

Another ideas for you: Cybersex crime in South Korea

The 2021 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights a disturbing trend: traffickers are increasingly turning to virtual platforms to sell photos and videos of sexual abuse and exploitation. This method allows them to profit globally without incurring extra costs

- *Highlighting the issue/problem:* As you've laid out the foundation, now it is the time to reveal the underlying matter (this can be negative or obscure aspects that most of society is oblivious about) regarding the topic. Furthermore, you should state directly your focus of analysis on the subject. This is the end result of your process from general information to specific detail. After this, you are expected to explain how it works in broad terms (so as not to reveal too much info) in a sentence and state whether the matter you're discussing has positive/negative/neutral or anything unique pertaining to its values in another.

Example: This phenomenon raises queries from both national and international pertaining to the driving forces behind this sophisticated matter. These private, candid audiovisual content are being traded as a form of commodity in websites like X and Y, with purchasing costs varying based on their type and length. The sheer scale and sophisticated nature of this phenomenon is a testament to a systematic, even corporate approach to cybersex crime, elevating it to a newfound degree of seriousness.

Another idea for you:

Various studies have proposed different methods for tackling cybersex trafficking. Weitzer (2005) suggested legal reforms, particularly legalizing prostitution, as a strategy. Seol (2004) focused on increasing public awareness about trafficking dangers through media, public campaigns, and educational programs.

→ These strategies have proven to be either insufficient or unpredictable. For instance, Becker (1968) argued that tougher sentencing and harsher punishments might not effectively reduce crime rates. Similarly, Kleck and Barnes (2014) noted that simply increasing police presence may not be an effective deterrent.

→ However, Efforts to address the problem of cybersex trafficking have largely overlooked a critical perspective: focusing on the victims and their experiences.

- *Research question:* After the previous part, you should continue straight on with your research questions, which relate to the topic you're researching on. You can find how to write those questions [here on Scribbr](#). You should pose 2 research questions since this number allows enough words in the essay to sufficiently answer both. "What" and "how" are the best ways to start one.

Example: for the topic "Tinder", you should 2 questions tackling different aspects that you want to discover more about/want to explain to readers throughout your white paper:

These seemingly ambiguous matching mechanics imposed by Tinder have frequently been the subject of scrutiny from relationship gurus and frustration from its users. What effects do the matching algorithms applied by Tinder have on the romantic lives of its users? How differently has Tinder's algorithms influenced a person's romantic relationship based on their gender (male/female/bisexual/gay/lesbian/etc.)? These are the research questions this white paper aims to provide insights and in some ways, answers to.

- *Thesis statement:* In your thesis statement, summarize the purpose of your white paper in a single sentence. It usually begins with "This white paper looks to/aims to/strives to...", followed by the main arguments, whose number correlates with that of the research questions (e.g. 2 questions => 2 main arguments summarized).

Example: This white paper aims to examine the influences of Tinder's algorithms on its users' romantic relationships as well as the range of effect they pose over different gender identities' quality of love lives.

Another idea for you: This paper presents the argument that cybersex trafficking is a significant manifestation of power abuse in the realm of social media.

- *Theories:* Here, you should only mention the relevant theories, concepts and frameworks you'll be using in this paper, not explaining it. Again, this part ought to be succinct - in a single sentence.

Example: Applying the structure-agency and political economy of media theories as research lenses, the technological and social applications of mathematical equations used by Tinder along with the profitability from such practices will be studied in detail from a detailed case study.

Another idea for you: Utilizing the framework of Surveillance Capitalism, the paper delves into the trafficking experiences of women and teenagers, as depicted in a documentary based in Korea.

1. BACKGROUND INFO:

In this section, you provide the reader with sufficient knowledge of important background information so they can follow your analysis easily. Depending on your topic, you may want to explore from 2 to 3 different aspects of background information. For each aspect, you need to supply credible sources, preferably statistics and tables to demonstrate your research rather than just purely citations, composed in a single paragraph ranging from 5 to 7 sentences.

