

# The Misinformation Paradox: Social Media, Immigrant Identity & Societal Perceptions

## RESEARCH QUESTION

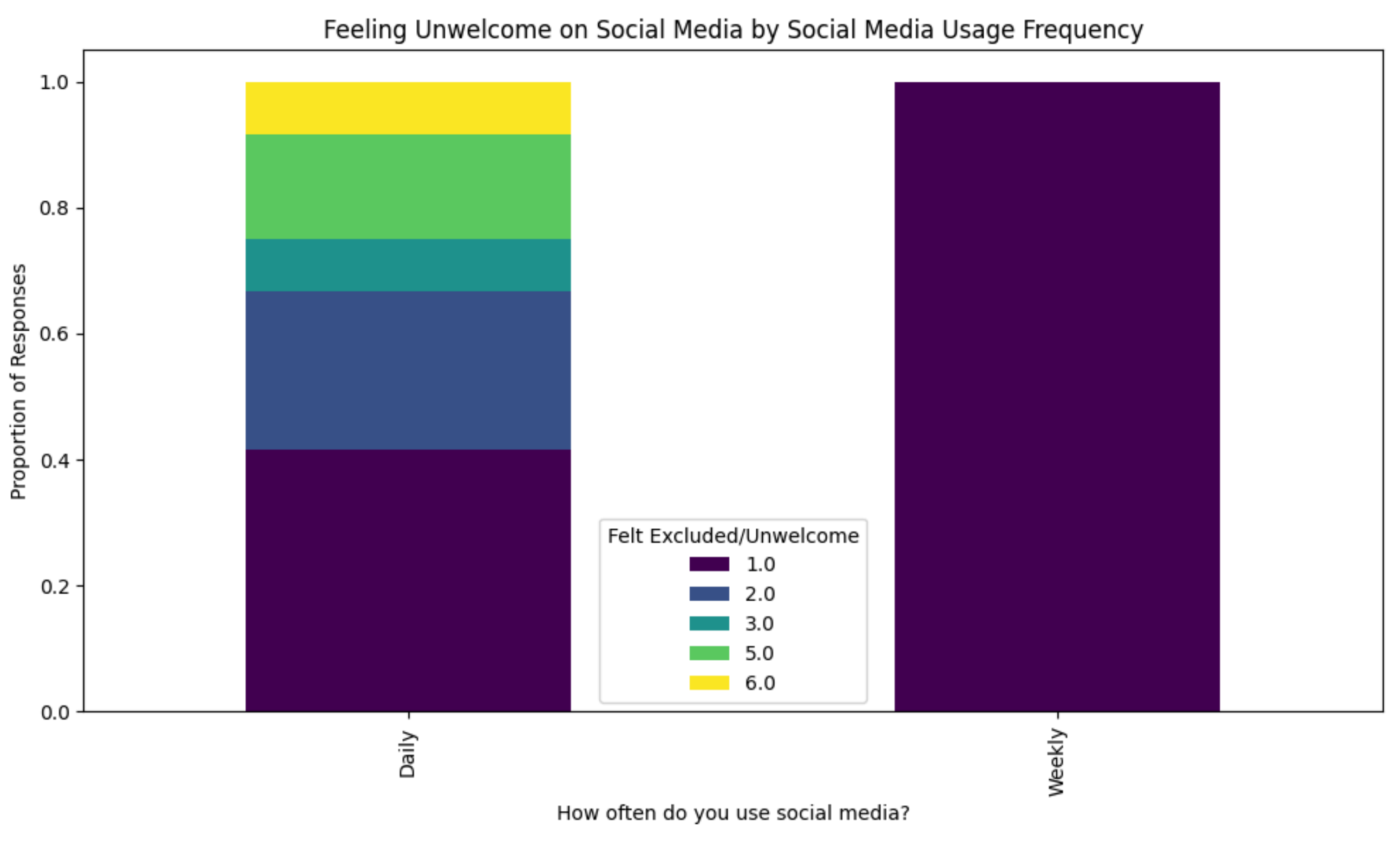
"To what extent does the spread of misinformation on social media impact the integration and identity formation of immigrants in contemporary societies?"

