

DATA ETHICS LECTURE 5

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS

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March April 7, 2022

ROADMAP FOR TODAY

This week



**Philosophical
foundations**

ROADMAP FOR TODAY

This week



**Philosophical
foundations**

Next week



**Organizing and
Activism**

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATIONS

- consequentialism
- deontology
- virtue ethics

FOUNDATIONS

- consequentialism
 - deontology
 - virtue ethics
- brief recap

FOUNDATIONS

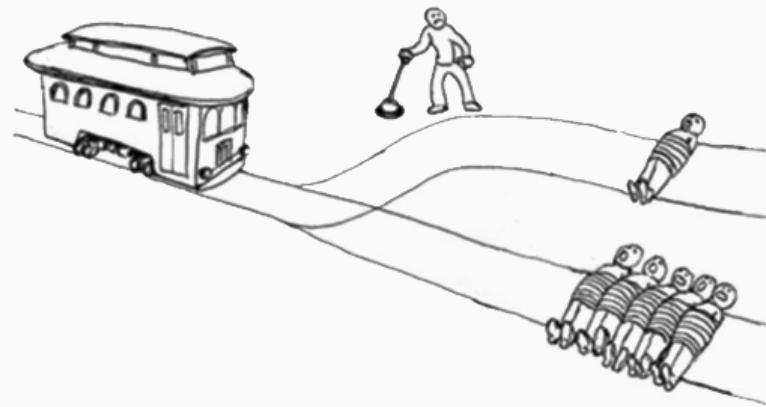
- consequentialism
 - deontology
 - virtue ethics
 - colonialism
 - restorative justice
 - tensions
- brief recap

FOUNDATIONS

- consequentialism
- deontology → brief recap
- virtue ethics
- colonialism
- restorative justice → new stuff
- tensions

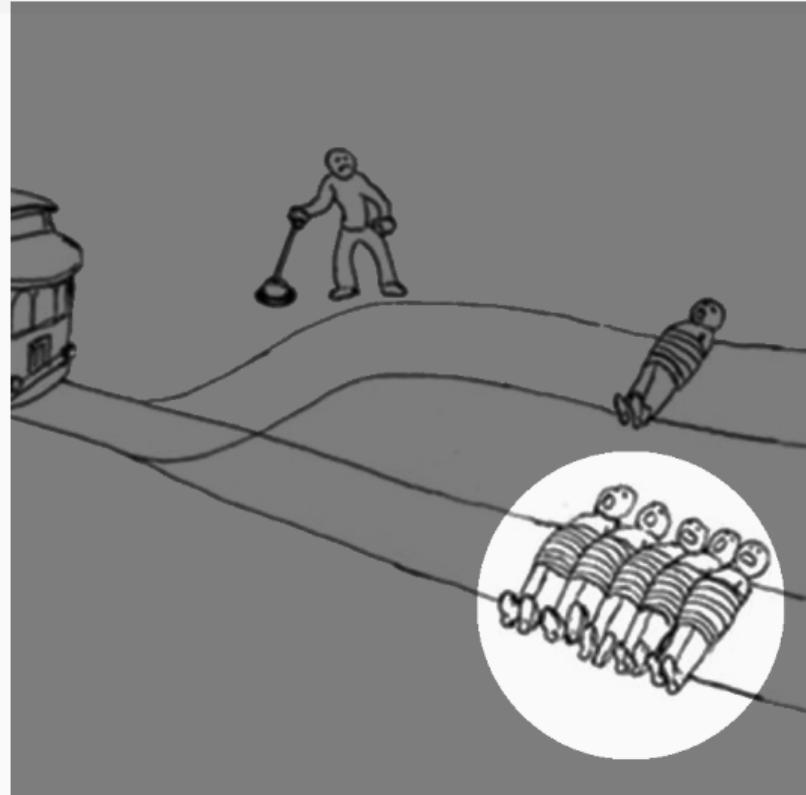
PHILOSOPHY

- consequentialism
- deontology
- virtue ethics
- colonialism
- restorative justice
- tensions



