CS 3001-C: Computing, Society, and Professionalism

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Week 9: Regulating Online Speech March 8, 2023

ADRIAN CHEN BUSINESS 10.23.14 6:30 AM

THE LABORERS WHO KEEP DICK PICS AND BEHEADINGS OUT OF YOUR FACEBOOK FEED

WIRED

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What We Build

Our Actions

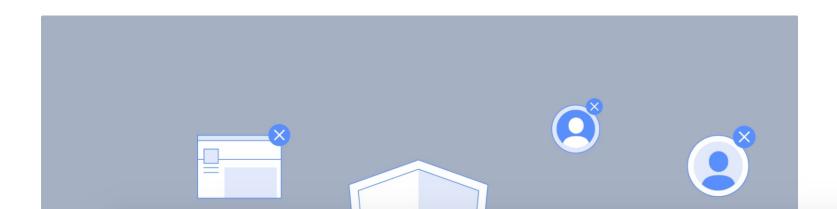


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Banning More Dangerous Organizations from Facebook in Myanmar

February 5, 2019



You Can't Stay Here: The Efficacy of Reddit's 2015 Ban Examined Through Hate Speech

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Deplatforming Trump Is Already Having a Huge Impact

A new report finds election misinformation online has fallen 73 percent since the president's ban from Twitter.



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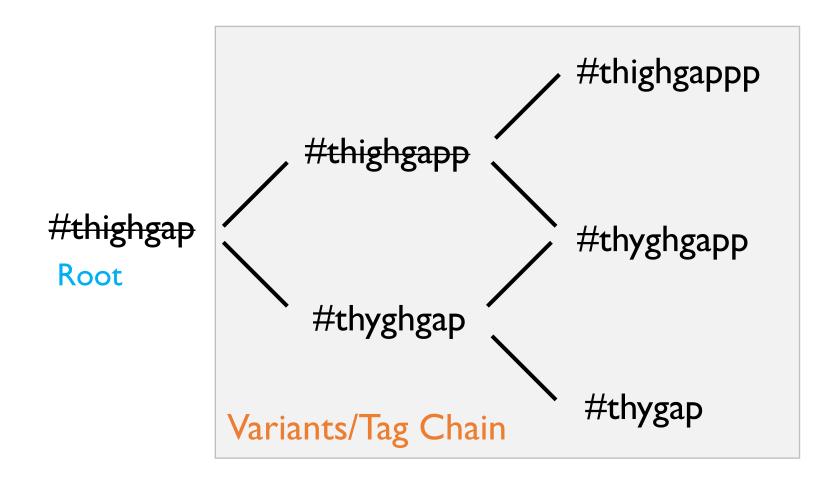


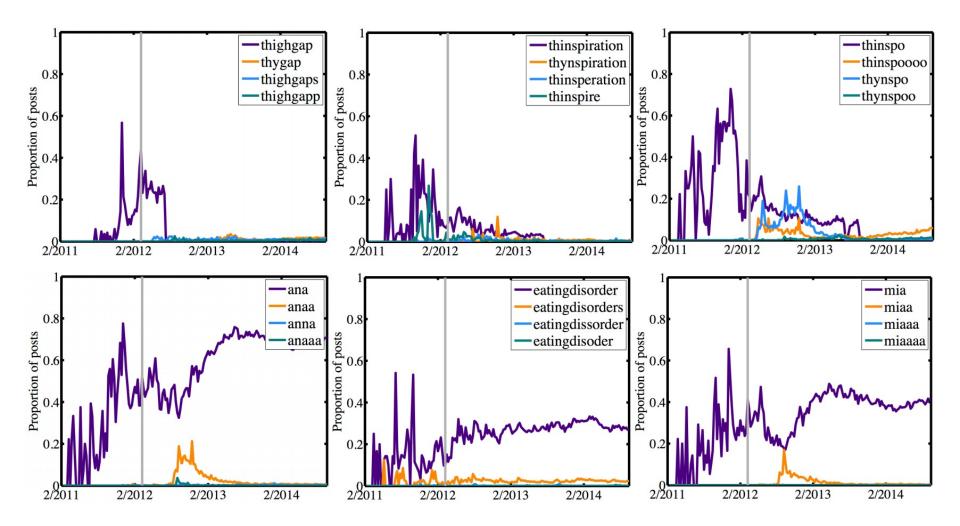




Stringent regulation of speech such as via deplatforming may work. But does it always?

