

Intimate Data in Relationships:

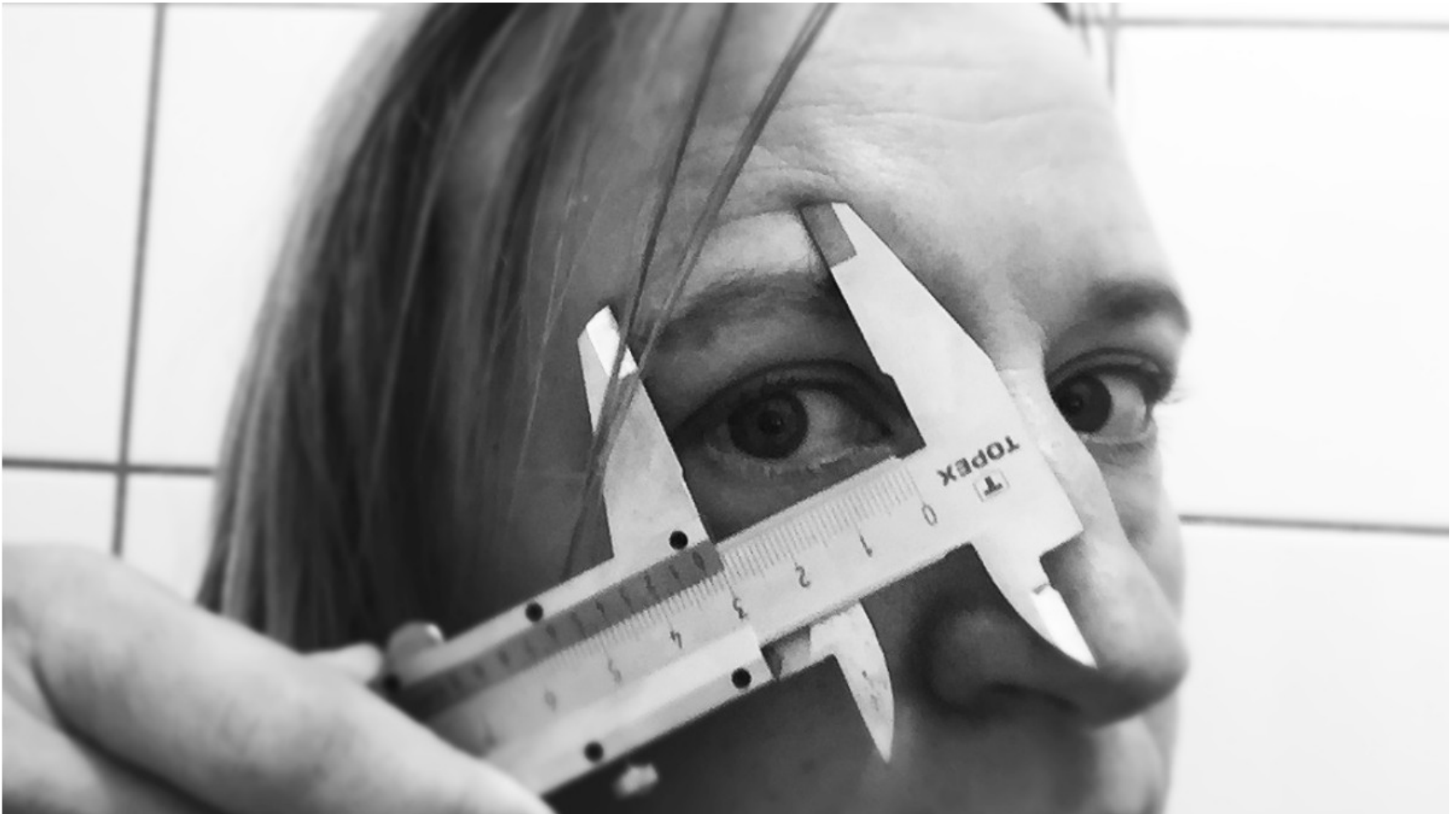
Tracking, Sharing, Surveillance – Personal Boundaries?

