Whose **Knowledge** is Valued?

Epistemic Injustice in CSCW Applications

Presented by Leah Ajmani @ CSCW 24

Ajmani, et al. 2024 | ajman004@umn.edu

grouplens

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What is epistemic injustice?
Mansplaining

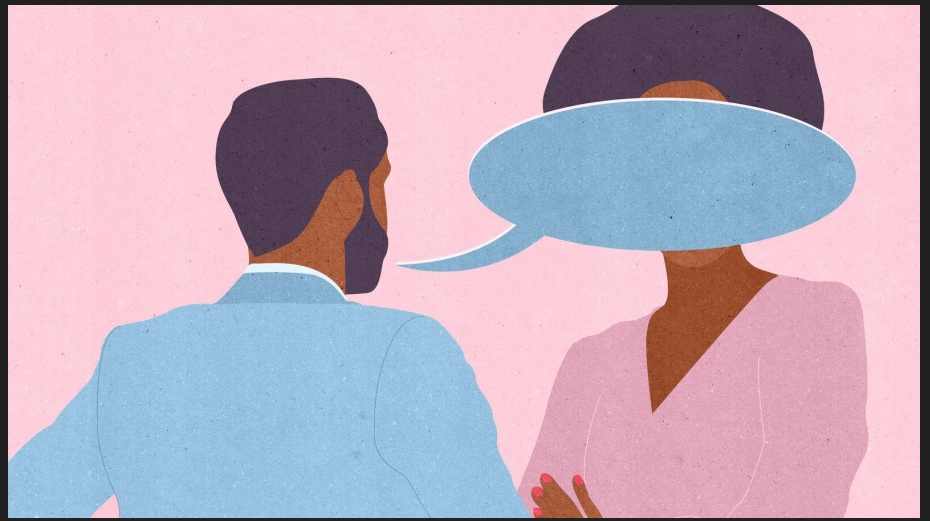


Photo: NYTimes

How Transfeminine TikTok Creators Navigate the Algorithmic Trap of Visibility Via Folk Theorization

MICHAEL ANN DEVITO, University of Colorado Boulder, USA



Values (Mis)alignment: Exploring Tensions Between Platform and LGBTQ+ Community Design Values

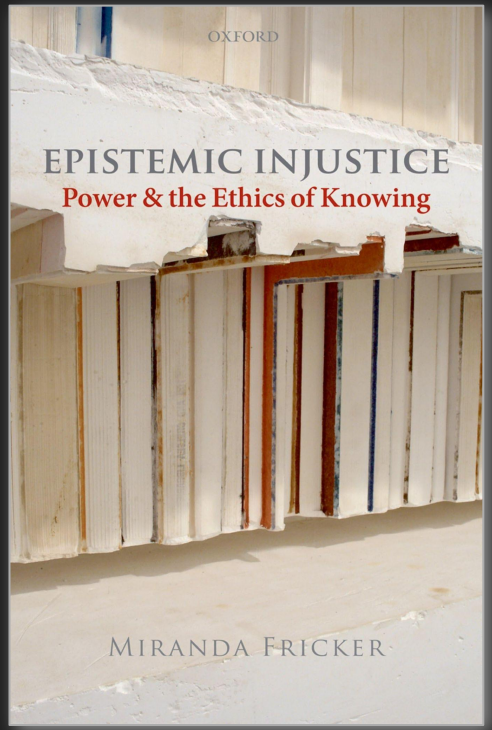
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What is epistemic injustice?

Systemic overmoderation of trans health care information online

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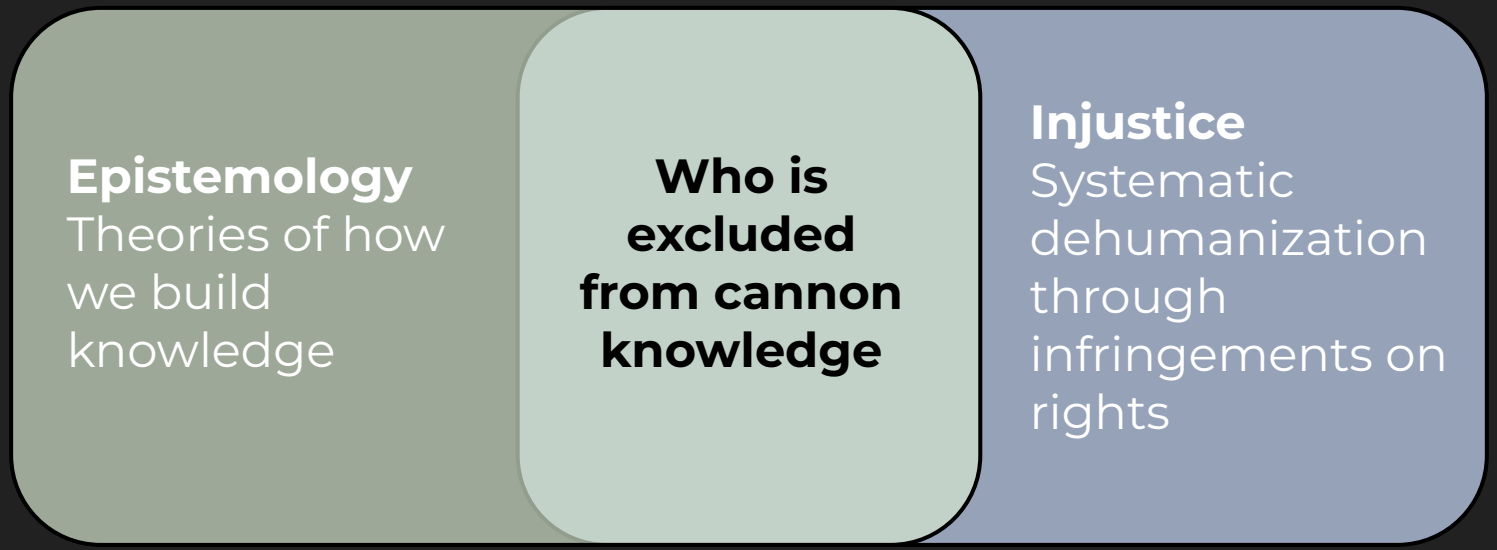
Epistemic Injustice



