Reflecting and Looking Ahead

— INTRODUCTION —

The work for a healthy internet isn't done yet so what does our community envision when they look ahead to the next ten years of the festival and the internet health movement? Where do we go from here? There are many paths the future offers the digital world - which one we choose will shape the festival and the web for everyone. For this chapter, we asked the community to share their thoughts on:

- The Future of Internet Health, What do you hope the internet will look like in 10 years? What do you foresee being the five biggest issues affecting internet health over the next decade? How will your work contribute to the health of the internet?
- Your Internet Health Story. How do you identify with the internet health movement? Why is it important to you? What will you do in the next ten years to participate in the movement?
- The Future of AI. Why is building Trustworthy AI important for the future of the internet? How do you see AI impacting the internet health movement in the next ten years?

From the dozens of essays we received in response, we choose five that represent our community well. Read on for what they had to say...

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Anisha Fernando (Australia)

— вто —

Dr Anisha Fernando is a lecturer at the South Australian Institute of Business and Technology (SAIBT, in partnership with the University of South Australia - UniSA and Navitas). She has a PhD in Computer and Information Science from UniSA. Anisha's research focuses on the social impact of technologies on people's lives concerning data ethics, privacy, social innovation and technology design. She collaborates on data ethics research initiatives with communities and is passionate about science communication. Her work includes 'The Private Lives of Data' for South Australia's National Science Week 2018 and a conversational card game to empower people with data ethics literacy skills.

TITLE

Can The Digital Future Be Our Home?

— THEME ————

Future of Internet Health

"Home is where we know and where we are known, where we love and are beloved. Home is mastery, voice, relationship, and sanctuary: part freedom, part flourishing ... part refuge, part prospect." "We can choose its form and location but not its meaning."

(Zuboff 2019).

These inspiring words from Shoshana Zuboff in her masterpiece, Surveillance Capitalism, raise many questions on whether our digital future can be a place we can call home.

Our lives in the 21st century are tightly intertwined with the internet and the myriad of data services, processes and technologies that call the internet its home. We give birth to our digital selves from our very first interactions — an online search, an email perhaps. Yet we encounter the difficulties of seeing our data selves, our digital identities in action. It's almost like we need a wayfinding map back to the homes our data selves live on the internet.

In the next 10 years, my hopes for the internet rest on these desires, raising more questions than answers. Can we make our data more visible to us? We already know that most people don't understand the extent to which their data is used online. How can people trust apps and interactions they don't quite understand?

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Trust is not the value implied here, but faith. And our faith in the organisations owning and managing these technologies dips a little bit every time we hear of the next cyber hack or when datasets are exploited, with little accountability and integrity in action.

Can we explore ways to meaningfully interact with products, processes and services that use our data? We know it's not reasonable to expect consumers to read pages and pages of terms and conditions, and yet it is the default standard. We know the dangers of solely valuing interactions which drive the most clicks. Yes, these actions may make money, but overly relying on money as the sole purpose of each interaction online is unhealthy because we risk monetary value becoming the default online social norm. These unhealthy social norms incentivise and drive behavior like creating spaces for filter bubbles and polarised views, misinformation, disinformation, fake news, technology addiction, social isolation, trolling, bullying and even technology-mediated suicides.

Can the algorithms work for us too? Algorithms are great at uncovering new value computationally from disparate datasets. We find value in the meaning they provide when making decisions in critical contexts, while generating monetary value for the organisations that create and own them. The key premise of algorithms is efficiency. Algorithms optimise data for decision-making that we previously did not have before. But humans are not efficient. We are messy and inherently flawed, which makes us human. We value serendipity, community and experiences, which may not be efficient but is impactful.

While there are many efforts underway to connect us to our data selves and digital identities, to explore ways to meaningfully interact with data-driven technologies, and to investigate how algorithms can work for social good, we still need to grapple with some key questions. How can we call the internet our home? What kind of future home do we want for ourselves and future generations on the internet?

These challenges we encounter are human issues, driven or mediated by technology. MozFest is a great space for raising awareness on these challenges and experiencing the diverse efforts addressing these human problems. MozFest celebrates the diverse nature of what makes us inherently human and puts the communion back in community, with its belief in solidarity, community building and empathetic empowering change. My MozFest 2019 experience offered me a space to call home as a researcher running community programs in data ethics. I raised awareness on data ethics literacy issues, and offered participants opportunities to encounter value tensions in practice (an ethics tool from value sensitive design) and obtain co-design input into a data ethics literacy card game. In the next 10 years, I'll be contributing to the efforts in making data ethics literacy accessible to people of all backgrounds because our data is about us. 21st century life is powered by data, and people need literacy skills around creating, using and managing their data with integrity.