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Advanced Seminar in Media Informatics | Munich | 2018-07-27

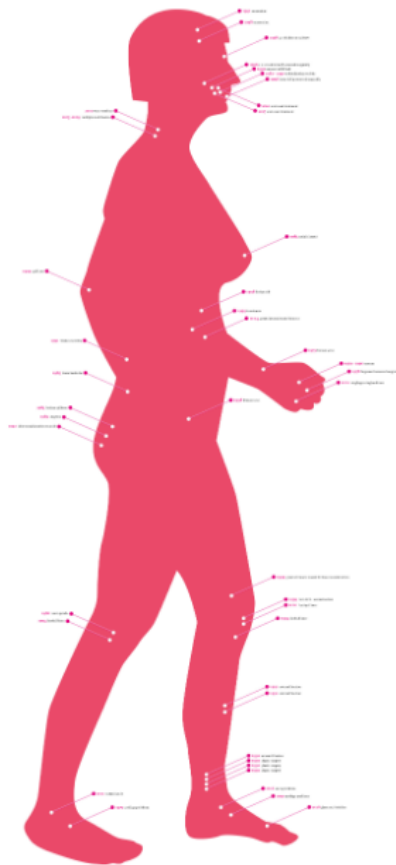
The Quantified Self



The Quantified Self



The Quantified Self



year	month	description	cause	skin	length in mm	width in mm	age in months
1989	7	dog bite	dog bite	x	31	25	352
1991	5	fractured bone plus fleshwound	car accident	x	240	50	313
1991	5	external fixation	car accident	x	14	9	313
1991	5	external fixation	car accident	x	12	10	313
1991	5	external fixation	car accident	x	16	8	313
1991	5	external fixation	car accident	x	13	9	313
1991	5	plastic surgery	car accident	x	240	50	313
1992	1	plastic surgery	car accident	x	80	53	305
1992	1	plastic surgery	car accident	x	98	7	305
1992	3	plastic surgery	car accident	x	98	7	305
1992	1	skin transplanted to ankle	car accident	x	65	55	305
1998	4	5 x stitches on eyebrow	bike accident	x	32	3	222
1999	8	piece of muscle reused	ski injury	x	8	4	218
1999	8	torn ACL - reconstruction	ski injury	x	40	4	218
1999	8	torn ACL - reconstruction	ski injury	x	9	6	218
1999	8	torn ACL - reconstruction	ski injury	x	6	6	218
1999	8	torn ACL - reconstruction	ski injury	x	7	5	218
2000	8	'cyclops' knee	ski injury	x	7	5	202
2004	5	4 stitches underarm	wine incident	x	14	5	158
2016	9	glass cut, 6 stitches	trash incident	x	34	3	9

Why do people track themselves?

Connected + The Quantified Self

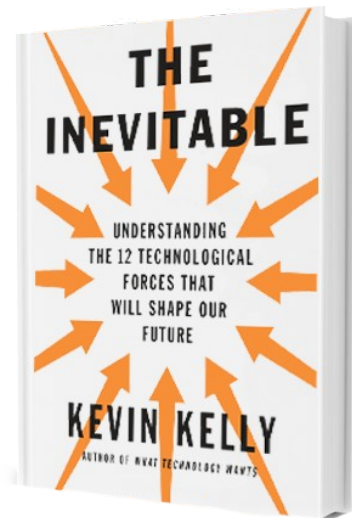
What problem
are you solving for?



I want to control my own
WELL BEING.

What data can be tracked?

“I can honestly say that anything that can be tracked is being tracked by someone somewhere.”



“Self-tracking is much broader than health. It is as big as our life itself.”

[Kelly, 2016]

What is about intimate data?

- Which data are perceived as intimate?
- How can we track our relationship?
- Why do people track intimate data in relationships?
- What do they do with it?
 - Do they over-trust the tracked data?
 - How do they perceive their tracked data?



What data are perceived as intimate?

