The Collection

Volume 2

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Learning for Equality is a project lead by Dr. Isabel Awad.
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Here we speak: Challenging racist and gender-oppressive structures in and through the Instagram space

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Various scholars have studied the advantages and disadvantages of using social media platforms such as Instagram for digital anti-racist and anti-sexist activism efforts. Overall, they concluded that while Instagram can be a productive tool to raise awareness, mobilize people, and forward structural change, the platform is simultaneously governed by these structures. As such, it is crucial to understand how the individuals engaging in such digital activism efforts invade, perceive, and navigate the Instagram space to then comprehend how this type of activism contributes to (offline) structural change.

Therefore, this thesis answers the research question of how Black female microcelebrities navigate the Instagram space to challenge racist and gender-oppressive structures in Austria. A qualitative mixedmethod approach, including digital ethnography via the walkthrough method, qualitative content analysis, and semi-structured interviews, was used. Using digital ethnography, the compositions of the Instagram profiles of five microcelebrities were analyzed, followed by a more in-depth qualitative content analysis of the practices of these women via an analysis of 106 posts and story highlights. Finally, three women were interviewed to understand how they perceive the socio-technical structures of the Instagram space and how that correlates with their content creation and sharing practices. As a result of the data collection and analysis process, the following four themes were developed: educational activism, space shifting, effects on mental health and coping mechanisms, and connecting personal to structural issues. Within these themes, Black microcelebrities were found to use Instagram to educate others and themselves by raising awareness, providing historical contexts and

explanations, and thereby challenging the status quo of knowledge and 'common sense' in Austria. Similarly, they shift between offline and online spaces as well as between personal and structural instances of oppression to transform these spaces into networks governed by the ideas of Critical Race Black Feminism, digital activism, and spaces where notions of social justice exist. When doing so, however, the women in this study experienced severe impacts on their mental health and well-being, restricting their potential to speak up freely, become visible, and thereby contribute to structural change. Consequently, they were found to use the notions of the (in)visibility paradox to strategically employ their visibility to raise awareness for oppressive structures and their invisibility to shield themselves from potential repercussions of their actions.

Read the full thesis here

The Rising Tides of Letting Die:

A Biopolitical analysis of Policing Civil Search and Rescue in Italy And the Mediterranean sea

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The Foucauldian notion of biopolitics has been extensively used to analyze power dynamics in migration studies. However, the dimension of civil search and rescue has been neglected in this scholarship. This research explores how the practices of policing humanitarian assistance in Italy sand the Mediterranean Sea have developed in the context of recent policy changes in Italy. Using constructivist grounded theory and in-depth interviews (n = 10), this study analyzes how civil search and rescue actors and border-crossers are affected by the policing of humanitarian assistance. The article argues that the EU and specific member states entail a biopolitical governmentality of deciding over the life and death of border-crossers, in the name of state security. Through its inductive approach, multi-level governance and multilevel politics dynamics were discovered. Thus, recommendations for further research are presented.

Read the full thesis here

Politics of Care in the Worst City on the Planet and a Failed Housing Project:

Analysis of Bogotá Change (2009) & The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2012)

By Tyyne Huhtaniska & Cazper Steigstra

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"We are not happy here and we want you to know it" (Freidrichs, 2012, 53:56). This is the message behind the firebombs, glass bottles, and trash the Pruitt-Igoe inhabitants throw at the police, ambulances, and fire trucks arriving at their housing complex. The statement is clear but not understood; the decay of Pruitt-

Igoe was allowed to continue as officials simply stopped showing up in the area, finally deciding to implode the housing complex with dynamite.

Read the full essay here

Why not say the F-word?

