

2017 –

The eQuality Project

Annual Report

– 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

The eQuality Project Annual Report 2017 – 2018

This report can be downloaded from: www.equalityproject.ca

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To help young people
create a networked
environment where
they can play, learn,
communicate, and
participate equally,
free from surveillance
and identity- based
harassment.

We are a seven-year partnership project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, developing new knowledge about young people's experiences of privacy and equality in networked spaces.

What's the Problem?

Given our focus on better understanding the online lives of all young people, intersectionality has always been a touchstone for our research because, as a theoretical concept, it reminds us that systems of oppression do not exist in isolation, and that each of us lives at an intersection of race, gender, socio-economic status, ability, etc. that shapes our experiences. By understanding the experiences of people at these intersections, we will be better able to advance social justice because we will be able to account for a multiplicity of contexts and undermine simplistic categorical identifiers that often trap individuals in invisible forms of oppression.

Intersectionality has been incorporated into a broad range of research fields ranging from education, ethnic studies, and feminist studies, to history, queer studies, and sociology. Its inclusion in social sciences methods, however, has been a controversial one. There is still no consensus as to how empirical research should incorporate intersectionality or how it should best be utilized to ensure our data reflects the complexity of the lives of the people it is intended to help. While we have no illusions of resolving this debate, the eQuality team developed a qualitative and mixed methods framework for the pursuit of social science research through an intersectional lens.

This framework was designed to provide a rich and layered window into the lived experiences of individuals and groups from a diverse range of

communities. Our goal was to improve the connection between intersectionality as a tool of inquiry and intersectionality as a social justice practice. In order to achieve this, the framework utilizes a combination of research methods in conjunction, namely: participatory action research; concept mapping; Q-sorting; and, deliberative dialogue methods.

Participatory action research (PAR) is the foundation of the framework because it allows researchers to seek out “disremembered subjects” from subordinated communities and integrate them into the research process from design through to implementation. This not only destabilizes the traditional relationships of power present in research, but enables members of often marginalized communities to articulate their own needs and perspectives.

The Deliberative Dialogue approach builds on this by creating the opportunity for deep discussion amongst community members. It typically focuses on case studies or lived examples of items of concern, and connects community members with experts so together they can help shape evidence-based responses to community problems. Our Youth Summit, planned to take place in 2020, will bring young people, experts and policymakers together for a deliberative dialogue exercise to collectively reimagine online conditions that will allow all young people to thrive.

WHAT'S NEW IN EQUALITY?

At the same time, empirical methods that seek to better understand populations can provide rich data to support policies and interventions that are more responsive to the needs of intersectional groups. Given the existing gap between young people's understandings of privacy and equality, and the understandings of policymakers, we are undertaking a concept mapping exercise to articulate how young people define online privacy. Typically, concept mapping involves asking a sample group of participants to sort several statements into categories *that make sense to them*, and then to rate each category according to its importance. When analyzed with other participants' responses, we can then map the commonalities that are shared by the population as a whole and by sub-populations within the whole (e.g. by gender). We will then run the

same data through a q-sort, which first identifies commonalities in the data and then looks to see which participants share that perspective. This will enable us to see who shares a perspective with whom without first imposing binary categorizations (like gender).

Although the concurrent use of these methods in social science research will not solve all of the issues surrounding the integration of intersectionality in social science research, the use of this framework, and this combination of methods, enable researchers to move closer to realizing intersectionality's key aspirations and resist the discriminatory categorization of disremembered subjects and communities.



RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

Creating new knowledge about networked technologies, online discrimination and identity-based conflict between young people online.

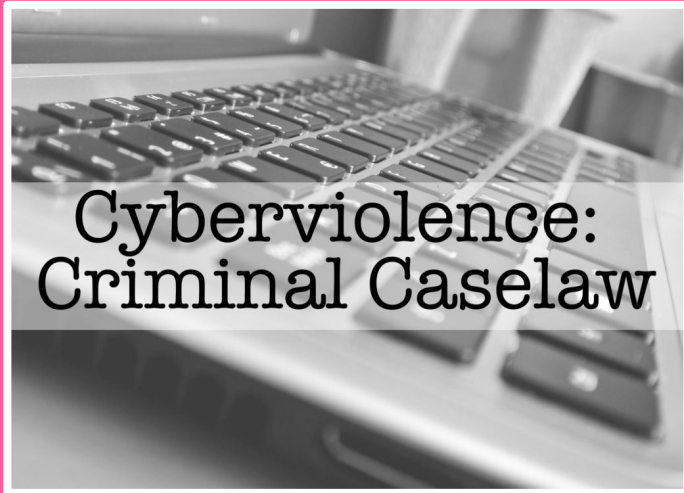
Global Kids Online:

