

The influence of our technological advancements is severely underestimated as we adapt to such rapid changes. The rate at which we comprehend our technological tools are not keeping up with their progressions. We do not have a conceptual understanding of the dynamics that exist in the virtual world and how it influences our social perspectives. In addition to the positive and negative aspects of the internet, we will be discussing the grey area of this matter. To further elaborate, we will be focusing on social media, seeing as it is a platform organized for interactions. We will be addressing some of the unrecognized social dynamics that exist in the virtual world; due to our unfamiliarity with what our technological tools could afford as they progress past our conceptual understanding for it.

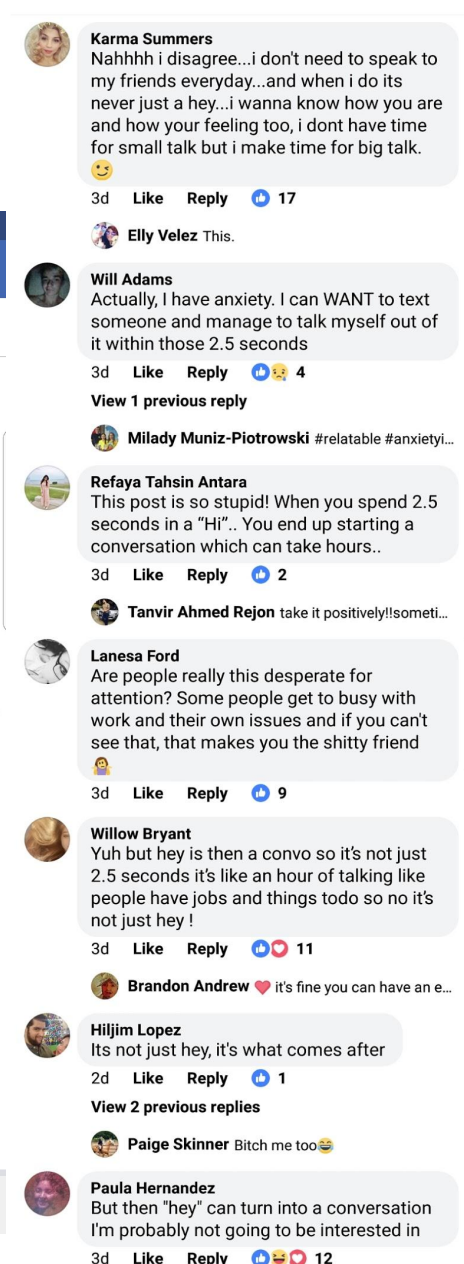
Social media is thought to be intended to allow an ease in staying connected; for a convenient method of keeping in contact with people in your life. Behavioral observations regarding online interactions, showcases an interesting comfort in dehumanizing people, even while logically understanding that it is an actual person they are speaking to. We fail to consider the lack of communicative cues that are received when conversing online. There aren't any facial expressions, body language, or tone of voice present to be as thoroughly and efficiently explanatory as an in-person interaction. The benefit of the doubt, or compassion that is normally offered in physical face-to face communication, could be determined by a lift of an eyebrow, a humble posture, a confident tone etc. These aspects are entirely absent when talking online, thus this convenience results in simplified interpretations full of assumptions to make sense of the whole picture. The lack of effective communicative cues influences a disregarding of the compassion and empathy aspects a real life interaction would extend. A light instance of such, can be recognized in the offense that is commonly taken due to the expectation to respond immediately. People are quick to assume that they are being ignored or dismissed because there should be "no

excuses” with being a fast communicator. The reality is that people should never be obligated to keep in contact just so they don’t appear rude. The reality is that people don’t always have the mind capacity to be communicative because we each have our own lives to tend to. The obligation, pressure, and expectation was not the same as when our methods to connect were far more limited (landlines, letters, even emailing). The ability to stay connected through social media created an unrealistic expectation to constantly be in touch. The smartphone is the human’s magic wand. It is utilized for more than communication and connection.

