

**Review a podcast episode of your choice. You are expected to: 1) provide a quick synopsis of the entire podcast show, 2) review ONE episode of the podcast. You should answer the following questions: (a) What is this podcast about?, (b) how does the content in the episode relate to what you learn in this class? Below you can find a list of suggestions for podcasts, but you are welcome to introduce other podcasts that are not listed. Please check this with me before starting your review. Note that this podcast show needs to be concerned with topics related to cyber terrorism/terrorism, hate violence, or extremism.**

The podcast I chose was Rabbit Hole. This podcast is created by reporters at The New York Times. Kevin Roose created this podcast to analyze the effects the internet has on us, as people who use it on a daily basis. The podcast examines many aspects of the internet like hate, extremism and online-radicalization. The episode of the podcast I reviewed was titled "One: Wonderland." The episode is centered around a guy who was radicalized by the internet, specifically, on youtube. The guy's name was Caleb Cane and he lived in West Virginia. Something that was interesting during the episode was Caleb pulled out a gun and placed it on a table as soon as they met him and went into the house. Caleb had a bit of a rough childhood, he didn't know his dad growing up, he was raised by his grandparents and was bullied throughout school. He used video games as an escape, then later found the internet and started playing online video games. This also helped him find youtube and he started watching youtube videos more and more. He found the most solace on being on the internet rather than real life. He left school after getting into a fight and not really having much drive to go to class or even go outside. He began to think about his place in the world and how he didn't feel he was where he needed to be. He started going through self-help videos to help him, then into buddhism videos. He found videos of Stephon Molyneux, which showed him some philosophical videos. He started watching him more and more because he wanted a life like him. This eventually led him to find Joe Rogan. Giom Shalot was a worker at Google and plays a pretty big role in this video. He worked at Google and was in charge of creating an algorithm for the youtube recommendation system. This recommendation system allowed people to watch more videos based on what they already watched, but there was a flaw that Giom noticed. The flaw was that the recommendation only showed you one point of view. An example of this was the protests that erupted in Cairo, Egypt. Giom noticed that people that started watching from the protestors perspective, would only ever get video recommendations from the protests perspectives and same with people who watch from law enforcement perspective. This recommendation algorithm in a way locked people into a singular perspective, which is what happened to Caleb once he discovered

extremist views and content on youtube. This podcast relates to the topics we discussed in class because it directly correlates with the topic of radicalization. Sites like youtube and 4chan are notorious for introducing extremist ideologies to individuals and consequently using those same sites as echo chambers, especially with how youtube recommends similar videos to what you already watch. This makes sites like youtube extremely dangerous because they can really lock your perspective on a singular point of view and make you believe that it is the only right perspective. This podcast also shows how easy it is to be radicalized online. With youtube being so easily accessible, it allows for radicalization to happen so organically, even if you are not necessarily looking for extremist content, but once you view content relating to anything remotely extreme, it will begin giving you more and more recommendations for that same topic.