As part of the *Global Kids Online* Project, The eQuality Project launched the *Canadian Kids Online Project* (CKU) in 2018 in collaboration with UNICEF Canada and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Ontario. We will conduct a survey with approximately 250 young people between the ages of 11 and 17 to better understand the online experiences of Canadian youth, as well as their knowledge of online privacy issues and how that knowledge affects their online interactions.

The eQuality Project, its predecessor The eGirls Project, and MediaSmart's Young Canadians in a Wired World Project have been mapping the experiences of Canadian youth since 2000. By bringing that knowledge into the Global Kids Online group, we will be able to put the lessons learned in Canada into dialogue with the experiences of children in other countries around the world. The goal is that this type of comparative research will help policymakers develop evidence-based policies and international standards that ensure that the online environment is a safe and positive space for children and youth everywhere.

The survey is comprised of two parts that examine the ways in which the online environment can amplify both risks and opportunities experienced by young internet users, and how youths' sensitivities to online privacy issues relate to those risks and opportunities that they experience. Results from the survey will be published in 2019.





Creating digital media policies that respond to young people's needs.

Cyberviolence: Criminal Case Law Module

This online module is designed to provide access to the ways in which Canadian criminal law is responding to technology-facilitated violence and harassment. The module is prompted by the growing public awareness of issues such as cyberharassment, cyberstalking, cyberviolence, and their related consequences.

This module provides an in-depth and organized overview of existing case law from across Canada, for both legal researchers as well as members of the general public. The module is structured to direct the user towards the information that would be most useful to them. For example, the criminal case law is organized into three categories: "I am an Interested Citizen," "I am a Legal Researcher," and "I'd Like to See All Content."

The "Interested Citizen" category is organized by behaviour – for example, Bullying and Cyberbullying, Excessive Control and Monitoring, Harassment, and Voyeurism. The goal is to provide individuals with behaviour-based case law summaries for those who may be victims of technology-facilitated violence.

The "Legal Researcher" section is designed to provide legal researchers with a comprehensive database of Canadian criminal case law. Divided by criminal charge, this section provides summaries of recent cases, as well as direct links to the full text judgments published on CanLii's website. In addition to the case summaries, users can also follow the "All Content" link to view the case law summaries of all cases included in the module.

Submission to The Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women:

This past April, eQuality's Jane Bailey appeared before the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women on her first official visit to Canada in order to assess the extent of the problem of violence against women and girls in Canada, as well as the measures being taken to stop it. The eQuality submission (co-authored by Jane Bailey, Valerie Steeves, and Suzanne Dunn) focused on the regulation of online violence and harassment against girls; detailed The eQuality Project's research relating to technology facilitated violence; highlighted Canadian legislative models and criminal jurisprudence; gave an overview of service provider responses; and emphasized the need for proactive community-based responses to online harassment.

“TFVAWG must be recognized as violence and discrimination within the meaning of international instruments aimed at ensuring women’s and girls’ full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms.”

ETHI Submission:

eQuality's Valerie Steeves and Jane Bailey were invited to make submissions to the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics (ETHI) concerning the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Their submissions highlighted the high level of concern that young people report with respect to reputational harm and privacy by drawing on the findings of our *Report on Decision-Making and Privacy: How Youth Make Choices About Reputational and Data Privacy Online* (with MediaSmarts) and our *Defamation in the Internet Age* report for the Law Commission of Ontario.

Reputational harm is considered by many young people to be the greatest danger associated with networked media. Despite the fact that they have developed strategies to mitigate these dangers, young people are calling for mechanisms that enable them to control access to and use of the data that can be harvested from their online interactions to better protect them from instances of reputational harm.

“These young people believe privacy policies ‘have been purposely written to obfuscate and confuse them, so they won’t know what’s happening, and so they will feel powerless.’”

