

Week 19: Doxing and online harassment

October 10, 8:30 am Pacific/11:30 am Eastern

Overview

Doxing is the practice of looking for someone's personal information on the web, and then publishing it and using it for targeted harassment. Targets of doxing frequently include women and people of color, especially those who are activists or who have public profiles. For example, women like the Muslim justice activist Linda Sarsour, or the feminist media theorist Anita Sarkeesian, are frequent targets of harassment and doxing campaigns by the far-right on imageboards like 4chan and 8chan. Doxing and other online harassment can result in the silencing of marginalized voices, and so protecting our communities from doxing is vital for intellectual freedom. This week, we'll hear from Caroline Sinderson, machine learning designer and artist, about how to protect ourselves and our communities from the harm that doxing can cause.

Learning objectives

- Learn about what doxing is and how targeted online harassment campaigns work.
- Learn strategies for helping prevent doxing and minimize the damage if someone is doxed.

Readings

What is GamerGate and Why? An explainer for non-geeks:

<http://gawker.com/what-is-gamergate-and-why-an-explainer-for-non-geeks-1642909080>

Don't Read the Comments (interview with Caroline Sinderson about online harassment):

<https://logicmag.io/04-dont-read-the-comments/>

Another talk by Caroline Sinderson about hate speech, covering harassment and doxing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vTo_4kKqYM

^start at around the 5 min mark for me, but I encourage everyone to watch it

The Art of the Real (essay by Katherine Cross about links between the alt-right, GG, and harassment campaigns): <https://thebaffler.com/salvos/art-of-the-real-cross>

Essay by Caroline Sinderson on swatting and harassment:

<http://boingboing.net/2015/07/24/that-time-the-internet-sent-a.html>

Vice Guide for what to do if you're being harassed online:

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/bjp8ma/expert-advice-on-how-to-deal-with-online-harassment

Anita Sarkeesian at XOXO fest talking about her experience of being harassed and doxed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah8mhDW6Shs>

Guest lecturer

Caroline Sinderson, machine learning designer and artist

Discussion

How can we protect our communities from doxing?

Assignment

Look for your personal info on data broker websites and try to remove it. Talk about what you learned. Here are some data broker opt-out links:

- http://www.spokeo.com/opt_out/new
- <http://www.peakyou.com/about/contact/optout/index.php>
- https://www.epsilon.com/en_US/for-consumer/marketing-data-summary-request.html
- <https://isapps.acxiom.com/optout/optout.aspx>
- <https://www.intelius.com/optout.php>
- <http://www.beenverified.com/opt-out-instructions>
- Did you find your data on other sites? What was the opt-out process like?

Continue work on final assignments. Schedule time to meet with Alison one-on-one if you haven't yet.