**Bringing Voices to the Table**

I uttered the phrase “Bringing voices to the table…” when I am describing the users in my meetings or presentations many times. Sometimes it hits home and people in the room immediately understands what I am talking about. Sometimes it is glossed over, by people who do not quite understand what I really mean. So I decided to elaborate my go-to phrase formally in writing.

In any work spaces, the number of the employees that make up the company can be analyzed with numbers to represent the socio-economic background of the people into numbers. If I were to cap, for example, the number of employees in a company with a formal post-secondary education AT A UNIVERSITY, I am sure that number is largely disproportionate to the number of people who may have a college degree, for example, or even no form post-secondary education at all.

This means that I have numbers that are biased and huge. (In most companies still, the simple math of men:women ratio is still discorporate, but that’s another article)

Add to this discorporate and unequal number, there is also qualitative aspect that me as a UX Designer, is only employed at companies or work spaces that can afford somebody like me, because unfortunately UX is still a luxurious commodity for the majority of businesses. (In my degree my professor sometimes joked that when the economy is bad, UX might be the first people sacked. I don’t know about this and I certainly do not wish to test this out)

So we have a priviledged room full of privileged people (if you had at least one parent, went to formal education, then you are unforutauntely considered privileged by the \_\_\_\_ source) So in these meetings where I know that this big company has expensively spent their money to hire the smartest, most educated, most accomplished, and thereby most likely privileged members of society, I also as a designer who studies users need to account for the experiences that make up a person – I have to come to the conclusion that in most of these spaces, the majority of the people listening to me do not have experiences that say an extremely impoverished people have. That people suffering in the poverty line has. And also, just by one glance, I gauge tell how homogenous the ethnic identities are in the room (However, this will be a very rough estimate, I realize)

So when I say “Bringing voices to the table”, I mean that my job is to bring the identities and acknowledge the people who are not represented in big fancy office meeting rooms with glass doors. Some people, most people (according to this sSOURCE \_\_\_) never ccome downtown or live downtown and these make up the backbone of our first world counties.

I aim to bring voices of these people to the table because they are often forgotten in business meetings that is all about growth, growth, and growth.

in mid-sentence, when I’m presenting, just a lot in general.

I worry that sometimes in the room that I am, people do not quite understand what I mean by that. So here’s a chance for me to really unpack what I mean when I say that.

In my work as a UX consultant, I am often in business meetings held downtown in big corporate offices of this wonderful city.