Self-Induced and External Exclusion from Feminism by Male College Students

By Emma Preuß, Pia Brouwer, and Lena Grøtting

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While many male college students support gender equality, only 21.4% identify as feminists (Houvouras & Carter, 2008). Feminism is often referred to as *a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression* (hooks, 2000, p. viii). However, there are various understandings of feminism and it is clear that the movement is interpreted more negatively by many people. In fact, In most cultures, the concept of feminism' is something that most do not wish to identify with (Roy et al., 2007). Furthermore, exposure to negative stereotypes of feminism also decreases the likelihood of engaging in collective action to decrease gender inequality (Moore & Stathi, 2020). This Illustrates that there is much controversy and negative association around the term.

Simultaneously, there are also people who believe that feminism is equal to gender equality. Therefore, the question arises how it happens that many young men endorse gender equality but do not support feminism.

Check out Emma, Pia and Lena's poster on the next page >

Why not say the F-word?
Self-induced and External Exclusion from Feminism by Male College Students

RESEARCH PROBLEM

While many young men support gender equality...
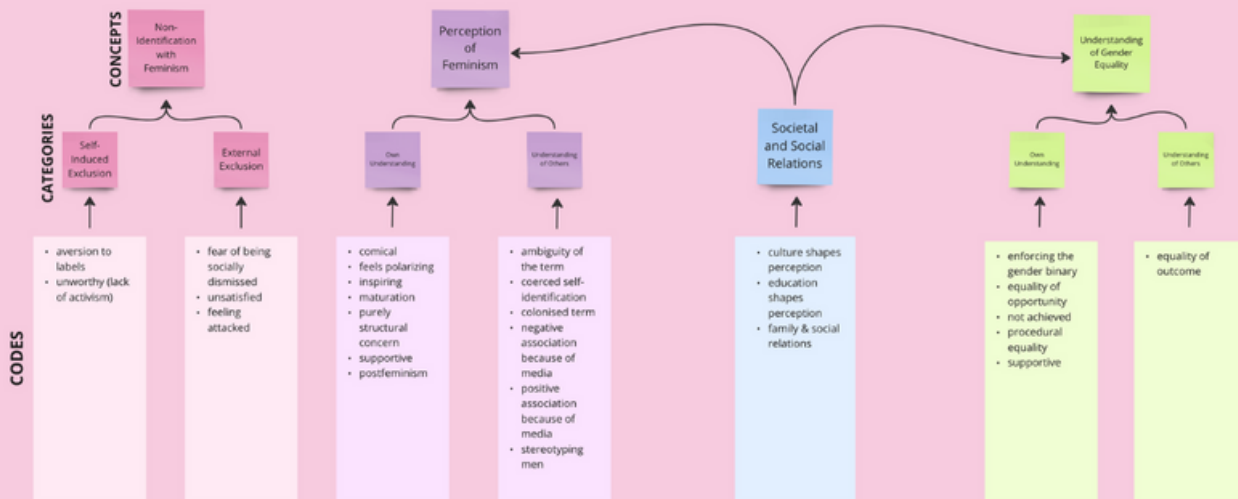
...few self-identify as feminists.

While many male college students support gender equality, only 21.4% identify as feminists (Houvouras & Carter, 2008). Feminism is often referred to as "a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression" (hooks, 2000, p. viii). However, there are various understandings of feminism and it is clear that the movement is interpreted more negatively by many people. In fact, in most cultures, the concept of 'feminism' is something that most do not wish to identify with (Roy et al., 2007). Furthermore, exposure to negative stereotypes of feminism also decreases the likelihood of engaging in collective action to decrease gender inequality (Moore & Stathi, 2020). This illustrates that there is much controversy and negative association around the term. Simultaneously, there are also people who believe that feminism is equal to gender equality. Therefore, the question arises how it happens that many young men endorse gender equality but do not support feminism.

