

# Internet echo chambers will lead to a dystopian future.

November 13, 2022 | 8 upvotes | by [gozzff](#)

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## Section A - Introduction

We live in a scary time. In the future, people will spend a larger part of their lives online on a scale never seen before. Internet echo chambers will move further and further away from the realities of real life as many of their members will be permanently online and only exposed to the "reality" they find in said echo chambers. What is normal will become abnormal and what is absurd will become the new standard of things. People's insecurities will become the driving force behind this new "era of delusion".

I would like to give an example of this new phenomenon of internet delusion. The following post was published in the subreddit "twoXChromosomes":

[https://www.reddit.com/r/TwoXChromosomes/comments/x3z0vm/the\\_whole\\_leonardo\\_dicaprio\\_thing\\_especially\\_the/](https://www.reddit.com/r/TwoXChromosomes/comments/x3z0vm/the_whole_leonardo_dicaprio_thing_especially_the/)

I will critically dissect this post and some of the comments written below it.

## Section B - Some Facts

Before anyone speaks of delusions, one should first establish that the opinions spoken in this subreddit are actual delusions and not fact-based statements. I will provide some facts in this section which will give important context to the later sections.

Studies show that men perceive younger women as more attractive. [1] [2] In fact, I'm not aware of any studies that contradict this result.

This preference for young women seems to be universal and is expressed in many different cultures. [3]

The older men get, the younger they want their potential partner to be relative to their own age:

"Our results show that age preferences essentially shift with age, but in different ways for men and women: Whereas men increasingly prefer younger women as they age, women's age preferences become increasingly diverse." [4]

"[...] both 20-year-old and 49-year-old men both cite women aged 20 as what they find the most attractive. The age of a woman men find most attractive never makes it above 24." [5]

Now it could be said that these study results are unreliable because they are only based on self-reports. Men may say they prefer younger women but are insincere in some way. After all, most 50 year olds are not dating 20 year olds. But this notion is false:

"Both young and old men say that they are sexually attracted to young, fertile women, but older men tend to marry older women, including those who are peri- and post-menopausal. We assessed men's freely revealed preference for their mates' age using an unusual marriage phenomenon in South Korea: the practice in which men purchase their brides from developing countries. Presumably, the men's mate choice, at least regarding the brides' age, is unrestricted by women. We analyzed all first marriages reported in 2010–2014 in South Korea and compared men who married Korean brides (N = 1,088,457) with those who purchased their brides (N = 45,528); the age range of grooms and brides was 15–59. While the former exhibited the typical pattern where older men married older women, the latter, whether young or old, always married young, fertile women. This finding is consistent with men's stated preference for young, fertile women in mating and suggests that the typical pattern is generated by women's limiting role in mating." [6]

It is often said that partnerships with large age gaps are not in the interest of both the male and female

partner. Alleged irreconcilable differences in life experiences and the exploitation of the less mature partner are cited as negative. That's not true either. In fact, partners in a relationship with large age differences (more than 10 years) are happier than partnerships with no or only a small age difference (i.e. less than ten years). [7]

In summary, the following can be said:

Almost all men prefer younger partners, so this is not an abnormal preference.

Even old men still prefer younger partners.

These preferences seemed to be universal.

Men make these preferences a reality if they have the opportunity to do so.

Partners with larger age gaps are happier together.

I do not think that the facts I have listed in Section B require scientific evidence. They are all seem self-evident to me. Twenty years ago anyone who would questioned the higher attractiveness of younger women would have been laughed at. However, as I pointed out in Section A, we are in interesting times and therefore scientific evidence is needed.

[1] Finding your Soulmate: Homosexual and heterosexual age preferences in online dating (2015), Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin

[2] How Sexually Dimorphic Are Human Mate Preferences? (2015), Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin

[3] Sex differences in age preference: Universal reality or ephemeral construction? (1992), Behavioral and Brain Sciences

[4] The Gendered Dynamics of Age Preferences – Empirical Evidence from Online Dating (2011), Zeitschrift fur Familienforschung

[5] Dataclysm: Who We Are (When We Think No One's Looking), Christian Rudder

[6] Men's revealed preference for their mates' ages (2017), Evolution and Human Behavior

[7] Why couples with big age gaps are happier, despite the social disapproval, ABC

### Section C - Lapsus Linguae

I picked this particular post from TwoXChromosomes because I believe the author involuntarily disclosed her true motivations. Let's take a look at the post:

**The whole leonardo dicaprio thing (especially the responses) have me so paranoid it's not even funny.**

The amount of men (and some women...sadly) I've seen over the last few days saying it's reasonable to ditch women around the age he does with his chicks (26, right?) is mind blowing??? What the shit. Of course there had to be men chiming in saying the old "beyond their prime" bs. God, I really thought this was getting better and people, mostly men, wouldn't age shame as much...

