

# **Intimate Data in Relationships:**

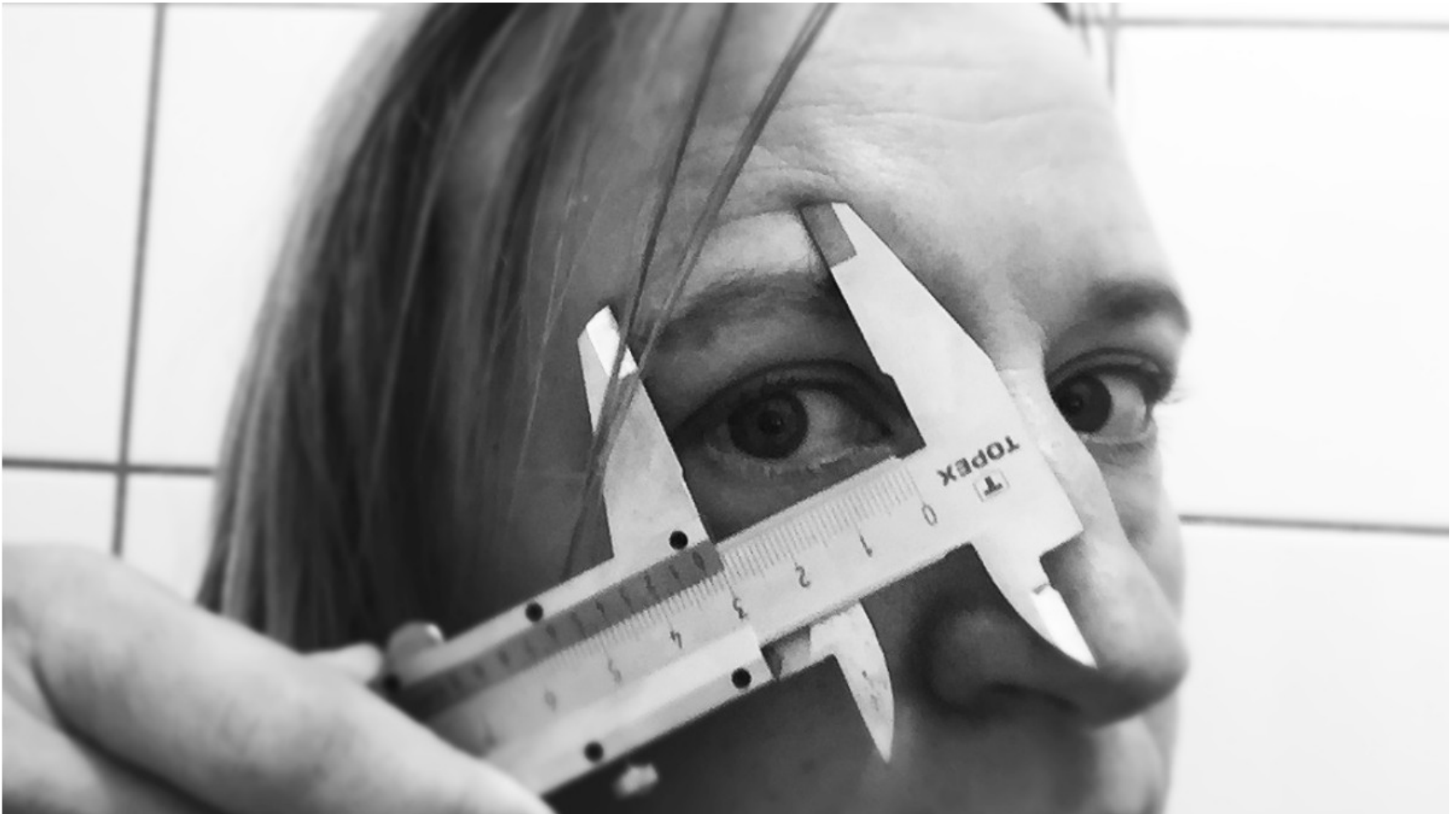
## Tracking, Sharing, Surveillance – Personal Boundaries?

