

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 → brief recap
- virtue ethics

FOUNDATIONS

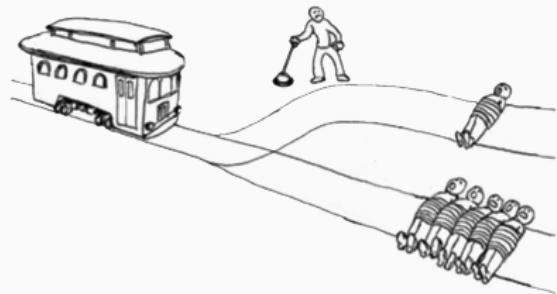
- consequentialism
- deontology → brief recap
- virtue ethics
- colonialism
- restorative justice
- tensions

FOUNDATIONS

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

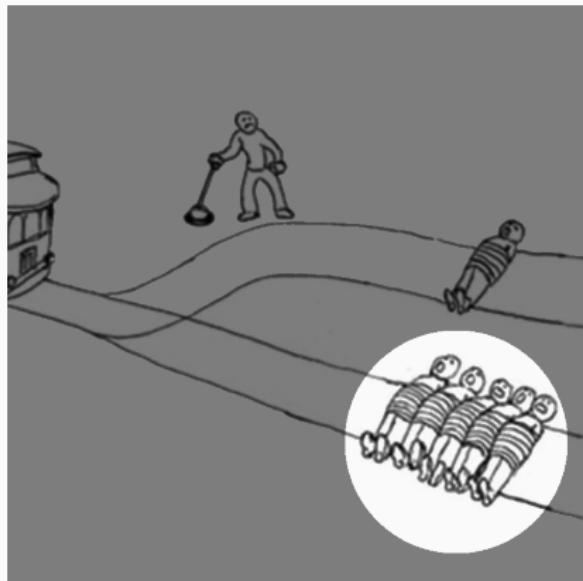
PHILOSOPHY

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- tensions



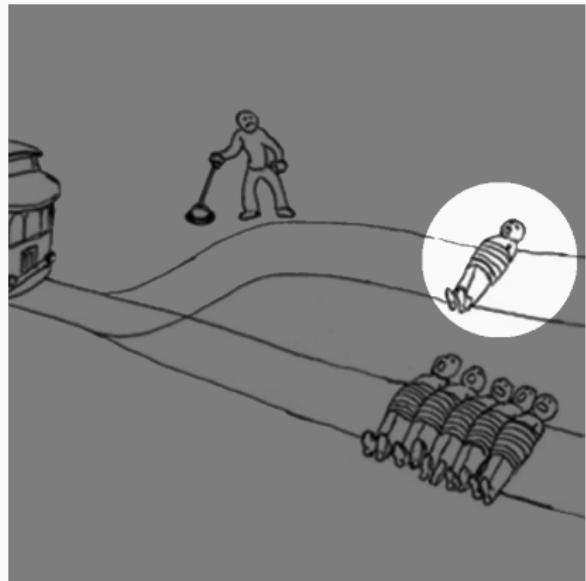
PHILOSOPHY

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- colonialism
- restorative justice
- tensions



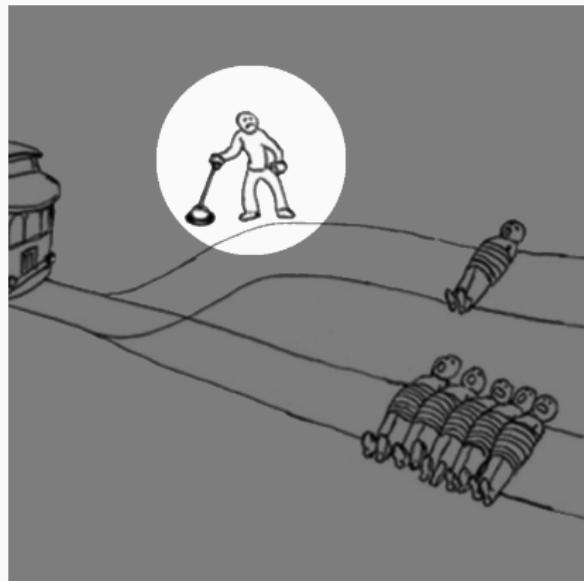
PHILOSOPHY

- 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 document window titled "Algorithmic Colonization of Africa" by "Abeba Birhane*". The document includes a "Download PDF" button, a Creative Commons license icon, and a copyright notice. The abstract discusses the impact of Western tech monopolies on global discourse.

