



Gender, Sexuality & the Internet

April 12 – 17, 2014 | Malaysia

Agenda Summary

April 11 & 12
FLOW participants will be meeting to discuss their research on violence against women and the internet. We wish you a great meeting and look forward to hearing all about your insights at the EROTICS meeting ☺
April 12
17 meeting participants will start their meeting a day earlier for some background discussions and an introduction to the EROTICS project.
April 13-15
This is where the full meeting (50 participants) begins. These three days will be fully dedicated to discussing the themes below (and many other themes we are sure you will add). By the evening of the 15 th , we hope to have reached some common analysis on what Feminist Principles of the Internet should articulate. And to reward ourselves, a party in the evening!
April 16-17
The last two days will be focused on some planning going forward + training sessions on both digital security and UN mechanisms for advocacy around our issues.

Notes:

- Our meeting days will run from 9am – 5:30pm every day
- Our Security Team will be available to schedule one-on-one meetings with you throughout the 5 days in case you'd like some specific training or discussion related to digital safety.

Discussion Themes & Questions

The Internet We Dreamed Of

- What did we expect from the internet 10 years ago? What did we hope it would do for feminism?
- What happened?
- What were the milestones in the last 10 years that changed the digital sphere? How did it affect women's movements?
- How has the internet shifted or changed the way that we understand power, politics, activism, and agency? How do we live our lives on the internet as a space today?

Digital Misogyny

- How does misogyny manifest on the internet? What are the new and old ways?
- Who are the actors and who are the survivors?
- What forms of misogyny take center stage when we discuss violence against women? Whose experiences?
- What have been the effective responses to online misogyny? What are the limitations of responses from activists, private sector, governments, lawmakers, etc?

Sexual Expression & Pornography:

- How has the internet facilitated the proliferation of sexual expression online? Have diverse sexualities been part of this? In what ways?
- Who is drawing the line between legitimate and illegitimate sexual expression? What do we think? Is there a line to be drawn? For what / whose purposes?

Digital Safety

- What does it mean for us to be safe online, as individuals or groups? What are the threats?
- Who is responsible for upholding our safety?
- What is it we need to be more safe?
- How do we face the macho militarization of digital security?

Feminist Activism

- Is it hurting us, this reliance on the internet for our activism?
- What does it mean when every campaign needs a hashtag or a facebook page? Is it a Western/Northern push?
- With so many resources pushed towards it, have we affected the politics of social media?
- How can we critique it even as we recognize the value of it?

- What is the internet we need to facilitate new forms of feminist activism?

Freedom of Expression

- Where lie the tensions between FoE activists and feminists? Is there content that we believe should be censored?
- Is the answer to hate speech more speech?
- Does the internet self-regulate itself?
- How do we support feminist content online? And what kind of content is that?

Digital Constructions of Gender & Sexuality

- How has the internet changed social constructions of gender? Has it changed how femininity or masculinity are constructed?
- How has internet facilitated queer movements and allowed for queer expression? What has this activism contributed to? What do we want more of or less of?