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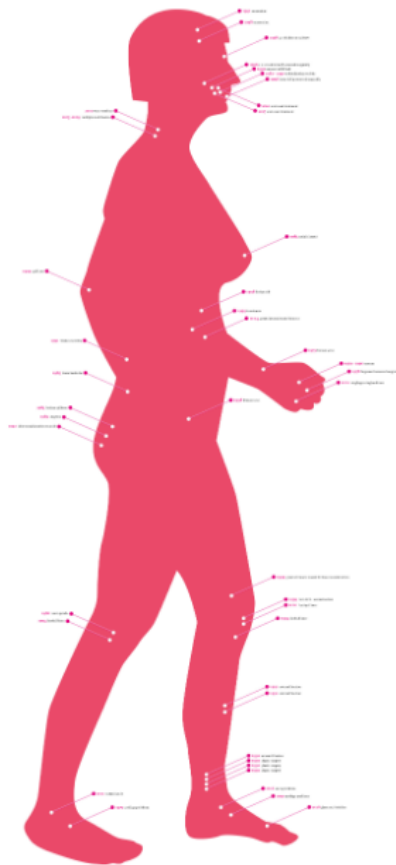
# The Quantified Self



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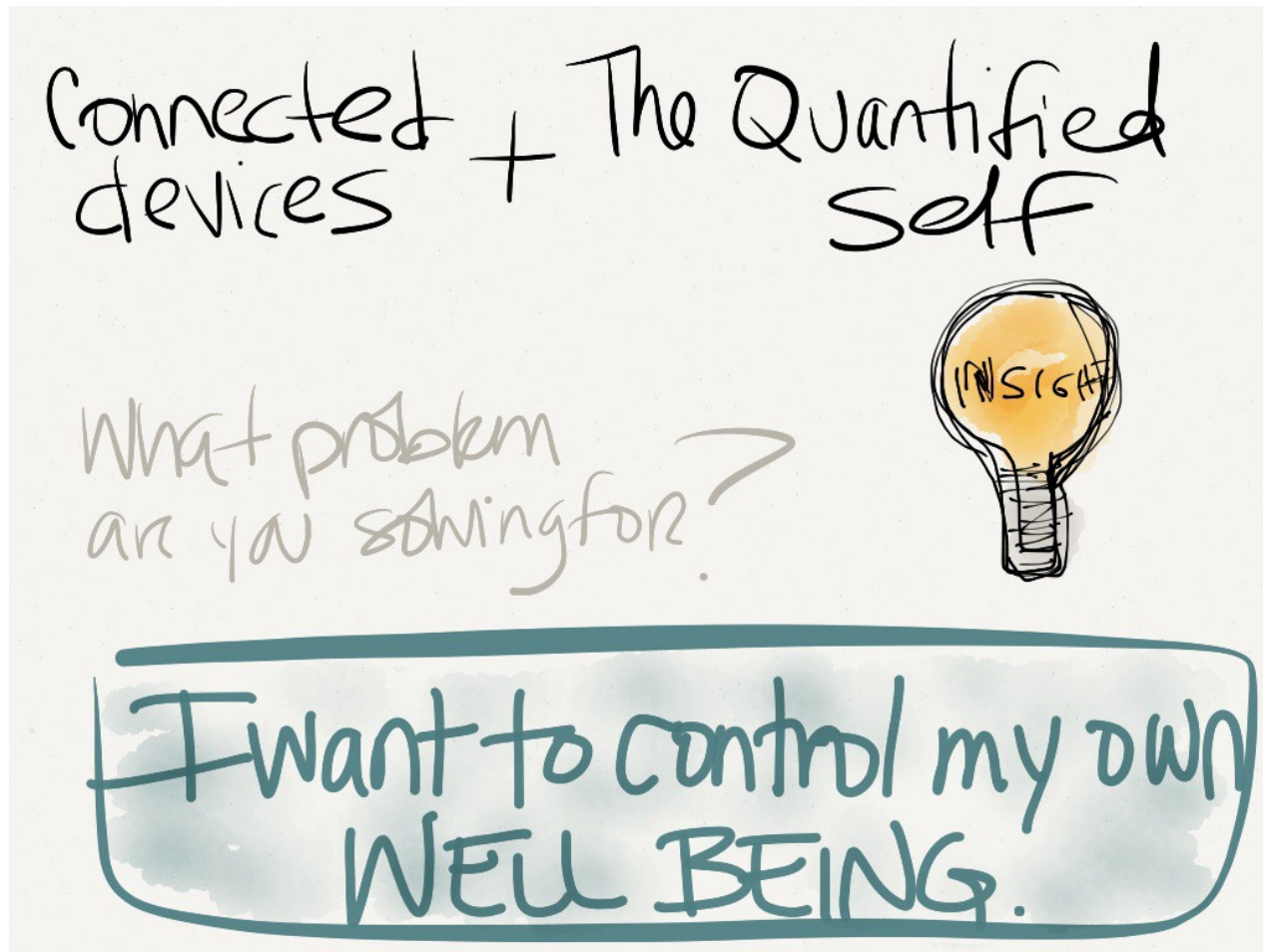