Comments from first meme.



It takes 2.5 seconds to text HEY. there are 24 hours in a day. If im not worth 2.5 seconds of your time. you are not worth a position in my life.



The meme that corrects the first meme.



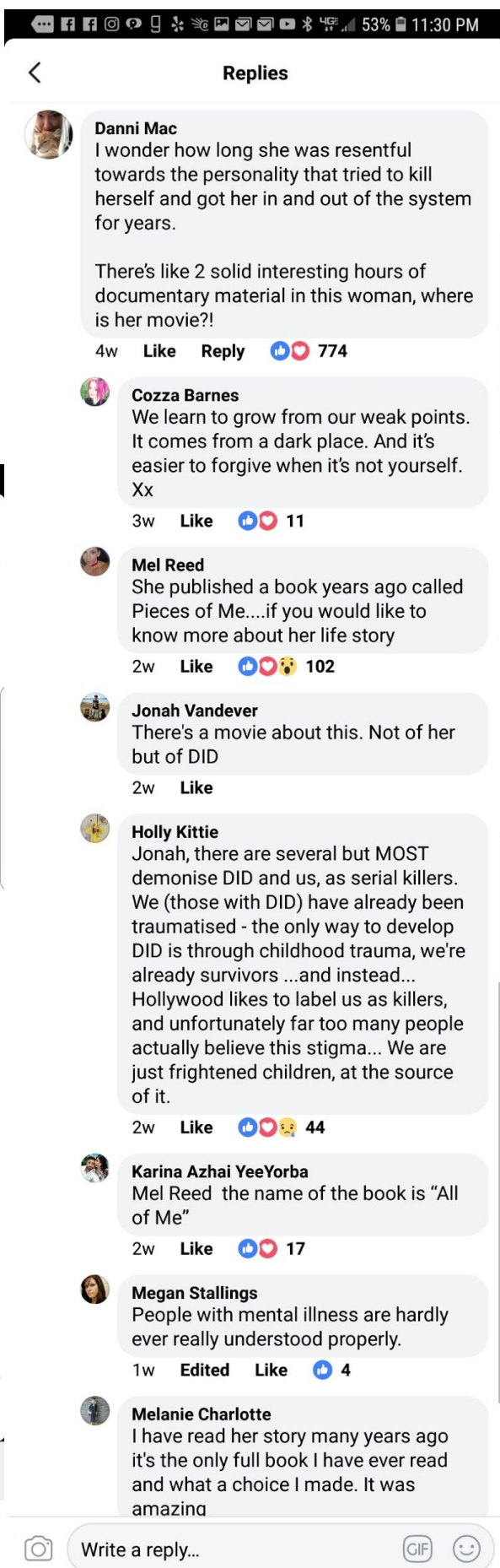
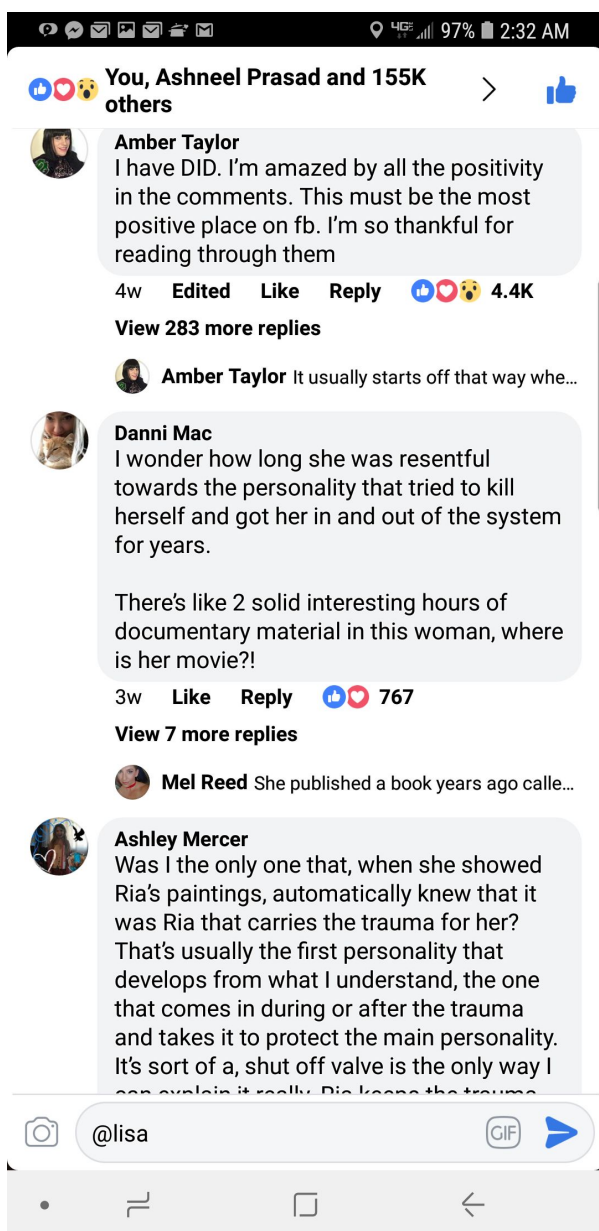
i'll never understand when friends start to act shady because you haven't talked to them in a minute and have been busy. if you're my real friend idc if we don't talk for a YEAR, you're still my friend and i'll always treat you like it. ppl feel so entitled to ur time nowadays