Algorithmic Colonization of Africa

Abeba Birhane*

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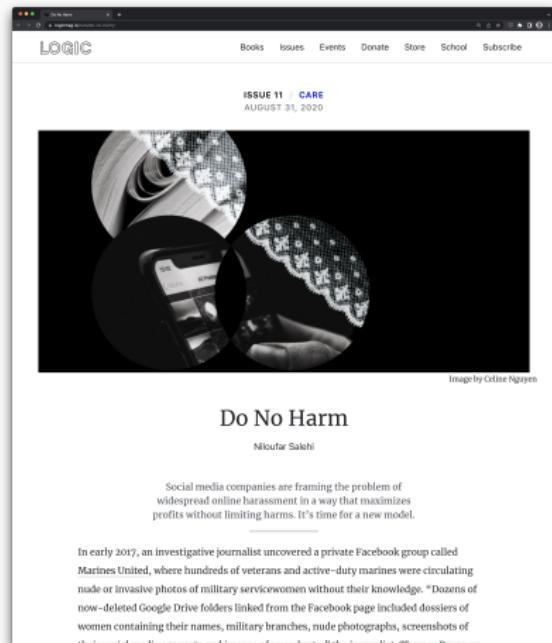
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Abstract

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, while traditional colonialism is driven by political and

PHILOSOPHY

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



The screenshot shows a computer monitor displaying the Logic magazine website. The header features the word "LOGIC" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it is a navigation bar with links for "Books", "Issues", "Events", "Donate", "Store", "School", and "Subscribe". The main content area is titled "ISSUE 11 / CARE" and "AUGUST 31, 2020". A black and white photograph by Celine Nguyen is displayed, showing a close-up of hands interacting with a smartphone screen. The text "Do No Harm" is visible above the author's name, "Niloufar Salehi". A short article summary follows.

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 women containing their names, military branches, nude photographs, screenshots of their social media accounts and images of sexual acts.* The journalist, Thomas Rasmussen,

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 weigh enough to expand benefits and mitigate potential harms. In total, 24 HCI researchers, mostly from the United States, participated in semi-structured interviews. Through thematic analysis and 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.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3443688>

1 INTRODUCTION

The world is moving 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 have finally become 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

Authors' addresses: C. A. Liang, S. A. Munson, and J. A. Kientz, Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA.

THE TROLLEY PROBLEM AND OTHER ABSTRACTIONS

philosophical abstractions as foci of debate

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Enough With the Trolley Problem

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By Ian Bogost



Bettmann Archives / Getty

MARCH 30, 2018

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great abstractions

great abstractions

they are abstractions

they are abstractions

...but not very relatable

they are abstractions

...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

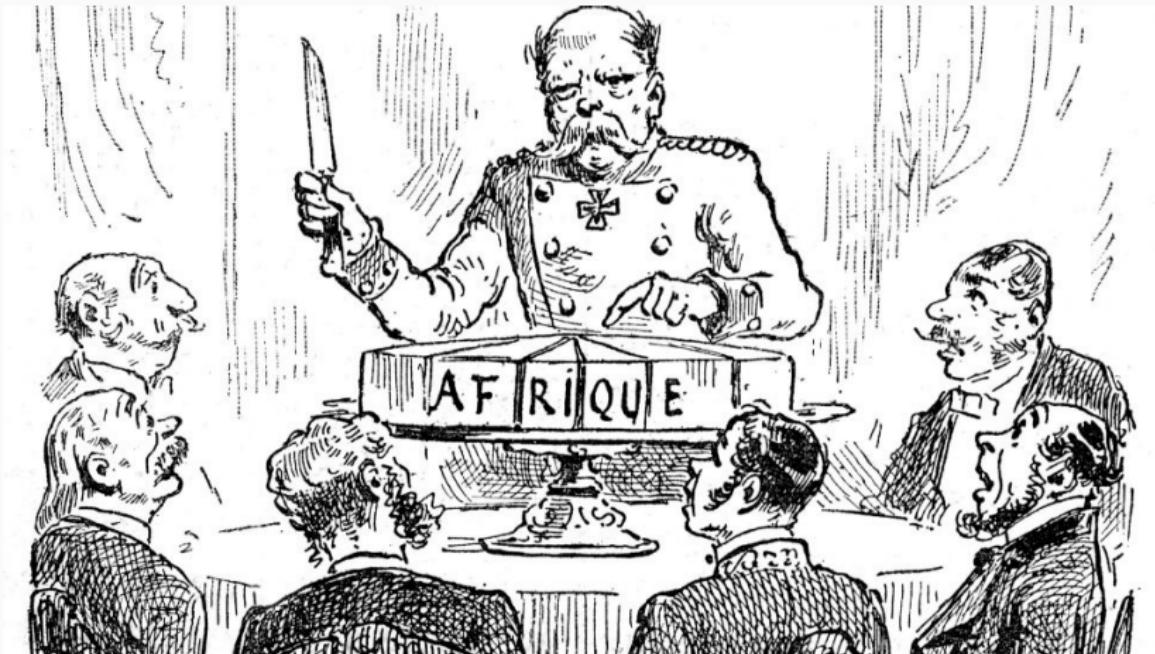
TENSIONS

COLONIZATION

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

TENSIONS

COLONIALISM



COLONIALISM



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Title bar: Algorithmic Colonization of Africa
- URL: arxiv.org/abs/1907.04261
- Page content:
 - Section title: Algorithmic Colonization of Africa
 - Author: Abeba Birhane*
 - Download link: [Download PDF](#)
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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,

