

Facebook's Reason for Banning Researchers Doesn't Hold Up | WIRED

By Gilad Edelman

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When Facebook said Tuesday that it was suspending the accounts of a team of NYU researchers, it made it seem like the company's hands were tied. The team had been crowdsourcing data on political ad targeting via a browser extension, something [Facebook](#) had repeatedly warned them was not allowed.

"For months, we've attempted to work with New York University to provide three of their researchers the precise access they've asked for in a privacy-protected way," wrote Mike Clark, Facebook's product management director, [in a blog post](#). "We took these actions to stop unauthorized scraping and protect people's privacy in line with our privacy program under the FTC Order."

[...]

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