



Feminist Perspectives on Social Media Governance

Roundtable 19-20 April 2022

Resource Pack

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES
ON SOCIAL MEDIA GOVERNANCE

Roundtable by IT for Change and InternetLab

Supported by

IDRC (Canada), World Wide Web Foundation and Ford Foundation

Under the
Recognize, Resist, Remedy Project

19 -20 April, 2022

Contents

Webinar Details	1
Agenda	2
Day 1 - 19th April, 2022.....	2
Day 2 - 20th April, 2022.....	5
Concept Note.....	7
1. Background	7
2. Roundtable on Social Media Governance.....	8
Participant Inputs	13
Anne Njathi and Rebeccah Wambui	13
Anita Gurumurthy and Amshuman Dasarathy.....	14
Arjita Mital	15
Arnav Arora, Mahalakshmi J, Cheshta Arora and Ambika Tandon	16
Damni Kain and Shivangi Narayan	16
Divyansha Sehgal	17
Esther Lee.....	18
Fernanda K. Martins.....	19
Graciela Natansohn	20
Helani Galpaya	20
Mahishaa Balraj	21
Mardiya Siba Yahaya	22
Mashinka Hakopian	22
Kim Barker	23
Patricia Angélica Peña Miranda.....	24
Quito Tsui	25
Shehla Rashid Shora.....	26
Suzie Dunn.....	26
Yasmin Curzi de Mendonça	27

Webinar Details

Zoom Meeting Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kSHzScASSZqjiuPXv-yLVQ

Meeting password: 429398

Please note that in the interest of time, slides will not be used for presentations. We request you to join the meeting 15 minutes prior to the start of the webinar so that we can test your audio and video.

For technical assistance please reach out to Alessandra at +55 11944598979.

Agenda

Day 1 - 19th April, 2022

Time 05.30 PM – 08.30 PM (India)

09.00 AM – 12.00 PM GMT-3 (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Time	Session
5.15 – 5.30 pm IST 8.45 – 9.00 am GMT-3	Check-in Zoom meeting room will open 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start. Please log in early to help us start on time.
5.30 – 5.40 pm IST 9.00 – 9.10 am GMT-3	Introductory remarks (10 mins) Context setting and housekeeping information
Session 1. Invisible Enemies: Accounts of Gender-based Violence Online	
5.40 – 5.56 pm IST 9.10 – 9.26 am GMT-3	In this session we will hear perspectives (first-hand accounts as well as research-based) of women activists from India and Brazil. (2x8=16 mins)
	Shehla Rashid Shora: <i>An auto-ethnographic exploration of online hate and misogyny</i>
	Yasmin Curzi de Mendonça: <i>“I silenced myself”- Brazilian female activists’ perspectives on online targeted harassment</i>
5.56 – 6.10 pm IST 9.26 – 9.40 am GMT-3	Open session (14 mins)

Time	Session
Session 2. Manufactured Hate: Political Violence Against Women on Social Media Platforms	
6.10 – 6.26 pm IST 9.40 – 9.56 am GMT-3	This session will contain presentations of studies from India and Brazil on problematic and abusive speech on social media platforms, directed at women in public-political life. (2x8=16 mins)
	<u>Anita Gurumurthy and Amshuman Dasarathy: Profitable Provocations- Abuse and Misogynistic Trolling Directed at Indian Women in Public-political Life</u>
	<u>Fernanda K. Martins: Against Women Candidates, Against Women Journalists, Against Women at all -The Dynamic of Political Violence and Disinformation on Social Media in Brazil</u>
6.26 – 6.40 pm IST 9.56 – 10.10 am GMT-3	Open session (14 mins)
6.40 – 6.50 pm IST 10.10 – 10.20 am GMT-3	Short break and group reflections (10 mins)
Session 3. Curated Identities: Performing Gender in the Online Public Sphere	
6.50 – 7.14 pm IST 10.20 – 10.44 am GMT-3	This session will visit snapshots of online gender discrimination from Kenya, Uganda, and Myanmar and examine the ways in which the performance of an online assumed identity intersects with prevailing gender norms. (3x8=24 mins)
	<u>Anne Njathi and Rebeccah Wambui: The Overlooked Gender Bias on African Digital Platforms- A Feminist Inquiry</u>
	<u>Mardiya Siba Yahaya: Visible Muslim Women and Online Public Spaces</u>
	<u>Helani Galpaya: “In Myanmar, Everyone Online is Bamar Buddhist Male”- Public Sphere, Online Identity, Politics and Gendered Experience</u>
7.14 – 7.30 pm IST 10.44 – 11.00 am GMT-3	Open session (16 mins)

Time	Session
Session 4. Intersectional Framings: Online Gender-Based Violence	
7.30 – 7.46 pm IST 11.00 – 11.16 am GMT-3	This session will discuss how marginal social locations interplay with online structures of gender-based violence. (2x8=16 mins)
	<u>Suzie Dunn</u> : <i>From Anecdotal to Actual - Understanding Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence</i>
	<u>Graciela Natansohn</u> : <i>Against Violence, The Critique of Internet Coloniality</i>
7.46 – 8.00 pm IST 11.16 – 11.30 am GMT-3	Open session (14 mins)
8.00 – 8.10 pm IST 11.30 – 11.40 am GMT-3	Group reflections on future research agendas (10 mins)

Day 2 - 20th April, 2022

Time 05.30 PM – 08.30 PM (India)

