

Politicized Loneliness: Perspectives on Hate, Extremism, and Radicalization

University of Helsinki, March 7-8, 2024

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1: March 7

9.30-10 Coffee

10 - 10.20 Opening words and short introduction to the projects "Politicized Loneliness" & "Philosophy of Loneliness"
Sanna Tirkkonen & Ari-Elmeri Hyvönen

10.20 - 11.30 Keynote lecture: "Responsibility in an Age of Political Loneliness" + discussion
Jennifer Gaffney

(chair: Ari-Elmeri Hyvönen)

* Lunch break *

13.30-14.30 Panel 1 (chair: Matias Nurminen)

Loneliness and Radicalization
Ruth Rebecca Tietjen & Sanna Tirkkonen

"My whole life has been one lonely enterprise": The far-right's weaponization of loneliness through resentment
Kaitlyn DaVisio and Mikko Salmela

14.30-15.00 Coffee break (outside the lecture hall)

15.00-16.00 Panel 2 (chair: Sanna Tirkkonen)

Woman, the Scapegoat: From Loneliness to Misogyny
Justina Berskyte and Mihaela Popa-Wyatt

Lonely Lives, Isolated Minds: Resentment and the Epistemic Fallout of Incels
Leah Ritterfeld

Drinks/free time

DAY 2: March 8

9.30 Coffee

10.00–11.30 Panel 3 (chair: Mirka Muilu)

100 years of loneliness: Nostalgic accounts of a communal past and the pull of
conspirituality

Ilana Hartikainen, Emilia Lounela, Zea Szebeni, and Niko Pyrhönen

Albert Camus' *The Plague* and loneliness of the citizens as a strategy of totalitarian
power

Antti Sundberg

Sartre and Lacan on Loneliness as the Excess of Interiority

Elad Magomedov

* Lunch break *

13–14 Panel 4 (chair: Ruth Tietjen)

Interviewing current and former incels: constructing and leaving the incel identity

Emilia Lounela

Illusions of Belonging: A Recognition-Theoretical Explanation of Loneliness in
Populist Movements

Aycan Funda

14.00 – 14.30 Coffee

14.30 – 15.30 Panel 5 (chair Ari-Elmeri Hyvönen)

Lonely Extremists: Rejecting Dependence and Refusing Vulnerability

Kaitlyn Creasy

Powerless Fantasies – Politicized Loneliness and Aggression

Jaakko Vuori

15.30 –

Final discussion & transition to drinks