*How do non-feminist identifying men
who support gender equality perceive feminism
and how can this be understood?*

DATA STRUCTURE

CONCEPTS

- Non-Identification with Feminism
- Perception of Feminism
- Understanding of Gender Equality

CATEGORIES

- Self-Induced Exclusion
- External Exclusion
- Own Understanding
- Understanding of Others
- Societal and Social Relations
- Own Understanding
- Understanding of Others

CODES

- Self-Induced Exclusion
  - aversion to labels
  - unworthy (lack of activism)
- External Exclusion
  - fear of being socially dismissed
  - unsatisfied
  - feeling attacked
- Own Understanding
  - comical
  - feels polarizing
  - inspiring
  - maturation
  - purely structural concern
  - supportive
  - postfeminism
- Understanding of Others
  - ambiguity of the term
  - coerced self-identification
  - colonised term
  - negative association because of media
  - positive association because of media
  - stereotyping men
- Societal and Social Relations
  - culture shapes perception
  - education shapes perception
  - family & social relations
- Own Understanding
  - enforcing the gender binary
  - equality of opportunity not achieved
  - procedural equality
  - supportive
- Understanding of Others
  - equality of outcome

TYPOLOGY

Antelope	Cat	Chameleon	Ostrich	Platypus
Understands feminism as something negative, especially for men.	Perceives feminism to be either too broad, or not broad enough.	Observes positive or negative connotations to feminism in their social relations and interactions.	Perceives feminism as something positive. But associates it with active involvement.	Understands feminism to be an ambiguous or polarising concept.
External exclusion: Feeling attacked	**External exclusion:** Unsatisfied due to inadequacy	**External exclusion:** Fear of being socially dismissed	**Self-exclusion:** Unworthy (lack of activism)	**Self-exclusion:** Aversion to labels

Street Art, Street Agents – Structure versus agency: Contradictions in Feijenoord's local street art field

By Adjoa Kpeto

This paper examines the field of street art in Feijenoord, Rotterdam. Over the past decades, street art has evolved from an anti-authoritarian subcultural art practice into a popular cultural phenomenon appreciated by wider audiences. This development has not gone unnoticed with urban governments and property owners, who now deem street art as desirable within the urban landscape. This research takes a closer look at the structural frameworks that are introduced into the street art field through the involvement of powerful agents, and examines how street artists continue to exercise their agency within these structures.

For this study, data was acquired through ethnographic field observation of the context of street art tours, as well as a street art-related workshop. In addition, an interview was conducted and several forms of content (podcasts, street art apps) were structurally analysed. Within the analysis, a distinction was made between the subfields of aconsensually (or illegally) produced street art, and authorised street art commissioned by the field of power. The data show the construction of a varied demarcation of the field, with institutional agents excluding aconsensual street art in favour of authorised murals, and creative agents stressing the plurality of street art in all its forms of production. The results also show how processes of co-optation and commodification by institutional actors impose structural limitations onto the subfield of authorised production, while the subfield of aconsensual street art continues to be repressed. However, aconsensual practices continue to exist despite the commercialisation of street art, and artists continue to enjoy full creative freedom. Finally, the findings show that creative agents have the agency to move between different positions, finding ways to extract capital from the field of power that benefit and strengthen their practice in the long run.

Read the full thesis

A Barbie Girl in a Patriarchal World: Girl Games and Cultural Nostalgia

By Mayra Nassef

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Women are routinely excluded and marginalised from masculine gamer spaces. Women are wary of calling themselves "gamers" due to the community's negativity towards women (Fox & Tang, 2017, Kivijärvi & Katila, 2022).

As a common nostalgic cultural memory for a lot of women - Why are pink games not part of the cultural discourse surrounding games?