09.00 AM – 12.00 PM GMT-3 (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Time	Session
5.30 – 5.50 pm IST 9.00 – 9.20 am GMT-3	Opening remarks and group reflections (20 mins)
Session 5. Idiosyncratic Registers: How Platforms Code Misogynistic Speech	
5.50 – 6.06 pm IST 9.20 – 9.36 am GMT-3	This session will consider the difficulties in detecting and identifying online misogynistic speech, as well as the unevenness in platform efforts at such detection in non-Western languages. (2x8=16 mins)
	<u>Mashinka Hakopian</u> : <i>Algolinguicism - Translating Language Justice to Digital Platforms</i>
	<u>Arnav Arora, Mahalakshmi J, Cheshta Arora and Ambika Tandon</u> : <i>Designing for Disagreements - Making of an ML tool to Detect OGBV on Twitter in Hindi, Tamil, and Indian English</i>
6.06 – 6.20 pm IST 9.36 – 9.50 am GMT-3	Open session (14 mins)
Session 6. Contextual Oversight: Moving the Bar on Content Governance	
6.20 – 6.44 pm IST 9.50 – 10.14 am GMT-3	This session will take the Indian instance to demonstrate the significance of context specificity in platform terms of service/community guidelines. (3x8=24 mins)
	<u>Arjita Mital</u> : <i>Regulating Violence Against Women through Community Guidelines in India</i>
	<u>Divyansha Sehgal</u> : <i>Community Guidelines for Short Video Sharing Platforms and How They Can Make the Internet Safer for Their Users</i>
	<u>Damni Kain and Shivangi Narayan</u> : <i>Online Caste-Based Hate Speech in India</i>

Time	Session
6.44 – 7.00 pm IST 10.14 – 10.30 am GMT-3	Open session (16 mins)
7.00 – 7.10 pm IST 10.30 – 10.40 am GMT-3	Short break and group reflections (10 mins)
Session 7. Recalibrating Free Speech – Legal Responses to Online Misogyny	
7.10 – 7.26 pm IST 10.40 – 10.56 am GMT-3	This session will problematize legal narratives and rhetorical frames that have informed regulatory models for user-generated speech online. (8x2=16 mins)
	<u>Esther Lee</u> : <i>The Ungovernability Playbook - South Korean Case-Study on Platform Moderation</i>
	<u>Patricia Angélica Peña Miranda</u> : <i>The Chilean Process in Times of Socio-Political Crisis and a New Constitution</i>
7.26 – 7.40 pm IST 10.56– 11.10 am GMT-3	Open session (14 mins)
Session 8. Where Does the Buck Stop? Legal and Extra-Legal Responses to Online Misogyny	
7.40 – 7.56 pm IST 11.10 – 11.26 am GMT-3	This session will contain presentations that look critically at the systems of social media governance and offer a holistic perspective on how these social and legal systems can be made to work in concert. (2x8=16 mins)
	<u>Kim Barker</u> : <i>The Responsibility Gap & Online Misogyny - Beyond hate, through violence, towards law?</i>
	<u>Quito Tsui</u> : <i>Feminist communities of Care and a Transnational Response to Redesigning Social Media Governance</i>
	<u>Mahishaa Balraj</u> : <i>The Conundrum of Intermediary Liability - A Feminist Legal and Institutional Strategy</i>
7.56 – 8.20 pm IST 11.26 – 11.50 am GMT-3	Open session and concluding remarks (24 mins)

Concept Note

1. Background

Recent studies by the Web Foundation and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Amnesty International and UN Women demonstrate how misogyny is rapidly proliferating in the digitally-mediated public sphere. The BBC Panorama study of October 2021 found that 97 percent of accounts sending misogynistic abuse on Twitter and Instagram remain on the sites even after being reported. The study also noted that content-feeds on Facebook and Instagram actively push misogynistic content to men who send abusive content to women, radicalizing them further. Algorithmically-propelled sexism and misogyny are poised to get worse in the leap to the metaverse – the 3D version of the Internet in which experiences will be much more visceral – unless we rapidly take corrective action.

As Irene Khan, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of freedom of opinion and expression, has observed, sexism and misogyny are forms of gendered censorship. The ubiquity and normalization of misogynistic abuse online, seems to suggest that it is a form of hate crime, a weapon to undermine women's human rights by intimidating, silencing, and driving out women from public life. Women journalists, politicians, human rights defenders, and feminist activists are deliberately targeted in coordinated troll attacks. In fact, the political hate speech that women in public life receive has been recognized as being qualitatively different from what their male counterparts receive. The abuse and gendered disinformation targeted at female politicians is primarily focused on their identity as women, and as a means of enforcing adherence to established norms of sexual propriety, and not on their political views, unlike in the case of male politicians.

Just like other manifestations of gender subordination in patriarchy, misogynistic hate intersects with various social markers – class, race, caste, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religious belief, ethnicity, nationality, and so on – rendering certain groups of women additionally vulnerable. The physical, psychological, emotional and other harms that women and gender minorities experience in the context of such pervasive online misogyny are an assault on their privacy, autonomy, and dignity, undermining their first order right to public participation. The continuum of violence, offline-online, also erodes hard-won gains for women's substantive equality.

Even as sexist hate and misogyny spiral out of control in the digitally-mediated public sphere, it is evident that states and platform companies are not doing enough to address the issue. There is a lack of an internationally agreed upon legal instrument with a clear definition of 'sexism' and a normalization of misogynistic discourses in patriarchal society. This has meant that a majority of

national legal frameworks do not deal with sexist hate speech with the same seriousness that they accord other forms of hate, such as racial and religious vilification. While legal frameworks may not suffice as a guarantee of protection of these groups, they serve as crucial institutional responses to social discrimination and inequality. Non-binding frameworks such as Recommendation CM/Rec (2019) on Preventing and Combating Sexism (of the Committee of Ministers, Council of Europe) have not managed to lower the threshold for criminalization of sexist hate speech. Consequently, harmful practices such as gender-trolling continue undetected by the legal radar. Platform responses have also been found hugely wanting in responding to user complaints about misogynistic hate. The inconsistent implementation of rules on hate speech and the lack of gender-disaggregated information on content moderation decisions in transparency reporting are serious lacunae in the policies and practices of platform companies.