# The Quantified Self



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 transplantation 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 stictches underarm	wine incident	x	14	5	158
2016	9	glass cut, 6 stitches	trash incident	x	34	3	9

# Why do people track themselves?

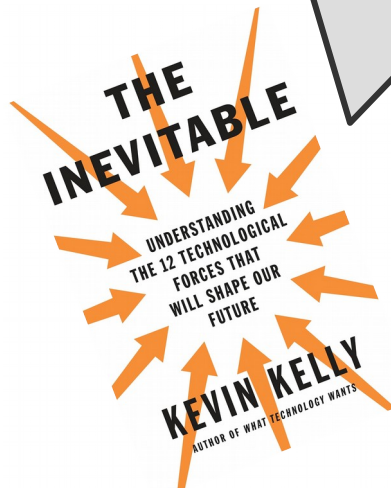


# Why do people track data?

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

“A way of organizing, shaping, and „reading“ your own life.“

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



- K. Kelly, The Inevitable, 2016

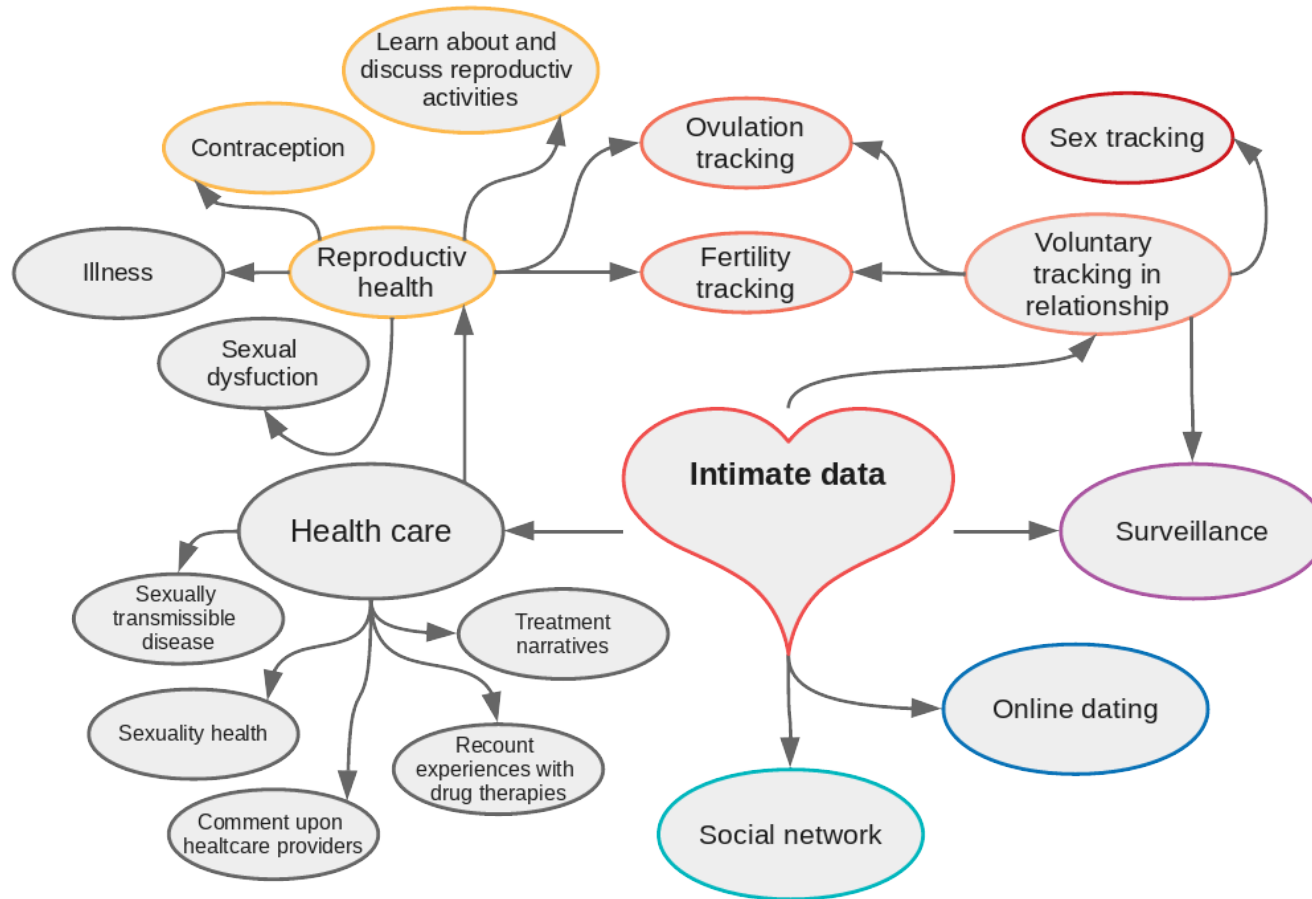