Example: For the “Tinder, algorithms and relationships”, you may explore these aspects:

- Tinder: its profile, revenue, influence in the Vietnamese market
- The multifaceted nature of software algorithms and how it transpires in the dating scene
- Relationships in Vietnam: how the love experience now has to exist both virtually and physically

As Tinder is the main focus of discussion, it deserves a separate paragraph. The supportive concepts “algorithms” and “relationships” should be explained not on their own but in relation to Tinder and/or one another. For instance, the third bullet point is a combination of background research in romantic relationships in Vietnam and online means of expressing one’s love interest in another person. Or the second bullet concerns

the direct link between dating, loving and in the many ways that online formulas can intercept (affect positively/negatively) between those experiences. The deeper the connection between concepts you can establish, the sounder your argument will later turn out to be.

TIPS: Again, try to provide numbers, figures, statistics to prove your point. If they aren't applicable to your matter of discussion, try credible sources as always. To illustrate, here is how Tinder squares up to other dating apps in Vietnam as of 2020:

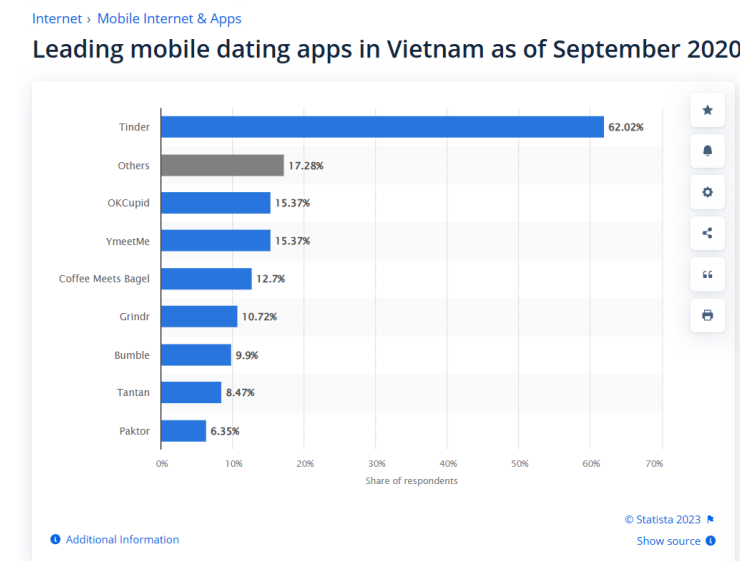


Figure 1: Leading mobile dating apps in Vietnam as of September 2020

Source: Nurhayati-Wolff 2022

You can compose your following sentences elaborating on this as follows: “Tinder’s performances in the virtual dating world has rendered its name a household in the Vietnamese market, leading the race miles ahead of competitors at 62.02% when comparing the percentage of users”. Afterwards, go deeper into the subject with explanation on the implications of this statistic on society, economy and dating business.

Another idea for you:

- The definition of cybersex trafficking (Add scholarly source here)
- The truth of the issue:
 - The widespread cultural production and diffusion in South Korea → significant increase in both the exposure to and consumption of online sex trafficking content
 - Sexual crimes have often been a taboo subject, leading to their significant under-reporting in media representations. In some cases, these acts are not even acknowledged as crimes (Soothill and Walby 1991)
 - In 2019, The Mekong Club reported that Asian countries, particularly South Korea known for its significant cybersex trafficking dens, consistently recorded high rates of sex crimes during that period. The year 2018 saw a surge in the spy-cam (molka) issue, which was followed by the Seungri Burning Sun scandal in 2019.
 - The Covid-19 has led to even higher rate of data mining for illegitimate purposes (Jain et al. 2021)
- The effects on stakeholders:
 - The Korean sex chat rooms → the blatant violation of the rights of women and children in the country.
 - The wave of sex crimes → women, even teenage girls, suffer from severe physical, sexual and emotional abuse (Pevac 2020:53; Nguyen 2018).

