# Article information:

The Game Theoretic Trap of Cancel Culture — and How to Beat it | by Ryan Nakade | Medium  
<https://greenteaji108.medium.com/the-game-theoretic-trap-of-cancel-culture-and-how-to-beat-it-1ceef5cc4b09>

# Article summary:

1. Cancel culture is a problem that reinforces groupthink and polarization while quashing diverse perspectives.

2. Pluralistic ignorance and preference falsification create a vicious cycle where all dissent is suppressed, leading to the chilling effect from a small minority capturing the behaviors of the dominant majority.

3. Coordination mechanisms such as overcoming pluralistic ignorance, tools to overcome preference falsification, common knowledge, trust, and mechanisms to coordinate collective action can help overcome cancel traps.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "The Game Theoretic Trap of Cancel Culture — and How to Beat it" by Ryan Nakade discusses the phenomenon of cancel culture and its negative impact on diverse perspectives. The author argues that cancel culture is a problem for all sides, as dissenting against the dominant narrative can lead to ostracization, firing, de-platforming, or worse. The article highlights two concepts integral to cancel dynamics: pluralistic ignorance and preference falsification. Pluralistic ignorance refers to wrongly perceiving the minority position on a certain issue to be the majority position, while preference falsification refers to publicly altering what one believes to fit in with the crowd.

The article suggests that a vicious cycle emerges when people misdiagnose how many people subscribe to a particular view and then alter their real views to conform to their idea of what others believe. This leads to a chilling effect from a small minority capturing the behaviors of the dominant majority, giving birth to the “silent majority.” The article argues that cancel culture is a prisoner’s dilemma, where if everyone speaks out against something bad, everyone wins. However, no individual wants to broach that topic alone in fear of cancellation.

The author proposes several mechanisms for overcoming cancel traps, including polls, anonymity and secrecy tools, common knowledge, trust-building measures such as smart contracts and kick starters. However, the article does not provide evidence or examples of these mechanisms being successful in overcoming cancel culture.

One potential bias in this article is that it focuses primarily on cancel culture from a conservative perspective without acknowledging instances where cancel culture has been used by liberals or progressives. Additionally, while the article acknowledges situations where the majority may genuinely cancel someone for a bad take, it does not explore how some individuals may use claims of cancel culture as a shield against legitimate criticism or accountability for harmful actions.

Overall, while this article provides an interesting analysis of game theory and its application to cancel culture dynamics, it could benefit from a more balanced perspective and further exploration of counterarguments and evidence for the proposed mechanisms.

# Topics for further research:

* Examples of cancel culture instances from a liberal or progressive perspective
* Criticisms of the concept of cancel culture and its impact on free speech
* Psychological and sociological research on pluralistic ignorance and preference falsification
* Success stories of individuals or groups overcoming cancel culture through various mechanisms
* Intersectionality and how it relates to cancel culture dynamics
* The role of social media in perpetuating cancel culture and its potential solutions

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