views that have reached its time to die. It is an encouragement of questioning the truths one was raised to believe defines everyone else's existence and reality. It is a mass delivery of awareness and humility. In the instance with Lil Tay, it is a curiosity in whether or not the abundance of hatred would in turn, encourage her to generate a defense and opposition so convincing to herself that she is not receiving the "checking" people are intending this their words. To elaborate on the positive aspects of mass social interactive platforms, I wanted to mention a viral video on Vice Australia that featured a woman with dissociative identity disorder and how each personality had a different artistic style as a painter. It showcases the complications of mental disorder and the dismissal of mental health as a society. The most positive aspect was drawn from the number of individuals with DID that were able to receive acceptance, support, and most importantly, understanding.



Artist, Kim Noble who has dissociative identity disorder has 20 personalities and each have their own unique artistic style. She learns about her other personalities and the unique pain they each carry for her. DID is a coping mechanism.



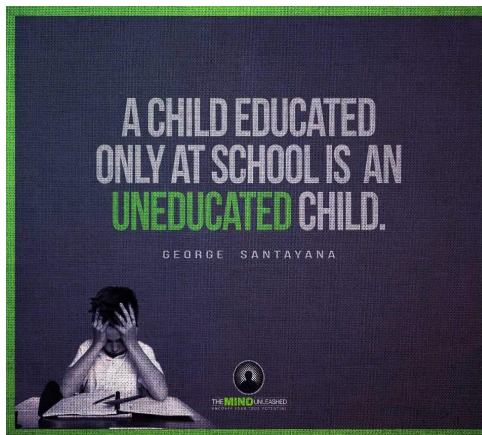
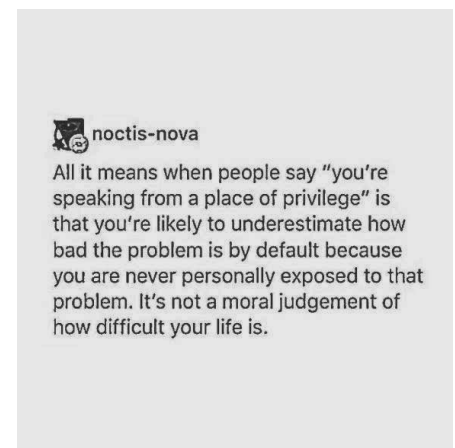
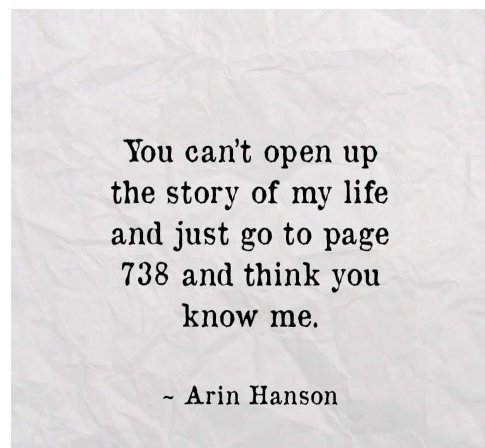
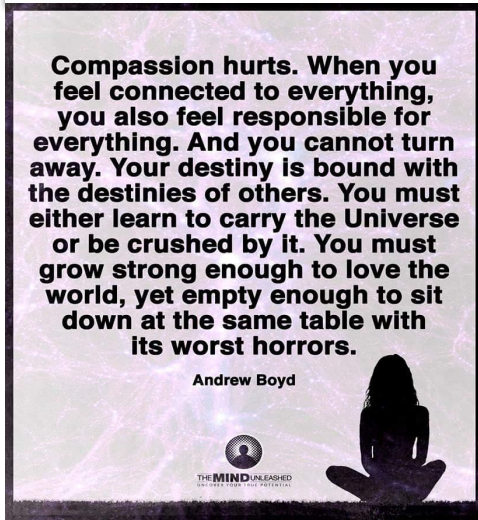


A specific outcome that is a result of internet social dynamics: cyber-bullying. It is unjust to have a single individual receive a crazy abundance of hateful expressions without the leniency that communicative cues from real life interactions would offer. The question in such a case should be whether or not public/social shame or reaction is what an internet user