## CORE FINDINGS

- Over **92%** use social media **daily**
- Personal resilience:** Dutch second/third-generation immigrants report **strong dual identities** and feel personally unaffected by online misinformation in their daily lives
- Societal concern:** Yet, they strongly believe this same misinformation negatively shapes how society at large views immigrants
- A strong majority believes social media platforms **do not adequately** fact-check content concerning immigrants and should increase their efforts.
- Most respondents feel **more personally attacked** when their non-Dutch heritage is criticized compared to Dutch culture, highlighting heritage identity's importance.

## WHY THIS RESEARCH MATTERS

- Multicultural societies are the norm, yet integration is often under scrutiny
- Social media is a key tool for **immigrants**, especially second and third generations, to connect with their heritage
- However, social media is also a **fertile ground** for misinformation, potentially affecting integration and identity



## METHODOLOGY

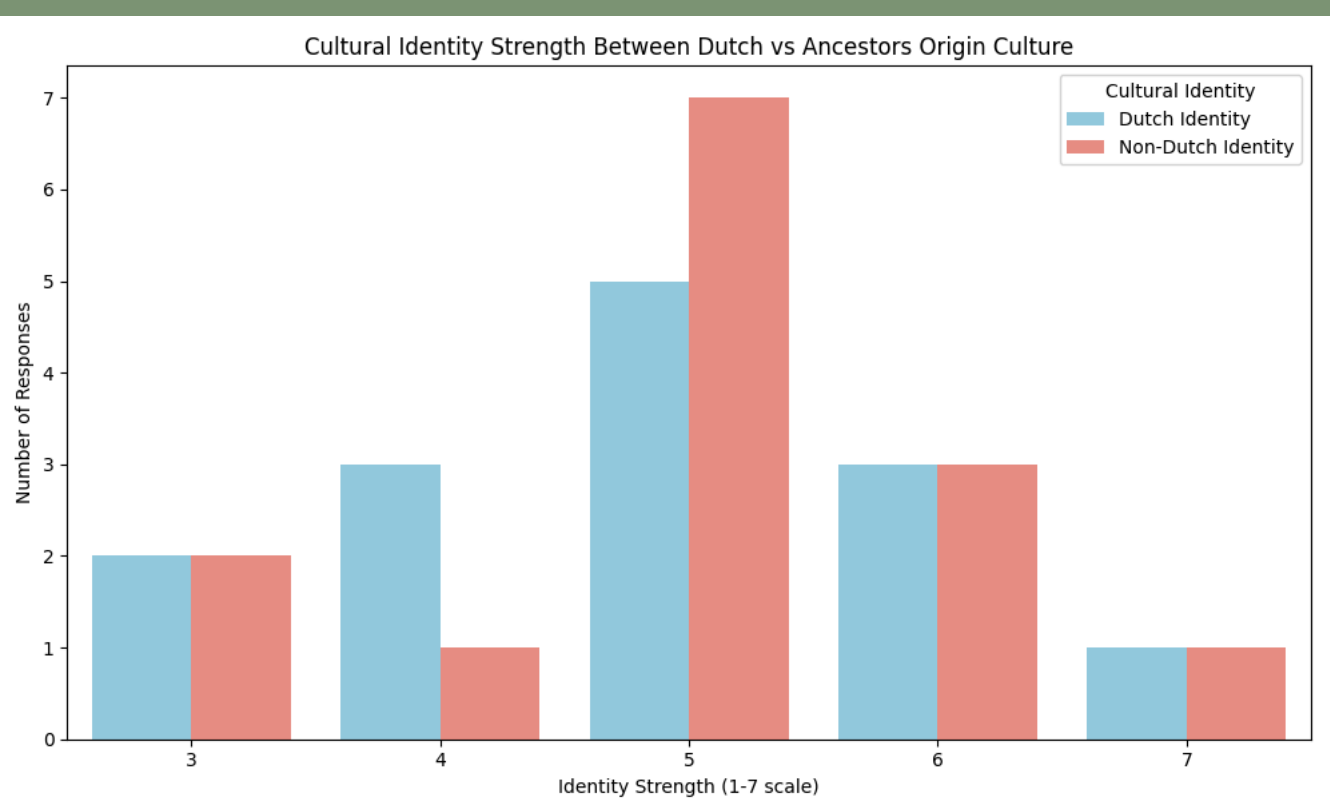
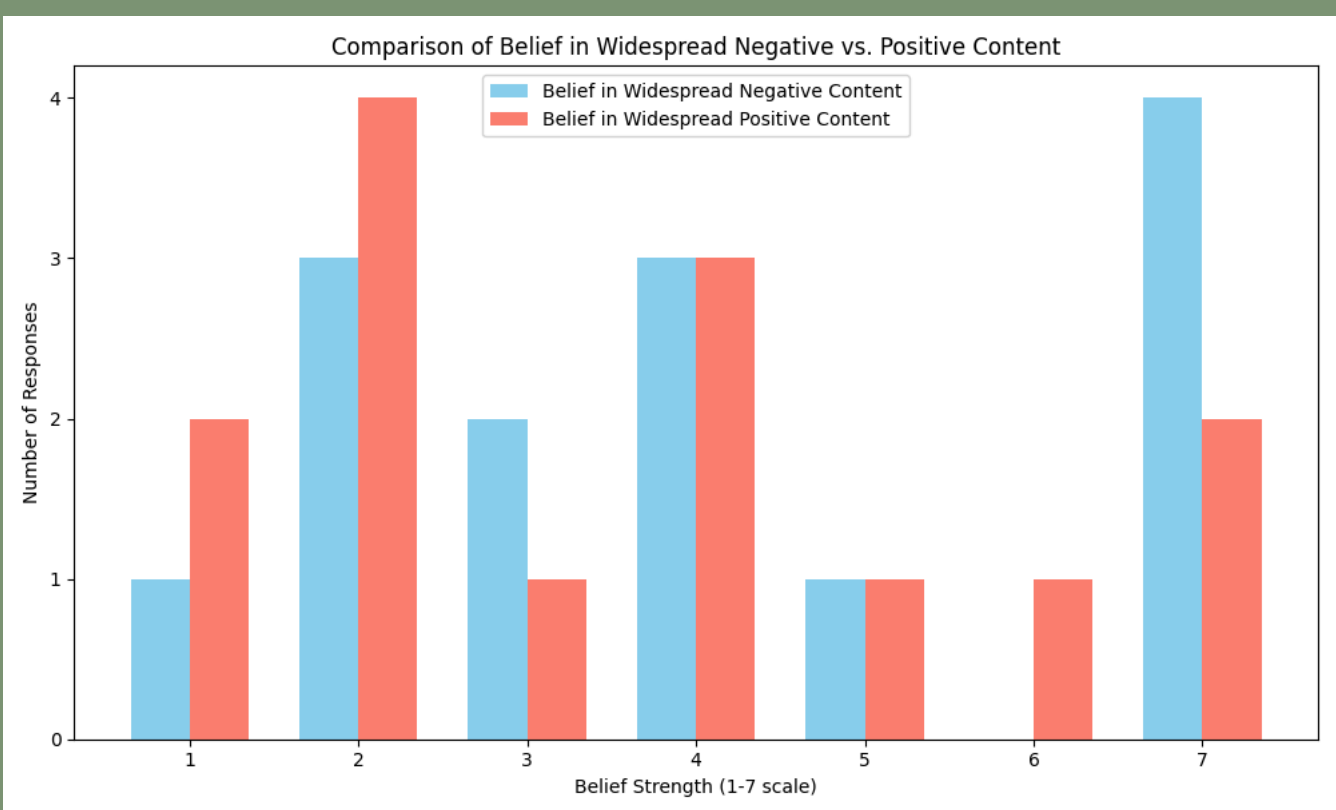
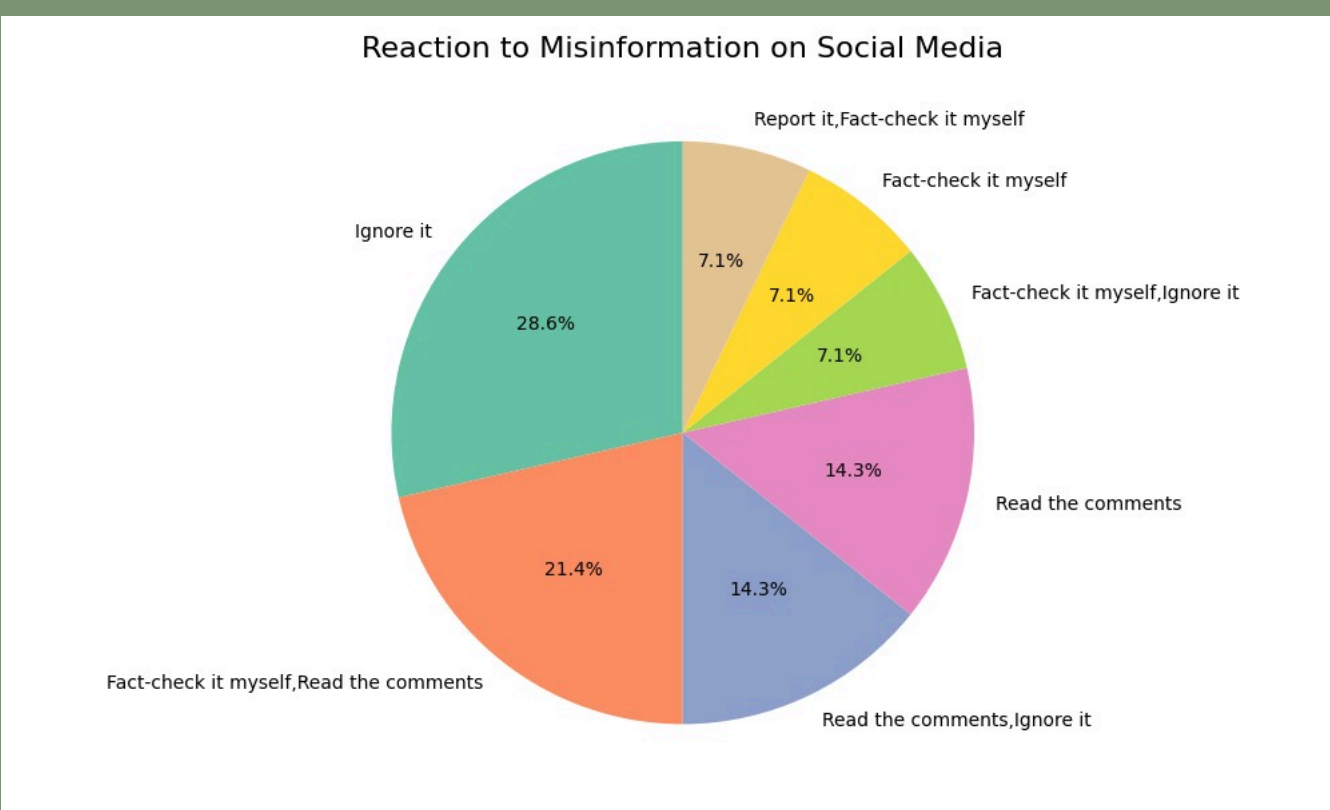
- A **survey** asking **second** and **third-generation migrants** four core themes: identity, social media, misinformation, and integration
- Survey distributed through **university networks** and **personal referrals** to reach relevant participants.
- Standardised answer formats: **1–7 agreement** scales and **0–100 estimations** for clarity and consistency
- Survey refined through **expert consultation** to improve clarity, define key terms, and ensure focus on the **Netherlands**.

## CONCLUSION

Online misinformation is perceived to damage the societal integration climate for immigrants more significantly than it directly impacts the personal identity or integration experiences of these Dutch-born individuals

## CALL TO ACTION

Respondents indicate a clear preference for social media platforms to take more responsibility in regulating misinformation.



References