2. THEORIES EXPLORATION:

2 is the ideal number of theoretical frameworks and concepts to utilize as lenses in this section. For each concept, you should devote 2 paragraphs to rationalizing them with the following instruction:

- *1st paragraph:*
 - Definition of the theory: 1 sentence. For instance: public sphere refers to the ‘...’ (insert source).

- Purpose or implication of the theory (what it seeks to understand): 1-2 sentences. To illustrate: first popularized by scholar X, the participatory culture theory has become synonymous with societal progress and is only looking to accelerate due to the advancements of technology. This implies that ...
- Components of the theoretical framework: 1-2 sentences. If a theory includes pivotal components that require descriptions, then you should elaborate briefly in a phrase or an entire sentence on one characteristic. To illustrate, structure & agency framework consists of 2 components, thus you have to explain both of them separately. If one does not possess multiple sub-factors to it, you can ignore this step and instead inspect its implications further.

Example:

- *2nd paragraph:* Establish a connection between the theory and your topic. Some of the following questions may help you kickstart this segment:

- Link back to the general topic:

Example: The core idea of the political economy of media directly concerns Tinder as a substantial driver of the dating application market.

- Link back to the specific aspect of the topic:

Example: On a more specific note, it allows for deeper reading into the success of algorithm mechanics that skyrockets Tinder's revenue streams, shaping the very foundations of the romantic experience of contemporary society.

- Link to your case study:

Example: On this front, a case study regarding X will be studied for a real life instance of this practice. From there, as both the benefits and drawbacks of this mathematical approach to an aspect where logic often "fails", the veil obscuring the public's perspective on it will be cleared.

3. CASE STUDY ANALYSIS:

Before selecting your subject to write about in this paper, conduct preliminary research (secondary research) regarding your case study. You should not solely rely on case studies that have been established by others, but also on cases that have a lot of potential aspects to discover as well. Moreover, the more specific your case study is, the deeper the connection you can make to prove your argument. Nevertheless, a case study analysis should never contradict or create new points to discover - it should serve as a real life example of the topic you've chosen, examined through the lenses of theoretical concepts to deliver comprehensive evidence regarding what you're proposing.

To illustrate, you might find that even though Tinder has a lot of case studies, readings and insights to its algorithm's effectiveness, after performing secondary research, you come to the conclusion that there isn't a representational example in real life. Therefore, you divert your topic's attention to something that has: the authenticity of Instagram influencers' personalities. For this topic, you're seeking if there's a difference between a KOL's real life characteristics and their online ones. You identify that artist X is a prime example of there being a large disparity between those notions - that could be a potential case study.

All of this can be understood concisely: the more specific, the better. Besides, you should also guarantee that there are enough credible sources and statistics to back up your argument in the analysis of that case study.

One can construct their case study analysis with the following structure:

- *Background information about the case study:* 3-4 paragraphs

In this part, you need to lay out the premise of your case study. In a neutral, unbiased tone, supply the reader with facts and figures about what has happened or is happening or happened, the ways in which it is occurring (how) and the reasons behind the

phenomenon (why). An easy way to approach composing this part is to devote one paragraph to answering each one of those questions.

Example:

- **1st paragraph:** Even though charity work can vary in its methods, sizes and its destination community or individual, it is often a crucial responsibility that both companies and affluent people are expected to perform. As Vietnam is a country often impacted by natural catastrophes, namely the floods and tornadoes in the central region, these donations have become increasingly important for the communities living in such areas. Therefore, when renowned actor and comedian Hoai Linh declared he was going to donate 14 billion VND to those affected by natural disasters in that region, everyone was delighted. However,... This presents an ambiguously sharp point of difference to his bubbly, kind-hearted public image on Instagram.
 - **2nd paragraph:** The Vietnamese media wasted no time catching up with his controversial inaction... Hoai Linh also explained how the process was going to be carried out...
 - **3rd paragraph:** So the big question is why has this been allowed to occur? The reasons behind that are... This is further incentivized by the...
- *Application of theory #1:* 2-3 paragraphs (in this case the structure & agency theory is being applied below)
 - 1st paragraph: Elaborate on how the theory is manifesting itself in the case of the case study

Example: For Hoai Linh's 14 billion VND donation to the central region communities, one can observe the interesting influence of both societal structure and personal agency. Undoubtedly, when it comes to donations, a public figure performing such an action is subjected to public scrutiny and often receives showers of praises for their "kind-heartedness" and "care"

for the unlucky. This is a double benefit that projects a win-win situation for both the benefactor and the donor, and in the case of Hoai Linh, his intended agency most likely includes appraisal for his public image...