deserves. For instance, there is 9 year old girl going by “Lil Tay” that is currently notorious for obnoxiously praising herself on being the wealthiest “billionaire 9-year old”. She is receiving an incredible amount of hatred that people can’t help but feel refreshed by. Despite the fact that the girl is showcasing characteristics that are loath-worthy, she is still just a 9 year old girl. An age where one is just beginning the journey of real self-confidence. She happens to be a young girl that is living in a time where her methods for doing so, could cause an uproar with the amount of viewers accessing her social media platforms. It is a mix between a lack of understanding for mass reception and the tool she is using to what she believes is simply “expressing oneself”. Recording videos is now also a form of preserving every embarrassing moment on one’s journey for this “real confidence”. Before social media, people could mess up, learn, and move on. Currently, if you fuck up online, the individual would absolutely be called out. This addresses the positives aspect of these kinds of social interactions which is: accountability. The fact that social media usage can allow a worldwide connection, is fascinatingly curious. A solid example could be a severely close-minded individual surrounded by racism that is still present as a norm in their proximity and society. Imagine such an individual from notoriously conservative Missouri, hearing different opinions on the functionality of the world, from a diversity rich state such as California. People are becoming exposed to perspectives around the world, enlightening them to the ethical and moral update the ontologically progressing world is demanding. It is influencing a domino-effect of

