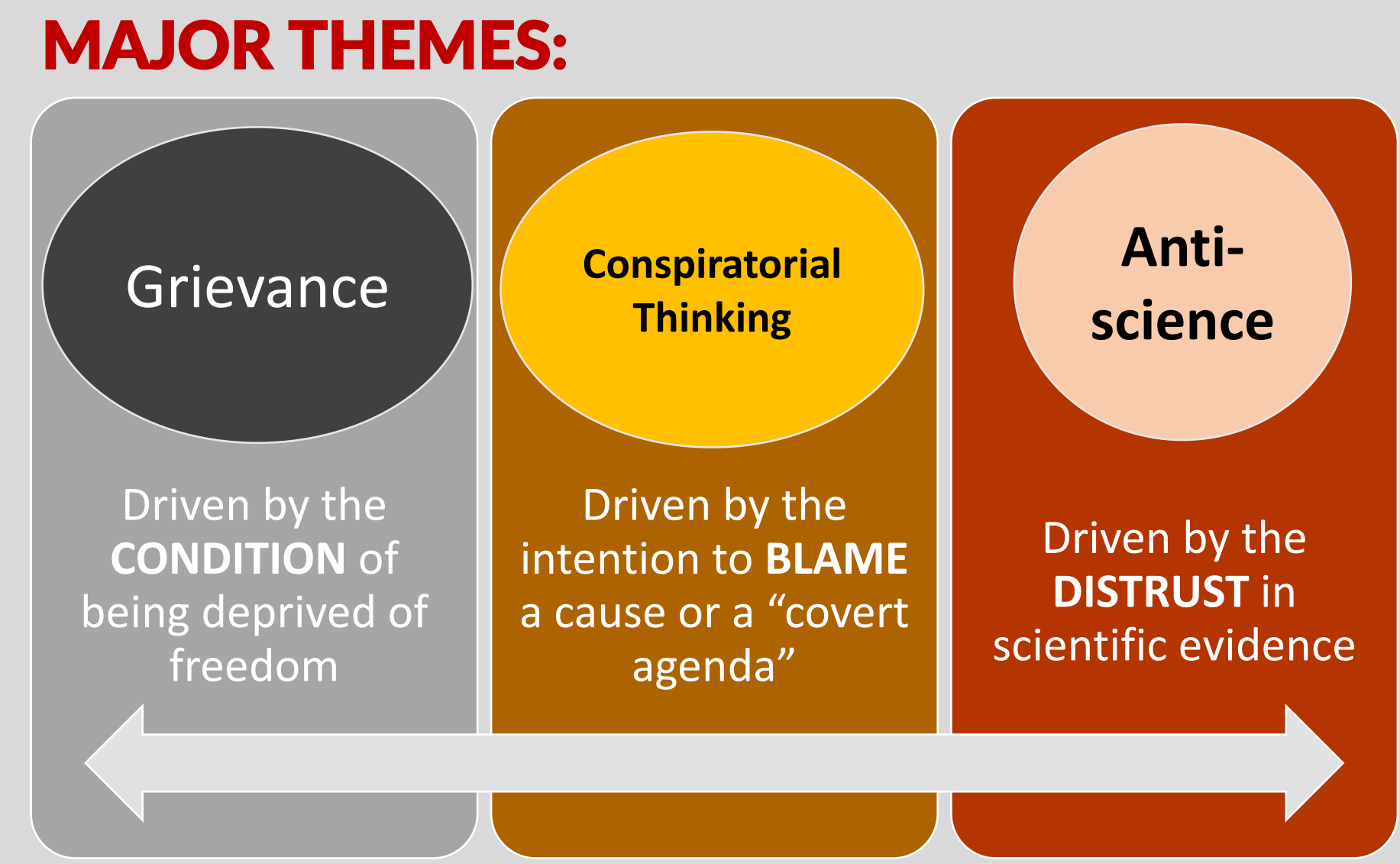
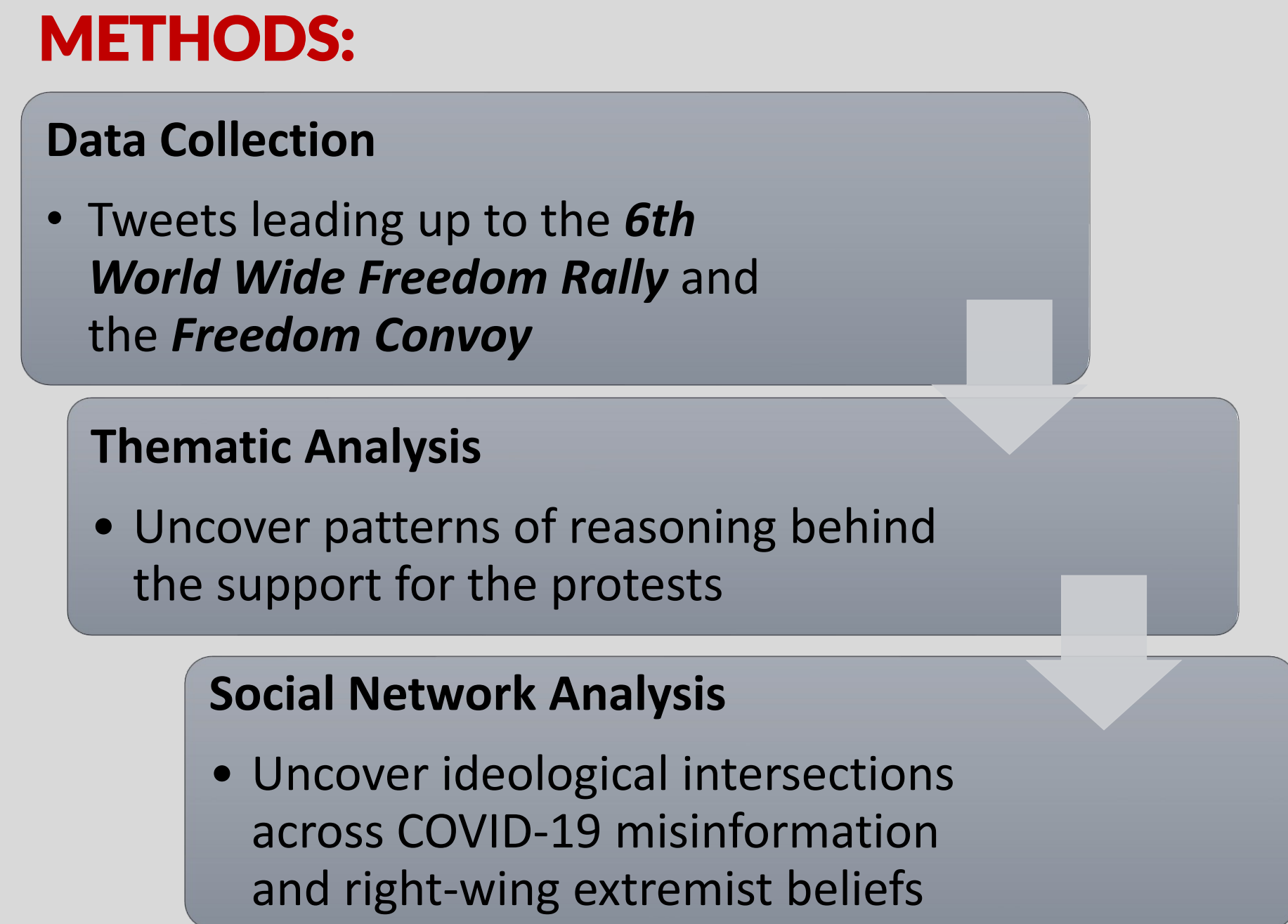
- What are the reasons behind the support for the *6th World Wide Freedom Rally* and the *Freedom Convoy*?
- To what extent do they demonstrate a willingness to engage in threatful behaviour?

Objective 2:
Ideological Overlaps

- Where do the ideological overlaps across COVID-19 misinformation and right-wing extremist beliefs lie?
- How strong are the overlaps?



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DISCUSSION:

- Overlaps suggest a wider reach of extremist sympathizers
- Overlaps demonstrate a hybrid environment of radicalization with multiple identities that reinforce each other's beliefs
- Overlaps highlight potential for misinformed beliefs to be brought to radical positions that could escalate into violence

REFERENCES:

Steve Eason. (2020). *IMG_9518* [Photograph]. Flickr. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/127991958@N06/50385119683>