Title   / Authors

Revisiting the first-level digital divide in the U.S.: Gender and race/ethnicity patterns, 2007-2012 / Celeste Campos-Castillo

Abstract: With the Internet access divide narrowing, researchers have focused on Internet usage, taking for granted access issues. However, questions remain regarding who has Internet access in the U.S.: What is the status of the racial divide? Is there still a gender divide? How do Latinos compare to other racial and ethnic minority groups? How does gender intersect with race and ethnicity? I analyze nationally representative data to compare Internet access among adults from 2007 to 2012. I find that women are more likely to report having Internet access than men. Blacks and Latinos are equally likely to report having Internet access, and both groups are less likely to report having Internet access than whites. Lastly, black men exhibited the greatest increase in access. This research complements Internet usage studies with a recent assessment of Internet access trends, important trends to monitor as policies and technological innovations aim for universal access.

Evaluation of the CAN SPAM Act: testing deterrence and other influences of email spammer legal compliance over time / Alex Kigerl

Abstract: Email spam has been growing since its inception. The CAN SPAM Act is United States federal legislation that was passed in response to the growing spam problem. A series of evaluations followed after the Act, most of which reported that compliance with the Act's requirements among spammers had not been affected. However, none of these evaluations used methods that were sufficiently rigorous, failing to capture the continuous nature of CAN SPAM Act's enforcement, using a limited number of measures of noncompliance, and ignoring a variety of possible spurious influences. This research addresses all of these limitations by analyzing a sample of 5,490,905 spam emails sent between 1998 and 2013. Ten measures of spammer compliance with the CAN SPAM Act were operationalized to test the impact the Act had. Thirteen measures of CAN SPAM Act enforcement were coded from news articles and included in a time series regression. Findings suggest that the Act may in fact be a deterrent, but in such a way as to increase CAN SPAM Act violations of header forgery as a precaution against being caught.

Down the (White) Rabbit Hole: The Extreme Right and Online Recommender Systems / Derek O'Callaghan , Derek Greene, Maura Conway, Joe Carthy, & Pádraig Cunningham

Abstract: In addition to hosting user-generated video content, YouTube provides recommendation services, where sets of related and recommended videos are presented to users, based on factors such as co-visitation count and prior viewing history. This article is specifically concerned with extreme right video content, portions

of which contravene hate laws and are thus illegal in certain countries, which are recommended by YouTube to some users. We develop a categorization of this content based on various schema found in a selection of academic literature on the extreme right, which is then used to demonstrate the political articulations of YouTube's recommender system, particularly the narrowing of the range of content to which users are exposed and the potential impacts of this. For this purpose, we use two data sets of English and German language extreme right YouTube channels, along with channels suggested by YouTube's related video service. A process is observable whereby users accessing an extreme right YouTube video are likely to be recommended further extreme right content, leading to immersion in an ideological bubble in just a few short clicks. The evidence presented in this article supports a shift of the almost exclusive focus on users as content creators and protagonists in extremist cyberspaces to also consider online platform providers as important actors in these same spaces.

Exploring reactions to hacktivism among STEM college students: A preliminary model of hacktivism support and resistance / Lisa M. PytlikZillig, Shiyuan Wang, Leen-Kiat Soh, Alan Tomkins, Ashok Samal, Tonya Bernadt, & Michael Hayes
Abstract: This study investigated predictors of support for and resistance to hacktivism in a sample of 78 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors at a Midwestern university. Results from surveys about real world instances of hacktivism indicate different pre-existing global attitudes predict specific situational hacktivism support (predicted by admiration) versus resistance (predicted by willingness to report). Also, participants gave greater weight to their perceptions of hacktivist (rather than target) trustworthiness/untrustworthiness. Comparisons among different facets of trustworthiness suggest perceptions of shared values with and integrity of the hacktivists are especially important for predicting support and resistance. Participants also were more supportive of hacktivism rated as having higher utilitarian value, but not less supportive of hacktivism initiated for retribution. Mediation analyses indicated that situation perceptions significantly mediated the effects of global attitudes on hacktivism support/resistance, but that the significance of specific mediators was inconsistent across analyses. This suggests that the importance of mediators may depend on specific context.

A communication multiplexity approach to social capital: On- and offline communication and self-esteem / Jian Raymond Rui, Jessica M. Covert, Michael A. Stefanone, Tanuka Mukherjee
Abstract: This study explores the mechanisms by which online social information seeking (i.e., monitoring Facebook friends) relates to social capital. Based on the extant literature, we propose a theoretical framework that includes communication activities across different channels operationalized as offline participation, network structure on social network site (SNS) operationalized as the number of actual online friends and network diversity, and self-esteem. Results from an online survey (N=223) found a moderated mediation model in which participation in offline social activities mediated the relationship between social information seeking and self-reported bonding social

capital, and self-esteem moderated this mediation. In addition, participation in offline social activities provided an additional channel to accessing bridging social capital. These results provide a theoretical framework for and suggest an approach of communication multiplexity to future research.

Efficiency, participation, and quality: Three dimensions of e-government? / Matt Gable

Abstract: This book review essay offers a picture of e-government scholarship that involves three major themes: efficiency, citizen participation, and quality. Two of the themes, efficiency and citizen participation have sometimes been counterposed in public administration literature, seeing citizen participation coming at the expense of efficiency. In this essay, the effects of the goals of efficiency and citizen participation on the third theme, "quality" in e-government literature, are explored via a thematic map based on multidimensional scaling. This analysis offers that efficiency and political participation in e-government literature stem from macro political conceptions, and they are separate from "quality" concerns.