2. Roundtable on Social Media Governance

Proceeding from this starting point, IT for Change and InternetLab are co-organizing a roundtable to catalyze a productive debate revolving around the central question: What new imaginaries of social media governance will be adequate to eradicate the unfreedoms arising from misogyny in online communications agora?

The roundtable intends to explore the following sub-questions:

- What do empirical studies of platform regulation (and self-regulation) tell us about addressing sexism and misogyny online?
- What national legal-institutional frameworks may be appropriate to check gendered censorship and promote gender-equal participation in the online public space?
- What kind of global responses may be relevant towards nurturing gender-inclusive online publics?

Over two half days on 19 and 20 April, 2022 (5:30 PM IST/9 AM BRT), the roundtable will bring together around 20 academics, lawyers, digital rights activists, and scholar-practitioners committed to feminist politics, to collectively reflect on, discuss, and debate these questions, in order to weave a rich tapestry of perspectives on future directions for social media governance.

We list below some thematic areas that we are particularly eager to tackle. These are only indicative, and intended to be starting points. We welcome conceptual reflections that are empirically grounded in comparative legal analysis and case studies.

THEME 1: CONTEMPORIZING THE LAW

The permeability that networked technologies bring to previously watertight boundaries of public and private spaces presents new challenges for governance. Digital co-presence and asynchronous many-to-many communication have enabled new modes of expression, identity formation, solidarity building, and political mobilization no longer confined by the finitudes of Cartesian space-time. At the same time, and especially in the context of social media, they have given rise to the proliferation of gender-trolls, hate bots, gendered misinformation generators, and homo-social algorithmic enclaves that have a range of inimical consequences for gender equality. Yet, socio-legal imaginaries of public sphere governance seem to be stuck in the past. The unprecedented problems afflicting the online public sphere in the rising tide of misogyny and the challenge of reclaiming democratic and feminist space in this context require a careful assessment of possible legal-institutional interventions.

A few themes we would like discussed:

- i. Conceptions of sexist hate speech in the law (including comparative analysis)
- ii. Conceptions of misogyny in the law (including possible absences of this theme in legislation)
- iii. Negotiating free speech thresholds in the techno-spatial dimensions of the digital
- iv. Intersectionality and constitutional-legal principles to address sexism/misogyny
- v. Implications of criminal law reform for containing/redressing misogyny
- vi. Content governance regimes – implications for freedom/censorship
- vii. Procedural law and institutional arrangements for redressal

THEME 2. NO SAFE HARBOR FOR MISOGYNY

Evidence increasingly suggests that treating platform companies as neutral conduits of content is enabling them to evade all accountability to users for building safe and inclusive communication spaces. It is imperative that platforms' duty of care to prevent sexism and misogyny be framed as a binding obligation. Big platforms that have a global presence do have a decisive influence on social behavior. Yet, the growing influence of smaller, local/ regional language platforms needs to be spotlighted and examined.

A few themes we would like discussed:

- i. Rethinking intermediary liability – e.g., from safe harbor to platform liability for misogyny; differentiated governance approaches by type and size of platform
- ii. Taking stock of community standards
- iii. Platform 'duty of care' – studies of transparency reports, explainability of content moderation decisions, response to user complaints
- iv. Automated content moderation – designing for human-in-the-loop
- v. Alternative platform protocols / artisanal models (including different content moderation approaches)

THEME 3. POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PLATFORMIZED HATE

World-over, governments and dominant social media companies are locked in a power tussle. Companies often complain of extra-legal pressure to remove content deemed offending, while governments are eager to quell content virality fueled by opaque social media algorithms. Social media companies are also often hand-in-glove with political elites, selectively enforcing rules against hate speech and keeping decisions regarding content moderation inscrutable to ordinary users. In this context, what should be a feminist conception of access to justice? How can feminist ideals of justice inform public sphere governance in the trans-local public agora, controlled by capitalist platforms?

A few themes we would like discussed:


- i. Feminist theories of justice with regard to online misogyny (how can rights be culturally grounded?)
- ii. International law / global benchmarking to hold transnational platform companies accountable
- iii. Algorithmic accountability – AI regulation to check viral hate
- iv. How market interests of platforms shape investment trajectories in algorithmic tools for sexist hate speech detection in non-dominant languages
- v. State sovereignty and women’s human rights
- vi. Regulating the platform economy for the health of the public sphere

THEME 4. TOWARDS A FEMINIST ONLINE PUBLIC SPHERE

World-over, governments and dominant social media companies are locked in a power tussle. Companies often complain of extra-legal pressure to remove content deemed offending, while governments are eager to quell content virality fueled by opaque social media algorithms. Social media companies are also often hand-in-glove with political elites, selectively enforcing rules against hate speech and keeping decisions regarding content moderation inscrutable to ordinary users. In this context, what should be a feminist conception of access to justice? How can feminist ideals of justice inform public sphere governance in the trans-local public agora, controlled by capitalist platforms?