How will you join in on efforts to make the internet your home too?

This piece is inspired by the work of Shoshana Zuboff. Quotes are from Zuboff, S. (2019). The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power. New York: Public Affairs. AUTHOR



Virginia Poundstone (U.S.A.)

— BTO —

Virginia Poundstone works on the content strategy for the free knowledge art and cultural heritage project Mhz Curationist as the Content Curation Director. Prior to joining the MHz Foundation she was an art educator at Parsons, MICA, and Columbia University where she taught courses about making things by breaking down systems to build improved structures. She is an artist, a Pollock-Krasner grantee, and a member of the cooperatively artist-run gallery Essex Flowers in New York City.



AUTHOR

Garrett Graddy-Lovelace (U.S.A.)

— віо —

As Associate Professor at American University's School of International Service in Washington DC, Garrett Graddy-Lovelace researches and teaches agricultural, environmental, food, seed, land, and data policy from the perspectives of critical geography, political ecology, and community-based methodologies. She works to advance free knowledge, open educational resources, and decolonial digital cocuration, as an educational advisor to MHz Foundation's Curationist.

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TITLE

Future of Internet Health

- THEME -

Future of Internet Health

If the goal is just to heal the internet, we have already lost the game. In ten years, the medium of the internet may be experienced as a contact lens or something even more intimately cyborg. With so much unknown, we posit a healthy future in terms of its collective substance—its cultural content—that is equitably, ethically, and sustainably formed and reframed

When we look at the internet today, we see a syndrome. A hegemony built on algorithms that amplify, instead of remedy, the limits of our knowledge. We must hold tight to the agency and potential of our sacred non-artificial intelligence. We need to heal ourselves, with the help of the internet

But first, to lay the groundwork: in the most basic terms, as thought-partners, we are an artist and an academic. One of us is a deeply urban person, the other more rural. We are Americans and are also both cis white women trying to raise families and stay in the middle class. With awareness, we are working from our layered identities as both oppressor and oppressed to envision a radical internet that is healthy because it facilitates a relational worldview where many worlds unfold in conversation. This is not a utopian Y2K reboot, however. It is an approach

to make space for a future that has a future. So, how do we get past our collective syndrome?

The original metaphor of the worldwide web conjures a spider's central omniscience, its concentric patterning — its predatory hunger. But the internet has instead built itself on a rhizomatic structure. Billions of us now weave ourselves together, and apart, in tangled lines and knots of desire, fear, nourishment, and capture. The present predicament was foreseeable, and now here we are — squirming in the syndrome — tangled in sticky threads of the worst of humanity. How do we think productively about this collective problem?

Decentralize the internet? Yes, please! Data self-determinization? Sign us up! Sustainable monetization? Let's collaborate! Can we also rehumanize? Can we reconceptualize the dehumanizing tech speak of users and eyeballs? Would thinking of ourselves and each other as visitors, members, or actual — not aspirational — communities help us heal? How do we make space for relational world views when code is binary, and discoverability is hegemonic?

Already underway, indigenous communities the globe over revive native languages online, chronicle creation stories, advocate for territorial sovereignty to defend land and water for all of our benefit. African diaspora movements organize for Black Lives and thus our collective liberation. Free how-to videos reskill youth in pragmatic knowledges long devalued in formal, overpriced education. Within this decolonizing vision of collective healing, the internet stands as crux. Not as a mechanism of extraction and abstraction, but as a decentralizing means of re-grounding in real life. These beautiful uses are happening, but authoritarian spiders continue to surveil to control. How do we escape this echo chamber?

We believe that the site specificity of place-based knowledge, culture, and politics re-grounds the internet, daily. This manifests in a digital realm as a foundational layer of knowledge. Place-based art, grounded know-how are ironically, still the best ways and reasons to communicate across time or space or domain names. But digitizing can further decontextualize culture and art, further displace lineages and traditions, further alienate creative modes. We need open access, open knowledge platforms that re-ground online gems, that piece together the layers of lost context and latent significance. Can co-curation add meaning through nuanced layers of metadata? Could a platform gather contributions from communities of artists, scholars, and the public at large, collaboratively curating content that reflects our cultures, and the places and contexts that give them life? In concert, in dialogue, in civic debate if need be. Can this happen with a keen understanding of who really benefits, so the prosperity is actual instead of neo-colonial?