HEALTH CARE



TRACKING



SOCIAL NETWORK



ONLINE DATING

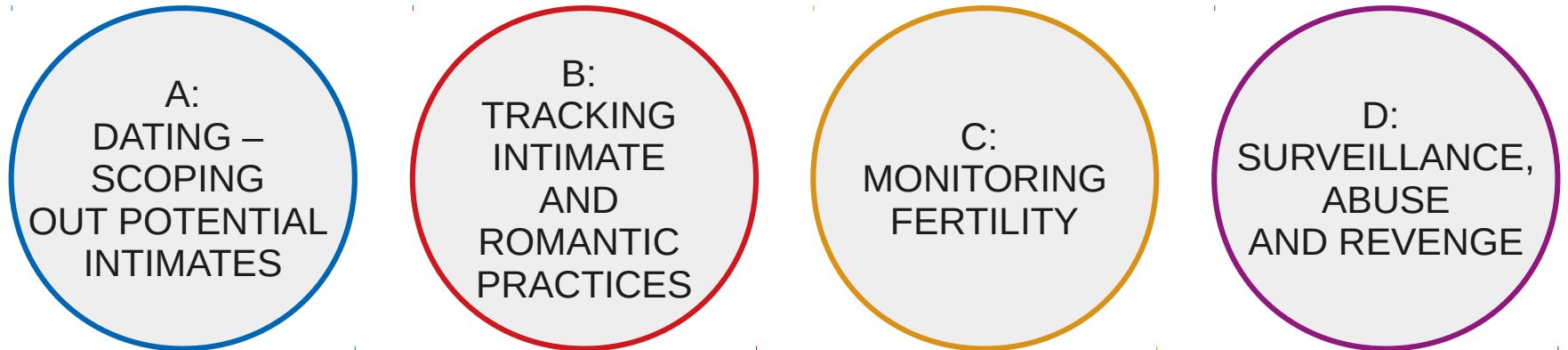


SURVEILLANCE



[Levy, 2014], [Lupton, 2015], [Danaher et al., 2018]

The Life Course of Intimate Relationships



[Levy, 2014]

A: Dating – Scoping out potential intimates



- Google someone
- Find information in the web



- Facebook stalking
- Search for public entries, mutual friends, likes, etc.



- Information about education
- Age-rank of matches
- When/where online conversation with matched happens
- Interests and jobs
- Pictures (Instagram)
- Sexual preferences

[Levy, 2014]

A: Dating – Scoping out potential intimates

- Users disclosed information quickly to strangers
- Most published data were personal data: full name, date of birth, phone numbers, work detail, email-addresses, complete home address



[Nandwani et al., 2018]

B: Tracking Intimate and Romantic Practices

- ➡ Intimate tracking
- ➡ Intimate Gamification

- wearable sex toys/devices
 - Lovely
 - kGoal
- Tracking application
 - SexTracker

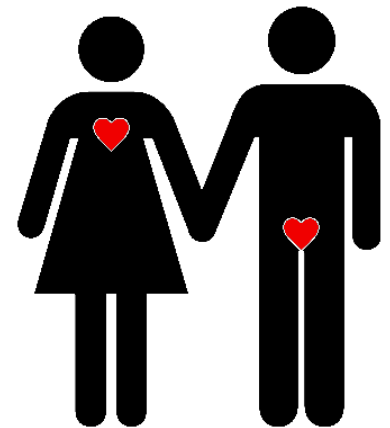


[Danaher et al., 2018]

B: Tracking Intimate and Romantic Practices

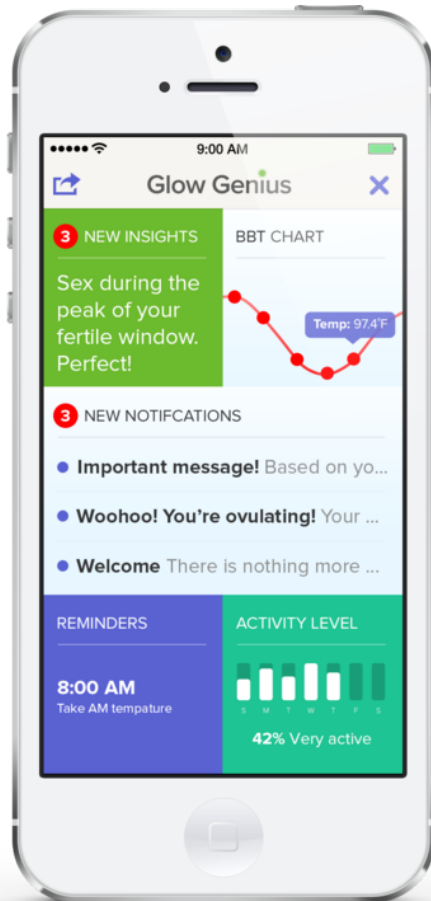
Risks that may arise:

- Really intimate data stored on servers
- Not always guaranteed that the data are anonymous
- Data can be resold
- Automatic recording by application
- Quantification of act, similar to a sport activity
- Supports gender stereotypes



[Danaher et al., 2018]