We are increasingly beginning to see highly context-specific and overlapping ways in which online misogyny in the form of hateful speech, trolling, prejudicial gender stereotypes, and forms of gendered disinformation renders the public sphere particularly hostile toward women in public-political life – including journalists, activists and politicians. We are interested in untangling these threads by inviting scholars to present empirical, region-specific ethnographic work that unpacks the complex relationship between disinformation, hate speech and misogyny, contemplating how a democratic online public sphere founded on feminist principles can be built.

A few themes we would like discussed:

- 
- i. The manner in which political contexts influence the way women are targeted by hate speech
 - ii. Conceptual connections between disinformation, political violence and gender identity.
 - iii. Legal framings on misogynistic speech, political violence and disinformation, and how the tension between disinformation and women's freedom of expression and public participation may be tackled by the law.
 - iv. The role of platforms in perpetuating hate, disinformation, and gender-based violence and recommendations for platform policies that are sensitive to cultural specificities.

Participant Inputs

Anne Njathi and Rebecca Wambui

Anne Njathi is a Communication and Digital Media scholar whose research interests are driven by the changing tech ecosystem in Africa and what this means to various actors. Her research focuses on Africa's fast technological uptake along the paths of digital innovation, infrastructure, governance/policy, user practices, and the transnational movement of the tech giants. As a Ph.D. Candidate at North Carolina State University Interdisciplinary Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media program, she has a proven publication and teaching record in the field of digital technologies, digital media, FinTech, mobile communication, platformization, ICT for development and global media policy studies. In addition, she is currently undertaking a graduate certificate course in International Development Policy (IDP) at Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University. She is a Chartered Marketer (ACIM), spanning 8+ years of experience in East Africa in building sustainable brands in a multi-cultural international setting.

Rebecca Wambui is a practicing educator and Afrisig (African School of Internet Governance) Fellow. Her interests in internet governance are in digital literacy for women's meaningful participation, and advocacy for inclusive internet policy ecosystems for a fair, just, and safe internet. She enjoys art and storytelling, and in this regard identifies as a sporadic creative.

Essay Abstract

The Overlooked Gender Bias on African Digital Platforms - A Feminist Inquiry

As Africa is experiencing a population youth bulge, there is an increased use of the internet, particularly, among women. Unfortunately, meaningful participation by women on the internet is being thwarted by new weapons such as shadow banning, trolling, and cyberbullying among others, to silence and shame them. In Kenya for instance, Swiry Nyar Kano recently requested her 600k + followers to follow her on Instagram instead, as Tik Tok was shadow banning her pre-colonial, African history, and religious content. Uganda-based, @NoWhiteSaviors, a racial education, and black justice advocacy account on Instagram, frequently requests its followers to state whether posts show up on their timelines. This was after realizing their content was getting minuscule engagement in comparison to their 900k+ followers. The Spreadpod, a queer, sex-ed podcast on Instagram and YouTube, also falls victim to content deletion by Instagram, based on violation of community guidelines. Our findings indicate that despite the difference in their content, it is at the nexus of gender identities, sexual orientation, class, race, tribal and religious beliefs, it encounters imbalanced regulation on different

social platforms, with women, and queer ones' gaining stringent regulation. Yet, ironically, male accounts that perpetuate and embody misogyny, sexism, stereotypes, and prejudices against women, on these same platforms linger on despite multiple content policy violations. The Kenyan Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act seeks to bring order digitally. It's under this Act that Edgar Obare, an entertainment blogger on Instagram and Telegram, was arrested and charged for leaking personal identifiable data of a female digital content creator. Despite this, he and other male content creators continue to churn divisive, sensational content centered around publicly shaming, silencing, and disparaging women. Gender inequalities have profoundly deepened online, negating the milestones of women's rights offline, bringing to question governance, regulation, and ownership of liability of harms caused by internet technology, particularly digital social platforms. From this point of view, this study leverages feminist inquiry, the situated knowledge theory as an analytical framework to explore these contrasting African case studies as empirical data alongside content moderation policies by the digital platforms as well as government policies, regionally, and internationally. The objective is to highlight emerging epistemic yet often overlooked gender bias while interrogating tensions, offering constructive criticism to envision governance and policies that dismantle systemic gender inequalities unfolding within digital platforms in the context of developing African countries.

Anita Gurumurthy and Amshuman Dasarathy

Anita Gurumurthy is a founding member and executive director of IT for Change, where she leads research on the platform economy, data and AI governance, democracy in the digital age, and feminist frameworks on digital justice. Anita actively engages in national and international advocacy on digital rights and contributes regularly to academic and media spaces.

Amshuman's work seeks to understand online life and its offline effects. He works on projects related to platform governance, intermediary liability, and gender, and seeks to gain a better understanding of the complex set of issues afflicting the online public sphere. He has a background in law and sociology.

Essay Abstract

Profitable Provocations: Abuse and Misogynistic Trolling directed at Indian Women in Public-political Life

Online violence against women has become normalized and routinized to such an extent that it has almost been rendered invisible and imperceptible. Outside of specialized technical circles, instances of violence are seen as aberrations or isolated disturbances, and the magnitude of the problem is not fully appreciated. Discussions regarding the regulation of such speech often get mired in irresolvable

contradictions and bottlenecked in legal questions such as where to draw the line in the sand in regulating user-generated speech.

Through our research study of hateful and abusive speech on Twitter directed at 20 Indian women in public-political life, we have adopted a more grounded and ordinary starting point in our study of online violence – its materiality in situ. We analyzed the mentions directed at 20 women engaged in public-political discourse on the platform for a period of one week. This approach has helped us bring into sharper relief the immense volume of online violence of a seemingly milder variety which derives its toxicity and potency, not only from its semantic/locutionary content, but from its volume, frequency and contextual mode of delivery. We will present a summary of the findings and recommendations from our research study.