#thyghgapp: Instagram content moderation and lexical variation in pro-eating disorder communities







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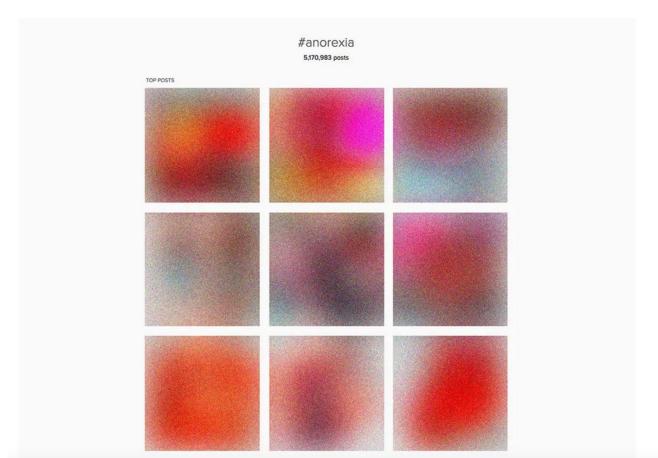
Why Eating Disorders Are So Hard For Instagram And Tumblr To Combat

Over the last four years, the social media platforms have done a lot to curb content that promotes self-injury. But they'll never fully succeed. Is it worth trying?

Posted on April 14, 2016, at 2:01 p.m.







Other examples where stringent content moderation and deplatforming didn't help

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Algorithmic content moderation: Technical and political challenges in the automation of platform governance

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Robert Gorwa[®]. Reuben Binns, Christian Katzenbach First Published February 28, 2020 Research Article Check for updates https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951719897945

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Abstract

As government pressure on major technology companies builds, both firms and legislators are searching for technical solutions to difficult platform governance puzzles such as hate speech and misinformation. Automated hash-matching and predictive machine learning tools - what we define here as algorithmic moderation systems - are increasingly being deployed to conduct content moderation at scale by major platforms for user-generated content such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. This article provides an accessible technical primer on how algorithmic moderation works; examines some of the existing automated tools used by major platforms to handle copyright infringement, terrorism and toxic speech; and identifies key political and ethical issues for these systems as the reliance on them grows. Recent events suggest that algorithmic moderation has become necessary to manage growing

Challenges of reliance on AI based regulation of online speech

Does Transparency in Moderation Really Matter?: User Behavior After Content Removal Explanations on Reddit

SHAGUN JHAVER, Georgia Institute of Technology AMY BRUCKMAN, Georgia Institute of Technology ERIC GILBERT, University of Michigan

When posts are removed on a social media platform, users may or may not receive an explanation. What kinds of explanations are provided? Do those explanations matter? Using a sample of 32 million Reddit posts, we characterize the removal explanations that are provided to Redditors, and link them to measures of subsequent user behaviors—including future post submissions and future post removals. Adopting a topic modeling approach, we show that removal explanations often provide information that educate users about the social norms of the community, thereby (theoretically) preparing them to become a productive member. We build regression models that show evidence of removal explanations playing a role in future user activity. Most importantly, we show that offering explanations for content moderation reduces the odds of future post removals. Additionally, explanations provided by human moderators did not have a significant advantage over explanations provided by bots for reducing future post removals. We propose design solutions that can promote the efficient use of explanation mechanisms, reflecting on how automated moderation tools can contribute to this space. Overall, our findings suggest that removal explanations may be under-utilized in moderation practices, and it is potentially worthwhile for community managers to invest time and resources into providing them.

CCS Concepts: \bullet Human-centered computing \rightarrow Empirical studies in collaborative and social computing.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: content moderation; content regulation; platform governance; post

Decentralized platform governance

The Great Deplatforming has set a new precedent for regulation of online speech



Platform Governance outside of the US