

Social media platforms are often non-anonymous, meaning that they are non-anonymously attached to bodied beings. As such, much research focuses on the identity implications of social media. Early Internet research, based primarily on multi-user domains (MUDs) and MUDs object-oriented, emphasized the dual nature of identity in a digital era. Interactive digital technologies were a reprieve from bodily and social constraints. More recent work, however, recognizes the integration of the digital and physical, and understands that social and physical reality are part and parcel of identity processes within social media. In particular, identity within social media, though enacted and negotiated in new ways, is subject to the race, class, and gender relations of the larger society (Nakamura 2007). Nathan Jurgenson (2012) refers to the earlier view of a separateness between online and offline—or the assumption that social media are a less “real” form of sociality—as “digital dualism.” Many contemporary social media scholars heavily critique the digital dualist perspective on identity, and argue instead for an augmented perspective, through which users and technologies mutually constitute one another (see Cyborgology.org for an ongoing exposition of the augmented perspective). In line with the augmented perspective, social media can be seen as a medium through which identities are “prosumed”—or simultaneously produced and consumed. Social actors come to know themselves by seeing what they do, and how others respond to them. By producing and consuming produced content, social actors produce and consume selves and identities into being (Davis, 2012). It has significant implications for social movements, as social media become places to learn about, teach about, and come to identify with, contested identities. Similarly, social media can be a means by which people come to associate with political parties and causes, developing politicized identities through production and consumption of partisan content. Far from a separate or less “real” venue, the social media environment is one in which