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Ilmenau, November 15th, 2021

Dear Dr. Gross,

I am enclosing a submission to the *International Journal of Communication* entitled “Thirty Years after the German Reunification—Exploring Stereotypes towards East Germans on Twitter”.

While there is ample evidence that the traditional media can reinforce stereotypes and social category thinking towards East Germans, it remains a research gap whether and how East Germans are stereotyped on social media.

We address this issue by using a combination of computational text analysis and manual content analysis on a large Twitter dataset. Our results reveal that stereotypic tweets towards East Germans are relatively rare. Nonetheless, the stereotypic tweets at hand portray East Germans as a general political threat, mostly assigning right-wing attitudes, a socioeconomic marginalization, and negative behaviors. We show that specific subgroups like Saxons and Thuringians are the focus of discrimination, while the political stereotypes we found are in line with previous studies that investigated traditional media. The practical implications of our results and research recommendations are discussed in the manuscript.

Given the general importance of the topic and the scope of the *International Journal of Communication*, the study fits very well in the research interest of the journal as it also breaks new grounds in a nationally and internationally under-researched problematic. I hope that you find the paper worthy for consideration of publication in the *International Journal of Communication*.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Maximilian Zehring