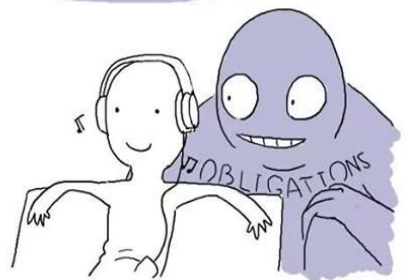


An interesting reaction to the need for efficient virtual communication, was our adaption to it. An example of such, are emoji's and meme's. Through memes we have created a method to describe and communicate a specific feeling in one image. It is brief, and it is not overbearing for the receiver to observe. As previously mentioned, it is likewise to the underestimation of all that goes into the cinematic arts. An impactful film could allow the viewer to experience a rush of emotions for a character they otherwise may not have empathized with. That is all within an average two hour span of a film; almost like a for-dummies instruction to empathy. Words in itself is simply a tool to communicate the complexities of our thoughts. They are tools just like how we use our tone of voice, body language, and facial expressions. To further elaborate, bilinguals and multilinguals (should) understand that there are words and expressions that exist in one language that does not exist in another. We are all simply trying our best to communicate what we are thinking without risking misunderstanding. Memes allow a sense of collectivity likewise to being able to explain oneself effectively in a specific language.. An issue with this collectivity can be memes that affirm incorrect, immoral, or, outdated beliefs. Trump positive memes for instance could potentially affirm false thoughts by giving them a sense of normality in their unquestioned beliefs. Emoji's on the other hand, do not have any in-depth meaning or beliefs. They are strictly used as a way to communicate what was discussed to be lacking: facial expression, tone of voice, body language. Emojis allow us to be much more thorough with the exact message. It helps in eliminating the potentialities for misunderstandings that occur with online communication.

"You take so damn long to answer"  
 "Where were you"  
 "Are you ignoring me"  
 Me:



When your life is falling apart so you use humour to disguise the fact that there's nothing you can do to stop it



Social media creates a safe environment for people to communicate around the world. However, this safe environment can turn toxic very quickly due to cyberbullying becoming a huge problem. Cyberbullying is usually done by one or a group of individual who use electronic as a platform to act aggressively towards a victim. There are three criteria that cyberbullying usually fall under: Intent to harm- when a cyberbully threatens the victim; Imbalance in power - when the bully has information about the victim which unable the victim to fight back; lastly, repetition of the act - comes in the form of spams. According to “Cyberbullying: Social Competence, Motivation and Peer Relationships” By Romera, Eva M., usually, the victim have a very low level of social skills while the bullies are known to have their ways to words. Eva states that “adolescents has been associated with learning new ways of relating, personal growth and enhanced social outcomes, which contribute to social efficacy and greater acceptance from peers”. This show that in order to be accepted in a group, teen has to find something they can relate to, in the case of cyberbullying, their victim. Picking on a weaker opponent makes the bully appear tough in front of his peers. To make matters worse, social media provides Eva “ In this regard, a low level of peer support has been shown to be related to cybervictimization and cyberaggression” this show that when someone is deemed as an outcast by a group, that group will take aggression towards that individual. Victim of cyberbullying often receive hateful messages, emails and even death threats. With the anxiety of being outcast and the freedom of using social media taken away, it affect the victim’s overall physical health.

Victim of cyberbullying often experience depression, low esteem, and loneliness. According to “College Student Cyberbullying: Self-Esteem, Depression, Loneliness, and Attachment” By Mary E. Varghese, low self-esteem often cause a student to disclose more information about themselves or exaggerate news in order to make themselves seems more



important. Varghese performed a survey gathering of 338 undergraduate students at a university, in the survey question relating to self-esteem, depression and loneliness were addressed. Varghese found that 106 out of 338 individual received score that signifies that they're close to being clinically depressed due to cyberbullying. Victim are often unable to reach out to other in fear that they might get into more trouble making them unable to escape. Facing cyberbullying in the age where social media is an essential form of communication, disable regular social activities which can cause victims to feel loneliness. In worse cases, victims can experience death threats and blackmails. Death threats are usually done through intimidating the victim with physical harm while blackmails is when offender have some leverage against the victim that make them fear and unable to report the incident. Usually, in these severe cases the victim end up taking their own lives as they are too afraid to report these incidents.