Arjita Mital

Arjita is a research associate at Digital Futures Lab studying the interactions of gender, digital rights, and technology. In the past, Arjita's research has focused on the issues of disability and mental health, domestic violence interventions, violence against women in the agricultural industry as well as women farmers' experiences around practicing agroecological farming.

Arjita holds a Master's in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Essay Abstract

Regulating Violence Against Women through Community Guidelines in India

This paper attempts to articulate the unspoken yet active cultural work performed by these community guidelines, and the impact of a lack of a context-specific regulatory document on the behaviours of platform users. It will also attempt to offer new insights into larger issues of platform regulation and gender in India. It points toward anxieties about the presence of women in online spaces and demonstrates that, although big tech platforms present their community guidelines as tools for protecting their community members, these same guidelines often enact the further marginalization of women.

Arnav Arora, Mahalakshmi J, Cheshta Arora and Ambika Tandon

Ambika Tandon is a senior researcher at the Centre for Internet and Society, where she studies the intersections of gender and technology. She focuses on women's work in the digital economy, and the impact of emerging technologies on social inequality. She is also interested in developing feminist methods for technology research. She tweets at @AmbikaTandon.

Arnav Arora is a Master's candidate at the University of Copenhagen, where he studies computational methods for mitigating online harms and cross-cultural NLP. He also works as a Research Engineer at Checkstep, where he is responsible for building automated tools for assisting in the content moderation process. He is interested in the intersection between machine learning, language, and society and aims to build equitable tools designed for inclusion. He can be reached at @rnav_arora on Twitter.

Maha is a Data scientist at Tattle, where they build computational tools to enable a healthier online information ecosystem. They can be reached at @melodwama on twitter.

Cheshta is a researcher at CIS and a doctoral candidate at NIAS, Bengaluru.

Essay Abstract

Designing for Disagreements: Making of an ML tool to Detect oGBV on Twitter in Hindi, Tamil, and Indian English

We will develop this paper from our experience of building a user-facing browser plug-in to detect and mitigate instances of online gender-based violence (oGBV) in three Indian languages: Indian English, Hindi and Tamil. The paper will describe the nature of data collected across languages and forms, how it represents oGBV and how the 'problem' – of building an oGBV detection tool for journalists, activists, leaders, community influencers, celebrities who are targeted for their political as well as gender and sexual expression on Twitter – expanded the definition of oGBV to include instances of misogyny, sexism, transphobia as well as hate speech, "creepy" comments, abusive political/electoral speech etc.

Damni Kain and Shivangi Narayan

Shivangi Narayan is a researcher at Algorithmic Governance and Cultures of Policing Project (AGOPOL) 2021-2024 funded by Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway and The Norwegian Research Council. She has a PhD from Centre for Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2021 and is interested in Artificial Intelligence and its use in policing and security systems, Identification systems (including

digital and biometric ID systems) and platformization of work. Her book *Surveillance as Governance: Aadhaar, Big Data in Governance* was published in 2021. Her publications can be accessed at <https://www.shivanginarayan.com/>

Damni Kain works as a Research Associate at Fairwork India. She previously worked as a Legislative and Research Assistant to a Member of Indian Parliament as well as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology. Prior to this, she worked at the Centre for Internet and Society as a researcher on online hate speech — a project supported by the Association for Progressive Communications and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. She is a recipient of prestigious research grants from Women's Fund Asia and the Indian Association for Women's Studies where she studied women's labour movement in India and the working conditions of Aanganwadi workers through fieldwork in Haryana.

Essay Abstract

Online Caste-based Hate Speech in India

Our report on online caste-based hate speech focussed primarily on semi-structured interviews with 12 Dalit and Bahujan participants which included Pasmada Muslim and Ravidasi Sikh participants to understand the different contours of caste-based hate speech through their lived experiences online. We found out that caste-based hate speech is not all slurs and abuses but a lot of covert, double entendre speech that makes online an unwelcome space for Dalits. Reporting mechanisms for both overt and covert abuse was not helpful because they did not even identify caste as a protected category in the first place.

Divyansha Sehgal

Divyansha Sehgal is a YLT Fellow at the Centre for Internet and Society interested in issues of access, equity, speech and fairness in tech. She is an engineer by training.

Essay Abstract

Community Guidelines for Short Video Sharing Platforms and How They can Make the Internet Safer for Their Users

Online Gender-Based Violence takes many forms: Stalking, harassment, threats of harm and non-consensual sharing of personal information to just name a few. The problem is not new, as early as 1993, Dibbel's *'A Rape in Cyberspace'* described gender based harassment and harm in a text-based

virtual community. And this is a problem that will follow the technology (and the people behind it) wherever it goes next: multiple women have come forward with their experiences of being harassed on virtual reality platforms. And companies – if they want to keep their platforms safe for users of all gender identities as most of them purport to do – need to take a stand against gender-based violence in whatever forms it shows up.

Community guidelines are official documents that platforms put out to establish ground rules for users, lay out acceptable uses of their technology and outline the recourse available to users when these guidelines have been violated. It is the one document that should ideally present a blueprint for interactions on, and uses of, the platform. Thus studying these guidelines is a great opportunity to understand what the platform considers to be issues and behaviors it needs to safeguard its user against, and how it specifically understands gender based violence. In the essay, I aim to cover the context and effects of online gender-based hate speech on users, and why community guidelines are an effective tool in the arsenal in the battle against it. I aim to share the observations from studying community guidelines for short video sharing apps in India (Moj, MX Takatak etc), whether and how these apps incorporate local contexts, and what the sector can do better to make the platform safer for all users.

