

INTERSECTIONALITY & TECHNOLOGIES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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1

AGENDA



- introduction to my dissertation research project
- thinking about technology and intersectionality
- some research implications
- key takeaways

2

Alyssa Milano @Alyssa_Milano · Oct 15
If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet.


Me too.

Suggested by a friend: "If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too.' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem."

pleasedonteatjo @pleasedonteatjo
Because "Text me and let me know you got home safe" is standard, necessary and normal. #YesAllWomen

Antonia Zerbisias @AntoniaZ
#ibelieveLucy #ibelieveWomen And yes, I've been raped (more than once) and never reported it. #BeenRapedNeverReported

3



"Black Lives Matter is a unique contribution that goes beyond extrajudicial killings of Black people by police and vigilantes [...] Black Lives Matter affirms the lives of Black queer and trans folks, disabled folks, Black-undocumented folks, folks with records, women and all Black lives along the gender spectrum. It centers those that have been marginalized within Black liberation movements. It is a tactic to (re)build the Black liberation movement."

- Alicia Garza

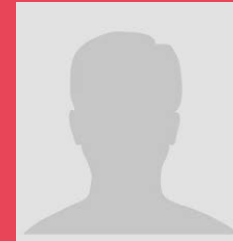
4

TECHNOLOGY

- technologies do not exist in a vacuum
- people create technologies; people design technologies and people use and interact with technologies
- people have biases and these leak into the technologies
- the same kinds of people are making the technologies that most people use

5

WHO IS IMAGINED AS THE DEFAULT ONLINE USER?



6

LOOK AT THE EXAMPLES

Self-driving cars 'could be more likely to run over black people'

Comment
Rob Waugh Wednesday 6 Mar 2019 11:54 am



Amazon's facial recognition misidentified Boston athletes as criminals

Amazon's facial recognition technology has been criticised in the past.



Location-Based Policing: New Technologies, Same Racisms
By Stop LAPD Spring Coalition

Apple's 'sexist' credit card investigated by US regulator

© 11 November 2019



Apparent racial bias found in Twitter photo algorithm

Charl Johnson @charljohnson September 20, 2020 3:04 PM AI

7

INTERSECTIONALITY


AN ANALYTICAL LENS OR TOOL TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING DISCRIMINATION

USED IN THE ANALYSES OF THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF RACIALIZED, DISABLED, INDIGENOUS, TRANS WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES, TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING THEIR UNIQUE BARRIERS

REVEALING HOW ASPECTS OF IDENTITY AND SOCIAL RELATIONS ARE SHAPED BY THE SIMULTANEOUS OPERATION OF MULTIPLE SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION


8

SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION



"white supremacy is *not* the shark; it is the water"

Guante



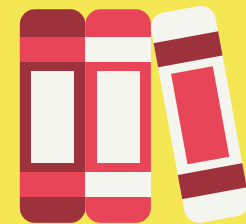
SIMULTANEOUS AND MULTIPLE-AXES OF POWER AND OPPRESSION

REVIEW

- Technologies are social because of the social actors involved in its creation, production and ultimate use
- Intersectionality is a lens to examine how technologies are failing some users over other users as we turn our attention to systemic power relations that maintain and reproduce particular discriminations

11

THE DISSERTATION



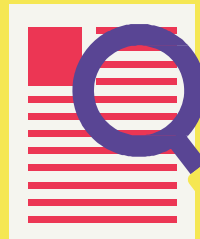
12

SOME RELEVANT RESEARCH FINDINGS

Both opportunities and challenges of
being online

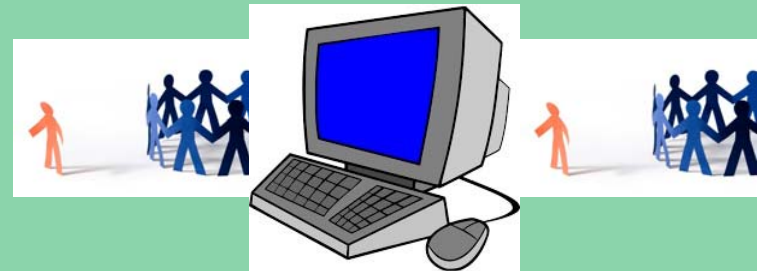
Inequalities reproduced and reinforced

Their experiences of technologically-
facilitated violence was more than just
the anonymous troll man



13

INEQUALITIES REPRODUCED AND REINFORCED THROUGH THESE TECHNOLOGIES



14

INEQUALITIES REPRODUCED AND REINFORCED THROUGH THESE TECHNOLOGIES

 The Verge

Twitter's disappearing tweets, called Fleets, are now available for everyone

But users also identified a range of other issues with the feature:

- fleets allow users to bypass direct message settings because they go directly to inboxes, even if DMs are closed
- people have reported being able to tag users who have blocked them
- users are not notified if someone else shares their tweet into a fleet

15

TECHNOLOGICALLY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE

- anonymous trolling men
 - some experienced more than others
 - those with strong offline support networks were better equipped to ignore/move on
- other forms of violence
 - violence from white feminists, trans-exclusionary feminists who are identifiable online

16

IMPLICATIONS OF FINDINGS

TECHNOLOGIES ARE NOT
INHERENTLY 'GOOD' OR 'BAD'
FOR THOSE WHO ARE
HISTORICALLY AND
CONTINUALLY DISCRIMINATED
AGAINST

WHOSE EXPERIENCES OF
VIOLENCE ARE EXCLUDED
WITH A SINGLE-AXIS
ANALYSIS?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- de-centering single-axis analysis of power relations, and challenge the status quo
- there is usually no single universal design to account for all people
- move away from repairing to rebuilding/re-worlding

THANK YOU!

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