Please tell me this isn't most guys? And it's only the incel types...? Wishful thinking, I guess. This shit is why I'm 21 and feel like I only have a few years left of being desirable to men...when I see them on social media calling girls over 24 attractive I'm shocked. How sad is that?

Sorry for such a whiny rant. I'm so disgusted by it.

The author is clearly in emotional distress because she's heard stories that Leonardo DiCaprio "discards"

anyone over the age of 25. Why does this story create so much insecurity and negative emotionality? Why does Leonardo DiCaprio's personal life affect her own sense of happiness?

This anger and bitterness springs from a sense of entitlement to male attention which many women harbor. They feel hurt because such "age discrimination" damages their self-esteem and provokes the feeling of undesirability.

### **Section D - Hate and Bitterness**

Even more interesting than OP's post are the many comments that were written under her post. A toxic mix of bitterness, insecurity, tribalism and mendacity is reflected in these comments. I ask my audience to keep the points I made in section B in mind while I go through some particularly insightful comments.

comment 1

I think it's just the pedo incel types who like women so young they're easier to control. I'm 36 and have no trouble attracting men despite being 'old' according to these buffoons.

Women age like milk, ie we turn into a lovely mature stilton with plenty of taste

Unfortunately, it's not just the "pedo incel types" that prefer young women, it's (almost) all men. A clear example of delusionary thinking. The author of this comment attacks the men who discriminate in their partner choice according to physical characteristics, I think it's out of a feeling of bitterness. Despite the inaccuracy of the comment, it is positively upvoted because it presents a comfortable alternative reality which temporarily minimizes the insecurities of these women.

The following 5 comments have all a similar content. It is said that men who prefer younger women have a number of negative characteristics and represent a lower class of men:

comment 2

Because of a deep seeded sexual insecurity. They love the idea of someone to break in because they are so limited in sexual experiences and they can take advantage of that girl's inexperience. Basically can't disappoint a girl with no expectations.

comment 3

Leonardo is mentally stunted, he is still a child in his own mind, he is an outlier not a norm.

comment 4

The only men you will stop being desirable to is men looking for their next victim.

comment 5

[...] Especially these men, yikes. Imagine being worried that you won't be attractive to the creepy 50 year olds chasing after women 30 years younger than themselves. Good riddance.

comment 6

[...] Normal men find women their age attractive and men who don't you don't want anyways sistah so be glad they weeded themselves out.

Of course, this is a delusionary notion, since such beauty ideals are universal and are not limited to a certain class of "creepy" men.

comment 7

The creeper defense force came out swinging on behalf of Leo, but most of their arguments have been short-sighted.

They've said nothing about his repeated treatment of women as disposable objects. They haven't acknowledged the sexist and ageist notion that women are "expired" after they become older than 25.

In a rational world, the free choice regarding association of adults would need no defense. Most partnerships don't last for a lifetime. As far as I know, Leonardo never made a promise of lifelong commitment. The author of this comment seems to think that Leonardo's personal life choices are in need of her approval. A typical femcel mindset manifests itself here, fears of being replaced in old age create this attitude. I think the phenomenon of insecure women trying to limit male agency is an example of female mate guarding behavior.

Then there are a number of comments (mostly from males) that say exactly what the insecure women of TwoXChromosomes want to hear. Here some examples:

comment 8

I second that. I'm a 24 yo male. But hell no, dating girls between 19 and 24 is a pain in the ass. Not joking. Cannot handle that kind of person. Very few exceptions. Found my self dating girls between 25 and 30. Is a very clear and straightforward communication. Less drama. Less everything bad with relationships with younger women.

comment 9

I'm 28 most of my guy friends refuse to date anyone younger than 25. My really good guy friend just went on a date with a 23 years old said it was the worst dating Experience since college. He normally dates older women. I would t worry about it, the guys you wanna date don't think like that. The guys who do think like that arnt worth dating.

comment 10

Yeah. I'll say with all seriousness that the best part of being a man in his 30s are the women in their 30s.

comment 11

It seems like in cases where you see pictures of celebrities in their late teens vs their 30s, they are more attractive in their 30s. This is true for both men and women.