Esther Lee

Esther Lee is a Program Officer with the Asia Pacific Regional Office at the Open Society Foundations, a private global philanthropy focused on justice, democratic governance, and human rights. At OSF, Esther oversees the regional youth and LGBTQI+ grants portfolios, with a focus on feminist reimagining of digital capacity and literacy to counter populist weaponizing of social media, Big Data, and disinformation.

Essay Abstract

The Ungovernability Playbook – South Korean Case-Study on Platform Moderation

The May 2020 revisions to South Korea's Telecommunication Business Act attempted to shatter the pervasive assumption of platforms as passive intermediaries – and uninhibited open space – for content and information exchange. These revisions belatedly recognized the epidemic consumption and circulation of non-consensual intimate images (NCII) by the networked publics, and expanded the regulatory obligations of domestic social media and open community forums to directly filter, report, and takedown exploitative materials. A year later, this imperfect, yet landmark, legislation faces an

imminent threat of scale-back under the new Conservative administration. This paper interrogates the state and corporate rejection of expanded intermediary liability, under the framework of anti-censorship. I argue that this merely panders to the misogyny's pretense for privacy and security – in which the parameters of open internet must uphold the ungovernability playbook, at the expense of women's rights to safe and full digital participation. By examining South Korea's current legislative impasse, this paper asks: What are the feminist conceptions of platform standard-building; and what are the strategies for countering the fallacy of gender-inclusive online publics as being mutually exclusive from internet freedom.

Fernanda K. Martins

Fernanda K. Martins is InternetLab's director, PhD student in Social Sciences at State University of Campinas. She has an MA in Social Anthropology and BA in Social Sciences at University of São Paulo. She is a member of Social Markers of Difference Center of Studies (NUMAS/USP) and a member of Pagu Center of Gender Studies (Unicamp). She has worked as a consultant in organizations such as Projeto Guri, Plan International and Unicef. She is devoted to themes such as hate speech, political violence, ethnic-racial relations, gender violence, feminisms, black feminism and sexuality.

Essay Abstract

Against Women Candidates, Against Women Journalists, Against Women at all: The Dynamic of Political Violence and Disinformation on Social Media in Brazil

Political violence against women is not new; the same can be said about the dynamic of disinformation. However, in the last few years, the concerns about these themes increased in Brazil and the world. In Brazil, one of the reasons for having a broad focus on these phenomena is the political scenario: since 2018, public women, as journalists and candidates, apparently have experienced more cases of online gender-based violence. That year marked a conservative political wave in which women's bodies were and have been frequently targeted for different discriminations. In three different pieces of research conducted by InternetLab, we collected, monitored and analyzed social media such as Instagram, Twitter and Youtube to understand how political violence occurs concretely. Besides that, we interviewed women who were victims of political gender-based violence and started an investigation to comprehend how the phenomenon of political violence and disinformation are related. In this presentation, we aim to discuss the findings of these researches, highlight the local context and our specificities and think about possible intersectoral solutions for these problems.

Graciela Natansohn

Graciela Natansohn is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Communication at the Federal University of Bahia and professor at the Graduate Program in Contemporary Communication and Culture. Her research and productions focus on the intersection between digital communication and feminism: gender issues in digital technologies and journalism; cyber-hack-transfeminisms and technofeminisms. She coordinates the Research Group on Gender, Digital Technologies and Culture (GIG@/UFBA).

Essay Abstract

Against Violence, the Critique of Internet Coloniality

Behind the theoretical clues to understand violence against women in digital environments, we follow two paths: firstly, the ideas of Rita Segato (2010, 2018) on the etiology of online-offline gender violence, which is inseparable, and secondly the understanding of the media rationale that govern platforms and the algorithms that structure communications on the internet. We state that this misogynist-racist violence cannot be interpreted as deviations, misuse, or flaws of the digital communication processes. Instead, they are rational and grounded manifestations - of power, knowledge, being, and internet coloniality, that is, of the current colonial, modern and binary socio-technical pattern.

Helani Galpaya

Helani Galpaya researches and engages in public discourse on issues related to net neutrality, policy and regulatory barriers in Internet access, e-Government and broadband quality of service. She also studies and speaks on how knowledge and information disseminated via ICTs can improve inclusiveness of SMMEs (small, medium and micro enterprises) in global agriculture value chains, and how labor is changing due to digitization and entry of digital platforms that reduce transaction costs. She is currently leading nationally representative surveys of Internet use by households and individuals in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal. She is also currently researching how experiences and perceptions of harassment, surveillance and privacy impact the way men and women differentially experience the Internet, and how online identity helps or hinders their digital and political participation.

Essay Abstract

“In Myanmar, everyone online is Bamar Buddhist male”: public sphere, online identity, politics and gendered experience

The long term military state had ended, a democratically elected government had political control, and the country had not slid back into a military state when we explored how Myanmar’s netizens experienced the internet. Men and women both faced various forms of harassment - but women face highly gendered forms of harassment. Ethnicity-based harassment is common. To deal with this while not leaving the internet, over 40% of people have multiple social media accounts. But interestingly, everyone has at least one ‘fake’ identity that is of a Buddhist male of Bamar (majority) ethnicity. Deep political discussions take place, but each person assumes the other is of their gender or ethnicity. This creates for an interesting public sphere. We want to explore identity as it is crafted, presented by women in the digital public sphere in Myanmar. Research based on interviews with 97 men and women, and a survey of a representative panel of internet users.

Mahishaa Balraj

Mahishaa Balraj is the Co-Founder of Hashtag Generation and was one of the two youth delegates from Sri Lanka to the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Mahishaa graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of London, UK and also holds a Bachelor’s in Electronics and Communication Engineering from College of Engineering Guindy, Anna University, Chennai, India.