How do we cultivate the alliances and funding needed to advance anticolonial digital visions and work, together? How can we facilitate healing through a relational worldview where many worlds fit and find each other in conversation, in creative co-curation? How do these worlds become relational within this one large sticky, tangled web? Are we, and the technology sector as a whole, asking the right questions?

AUTHOR



Uffa Modey (Nigeria)

— віо —

Uffa Modey is the Executive Director at Digital Grassroots. Her focus is to explore and define avenues through which telecommunication infrastructure, policy and standards that support global sustainability may be developed. She designs and leads community engagement platforms to address internet-related issues in underrepresented societies through digital literacy, networking, and activism. Uffa is an expert online trainer on internet governance at Internet Society and the coordinator of the Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum.

TITLE

I Know My Role. What About You?

- THEME -

My Internet Health Story

Let me start by telling you a little bit about where I come from. Growing up in my corner of the globe in 2019, is quite exhausting. You are faced daily with numerous cases of societal inequalities, injustice and corrupt governments which makes access to basic human amenities seem like luxury. A couple of years ago, I felt helpless. I felt like there was nothing I could do to contribute to building a better life in my community.

Since the introduction of internet technology in Nigeria in the late 90's, the country has become more web literate and dependent on the web for day to day activities. This is very good for our development. However, a significant percentage of the country's population still remains unaware of the core values of the network. They approach the technology as just consumers with little or no contributions towards developing or advocating for principles that uphold a healthy online ecosystem.

I was a part of this percentage until 2018, when I came across the internet health community through the Mozilla Open Leaders program. You see, the greatest challenge to the participation of individuals, especially those from developing regions, in the internet health movement is the lack of awareness on the subject matter. Through the Mozilla

Open Leaders program, I connected to an extremely resourceful online community of activists and technologists who are dedicated to ensuring a healthy experience online. I learned about working open, community driven projects and collaborations. It was amazing! Suddenly, I did not feel so helpless anymore. I had connected to a vibrant network and was able to access proper knowledge on internet health, which I passed on to members of my community.

There was always something to learn or engage with in the Mozilla community. The best part was that it was very easy for me to remain up to date with information. The @mozilla and @MozOpenLeaders Twitter handles made the latest news on internet health globally very accessible. And there was MozFest too! Oh MozFest!! MozFest!!! Never have I attended a conference so accommodating and inclusive. I facilitated a session in 2018 and 2019 MozFest in the Youth Zone and Digital Inclusion Space respectively. Again, this was huge because I was able to share and get quality feedback on the work I was doing to promote internet health in local communities.

2019 MozFest was quite special for me. My colleague and I, Esther Mwema, launched our Mozilla OLX project on Open Advocacy for the Internet Health Report at the Moz OLX Launch party in the MoZone. This program commenced in February 2020. It is a 6-week program aimed at equipping youth from underserved communities with the skills required to design and lead open projects for raising awareness on the Internet Health Report within their community.

As the world moves towards the digital future, we all have a role to play in ensuring that the internet does not break. It has to remain healthy. A broken internet will be one where there is no inclusion, privacy or security, openness, decentralisation or web literacy. Experiencing a broken internet will definitely not be a bed of roses.

Right now, everyone enjoys the web and new and emerging online services that are developed daily. But what happens

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when healthy internet principles are not being upheld in society? This will take the form of internet shutdowns, monopolization of online services by tech giant companies, infringement of human rights online or online marginalization of people based on their race, gender, sex, age or socio-economic status.

I know that there are more people like me out there. People who are passionate about shaping their digital future but need support to engage their community. I plan to provide this support for them to join the internet health movement. I ask you all to join me. Together, we can create a greater impact on the internet health community in the next 10 years by expanding the reach of the community. Let us spread awareness on internet health. All internet citizens must understand the threats to a healthy internet and how to deal with it.

Where do we go from here? The future. Our future. One where we are all responsible for creating the healthy internet we desire.

AUTHOR



Vanja Skoric (Croatia)

BTO

Vanja Skoric is Program Director at European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) and civil society activist working on enabling environment for civil society, civic participation and empowering activists to exercise their rights and freedoms on all levels. She is also one of the founders of the Solidarna Community Foundation in Croatia. Vanja holds a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in Public International Law from the University of Amsterdam.