- 2nd paragraph onward: From here you can explore different options based on your concept and case study. Maybe providing another supporting idea will strengthen your argument, or examining a counter-argument if you deem it introduces more depth to your topic.

Another idea for you:

- 1st paragraph:

Example: Online data privacy invasion → Motive of traffickers behind such an organized sex crime.

In the digital realm, where social statuses and identities can be fabricated, traffickers have the opportunity to construct their own environments for recruiting and manipulating victims.

Under the concept of Surveillance Capitalism, as described by Zuboff in 2015, the victimization process begins with deceptive techniques aimed at bypassing individual awareness, ultimately leading to the erosion of personal autonomy. Surveillance capitalists possess numerous opportunities to uncover secrets, increasingly utilizing these to restrict people's choices regarding what aspects of their lives can remain private. → Unable to do anything or escape from the issue

2nd paragraph: Provide a detailed example that could further elaborate the application of the theory in real life

Example:

Utilizing platforms like Twitter and Instagram, Baksa targeted women and children in need of jobs or money, enticing them to share personal information. This included sensitive photos, videos, or even home

addresses, which were then collected on Telegram. With the sensitive materials in his possession, he wielded them as leverage over the victims, labeling them as his slaves. He used the threat of disseminating their private data or inflicting physical harm to compel obedience whenever they resisted his demands.

Exploiting the fact that victims often don't realize they are being trafficked until it's too late, his modus operandi involves transforming a seemingly benefit-based relationship into one of asymmetrical power. This is achieved through just an online conversation, compelling the victims to comply.

- *Application of theory #2: 2-3 paragraphs*

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations section should be compiled by 2 elements: suggestions for ways to fix/maintain/develop the phenomenon AND direction for future studies. Each one should have its own paragraph.

- *Recommendations for ways to handle the issue:*

For this section, it is commendable to come up with a solution for certain entities that can alter the phenomenon. Ideally 2 organizations or individuals (government, industry, upper management, etc.) can be identified and then recommended about a course of action. The 1-1 structure (one organization/individual - one recommendation) is advisable.

Example: Amidst of this controversial debate, more emphasis is placed on governmental bodies to resolve this issue and also clear up any misconception in the future. As the structure-agenda balance is currently uneven as a person's agenda has not received warning or questioning from authorities, it is advisable that the former be reinforced in the form of policies, rules and regulations pertaining to the practice of donation. Imperative is the intervention of local government in the donation process to guarantee it undergoes proper procedures and the assets arrive with benefactors without fail.

- *Queries for future studies:*

Moving onto future implications, you should touch on the aspects that you feel are not adequately represented in readings or case studies. Perhaps you've recognized that insufficient research has been carried out regarding Instagram's verification protocol for making sure the person's identity is accurate, thus you should set it as a direction that analysis in the future can delve deeper into. At least 1 direction should be suggested.

Example: On the other hand, this white paper presents several shortcomings, one of them due to the lack of... Future studies can be carried out into this aspect to allow more avenues to be explored, in turn more comprehensive understanding can be achieved when it comes to Instagram's influence on a societal scale.

5. CONCLUSION:

Summarize your main points throughout the white paper: the topic, specific aspect, theories used, case study, implications and recommendations.

Example: In summary, this white paper highlights a contemporary problem pertaining to the phenomenon of contrasting characteristics between a person's virtual and real life selves, with the use of X and Y theories as theoretical scopes. The case of Hoai Linh's obscure donation efforts acted as a prime example of this disparity, allowing for experimental recommendations to be assigned for government and Instagram management itself.