Essay Abstract

The Conundrum of Intermediary Liability - A Feminist Legal and Institutional Strategy

Increasingly, the public discourse and negotiation of what it means to be Sri Lankan takes place online. Today, over 8 million Sri Lankans use Facebook while YouTube, TikTok and Twitter have become increasingly popular for circulation of news and opinions. The technology driven hyperconnectivity has facilitated the proliferation of technology facilitated gender-based violence narratives with ease, including viral hate speech and disinformation campaigns, which combined with long-term social fault lines that have existed between different communities and has had a profound impact on women’s security, respect and human rights. Social media platforms seem to adopt a lackluster approach to content moderation which is insufficient and inadequate. Given the current backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, this issue is further exacerbated with a multitude of harmful gendered narratives. As such, there is much that needs to be done, such as holding the social media intermediaries and the state

accountable, and working with law and policy makers to explore legislation and regulations in addition to establishing and strengthening systems and processes that will help prevent and mitigate the resulting ramifications.

Mardiya Siba Yahaya

Mardiya Siba Yahaya is a feminist digital sociologist, researcher and storyteller whose work examines the internet and its cultures from the margins of gender, location, and religion. Her mission is to promote and co-design grassroots feminist digital futures as such her work investigates digital surveillance, labour and security and its implications on Muslim women.

Essay Abstract

Visible Muslim Women and Online Public Spaces

Online public spheres have been characterised by masculine hegemonies, and women are reminded through violence that they do not belong (Gqola, 2021). When women use social media, the response is that they should not expect reasonable privacy or protection against harassment and violence in a 'public space'. At the contours of control, women are made visible while shamed for being visible. In this article, I look at the implications of moral surveillance and scrutiny of African Muslim Influencers online. I address gendered surveillance, and the importance of regrounding technology in social context, embodiment and place (Kovacs, 2017).

Mashinka Hakopian

Mashinka Firunts Hakopian is a writer, researcher, and artist born in Yerevan and residing in Glendale, CA. She was a 2021 visiting Mellon Professor of the Practice at Occidental College, where she co-curated the Oxy Arts exhibition Encoding Futures: Critical Imaginaries of AI with Meldia Yesayan. The exhibition assembled the work of artists who visualize the limits of our current algorithmic imaginaries, and who envision speculative futures marked by algorithmic justice. Prior to this, she held a two-year teaching appointment in UCLA's Department of English. She is a Contributing Editor for Art Papers and for ASAP/J. Her writing and reviews have appeared in Performance Research Journal, the Journal of Cinema and Media Studies, Los Angeles Review of Books, Art in America, and elsewhere. Her book, Algorithmic Bias Training: Lectures for Intelligent Machines, is forthcoming in 2022 from X Artists' Books. Hakopian has been an invited speaker at the University of Chicago, Pacific Northwest College of Art, the UCLA Art|Sci Lab, Cooper Union, and elsewhere.

Essay Abstract

Algolinguicism – Translating Language Justice to Digital Platforms

This talk addresses digital platforms as sites of algolinguicism, a matrix of automated processes that minoritize language-users outside the Global North and obstruct their access to political participation. It asks: Which languages are accorded weight in the development of a platform's algorithms? Which speakers are afforded the right to participate on a given platform, and how do linguistic hierarchies materially impact their lived experience? Whose languages are digital platforms taught to speak? Examining the case study of Azerbaijan's recent state-sponsored campaign of digital repression and disinformation reveals the ways in which speakers of non-dominant languages are disproportionately subject to algorithmic harms. They confront content moderation algorithms that "only work in certain languages" on platforms that structurally omit non-Western nations from governance considerations. Looking toward critical tactics for negotiating algolinguicist spaces, I attend to work by Armenian diasporan artists in the She Loves Collective, focusing on a collective digital performance that uses labeling to convert platforms into provisional spaces of transnational feminist solidarity.

Kim Barker

Dr Kim Barker is a Senior Lecturer in law at the Open University Law School, specialising in internet law including online violence against women, online misogyny, online hate speech, regulation of online content (especially via social media platforms and online games), and intellectual property law (copyright, and digital content). She holds a PhD in Intellectual Property Law, Internet Regulation and Contract Law from Aberystwyth University. She has written and presented extensively both in the UK and internationally on topics relating to online violence against women (OVAW), including online hate speech, online misogyny, and online safety. She is co-author of *Online Misogyny as a Hate Crime: A Challenge for Legal Regulation?* (Routledge: 2019), and co-author of *Violence Against Women, Hate & Law: Perspectives from Contemporary Scotland* (Palgrave: forthcoming 2022). She is also co-founder and co-director of the Observatory of Online Violence Against Women (ObserVAW).

Essay Abstract

The Responsibility Gap & Online Misogyny – Beyond hate, Through Violence, Towards Law?

Online misogyny is a phenomenon, encompassing one form of online violence against women (OVAW). It is a pernicious, silencing phenomenon designed to subjugate women online, silence them, and limit their participatory rights. Legal systems fail to define it, frequently exclude gender (and /

or misogyny) from their hate crime frameworks, rendering women online to the lowest priority for protection. Responsibility gaps persist beyond law too, and the fragmented approaches of policy bodies, international organisations, online platforms and the law compound this problem. This essay will discuss these issues, advocating for a holistic, 'joined up' approach to tackling misogyny, its impact and harms, and suggest approaches to tackle online safety and the current responsibility gap.