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 insurance premiums or refusal of services. The erasure of the person behind each data point makes it easy to ‘manipulate behaviour’ or ‘nudge’ users, often towards profitable outcomes for companies. Considerations around the wellbeing

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

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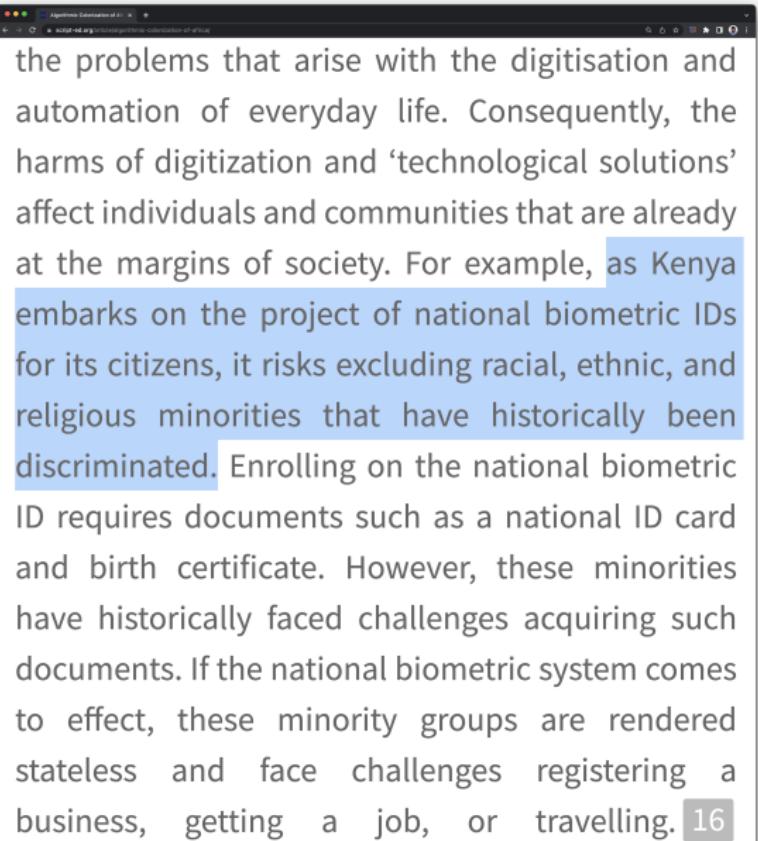
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Will Douglas Heaven

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 of disease in the cassava plant, an important staple crop in the region. The model, which works directly on farmers' phones without needing access to the internet, helps them intervene earlier to save their plants.

Wayua gives another example. In 2016, the Johannesburg team at IBM Research discovered that the process of reporting cancer data to the government, which used it to inform national health policies, took four years after diagnosis in hospitals. In the US, the equivalent data collection and analysis takes only two years. The additional lag turned out to be due in part to the unstructured nature

COLONIALISM



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 have historically faced challenges acquiring such documents. If the national biometric system comes to effect, these minority groups are rendered stateless and face challenges registering a business, getting a job, or travelling.

16

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

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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.

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RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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.

Violations create obligations, and the central obligation of restorative justice is to right the wrong. At minimum, restorative justice requires that we address the victim's needs related to the

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. Instead, the case worker should support the victim, provide validation, share information on their options, and help them identify and activate a community of

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 victims the tools to create a digital fingerprint of the image themselves with the help of trained outside support groups, who could verify and share the symbolic

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 explanation. This actively discourages responsibility on the part of the offender. But offenders need to be encouraged to understand the harm and to work towards repairing it. That might mean apologizing

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 consequence of harm. Removal should be done with care so that it is not simply a punitive response but is actually necessary to stop the harm and is done with explanations and an opportunity to engage

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 harm. It can also mean training and supporting users to intervene in sexual violence. Facebook Groups currently rely on admins from the group to moderate it; the

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 screenshot shows a document window with a dark header bar. The title 'Embracing Four Tensions in Human-Computer Interaction Research with Marginalized People' is centered at the top. Below it is the author's name 'CALVIN A. LIANG, SEAN A. MUNSON, and JULIE A. KIENTZ, University of Washington'. The main text discusses the history of HCI research with marginalized people, identifying four tensions: exploitation, membership, disclosure, and allyship. It emphasizes the complexity involved in each tension and proposes an allyship-oriented approach. The text is followed by 'CCS Concepts' (Human-centered computing), 'Additional Key Words and Phrases' (Marginalized people, exploitation, membership, disclosure, allyship, tensions), and '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>). A section titled '1 INTRODUCTION' is at the bottom, and the page number '14' is in the bottom right corner.

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.

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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.