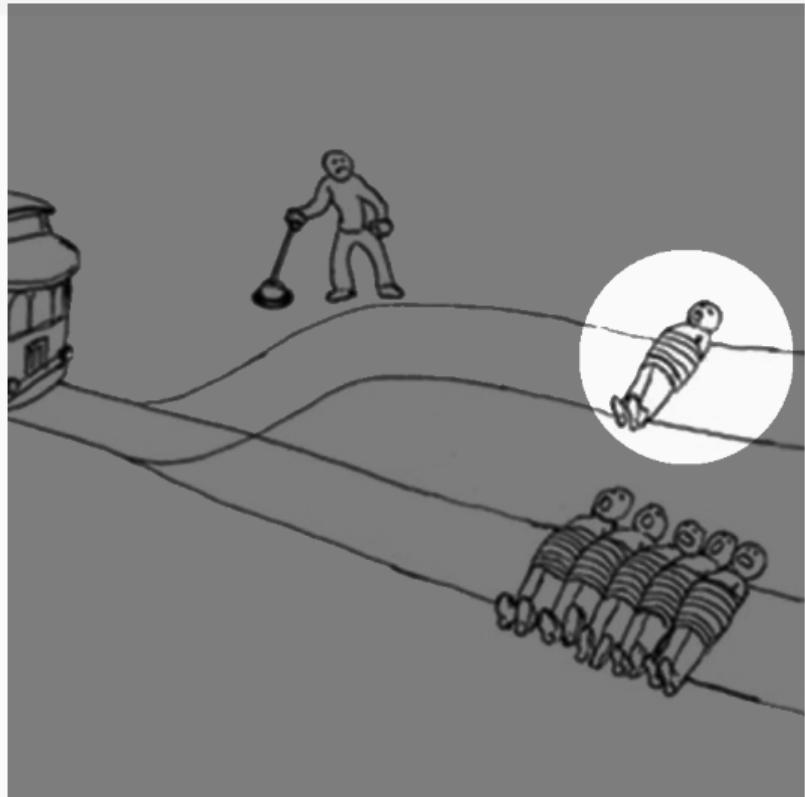
PHILOSOPHY

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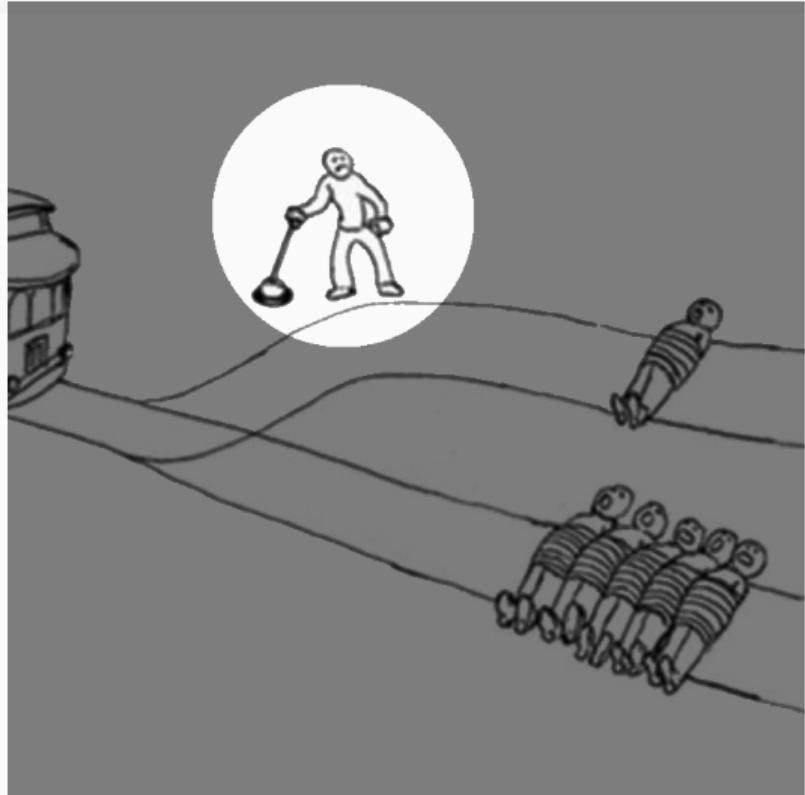
PHILOSOPHY

- consequentialism
- deontology
- virtue ethics
- colonialism
- restorative justice
- tensions



PHILOSOPHY

- consequentialism
- deontology
- **virtue ethics**
- colonialism
- restorative justice
- tensions



PHILOSOPHY

- consequentialism
- deontology
- virtue ethics
- colonialism
- restorative justice
- tensions

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Algorithmic Colonization of Africa" by Abeba Birhane*. Below the title is a red "Download PDF" button. To the right of the button are four small icons: CC, person, dollar sign, and equals sign. Below these icons is the copyright notice "© 2020 Abeba Birhane". Underneath the abstract, there is a large block of text describing the issue of algorithmic colonization in the Global South.