Patricia Angélica Peña Miranda

Patricia is an academic and researcher at the Institute (Faculty) of Communication and Image of the University of Chile, where she directs the Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Communication Projects. Her areas of research and project development are gender and technologies, feminist activism (cyber/ techno feminism), the processes of use and social appropriation of technologies (digital divides) and public policies on telecommunications and digital technologies. She also researches on Freedom of Expression and Right to Communication in digital Internet platforms. During 2019-2022, she has co-authored the Reports on Freedom of Expression in Chile. She is working in projects and training related with gender digital gap and community internet networks. She is currently director of Fundación Datos Protegidos (www.datosprotegidos.org) and founding member and Director of the Chilean Chapter of the Internet Society. She is an associate researcher of the Latin American Observatory of Media Regulation and Convergence - OBSERVACOM and of the Center for Studies on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the School of Law of the University of Palermo - CELE <https://observatoriolegislativocele.com/>.

Essay Abstract

Feminists Perspectives in Social Media Governance: The Chilean process in times of socio-political crisis and a new constitution.

Chile is discussing important changes of its legal frameworks to address the challenges related to misogyny, digital violence and online hate speech especially to the collective of women, girls and LGBTQI+ people, from bills and the installation of new digital rights in a new Constitution. This paper systematizes the process that was activated from the so-called feminist May 2018, the socio-political crisis of the social movement of October 2019 and current constituent debate to promote these changes, and also examines the role of policies and platform standards, which do not consider social, political and cultural specificities.

Quito Tsui

Quito works as Research Coordinator with the Engine Room and is fascinated with narratives and the stories we tell ourselves about our histories, communities and the possibilities of the future. Prior to this, Quito worked in transitional justice and international criminal law, and conducted research at Stanford University, the University of Cambridge and the LSE.

Essay Abstract

Feminist Communities of Care and a Transnational Response to Redesigning Social Media Governance

When we look at the deeply flawed system of social media governance it is easy to focus on reactions: Who is being harmed in this space? What legal mechanisms are there for accountability? How can we remove or punish those engaging social media's purposefully misogynistic designs? In doing so we often limit our ability to be emboldened in the kind of interventions we seek. What we must ask ourselves instead is what is required to build something new — what is it going to take for us to be able to account for the varied ways that misogyny and platformised hate arise? This intervention seeks to explore the ways in which feminist care practices and understandings of communities of care, can offer us a holistic lens for the re-designing of social media governance. It looks towards transnational feminists and their work creating international solidarity to consider what might a global response to the vagaries of social media governance look like. The great chain of social media governance frequently sees the business of enacting it externalised: precarious, invisible work now relocated to the global south where the cost of a supposedly more “caring” social media landscape can be forgotten. This feminisation of labor — regardless of the identity of those undertaking it — embeds misogyny further within platform governance, protecting some women at the cost of imperiling countless others. Contextualizing social media governance as part of a ‘global feminisation of labour’ (Pyle 2013) gives insight into the links between informal, feminised labour and the social media governance models that are underpinned by a drive for consumption over care. Informed by observations from The Engine Room's work on intersectional data and digital rights (IDDR) on creating meaningful connections between the digital rights and social justice communities, this paper considers how feminist conceptions of care that operate across different identities and modalities can offer us a new imaginary in which to sincerely ground the rethinking of social media governance efforts.

Shehla Rashid Shora

Shehla Rashid Shora is an Indian human rights student activist who is pursuing her Ph.D and has completed her MPhil from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She was vice-president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union in 2015 –16 and was a member of the All India Students Association.

Essay Abstract

An Auto-ethnographic Exploration of Online Hate and Misogyny

In this presentation, I will collate instances of abuse that I have reported myself and intermediary responses to those. I will demonstrate from such an auto-ethnography, the inadequacies of standard content moderation practices in mainstream platforms in addressing intersectional hate, and some future-looking roadmap.

Suzie Dunn

Suzie Dunn is an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie's Schulich School of Law where she teaches contracts and judicial decision making; law and technology; and intellectual property. Her research centers on the intersections of gender, equality, technology and the law, with a specific focus the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, deepfakes, and impersonation in digital spaces. She was awarded the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship for her PhD research.

Essay Abstract

From Anecdotal to Actual – Understanding Technology-facilitated Gender-based Violence

As governments begin addressing harmful online behaviour through various means, it is important that they have access to qualitative and quantitative data to better understand the issues at hand. In the last decade, there have been an increase in empirical studies that examine technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). However, there is a need for more studies, especially in countries that have been underrepresented in existing research. The Centre for International Governance Innovation recently conducted a study in 18 countries about their experiences with technology-facilitated violence that will help illuminate these issues. It demonstrates that people with intersecting marginalities, particularly members of the LGBTQ+ community, are at higher risk of TFGBV.

Yasmin Curzi de Mendonça

Yasmin Curzi de Mendonça is a Researcher for the Center for Technology and Society at the FGV Law School and a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the Institute for Social and Political Studies from the Rio de Janeiro State University (IESP-UERJ). She has BAs both in Sociology and Law and holds a Master's Degree in Social Sciences from PUC-Rio. She is also Assistant Professor at the LL.M in Law, Technology and Innovation from the FGV Law Program, where she lectures Programming for Lawyers.

Essay Abstract

I silenced myself – Brazilian Female Activists' Perspectives on Online Targeted Harassment.

In this essay, I aim to present partial results of my doctoral research at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, where I interview Brazilian activists, politicians, and journalists who have experienced situations of online gender-based violence (OGBV) with the goal of understanding their strategies of resistance and also the insufficiencies in the current Brazilian legal framework, as well as the obstacles posed by social media platforms in properly addressing OGBV.