— THEME -

Future of AT

Yesterday, the authorities banned another protest announced by the group Rouge One. This is the second time that an announced protest has been banned due to "fairly accurate prediction of violence during the protest" by AuRii – a new government's algorithm for predictive analytics. AuRii has been analysing tweets about the announced protest in the last 24 hours and its verdict seems clear – there is 86% chance of violent clashes. Activists are appalled by its decision, calling for investigation into how AuRii makes such predictions. In addition, it seems that bots and fake accounts posted most violence-related tweets, pointing to an organized sabotage. Despite public outcry, authorities claim they can't disclose the analytical works of AuRii.

If you haven't heard of AuRii, don't worry — this news is fictional. However, its premise is becoming increasingly likely, as more algorithmic systems enter into public decision-making. In a study by the Zea Mays Center for Computational Linguistics at the University of Illinois, moralization in social networks and the emergence of violence during protests, using data from 2015 Baltimore protests, the authors created an algorithm that can predict a link between tweets and street action — hours in advance of violence. Such predictive analytics can have various

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impacts on our rights to express and assemble — it can be used by the police to plan for disruptive events and divert them, but also to sabotage legitimate public activism and expression, or silence dissent. To what extent can findings generated from algorithms be used as conclusive evidence to restrict freedoms and rights?

We learn daily about examples of algorithmic systems for decision making, from facial recognition surveillance for the purpose of establishing "good credentials" to automated risk calculation models on welfare and other benefits that deter activists. No one knows exactly how these can impact our freedoms and rights. Council of Europe, an international human rights organisation, recommends appropriate legislative, regulatory and supervisory frameworks related to algorithmic systems as a responsibility of states, as well as conducting thorough human rights impact assessments for each system at every stage of development, implementation and evaluation process. In addition, systems designed by private companies for public use need to have transparency safeguards included in their terms of reference. We need an algorithmic "white box".

To find solutions, a merger of knowledge, experience, ideas and peer connections by diverse groups is needed — including lawyers, tech experts, activists, academics. Several actions should go in parallel, to ensure protection and promotion of Trustworthy AI:

→ First, we need more insight into how algorithmic systems are designed and used, to understand their impact on rights and explore possibilities to use them for good. This can be done by creating a crowdsourced platform on the "trust in AI systems for civic rights" to channel information on ways technology and algorithmic systems are used by governments, companies or organisations on rights of association, assembly, expression, participation. Learning can be mapped to inform policy advocacy actions. Research on technological

- solutions, individual actions and navigation tactics can help create practical guidelines to protect and promote these rights.
- Second, we need to address how to practically \rightarrow ensure human rights centred design of algorithmic systems. According to the University of Birmingham research team, such design means that algorithmic systems will be human-rights compliant and reflect the core values that underpin the rule of law. It entails systematic consideration of human rights concerns at every stage of system design, development and implementation. The research team proposed translating human rights norms into software design processes and software requirements. Developers seem to become 'moral guardians' of our rights - but they are not always aware how the solutions they develop may be purposefully manipulated or inadvertently used to stifle rights and freedoms.
- Finally, there is a need for consistent, meaningful and transparent consultation with stakeholders, including civil society, movements, academics, tech community, and media. In particular, the needs of vulnerable groups should be heard, ensuring that impact of algorithmic systems can be monitored, debated and addressed.

We must develop broader knowledge-building networks and exchange learnings on practical implementation. As a community, we can apply a forward-looking approach and map, explore and unpack these issues. It requires overcoming traditional forms – to collaborate more outside our silos and across specialised fields. Join us in this effort!

AUTHOR



Dr. Isaac Rutenberg (U.S.A. / Kenya)

— віо —

Isaac Rutenberg is an academic and lawyer based in Nairobi, Kenya. He is currently the Director of the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) at the Strathmore Law School, Strathmore University, where he is also a Senior Lecturer. He is also an Associate Member at the Center for Law, Technology, and Society at the University of Ottawa. Isaac holds a JD (degree in law), a PhD in Chemistry, a bachelor of science in Chemistry, and a bachelor of science in Mathematics/Computer Science.

— THEME

Future of AI

Although Al has been theorized for decades, practical and widespread uses of the technologies were only realized in the current century. As with prior technologies, and especially in the last few years, evidence of a trend towards a renewed version of the digital divide can be found. African countries ranked very poorly in a recently released report on the readiness of governments to adopt and adapt to Al (although this is, at least in part, attributable to the lack of updated information that is found on the websites of many African governments). Uptake of Al in Kenya is likely to be greatest, initially, in the more profitable sectors such as banking and telecommunications, but generally lags behind other regions.