Algorithmic Colonization of Africa

Abeba Birhane*

Download PDF

CC

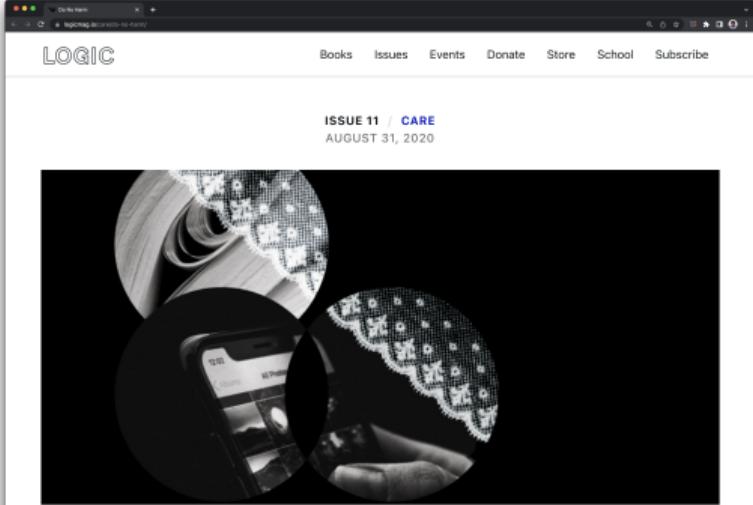
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Abstract

We live in a world where technological corporations hold unprecedented power and influence. Technological solutions to social, political, and economic challenges are rampant. In the Global South, technology that is developed with Western perspectives, values, and interests is imported with little regulation or critical scrutiny. This work examines how Western tech monopolies, with their desire to dominate, control and influence social, political, and cultural discourse, share common characteristics with traditional colonialism. However,

PHILOSOPHY

- consequentialism
- deontology
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- restorative justice
- tensions



ISSUE 11 / CARE
AUGUST 31, 2020

Image by Celine Nguyen

Do No Harm

Niloufar Salehi

Social media companies are framing the problem of widespread online harassment in a way that maximizes profits without limiting harms. It's time for a new model.

In early 2017, an investigative journalist uncovered a private Facebook group called Marines United, where hundreds of veterans and active-duty marines were circulating nude or invasive photos of military servicewomen without their knowledge. "Dozens of now-deleted Google Drive folders linked from the Facebook page included dossiers of

PHILOSOPHY

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Embracing Four Tensions in Human-Computer Interaction Research with Marginalized People

CALVIN A. LIANG, SEAN A. MUNSON, and JULIE A. KIENTZ, University of Washington

Human-computer interaction has a long history of working with marginalized people. We sought to understand how HCI researchers navigate work that engages with marginalized people and considerations researchers might work through to expand benefits and mitigate potential harms. In total, 24 HCI researchers, located primarily in the United States, participated in an interview, survey, or both. Through a reflexive thematic analysis, we identified four tensions—exploitation, membership, disclosure, and allyship. We explore the complexity involved in each, demonstrating that an equitable endpoint may not be possible, but this work is still worth pursuing when researchers make certain considerations. We emphasize that researchers who work with marginalized people should account for each tension in their research approaches to move forward. Finally, we propose an allyship-oriented approach to research that draws inspiration from discourse occurring in tangential fields and activist spaces and pushes the field into a new paradigm of research with marginalized people.