OUTREACH AT A GLANCE

Creating and disseminating educational and outreach materials to help Canadian youth make the most of their digital media experience.

Youth Art Exchange at St. Stephen's Community House in Toronto:

In February 2017, The eQuality Project hosted an Art Exchange Workshop at St. Stephen's Community House. The workshop was led by eQuality's Valerie Steeves and Jane Bailey, with support from Chloe Georas (from the University of Puerto Rico Law School) and Andy Villanueva (an award-winning filmmaker and member of eQuality's Youth Advisory Committee). Eleven young women gathered for two days to discuss online surveillance and equality issues. After reviewing a series of Imagination Primers that highlighted the ways youth

artists have used online media to resist online harassment, surveillance, and racism, participants planned and executed art projects to promote a more just online environment.

We'll be hosting a similar workshop with young artists in San Juan, Puerto Rico in April, 2018. Reproductions of the art will be posted on our site and we will be creating a facilitator's guide so community groups, teachers and others can hold their own art workshops across the country.



**Youth, Art & Resistance:
Facilitating Workshops for Change**

with

Chloe Georas
Greenberg Visiting International Scholar & Associate Professor of Law, University of Puerto Rico

Jane Bailey
Full Professor, Faculty of Law - Common Law Section, University of Ottawa

Valerie Steeves
Full Professor, Department of Criminology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa

MARCH 2 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Fauteux Hall - FTX570 | Light lunch provided. | RSVP: HRREC@uOttawa.ca

OUTREACH AT A GLANCE

#7DAYMEDIAFAST
#DISCONNECTIONCHALLENGE
#CANYOUDOIT?

Université d'Ottawa | University of Ottawa

eQuality
ANNUAL LECTURE
CONFÉRENCE ANNUELLE

The #DisconnectionChallenge
Youth, Social Media and Privacy

Valerie Steeves
uOttawa

Valerie Michaelson
Queen's University

07.02.2018 | 11:30 > 13:00
Pavillon Fautoux Hall | Amphi. 302
57 Louis Pasteur | Ottawa ON | K1N 6N5

Déjeuner offert. Cet événement sera en anglais seulement.
Cet événement sera enregistré et des photos pourraient être prises.

Lunch included. This event will be in English only.
The event will be recorded, and photos may be taken.

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#DisconnectionChallenge in the News:

Since the launch of the #DisconnectionChallenge at Queen's University in August 2017, there has been tremendous media interest in the origins, methodology, and findings of the Project. Born out of a meeting between eQuality's Valerie Steeves and a group of eight teens working with Queen's University researcher Valerie Michaelson, the #DisconnectionChallenge was a youth-driven project designed to highlight the ways in which technology and media affected their sense of connection to themselves, to others, and to nature. After a week-long media fast, and upon discovering that their media use blurred the lines between their public and private lives and relationships, they became much more thoughtful and deliberate about the time they spent online, and how much information they shared. This discovery led them to challenge other youth to undertake their own media fast to see how disconnecting can have its upside.

Not only did numerous media outlets attend the launch event in Kingston – including CBC Radio Ottawa Morning; CBC News Ottawa; Global News; The Kingston Whig; The Queen's Gazette; and, the Toronto Star – but the #DisconnectionChallenge has also garnered national coverage via CBC Radio's Cross Country Check Up. In addition to the mainstream media coverage, The eQuality Project has received messages from Canadian teachers from across the country inquiring as to how they could run the #DisconnectionChallenge in their classrooms. Following several public lectures at the University of Ottawa and Queen's University, eQuality published a #DisconnectionChallenge lesson plan with MediaSmarts, which can be found on the eQuality and MediaSmarts websites.

EQUALITY BY THE
NUMBERS

8

Appearances
Before
Legislative &
Policy
Committees

37

Presentations
at National &
International
Conferences

Student

18

RAs

13

Publications

2,400+
Tweets

1

Appearance
Before The
Supreme
Court
of Canada

Participants in Art
Exchange Workshop
in Toronto

11

24

Project Partners
& Interested
Stakeholders

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DILLON BLACK - OCTEVAW

How/When did you become interested in working with gender and equality issues?