These comments help to cope with insecurities but in an unhealthy way. They create a false perception of reality and are a good example of how internet echo chambers can systematically mislead people. People can freely choose the content they want to see on social media, and it's easier to surrender to comfortable lies than face the hard reality. So it should be easy to see how such echo chambers out of touch with reality can arise. Things that sound comforting , even if they aren't true, get up-voted, things that are true but not suitable for coping purposes will be down-voted. Most of the time, however, such messages which convey hard realities will not be given the opportunity to be down-voted because mods will ban such comments before many users see them.

And here lies the danger of these echo chambers: a separation from reality, a normalization of the abnormal and a radicalization of the members all driven by insecurities. In the future, most human interactions will take place online. This new brave world will bear many strange fruits.



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## Comments

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M\_LaSalle • 6 points • 13 November, 2022 09:51 AM

I can't finish this at 0447 when I haven't finished my coffee and I'm looking at another day working on a sore knee.

Let me just say that internet echo chambers are a harbinger of the apocalypse, Western Civ is doomed and no longer worth saving. Right now I just want to see it all burn so I wouldn't have to go into work.

gozzff[S] • 2 points • 13 November, 2022 11:00 AM

Well I'm learning that big texts aren't read. Everything has to be kept brief so as not to overwhelm the tiny attention span of today's society.

[deleted] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 11:03 AM

I think most of the users on this sub are in North America, and most of them are in the Eastern Time Zone, it's currently 6am for me haha. Wait a bit and there will be more people

gozzff[S] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 11:11 AM

Yes you are right. I didn't pay any attention to time zones.

LemoncZinn • 3 points • 13 November, 2022 02:31 PM

I think you already live there. You nested a Reddit post within another post to discuss it.

nemma88 • 3 points • 13 November, 2022 02:58 PM\*

The reality is DiCaprio *isn't* the norm, even among his peers, that's why he's noteworthy to speak of.

For LTRs, cross culturally, men prefer women a few years younger than themselves. I think its Buss's research but it can be picked up on the age disparity in sexual relations wiki page.

What is the *best* looking age range for a man or woman doesn't hold *that much* sway, you are giving it too much power. Like any preferences, its measured against other preferences and variables before finding a mate.

DiCaprio is just hyper focused on one aspect for whatever reason.

I don't think it would be dystopian for a male centric board to complaining about a woman who repeatedly divorces their high earning partners or whatever, hell they're there when there is one divorce of a high earning man in a womans history.

gozzff[S] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 03:17 PM

Read section B again. You misunderstand the facts.

nemma88 • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 03:46 PM\*

Read section B again. You misunderstand the facts.

I don't misunderstand it, its one I've read many times here, the only odd thing in it is;

Partners with larger age gaps are happier together.

Because IIRC the only such that suggests so is based on the beginning of the coupling, with other studies saying happiness decreases faster and becomes lower than similarly aged couples. Age gaps have a

higher divorce rate, and less relationship satisfaction overall but I dismissed that as its not important to the overall point.

DiCaprio is not typical in the west, even among his peers. The female version of DiCaprio is a woman divorcing her rich husband every 5 or so years. I would not bat an eye at men calling her a wierdo, regardless of more money = better in studies. That is still scummy, and there's still something mentally wrong with such a woman.

People don't usually choose their partner on one thing alone. Attractive rather than most attractive is fine with most people, when they're also looking for other things.

gozzff[S] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 04:27 PM

and less relationship satisfaction overall but I dismissed that as its not important to the overall point.

The opposite is the case I have named all my sources you can check for yourself.

DiCaprio is not typical in the west, even among his peers.