C: Monitoring Fertility

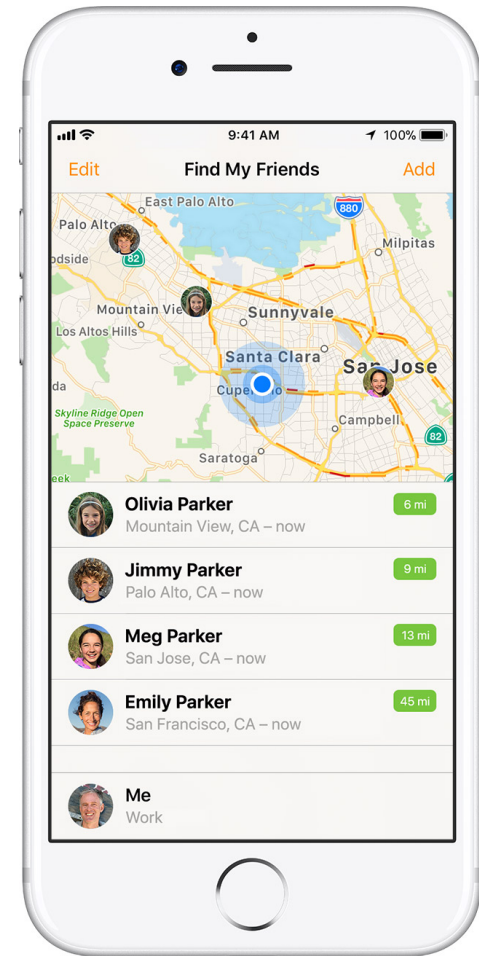


- These types of data make woman to an object of surveillance and quantification
- Gives the impression that the cycle of a woman is unsupervised chaotic
- Promote the enhancement of gender stereotypes

[Lupton, 2018]

D: Surveillance, Abuse and Revenge

- Surveillance through location-based tracking
- People track their location with the partner, family and friends
- Urge for control
- Does location tracking influence the love in a relationship?



[Danaher et al., 2018]

D: Surveillance, Abuse and Revenge



- Technologies can be misused for other purposes
- People exploit technologies to intimidate, threaten, monitor or harass the partner, ex-partner...
- Security measures are often not enough in this case

[Freed et al., 2018]

Risks

Quantification

- Risk of losing the reference to the data
- User should be aware of purpose



Trust

- Focus can be solely on data
- Trust can be lost



Privacy

- Privacy is important and should not be forgotten
- Interpersonal issues also play a role



Benefits

Quantification

- Reflect oneself
- Get more insights and control



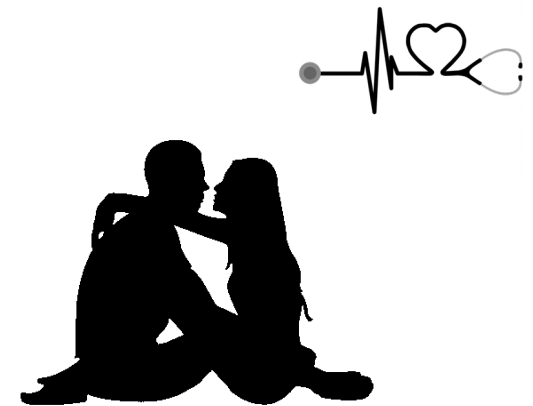
Trust

- New possibilities of trust
- More spontaneity in relationship



Health Care

- Insights into health and activity
- More awareness
- Better perception



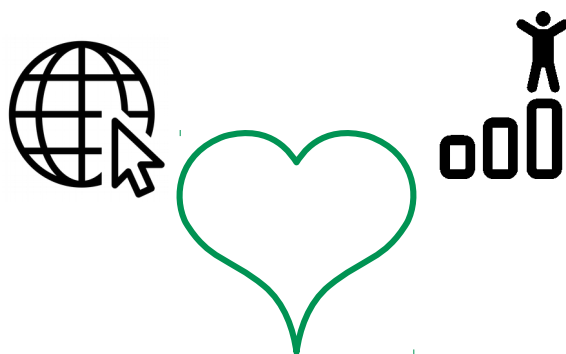
Open Questions...

- Is location-based tracking already used in relationships today, and to what extent?
- Does mutual location-based tracking of the partners influence the trust in the relationship?
- What are the long-term benefits or consequences of tracking each other?



Conclusion

- Intimate data arise predominantly from intimate activities.
- View of which data is intimate can change, depending on circumstances.
- What is intimate is partially perceived subjectively.
- Love and Relationships are influenced by the internet and self-optimization.



Sources for images

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