

## **Judgment of peers' social media posts relating to social justice: How adolescents are making the decision**

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**Intro:** The cultural confluence of the pandemic and increased visibility of social justice movements has spotlighted deep conflicts between self- and other-focused attitudes and actions. This study explores how youth perceive social media posts about social justice issues and make subsequent judgments about the posters.

**Method:** Participants (N = 1,670) were recruited through Character Lab, a non-profit organization that partners with schools and scholars to collect data, from a large suburban/urban high school. Participants completed a survey with vignettes of hypothetical individuals' social media posts and reported their perceptions of those individuals through open-ended questions.

**Results:** An iterative codebook was developed to assess how participants perceive social media posts and make judgements about peers. Major codes captured racial group membership, posting habits, post content, perceived characteristics of poster, perception of social status of poster, rater's opinion towards content, and judgment unfair. Coders must achieve intercoder reliability (Cohen's Kappa > 0.8) before coding independently.

**Discussion:** This study will inform researchers what factors adolescents consider when making judgements of others on social media, especially how they differentiate authentic portrayals of social justice support and virtue signaling. Future research should explore how youth engage with social justice on other social media platforms.