Right, because he has the opportunity to do so. Most men can't find an young and attractive woman, let alone swap every few years. I think in a natural environment he would be polygamous not serial monogamous.

nemma88 • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 05:03 PM\*

The opposite is the case I have named all my sources you can check for yourself.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-20/couple-with-a-larger-age-gap-happier/9680764>

[ But some studies find the relationship satisfaction reported by age-gap couples is higher.] -

Links back to

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1111/j.1471-6402.2007.00408.x>

Which states...

**Results indicated that *woman-older partners* were the most satisfied with and committed to their relationships, relative to** woman-younger and similarly aged partners,

Which is not what you were imagining at a guess, and you accidently dropped a source in that said women older pairings are the happiest... But that's also the articles fault for spouting bullshit.

Otherwise one of my sources;

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6785043/>

Wang-Sheng Lee\* and Terra McKinnish

The results for women are reported in panel B. For women with older husbands, every additional year their husband is older than them decreases their satisfaction by 0.032. For women with younger husbands, every additional year their husband is younger than them increases marital satisfaction by 0.039, but the coefficient is not statistically significant

...

Our results indicate that marital satisfaction varies with the marital age gap. Specifically, we find that in the first 6–10 years of marriage, both men and women experience are most satisfied with younger partners and least satisfied with older partners. Our analysis of the

interaction between marital satisfaction and marital age gap suggests that marital satisfaction declines more rapidly over time for both men and women in differently-aged couples compared to similarly-aged couples, so that after 6–10 years, the initial higher levels of satisfaction experienced by men married to younger wives and women married to younger husbands are erased. Finally, our analysis suggests a potential mechanism for the relative declines in the satisfaction of differently-aged couples, which is that differently-aged couples experience larger declines in marital satisfaction in response to a negative economic shock compared to similarly-aged couples.

For the divorce stat its easily googled. The original study is inaccessible but there's many articles based on it.

Right, because he has the opportunity to do so.

AMONG HIS PEERS, those men in similar situations, the length and breadth of hollywood... Do not. He is the odd one out.

gozzff[S] • 1 point • 14 November, 2022 03:23 AM

If you read the actual study, you'll find that women with older male partners also report higher relationship satisfaction (based on Table 1):

Satisfaction Level:

Woman-older partners 7.93

Woman-younger partners 7.33

Similarly aged partners 6.76

I don't think much of the study you mentioned because your numbers are based on married partners. And in my humble opinion, marriages are nothing but extensive prostitution schemes.

RocinanteCoffee • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 10:38 PM

Most people regardless of gender date someone within 5 years of their age (US), it's true.

PMmeareasonolive • 2 points • 13 November, 2022 07:44 PM

tldr; age gap good.

Everything that contradicts this falls under the heading "**hate and bitterness**"

The 30 and 40 year old women who said they still get hit on constantly by men of all ages; ignored despite the several thousand upvotes they each got.

The study saying men thought young women were the most attractive: regarded as a truth of biblical proportions, and interpreted as either "men are *only* attracted to young women" or "men *prefer* relationships with young women" when both of these interpretations are erroneous.

[deleted] • 5 points • 13 November, 2022 08:29 AM

This was kind of a ridiculous post as a response to someone ranting about men dating younger women and dropping them when they make it past the age of 25.

You took some leaps and bounds from point A to C

[deleted] • 3 points • 13 November, 2022 11:00 AM



I think the issue that he is pointing out is that regardless of the truth, eco-chambers are effectively lying to their own users in opposition to reality.

In this case, all men regardless of age prefer younger women, while the TwoX post talks about an example of a single man performing this to the extreme, while the TwoX comments that OP had referenced were speaking about men in general.

[deleted] • 2 points • 13 November, 2022 03:52 PM

It's not a hot take that echo chambers are bad, and honestly I think the post he's referencing isn't even a good example of one.

Plugandharam • 2 points • 13 November, 2022 07:44 AM

Well I guess most people have their sad delusions to get them through their mediocre days

Lift\_and\_Lurk • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 01:39 PM

It's only looking that way for people that haven't figured out how to turn their screens off.

gozzff[S] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 02:33 PM

Do you really think internet usage time will not increase? It seems obvious to me that people's lives will increasingly take place in the digital world. Physical stores will disappear and people will only shop online. Work will become more and more based on the home office model and some people will no longer leave their homes at all, I think that is an inevitable future.

