



Elie Mystal 
@ElieNYC

Everybody is on the "This is Fox News's fault" and, it is. But I want to focus on another community I follow closely: Gamers. I tend to follow streamers/YouTubers who explicitly *don't* go in for these white supremacist dog whistles (obviously) but a lot of them don't call it out

I get it. For the most part these people are young, not particularly well versed in things like *the history of white supremacist movements* and avoid "politics" as uncool and, more importantly, unhelpful to their monetization strategies.

They're overwhelming white and male and have been taught and told to associate words like "diversity" and "inclusion" with somebody coming to reduce the breast sizes of their toons. ...Which too often *is* the only corporate tech bro response to legit request for more inclusion

And so when they see obvious white supremacist crap, in the chat, in the comments, they ignore it, laugh it off, or pivot to some other point to make everybody feel nice and happy again. And those are the GOOD ones. The bad ones encourage it, or go as close to the line they can.

Twitch is constantly behind. Like all the platforms, there's no AI solution that does a good job of distinguishing between white replacement theory (bad) and white boys ranting (whatever). And BECAUSE OF FOX... white supremacy and GOP talking points are often the same thing now.

But, I say this as an old gamer, but a gamer nonetheless, and one who is openly black while I play (ie, my avatars are always Black) there is an entire WORLD of *permissiveness* of this stuff. It's not just 4chan and dark web stuff.

I am a public black guy who periodically gets yelled at BY Fox News directly, and the most bigotry and misogyny I've seen in 2022 was on the SWTOR general chat after its last expansion sucked with "fans" blaming every *other* in the book for it sucking.

Most of the times I've been called the n-word in real life, like the numerical majority of times, has been in general chat in a



video game or in an open voice public matchmaking lobby... which they pretty much don't even do anymore because it's so toxic.

These deaths are on Fox for sure for popularizing replacement theory. But the fertile ground for that is not just with actual Fox viewers. There are edgelords all throughout the gaming community who gulp that stuff up and push it through their networks.
Believe.

To be clear, I'm not saying "people who play shooters are going to/learn how to shoot people." I play Destiny and I'd still be crap at an alien invasion from the moon.
I'm not even saying people who make racist comments are gonna go out and shoot up a black grocery store.

I'm saying that people who want to go out and shoot black people find *community* in gamer communities. Their Dad is watching Fox, while they play and stream whatever.
It really doesn't matter the game. You can find toxic stuff in FF14 and FF14 is about fighting literal sadness

