

Statement on Jesse Singal, canceling, & deactivating my Twitter account

- On December 5, 2017, I penned a blogpost called [my Jesse Singal story](#), which chronicled bad experiences I had had in online settings with Singal circa 2016-17.
- On July 28, 2018, Singal insinuated that one of the claims I made in that previous piece was “hysterical,” so I responded to that incident in a [July 31, 2018 post](#). Since the summer of 2018, I have ***not*** shared either of those links, or publicly raised these matters again—I **seriously want nothing more than for Singal to just leave me alone**.
- On March 14, 2021, without any provocation on my part, Singal relitigated those 2016-2018 incidents on his [Substack](#), misrepresenting my claims in the process.
- On March 16, 2021, I updated “my Jesse Singal story” to address his recent misrepresentations, and to link to a series of other instances where Singal has harassed and/or tried to smear the reputations of other trans women writers—this was intended to show that this is a general pattern for him, rather than my complaints being an outlier.
- On March 17, 2021, Singal sent me an email about these recent events. In my response, I said: “There is nothing I want more than to let these back and forths go. (Like I said, I largely had.) If you want to let what happened between us circa 2016-18 go, I would be more than happy to never bring those incidents up again.” In his response, he seemed to agree to this. (I’m not sharing the full content of those exchanges here, but if I’m forced to, I will.)
- On March 18, 2021, some rando on Twitter tagged me into a Bari Weiss tweet, in which she shared a just-published Jonathan Kay/Quillette article defending Singal. In that article, Kay reiterated all of Singal’s one-sided renditions of what happened between us circa 2016-18. I don’t know if Singal knew this piece was in the works—if he did, I consider it a breach of our previous day’s agreement to de-escalate things.
- All the aforementioned parties—Singal, Weiss, and Kay—are prominent in the anti-“[cancel culture](#)” movement and have large followings online. Quillette is known for publishing anti-transgender, anti-feminist, and pro-“race science” articles, and their audience includes many reactionaries and right-wingers who are very active online. Anyone who knows how the internet and social media works understands that I was about to face a huge pile-on. I’ve been through a number of these before (the worst caused by Singal himself in 2016), and they are horrendous. So, on the morning of March 18th, I preemptively deactivated my Twitter account.
- I am releasing this statement on March 19, 2021, as an explanation for why I deactivated my account, and why, once I do reactivate it, I will keep it closed to only people I follow, at least until this all blows over.
- It seems fitting for me to end this statement with the last paragraph of my March 16th addition to “my Jesse Singal story”:

Lastly, since writing this piece, I’ve had multiple people accuse me of trying to “ruin” (or in today’s parlance, “cancel”) Singal. I address this at the very end of the post below, but it’s worth reiterating here: Unlike Singal, I have never once attempted to contact his employers, editors, publishers, etc. Furthermore, I am a writer who has a career too. In fact, pretty much every person who is mentioned above is a writer with a career of their own. Before writing the original post, I had only ever critiqued Singal’s articles, not him personally. He was the one who made this personal – multiple times, in fact – before I ever considered writing this. So if you, dear reader, are deeply concerned about the possible impact that this post might have on Singal’s career, but couldn’t care less about what impact his actions may have had on my career, or the careers of all the other writers who’ve since felt the need to speak out against his tactics, well then I’d encourage you to give some serious thought as to why that is.

Julia Serano
March 19, 2021