

A new book explores the global reach of hate speech and abusive behaviour on social media

A must-read book for a clear understanding of intolerant and aggressive behaviour in the online environment and how to tackle it



Wilmington, Delaware Jul 1, 2024 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The negative impacts of social media platforms on society have been triggering growing global concern among influential voices such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, Amnesty International, UNESCO, and many others. The overall understanding is that these digital spaces have become breeding grounds for the manifestation of a myriad of online harassment and abuse.

In this context, it is clear that most studies exploring this phenomenon have primarily focused on English-speaking countries such as the US and the UK. Nonetheless, *Hate speech and abusive behaviour on social media: A cross-cultural perspective* breaks new ground in this area by examining hate speech from a wider perspective.

This pioneering research scrutinises the societal impacts of hate speech and abusive behaviour on social media across diverse cultural contexts. It draws on the analysis of over 100 studies originally published in Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, encompassing research developed in 11 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, and Spain.

By analysing the phenomenon through these non-hegemonic languages and diverse social contexts, the book underscores the importance of considering cultural, historical, and linguistic factors in understanding hate speech and online harassment.

Dr Trindade's work reveals the dual role played by social media as both a catalyst and vehicle for spreading hate and abuse. Thus, the publication calls our attention to the fact that these digital technologies significantly impact individuals, vulnerable social groups, society, and even democracy. Ultimately, they enable offenders to spread aggressive and discriminatory ideologies, often attracting like-minded individuals who, combined, challenge social conventions, and norms of conviviality and undermine social cohesion.

This book is an essential resource for students, scholars, and researchers in sociology, criminology, media and communication studies, and digital humanities. It also offers invaluable insights for policymakers, leaders of NGOs, educators, parents, journalists, and anyone interested in understanding and tackling social media's adverse societal impacts.

About the Author

[Luiz Valério P. Trindade](#) lives in Italy, holds a PhD in Sociology from the *University of Southampton* (UK), and is currently an affiliated social scientist with the *IPIE - International Panel on the Information Environment* (Switzerland). His previous publications include [Discurso de Ódio nas Redes Sociais](#) (Editora Jandaíra, 2022) and [No Laughing Matter: Race Joking and Resistance in Brazilian Social Media](#) (Vernon Press, 2020). His work has also been featured in dozens of newspaper articles, TV appearances, podcast interviews, several influential academic and non-academic blogs, and scholarly journals.

About the Publication

Book Title: Hate Speech and abusive behaviour on Social Media: A cross-cultural Perspective

Publisher: Vernon Press (Wilmington, DE)

ISBN: 979-8-8819-0024-3

Edition: 1st

Number of pages: 132

Illustrations: 7 B&W

Available in hardcover, paperback, and e-book from Vernon Press (<https://www.vernonpress.com/book/2062>), Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, and many other major online bookstores.

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Source : Vernon Press

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