Lift\_and\_Lurk • 2 points • 13 November, 2022 02:36 PM

I think you are already seeing a shift in social media with the recent struggles of the big social media companies. And with the pandemic more and more people have come to a new appreciation of socializing in the real world. There will be ebbs and flows and most people will find a balance.

gozzff[S] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 02:50 PM

And with the pandemic more and more people have come to a new appreciation of socializing in the real world.

The opposite is the case:

<https://wearesocial.com/uk/blog/2022/01/digital-2022-another-year-of-bumper-growth-2/>

Lift\_and\_Lurk • 2 points • 13 November, 2022 02:57 PM

Have you seen the market cap losses for Meta, the dumpster fire that's Twitter right now? The absolute disappointment of Snaps earnings? And have you seen the the rise in numbers of people at festivals and events?

*or you could read a trade article from a company whose job it is to promote social media enterprises.*

TopExpert54551 points 13 November, 2022 05:51 PM **[recovered]**

Lol, says the one who literally comments on every post on PPD (many times over). You practically live here dude.

You did imply that you are one enlightened ones that "figured out how to turn their screen off" right? Otherwise, my bad.

But if so, funniest thing ever.

Lift\_and\_Lurk • 0 points • 13 November, 2022 06:14 PM

Jump, on: make posts. Get off. Lift weight. Watch football. And general life stuff

TopExpert54551 points 13 November, 2022 07:45 PM [recovered]

Yeah sure but that is what everyone does. On and off. Me too. I don't lift but like running, did 10 miles this morning. "Life stuff". Meeting friends, etc.. All that.

My point is, you are on your phone a lot, obviously. You post/comment way more than me. I am often not here for days or weeks, not even lurking, yet I would never claim to be an "enlightened one" who has mastered the art of "turning off their screen".

But whatever. It's ok. Have a good one.

Lift\_and\_Lurk • 0 points • 13 November, 2022 07:58 PM

So you understand why it's not a "upcoming crisis"

AutoModerator[M] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 07:17 AM

### Attention!

You can post off topic/jokes/puns as a comment to this Automoderator message.

For "CMV" and "Question for X" Threads: Parent comments that aren't from the target group will be removed, along with their child replies.

If you want to agree with OP instead of challenging their view or if the question is not targeted at you, post it as an answer to this comment.

OP you can choose your own flair according to these guidelines., just press Flair under your post!

Thanks for your cooperation and enjoy the discussion!

*I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please contact the moderators of this subreddit if you have any questions or concerns.*

Opening\_Pattern\_301 • 3 points • 13 November, 2022 11:08 AM

I have always thought that if i were in DiCaprio's shoes i would do the same, not because women expire past 25 but because if i know i will only be "loved" and put on a pedestal for the clout, money and status i have then i would never commit to any.

PuertoRock007 • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 08:24 AM

TL:DR

But from what I scanned I only disagree because what we are seeing now with all this censorship and cancel culture today is that the oligarchs are trying to control the internet. They want to shape the internet into a place where they can control the narrative and people's thoughts. So if left unchecked the internet and society will look like whatever they want it too.

[deleted] • 1 point • 13 November, 2022 11:47 AM

TLDR.

What is normal will become abnormal and what is absurd will become the new standard of things.

So the world will change.

People's insecurities will become the driving force behind this new "era of delusion".

And they're delusions because they envision a reality different than the current one.

Boyo, you're taking the data from averages and attempting to apply it to *everyone*.

You then zoom in on a corner of the internet that essentially is complaining about a dating *preference*, then use that to bemoan people are failing to accept reality. Complaining about a state of affairs *is a way of accepting reality*.

Not only that, but a minority of people *may and in fact do* differ from the 'average' of any population.

For example, there's a fairly large cross-cultural preference for height among women --- race too.

When a short guy or non-white complains about this, is he exhibiting a "delusion?" Further, are women who say they like short or non-white guys also exhibiting "delusion" because they *differ* from the average of their respective populations.

The answer by basic logic is no.

Further, echo chambers can't exist if there aren't real life people holding the views espoused within the chamber.

You seem to be upset that these minority groups can now find one another and connect rather than accept a majoritarian view on life.

[deleted] • 1 point • 14 November, 2022 06:33 AM

The dystopian future is already here, the internet is just the first place it gets noticed,