The internet has given us a free platform to express ourselves whether that be to share our day to day vlogs, a post on an important topic, or to share our opinions with the world. Social media is one of the primary platforms that people use to communicate. Platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, or YouTube are having positive effects on people's lives, but are also having adverse effects that are destroying peoples self-confidence. Such as the unrealistic body standards that social media portrays and how it affects others into thinking they have to look a certain way. Being viewed as successful now and days is being popular on social media, with multiple companies working to sponsor you to stardom. The issue of not being this ideal beauty is creating a deeper kind of depression in society, which is causing young adolescents to feel the need to grow up faster to portray this worldly image of beauty. Although this is a problem in today's society, the positive effects that social media can have on someone's life is unimaginable. The fact that

The fact that someone can make enough income to survive and live in a city as big as Los Angeles and be supported merely off of Instagram posts and videos on YouTube is a way the younger generation want to make a living today. It was stated by Daily News that “more than three-quarters of youngsters say they’d consider a career in online videos, according to a survey of 1,000 children aged six to seventeen. The research by travel firm First Choice revealed that thirty-four percent of children would like to be a YouTube personality. While one in five wished to start their own channel”. As you can see social media has alternated the way young minds want to make a living. Adolescents no longer want to strive in school to get a diploma but instead, wish to be a success on social media with over a million subscribers.

Working in the industry of social media seems to be a dream come true, but the truth of the matter is that a lot of false information is being portrayed over the net to make it look as if everything you see is real. There are famous Instagram models who represent this image of the perfect body and showing individuals that it is possible for any person to achieve the same results. In reality, using programs like Photoshop to manipulate the figure you want is one of the ways individuals are coming up in the fitness community. According to Generation Iron Fitness Network, they state that “Photoshop would be incredibly helpful to gain more likes, more followers, and more money. The terrible thing about this is that it sets unrealistic expectations for those inspired by it. Magazines have done this for decades – but since Instagram accounts can feel so personal... There is an extra layer of betrayal behind this.” by Kenny K.O. The misconception of this does start to affect the way we view ourselves and the world we live in today. Without knowing the facts of what that person is using to achieve the body we all desire, we are all under the influence that what they are showing us is genuine. But it doesn't stop there, the

advertisements that these social media influencers are promoting to their viewers are causing individuals to believe that whatever product they are using is incredible. But they make money to get the publicity for that product, so you can't always accept what they say to be true. Taking advantage of an opportunity to get ahead in life doesn't seem like a horrible thing to do, but if it's misleading hundreds of people sooner or later you won't be an accountable source of truth. So even though social media can pave your way to stardom, getting there on lies isn't worth your integrity in the long run.

Social media is a double-edge sword that brought us the luxury of fast communication and expose human to new ideas, it also create a variety of issues. For example, cyberbullying is an ongoing issue that originated from the free range and anonymity environment that social media created. When a person is behind screen they tend to take less notice of other's emotions around them as the person can talk to whoever they wants. The anonymity factor allow for cyberbully to lash out at their victims without being notice. Moreover, social media create and enforces unreal social standards upon its users by showing "desire" body type and lifestyle that everyone would want. Victims of these incidents often have a low sense of self-esteem with psychological issues such as: Depression and loneliness. Overall, this essay serve as a educational tool to caution user to be more careful with the things that they see and post on these platforms.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. (2017, April 06). THE METAPHYSICS AND LINGUISTICS OF EMOJI. Retrieved April 30, 2018, from <https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2017/04/06/the-metaphysics-and-linguistics-of-emoji/>

K., KO. (2018, February 03). WATCH: How Often Are Fitness Instagram Models Using Photoshop? Retrieved April 20, 2018, from <https://generationiron.com/watch-often-fitness-instagram-models-using-photoshop/>

(2012, May 7). Retrieved April 29, 2018, from <http://www.kimnoble.com/>

Reporter, D. M. (2017, May 22). Forget being a nurse or doctor, three quarters of today's children would rather be YouTubers and vloggers. Retrieved April 29, 2018, from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4532266/75-cent-children-want-YouTubers-vloggers.html>