I came to anti violence & gender equality work as both a method of healing and belonging; as a queer, trans/non-binary person, who is also a survivor of violence, it's always been hard to see myself reflected in anything. For as long as I can remember I have seen violence, specifically sexual violence and gender-based violence hurting my communities. And, the more I became involved in this work, the more people would approach me and disclose their experiences of surviving gender-based violence. This was a revolutionary moment for me – I knew things had to change and I knew that I had to be part of that change.

How did you get involved with The eQuality Project?

I first became involved with The eQuality Project during my work with the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women where we partnered on a project to address emerging issues of technology facilitated violence. Without The eQuality Project we would not have been able to connect grassroots community with academia, policy makers, and especially young people in the meaningful ways that we did.

Where do you see the opportunities to work with young people in your field, and why is that important?

Centering young people in addressing and preventing gender-based violence & promoting gender equality is crucial. Young people, and especially young women, LGBTQ+ youth, racialized, indigenous and other marginalized youth, are at highest risk to experiencing violence. Without their voices and experiences at the forefront of this work, we wouldn't be doing justice to what's happening on the ground!

What do you think is working well in your area of work, and what needs to improve?

Oh gosh, there is so much work left to do in the fight for gender equality & ending gender-based violence! In the era of #MeToo, these conversations are especially important to have, and keep having! The grassroots feminist and anti-violence movements have been incredible at pushing conversations about these issues, but I am hoping that we are able to bring a more complex and nuanced analysis that considers intersectionality, power and re-thinking gender and sexuality to this work! Marginalized communities' voices are often missing and erased from the broader mainstream movement, and we need to do better at reflecting what's happening on the ground. #IBelieveSurvivors

What's one piece of advice that you would offer someone starting in your field?

This is what my mentors have always told me: "It's a marathon, and not a sprint!" So, let's make sure to hold each other up, and support each other in developing communities of care. We need to all be in it for the long haul of it!

What would you like to see as a long-term outcome of The eQuality Partnership?

A more conscious, intentional, and inclusive movement for gender equality & equity. Long lasting partnerships and solidarity movements thinking about and working on these issues.

Which groups/projects would you recommend for those interested in similar work?

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Take Back the Tech | Crash Override Network |
| Hollaback/HeartMob | Safe Hub Collective |
| Project Shift | Safety Net (NNDEV) |

Is there a particular quote that inspires you?

"Critically intervene in a way that challenges and changes." –bell hooks

We are a partnership of academic researchers, community organizations, educators, policy-makers, and civil society groups working with youth to identify evidence-based practices and policies that promote healthy relationships and respect for privacy and equality online.

We are working together to create new knowledge about young people's experiences and needs with respect to networked technologies. Our research is informed by participatory action methods that see young people as equal participants in the knowledge-creation process. We are also committed to using intersectional methods that explore how social location affects young peoples' sense of self and opportunities. We will use the new knowledge we develop to create innovative education, policy and public engagement initiatives (such as classroom modules, media production-based learning activities for youth, workshops, train the trainer programs, policy intervention toolkits, and an online repository of multi-media materials) to help parents, teachers, school administrators, communities and policymakers work with youth.

Our Researchers:

PROJECT CO-LEADERS:

Valerie Steeves

Jane Bailey

PROJECT CO- INVESTIGATORS:

Jacquelyn Burkell

Priscilla Regan

Rakhi Ruparelia

Leslie Regan Shade

PROJECT COLLABORATORS:

Carlisle Adams

Anne Cheung

Faye Mishna

Kathryn Montgomery

Shaheen Shariff

Karen Lousie Smith

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Robert Porter

Our Youth Advisory Committee

Dee Dooley

Tara MacDougall

Christine Moreau

Yami Msosa

Jackie Sarvini

Andy Villanueva

Our Partners:

The Alberta Teachers' Association

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity

Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic

Canadian Race Relations Foundation

Canadian Teachers' Federation

Canadian Women's Foundation

Centre for Law, Technology & Society

Egale Canada Human Rights Trust

George Mason University

Government of Alberta

Human Rights Research and Education Centre

MediaSmarts

Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres

Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women

Status of Women Canada

UNICEF Canada

The Vanier Institute of the Family

University of Ottawa

University of Toronto

University of Western Ontario

YWCA

Friends of eQuality:

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada

Our Post-Docs:

Ciara Bracken-Roche

Wahida Chowdhury

Hayley Crooks

Research Assistants:

Dillon Black

Diana Cave

Briana Day

Kathleen Dulong

Suzie Dunn

Grace Foran

Chandell Gosse

Lora Hamilton

Patricia Herrera

Bay Jaber

Amelia Jarvis

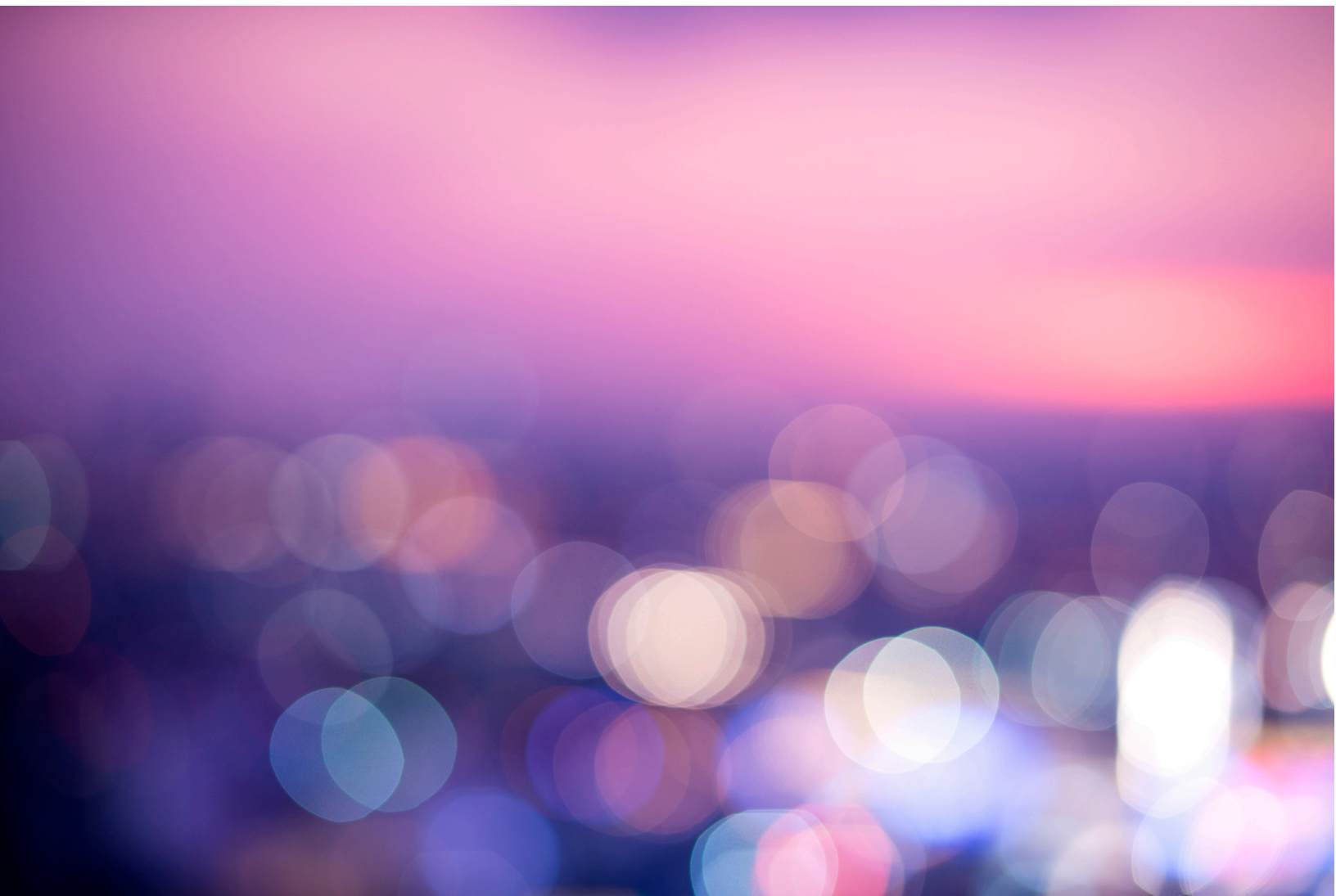
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