

WHAT

Advanced technology brings fresh information to mankind, but anxiety and fear also follow. How to treat the complexity of information?

WHY

The number of Internet users is increasing every year. People have habitually spread and share information through the Internet, and most of their life trajectories can be traced on the Internet. With the passage of time, people's lives have gradually become inseparable from the Internet. However, the Internet environment is complex, which breeds violence and deception that can be seen everywhere. The Internet seems to be a mask, as if people can hide behind the screen and do whatever they want. Many social media platforms, such as Google, have added real-name information binding mechanisms to restrict user behavior. But it is still difficult to restrict people's online behavior, and there has even been an increasing trend in recent years. Microsoft's Digital Civilization Index report shows that Internet risks from family or friends are increasing. The harm caused by acquaintances often exposes people to real-life risks such as insomnia or a crisis of trust. The intrusion of the virtual world to the real world needs to be taken seriously. People's digital trajectories have become the targets of cyber violence and cyber fraud. Any intentional or unintentional remarks may lead to cyber violence and even affect the lives of victims (Anne S.Y. C, 2009).

WHO

The Internet has penetrated into every age stage, and the millennial generation is most affected by the Internet (Microsoft Digital Civility Index, 2017). From birth to adulthood, they grew up in a highly digitalized social environment. They have more time and opportunities to contact the Internet, and they are more accustomed to expressing and communicating on the Internet. Because of this, they are also more likely to feel lost in the transition between the Internet and reality. Millennials are also the group with the highest risk of online victimization (2017). A large number of opportunities for access to online media make them the main targets of online violence. Compared with baby boomers, millennials cannot think more about things when they communicate and communicate in online media. The uneven network environment makes them always experience ups and downs in the process of learning to respect and understand others. Among them, girls aged 13-17 are treated disrespectfully more seriously than boys of the same age. Harassment, especially sexual harassment, brings more life pressure and mental health problems to teenagers and adult women. Compared with adult groups, teenage women are more likely to commit suicide after encountering sexual harassment.

HOW

Based on the survey of research questions and target groups, I think we can consider how to arouse people's thinking about the connection between the virtual Internet world and the real world. Take millennials as an example. The high concentration of the Internet environment makes it easy for them to believe in the authenticity of the Internet for granted, blurring the relationship between virtual and reality. In fact, it is not just the millennial generation. All Internet users are at risk of being confused by the complexity of information. Even if you pretend to be a bystander, you can't guarantee that you will not be manipulated by network information at all. The true and false and the quality of the information gradually become difficult to distinguish as it is continuously disseminated. From this perspective, publication content that is close to reality seems more suitable for expressing the relationship between network information structure and reality. What kind of design can help people understand the complexity of the network and recognize the negative impact of information development. This may also be an event design, which can be embodied as experimental videos, digital dynamic posters, and promotional materials for some publications.

Reference:

Cheung, A. S. Y. (2009) 'A Study of Cyber-Violence and Internet Service Providers' Liability: Lessons from China', *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal*, 18(2), pp. 323–346. Available at: <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edshol&AN=edshol.hein.journals.pacrimlp18.17&site=eds-live> (Accessed: 10 September 2021).

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