# Why do people track intimate data?

- But what about intimate data?
- 
- How can we track our relationship?
- 
- Which data are perceived as intimate?





# What data are perceived as intimate?

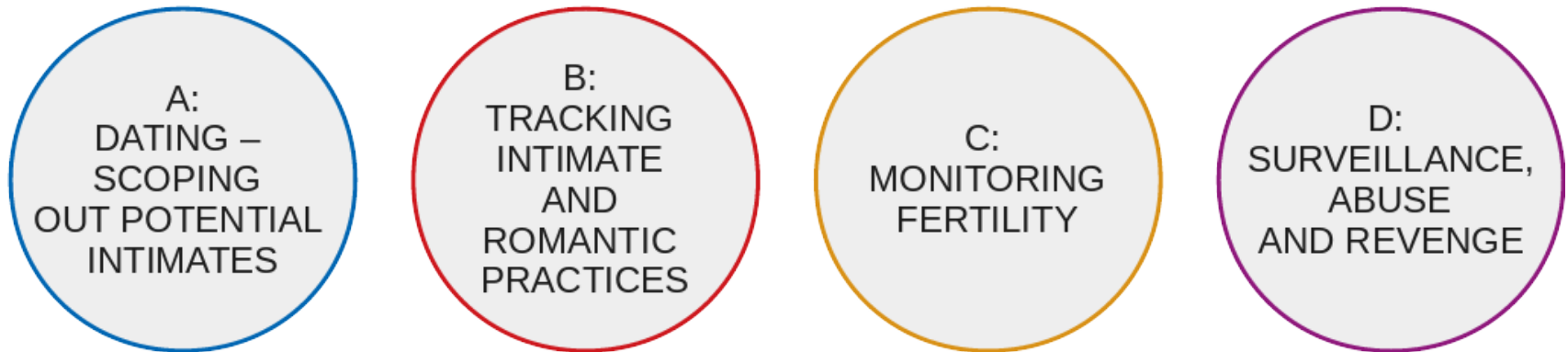


- collected by Levy, 2014; Danaher et al., 2018; Lupton, 2015 a. 2016



# The Life Course of Intimate Relationships

- defined by Levy, 2014



## A: Dating – Scoping out potential intimates



# A: Dating – Scoping out potential intimates

- Data were provided by using services (social networks)
- Data were collected and shared by other users

