

Addressing Online Harassment as a Form of Censorship

Issues and Opportunities

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Speech vs. Harassment

What's the difference?

- Targeting of a protected class (gender, race, religion, etc.);
- Unwelcomeness of harassing behavior or verbal, written, and/or online conduct;
and
- Deprivation of access, opportunities, rights, and/or peaceful enjoyment therefrom.

Is this really a problem?

Yes, if you want users.

For those who do participate, the presence of negative content signals that aggressive or abusive contributions are tolerated or are perhaps even normative (Sukumaran, Vezich, McHugh, & Nass, 2011).

Is this really a problem?



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TECH SEP 16 2016, 8:53 AM ET

Virtual Reality a Little Too Real as Gamers Caught Groping in VR

by REUTERS

Understanding the Problem

“If Twitter had people in the room who’d been abused on the internet — meaning not just straight, white males — when they were creating the company, I can assure you the service would be different.” A 2015 Women, Action, and the Media [study revealed that](#), as of 2014, Twitter’s leadership was 79% male and 72% white.

Understanding the Problem

Is the freedom to speak a
requirement to listen?

What Are the Consequences?

Some women said they started using pseudonyms or pen names after receiving threats. Others decided to stop reporting from specific regions, while a few were forced to permanently relocate. One respondent from Bahrain said, “I had to leave the country fearing for my safety...I have been living in the United States since then (more than 2 years now).”

A number of the women explained how they were forced to give up journalism entirely, while others left their jobs – either of their own accord or after being fired, as this Australian journalist described:

“I was sacked from my job – the management made it clear that they would not discipline the perpetrator.”

Many stayed at their jobs but were no longer able to cover certain beats, or were discouraged from reporting specific stories by their editors.

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A Computational Solution?

“The decision-makers were not people who got abuse and didn’t understand that it’s not about content, it’s about context,” Miley said. . . . Miley was adamant about finding a proactive engineering solution for Twitter’s troll problem, but he said he consistently came up against opposition from a product team that favored content-based filters (preventing abusive tweets based on keywords) over context-based prevention (identifying and stopping harassment based on the accounts involved and the subject matter).

A Computational Solution?

De-anonymizing Programmers via Code Stylometry

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 - 4:00pm-4:30pm

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