CCS Concepts: • Human-centered computing → HCI design and evaluation methods; User studies;

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Marginalized people, exploitation, membership, disclosure, allyship, tensions

ACM Reference format:
Calvin A. Liang, Sean A. Munson, and Julie A. Kientz. 2021. Embracing Four Tensions in Human-Computer Interaction Research with Marginalized People. *ACM Trans. Comput.-Hum. Interact.* 28, 2, Article 14 (April 2021), 47 pages.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3443686>

1 INTRODUCTION

The world is going through a sociotechnical reckoning. The injustices that are embedded in the frameworks of our society and how they disproportionately harm groups of people who society has long pushed to the margins are finally becoming centered in human-computer interaction (HCI). In 2019, Ruha Benjamin introduced “the New Jim Code” that describes how new technologies can perpetuate the very social inequities they promise to solve, demonstrating that computing, design, and academic spaces are not exempt from this critical conversation [10]. Indeed, there are numerous examples of these extensions of oppression and control into computing, and several scholars have shown how racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and countless other

THE TROLLEY PROBLEM AND OTHER ABSTRACTIONS

philosophical abstractions as foci of debate

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TECHNOLOGY

Enough With the Trolley Problem

A 50-year-old philosophical thought experiment has been central to the debate about autonomous vehicles. It's time to give it up.

By Ian Bogost



Hulton Archive / Getty

MARCH 30, 2018

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great abstractions

great abstractions

they are abstractions

they are abstractions

...but not very relatable

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...but not very relatable

...or applicable

they are abstractions

...but not very relatable

...or applicable

...or contextualized

they are abstractions

...but not very relatable

...or applicable

...or contextualized

...

abstractions can be harmful

COLONIZATION

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

TENSIONS

COLONIZATION

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

TENSIONS

COLONIZATION

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

TENSIONS

COLONIZATION

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

TENSIONS

COLONIALISM



COLONIALISM

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Algorithmic Colonization of Africa" by Abeba Birhane. Below the title is a "Download PDF" button. At the bottom, there are Creative Commons icons and a copyright notice.

Algorithmic Colonization of Africa

Abeba Birhane*

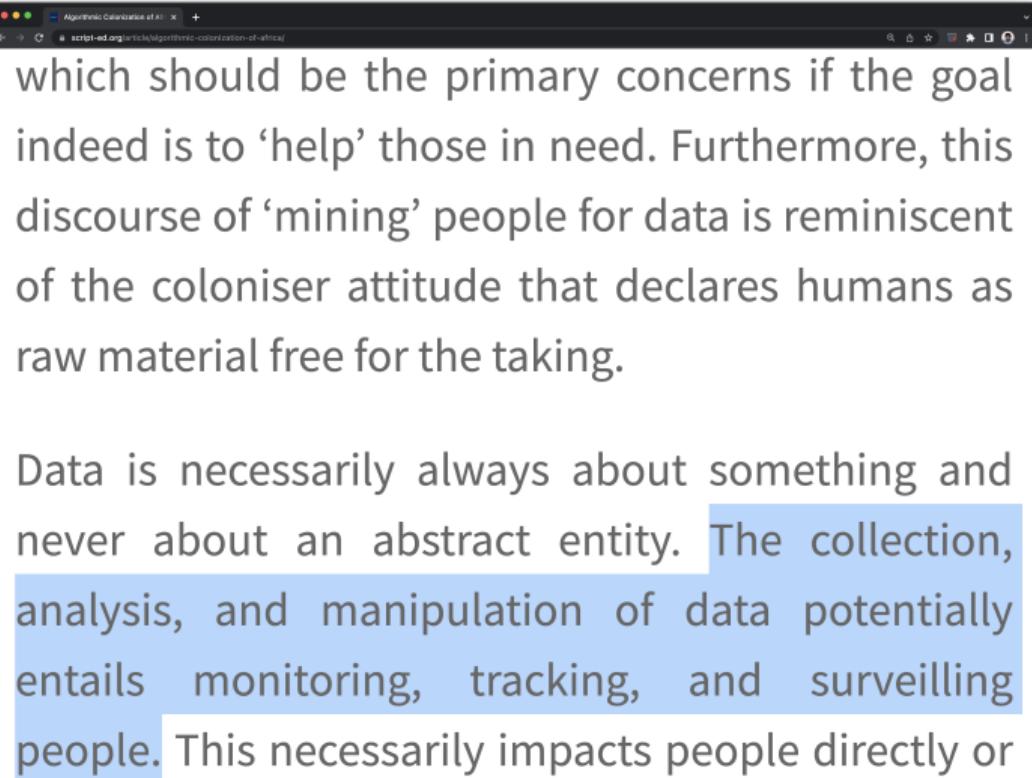
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Abstract

We live in a world where technological corporations hold unprecedented power and influence. Technological solutions to social, political, and economic challenges are rampant. In

COLONIALISM



which should be the primary concerns if the goal indeed is to ‘help’ those in need. Furthermore, this discourse of ‘mining’ people for data is reminiscent of the coloniser attitude that declares humans as raw material free for the taking.