Tinder collects data about:

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

- *Facebook stalking*
- *Google someone*

Levy, 2014

# A: Dating – Scoping out potential intimates

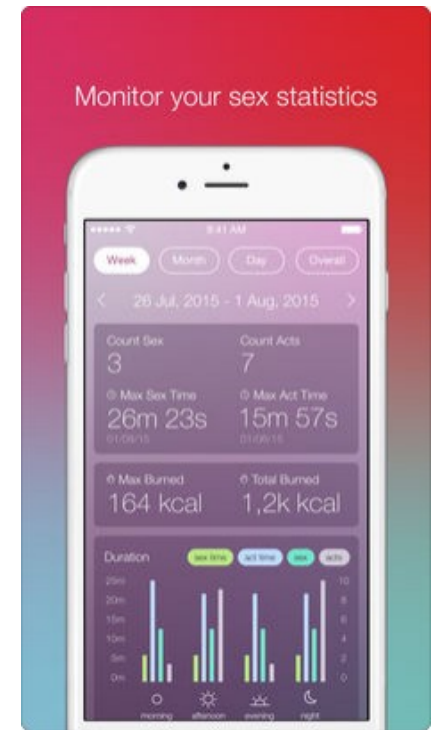
- Users disclose information quickly to strangers
- Most published data were personal data: full name, date of birth, phone numbers, work detail, email-addresses, complete home address

Nandwani et al., 2018



## B: Tracking Intimate and Romantic Practices

- Intimate tracking
- Intimate Gamification
- wearable sex toy → Lovely
- wearable devices → kGoal
- application for tracking → SexTracker