The availability of open source AI tools is certainly a benefit to developers on the continent. Toolkits are available from global technology companies and are popular among Subject Matter Experts and startups. It has been theorized that AI will be a force for democratization (of technology, access to information, etc.), and this idea is supported by the widespread availability of open source AI tools. The theory assumes, however, that open source AI algorithms released by global tech companies are effective and competitive with AI algorithms in active use by those and other leading companies.

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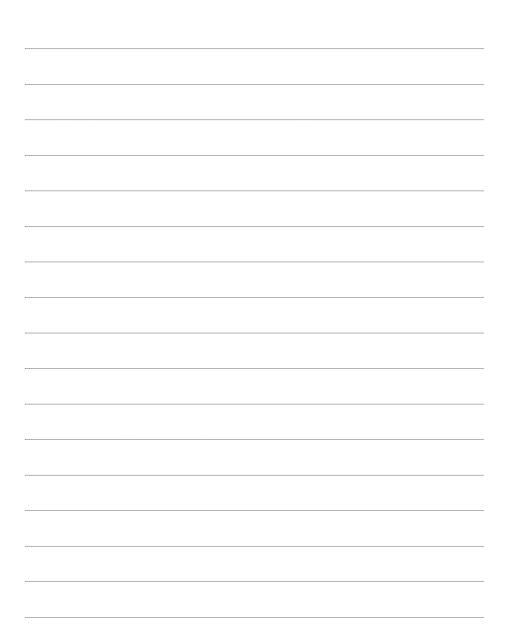
There are many examples of African companies, universities, and individuals developing Al-based tools and products. The concept of democratization through Al may, however, be premature or unrealistic in the context of African countries. Successful development of Al-based products generally requires large datasets, and Africa has been called a "data desert." Biodiversity on the continent is high, but genetic databases cataloging such biodiversity are few. Climate change will affect Africa at least as much as other continents, but few countries have dedicated satellites for collecting weather data. It is therefore in the disparity of available data where the divide between implementations of Al in Africa and those of other regions will be most greatly observed.

An unfortunate exception to the data desert is in data pertaining to personal identity. Many African governments are currently implementing digital identification (ID) systems, and in the process, collecting vast amounts of data about their citizens and residents. Such data is valuable for Al algorithms and can be obtained either through leakage (i.e., data breaches) or, sometimes, through official channels. The Government of Zimbabwe, for example, recently sold a data set containing facial images of Zimbabwe citizens to a Chinese company seeking to improve a facial recognition Al algorithm. The ability (or inability) to control data through law or technology is a barrier to ethical implementation of Al.

A further substantial barrier to implementation of Al projects in some parts of Africa is the lack of trust in automated systems. In Kenya, for example, ATMs are disfavoured, as most individuals would prefer to carry out banking activities with a human. This preference grows stronger where technology and devices are more opaque, or are developed outside of the country. For the benefits of Al to be realized, then, a change is required in such cultural preferences. Alternatively, Al must be implemented in ways that are invisible to the ordinary user.

This, then, presents a contradiction. In order for AI to benefit internet health in Kenya and like-minded places,

Ultimately, hiding, obscuring, or downplaying the use of AI will only strengthen the distrust of automated systems. The solution can only be found in greater levels of transparency. It is currently up to the private sector to disclose their uses of AI and sufficient information about the AI such that those uses can be evaluated. The national and international governmental bodies in charge of internet health should investigate a suitable, contextualized legal or policy framework to further encourage appropriate levels of transparency.



Thank you by Sarah Allen

We shared at the start of the book, the festival is nothing without our community, so we asked them to help us write this book and to share stories from their reflections. Thank you to everyone who sent us their festival memories, shared photos, answered calls for help, and raised up people to tell this story. Huge appreciation to everyone who reviewed drafts of chapters, helped identify people in photos, chased contacts, and forms, and gave nods of encouragement throughout the journey. The beautiful photographs come from many sources, but most notably Paul Clarke and team, Erik Westra and Connor Ballard-Pateman.

We are so grateful to everyone who wrote chapters, and shared the workload to write a book that became so much bigger than we anticipated, in a great way!

To the team at HeyHeydeHaas, the book is beautiful and your patience and enthusiasm has been endless.

To Mark, Gunner, and Michelle, and all Mozilla staff and community who attended MozFest over the years, we only ever want to honour your leadership, participation, and support. We hope you like the book.

We tried to capture everyone, but to those we forgot, missed, or failed to squeeze in – we thank you.

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