Data is necessarily always about something and never about an abstract entity. The collection, analysis, and manipulation of data potentially entails monitoring, tracking, and surveilling people. This necessarily impacts people directly or indirectly whether it manifests as change in their

COLONIALISM

The future of AI research is in... +

technologyreview.com/2019/06/21/34620/ai-africa-machine-learning-farm-google/

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Researchers discuss a project on personalized education in Nairobi.
courtesy of IBM Research

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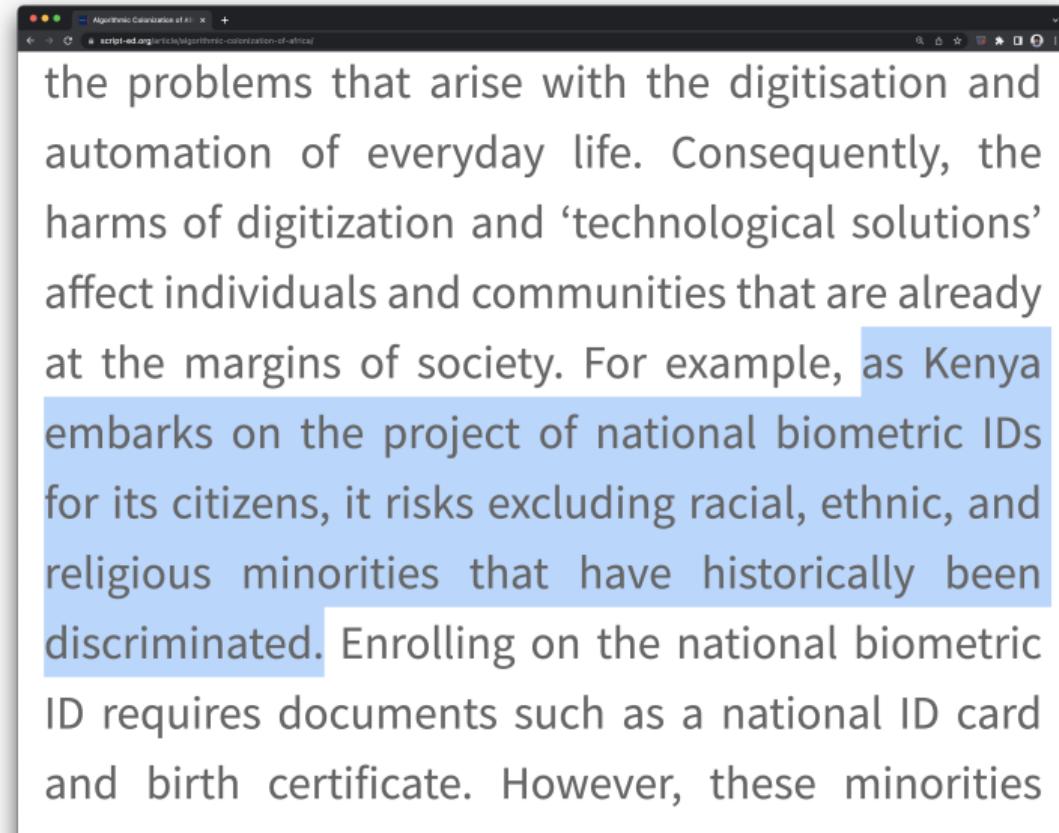
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Jessica Hamzelou

This horse-riding astronaut is a milestone in AI's journey to make sense of the world
Will Douglas Heaven

Deception, exploited workers, and cash handouts: How Worldcoin recruited its first half a million test users
Eileen GuoAdi Renaldi

Before founding its AI lab in Ghana, for example, Google began working with farmers in rural Tanzania to understand some of the struggles they faced in maintaining consistent food production. The researchers learned that crop disease can significantly reduce yield, so they created a machine-learning model that could diagnose early stages

COLONIALISM



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a dark theme. The title bar reads "Algorithmic Colonization of Africa" and "script-ed.org/article/algorithmic-colonization-of-africa". The main content area contains a paragraph of text. A portion of the text, starting from "For example, as Kenya embarks on the project of national biometric IDs for its citizens, it risks excluding racial, ethnic, and religious minorities that have historically been discriminated.", is highlighted with a light blue background.

the problems that arise with the digitisation and automation of everyday life. Consequently, the harms of digitization and ‘technological solutions’ affect individuals and communities that are already at the margins of society. For example, as Kenya embarks on the project of national biometric IDs for its citizens, it risks excluding racial, ethnic, and religious minorities that have historically been discriminated. Enrolling on the national biometric ID requires documents such as a national ID card and birth certificate. However, these minorities

TAKEAWAYS?