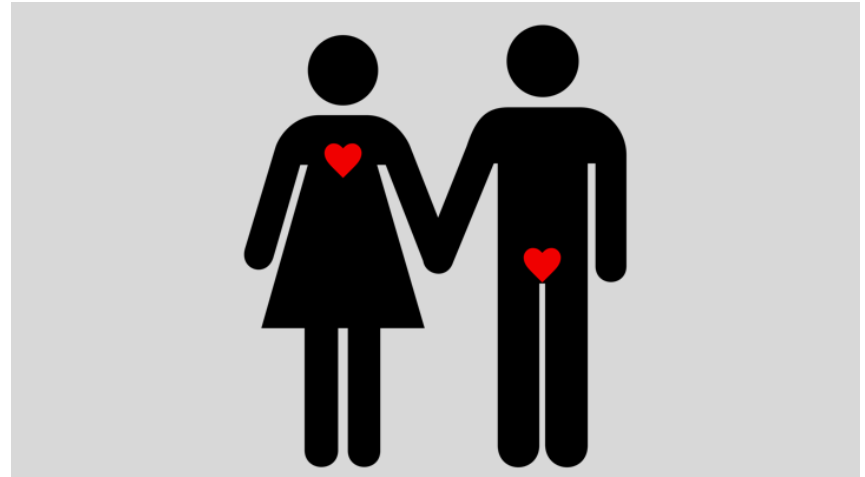


Danaher et al., 2018

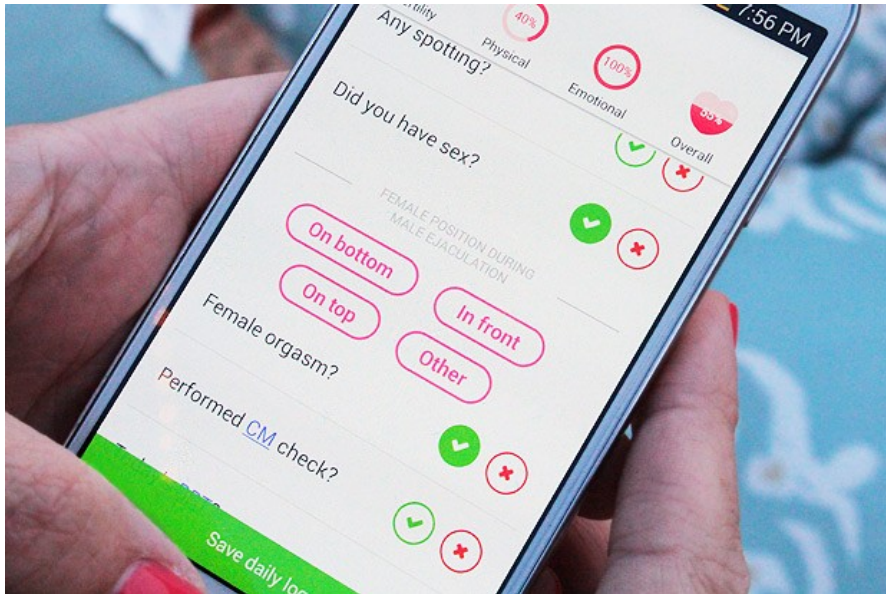
# B: Tracking Intimate and Romantic Practices

Risks that may arise:

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



# C: Monitoring Fertility

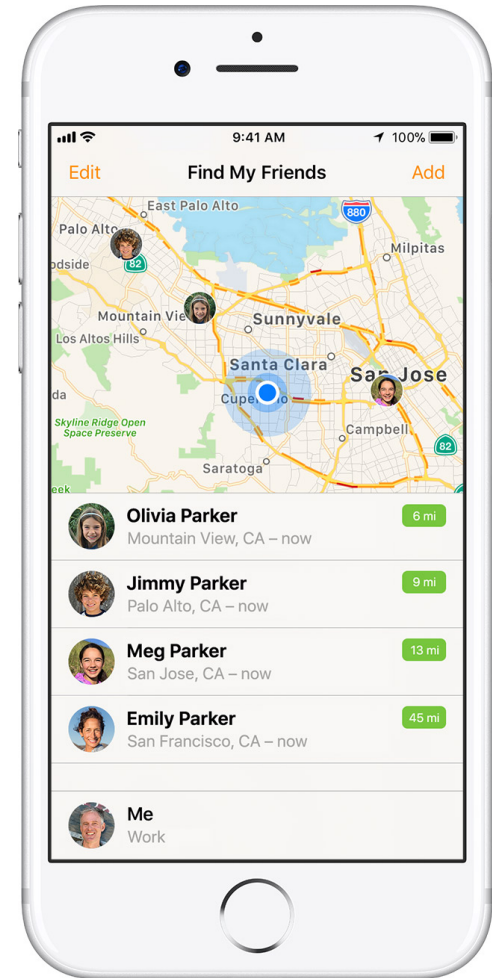
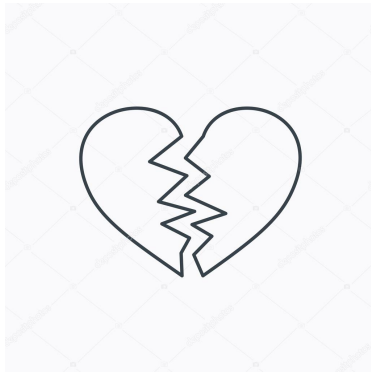


- These types of data make woman to an object of surveillance and quantification
- Gives the impression that the cycle of a woman is unsupervised chaotic
- Promote the enhancement of gender stereotypes



# 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 corrode the love in a relationship?



## 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...
- usual security measures are often not enough in this case

# 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-invading elephant lurking in the room
- Also Interpersonal issues



# Conclusion

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



# Sources for images

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