Check the slides

Outside Influence on the Inside Road: Commercial Gentrification on the Nieuwe Binnenweg

By Isabella Yazıcı, Shoshanah Gerstenbluth, Winter Vester, Victor Rozenburg, Lis Beaumont

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Gentrification as a phenomenon is something which is gaining significant academic, scientific, and social relevance in recent times. This research paper explores the so far ignored commercial gentrification and is specifically interested in understanding the extent to which it is taking place on the Nieuwe Binnenweg in Rotterdam. Not only is inquiry made into the extent to which this process is taking place, but also how businesses may or may not be adapting to this gentrification process, through potential changes in clientele, business practices and rent prices. The data collection method used throughout this investigation revolves around semi-structured qualitative interviews, using the perspectives and experiences of

long-term business owners on the street, who have been able to observe and witness change on the street over time. The findings shed light on the complex relationship between commercial gentrification and local businesses, and provide insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by this process. The research has important implications for policymakers and urban planners seeking to promote sustainable and equitable urban development.

Read the full thesis

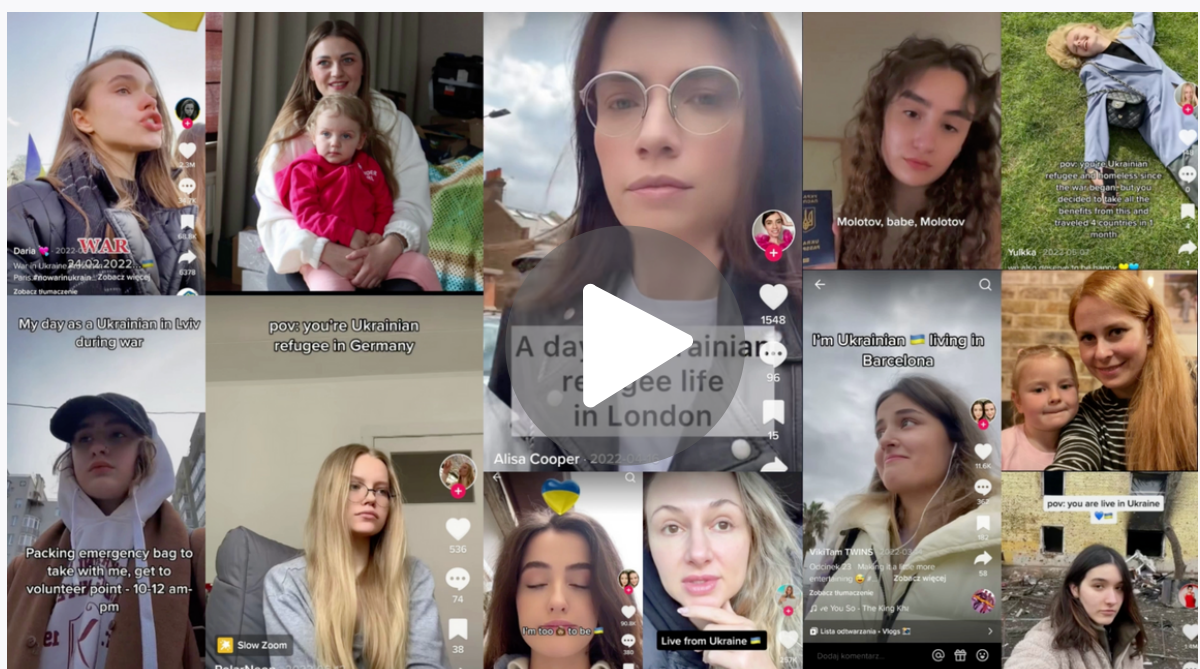# TikTok as a voice-enabling platform for Ukrainian refugees

Makers
Iana Bulatitskaia and
Katarzyna Dziadek

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Dreamers NL:

Podcast on the structural inequalities experienced by undocumented students in the Netherlands

By Elliot Zepeda, Ingeborg Uyttenbroek, Milou Kloppers

Course:
Communicating (in)equality in the city

What would you do if after completing all your primary and secondary education in the Netherlands you were forced to move to another country, saying goodbye to all your friends, life and language you grew up with? This is the case for many "undocumented" students, or Dreamers. Get to know their story

Learn about their story and the structural barriers to accessing a university degree in the Netherlands by clicking the link below.

Listen to the podcast

Erasmus
University
Rotterdam