TAKEAWAYS?

longstanding histories of oppression, exploitation, and hegemony continue to unfold

DISCUSSION

Discuss how some of the readings from this course have hinged on historical dimensions of oppression and violence that otherwise wouldn't have been clear

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Do No Harm

logicmag.io/care/do-no-harm/

LOGIC

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AUGUST 31, 2020



Image by Celine Nguyen

Do No Harm

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The image shows a computer screen displaying a web page from 'logicmag.io'. The title bar of the browser says 'Do no Harm'. The main content of the page is a slide with a dark blue header containing the text 'Obligation and Restoration'. Below this, there is a horizontal dotted line. The main body text reads: 'Practices of restorative justice, which have their roots in Indigenous ways of repairing harm, are particularly useful to rethinking how we address online harm.' At the bottom of the slide, there is a blue callout box containing the text: 'Restorative justice views harm not as a crime against the rules of the state, but as a violation of people and their interpersonal relationships.'

Obligation and Restoration

Practices of restorative justice, which have their roots in Indigenous ways of repairing harm, are particularly useful to rethinking how we address online harm.

Restorative justice views harm not as a crime against the rules of the state, but as a violation of people and their interpersonal relationships.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

may need to be combined:

- *Assign a trained caseworker.* In the most extreme cases of harm, such as sharing non-consensual sexual images, trained caseworkers should be assigned to the case.

Facebook currently assigns a “partner” to someone who seeks to report revenge porn, but their role is only to instruct the person on how to upload their images to Facebook.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

involved in the restorative justice process.

- *Be trauma-aware.* Current methods of addressing online harm, including Facebook's revenge porn process, are detached from the reality of being a victim of sexual harm. For instance, sharing private, intimate photos with unknown Facebook employees can retraumatize the victim. An alternative could be giving

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

the actual photos.

- *Support the harmer to take accountability.*

With the victim's consent, their case worker may reach out to the offender, have a conversation about the harm, and gather and provide information. At present, Facebook deletes the photo or prevents it from getting uploaded, and in some cases they ban the offender with little

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

for harms done in the past.

- *Stop the continuation of the harm.* This may mean placing limitations on posting, or even removing the person who has committed harm from the platform. This does not mean that anyone who commits harm should be immediately banned forever, but does mean that removal from the space is a valid and possible

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

with the process.

- *Create structures for continued accountability.* Platforms should make addressing harm a priority before it occurs. This can mean setting expectations that sexual harm will not be tolerated when members join, and periodically reminding them as well as explaining what accountability protocols exist to address

LESSONS

- Assign a trained caseworker
- Be trauma-aware
- Support the harmer to take accountability
- Stop the continuation of the harm
- Create structures for continued accountability

DISCUSSION

Imagine and discuss how some of the principles of **restorative justice** would inform responses to the harms and dilemmas from a different article or instance that we read about.

TENSIONS

TENSIONS

The image shows a screenshot of a PDF document titled "Embracing Four Tensions in Human-Computer Interaction Research with Marginalized People" by Calvin A. Liang, Sean A. Munson, and Julie A. Kientz, University of Washington. The document is presented in a window with a dark border, resembling a Mac OS X interface. The title is centered at the top in a bold, black font. Below the title, the authors' names and their affiliation are listed. A horizontal line separates the title from the main text. The main text discusses the history of HCI research with marginalized people, the identification of four tensions (exploitation, membership, disclosure, and allyship), and a proposed allyship-oriented approach. At the bottom, there are sections for CCS Concepts, Additional Key Words and Phrases, and ACM Reference format.

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FOUR TENSIONS

- EXPLOITATION
- MEMBERSHIP
- DISCLOSURE
- ALLYSHIP

DISCUSSION

Discuss how values and goals you recognize in the projects we read about over the past few weeks have been in tension, and what went “wrong”, if anything.