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The transnationalisation of far-right intellectual circles in Europe: 1980s-2020

The problem

In 2014, the Landsknecht project, a metapolitical initiative by far-right intellectual circles, emerged amidst growing European far-right movements. This project aimed for a 'European cultural revolution' through networks and cultural associations, believing cultural hegemony precedes political conquest. Despite electoral gains, these circles sought renewed transnationalisation, but why?

Core interest

This project explores how far-right intellectual circles developed transnational networks from 1980 to 2020.

Key hypotheses:

- Since the 1980s, far-right intellectual circles reorganised.
- The far-right adapted to international contexts.
- Metapoliticisation led to a 'battle for minds' over political conquest, influencing public opinion via media.

The research design focuses on:

- France, Germany, Italy.
- Analytical levels: macro (events, socio-political), meso (ideas, strategies, networks) and micro (militant trajectories, motivations).

The project frames the far-right as a transnational social movement, where ethnocentrism coexists with cross-border mobilisation.

global dis:connect

This interdisciplinary project aligns directly with the global dis:connect's focus on dis:connectivity in processes of globalisation.

My project specifically addresses:

- **Connection:** Formation and strengthening of ties among the European extreme right
- **Disconnection:** Integration of the European extreme right (1980s-2020) simultaneously fosters disintegration through a metapolitics of disconnection, evident in cultural and political battles over issues like migration and Islamophobia.

The findings will illuminate factors influencing transnational far-right cooperation, metapoliticisation and the reformulation/circulation of ideas within European far-right intellectual circles in France, Germany and Italy.

Preliminary results

The project uses a novel mixed-methods design, combining existing and original data. Transnationalization of far-right intellectual circles will be measured through:

- Events analysis.
- Circulation of ideas.
- Militant personal trajectories.

Methodology for France, Germany, and Italy includes:

- Interviews (structured, semi-structured, ethnographic).
- Network analysis.
- Analysis of far-right magazines, blogs, and think tank publications/activities.

This integrated approach is vital for understanding macro, meso, and micro levels, and examining transnationalization dynamics in selected countries, differing in modalities like political diasporas, major events (e.g., European integration), cultural issues (e.g., immigration), and internet impact.