> The stripping of one's due right to be a knower or an expert

Epistemic Injustice

The stripping of one's due right to be a knower or an expert



What is epistemic injustice?

Women's testimonies of pain not being believed by healthcare providers

Systemic discounting of one's gender or sexual identity

Women figures consistently not being "notable enough" for Wikipedia articles

Omission and removal of indigenous oral histories from digital public archives

What is epistemic injustice?



How do CSCW communities risk propagating **epistemic injustice?**

Collaborative Autoethnography (n = 14) at **CSCW 23**



Build Collaborative Rapport

Primer activity on epistemic injustice



Collect AE Materials

Testimonies of observed or experienced epistemic injustice



Collaborative Thematic Analysis

Shared hybrid analysis of testimonies

Where does epistemic injustice happen?

- Trans Health information online
- PhD Application Information online
- r/AskHistorians
- Facebook groups
- TikTok
- r/Bisexual
- Peer Review Process
- Policing
- Environmental Activism online
- LLMs
- Search Engines
- Recommendation Systems
- Wikipedia
- Social Media Platforms

Testimonies of Epistemic Injustice

1. Testimonial Injustice in Online Trans Health Information
Michael Ann Devito

2. Researching Epistemic Injustice in a Bisexual Online Community
Jordan Taylor

3. Fighting Epistemic Injustice: Indigenous Ways of Knowing on r/AskHistorians
Sarah Gilbert & Kyle Pittman

TENSIONS OF EPISTEMIC INJUSTICE

Tensions of Epistemic Injustice

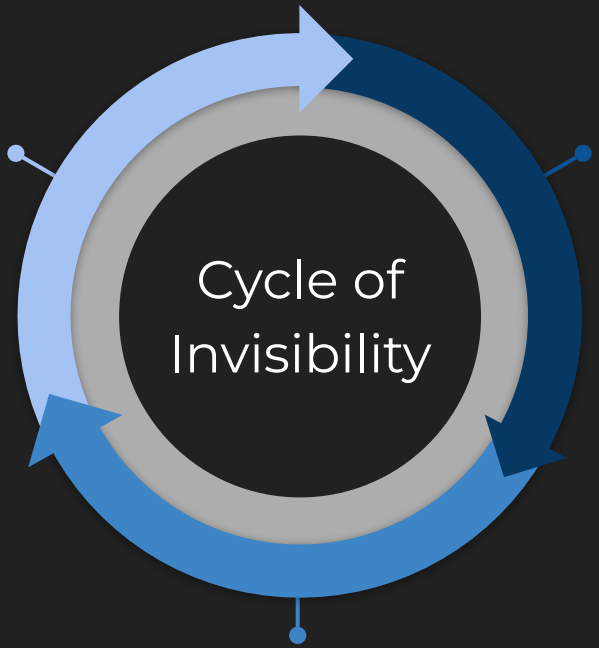
Invisibility

Expertise

Anti-Agentic Discourse

A lack of visibility is both a **cause** and an **effect** of epistemic injustice

1. Certain voices implicitly excluded from knowledge cannon



2. Status quo codified through platform policy

3. Voices excluded because they do not meet platform policy

Wikipedia Example

“Whether a source is reliable is a matter of consensus within the editing community...it relies on familiarity with sources. This means that sources that are unknown to the core community can be rejected as non-reliable."

CALLS TO ACTION

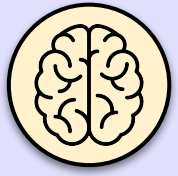
Calls to Action for CSCW Researchers



Increased Testimonial Methods at CSCW



Bolstering Communities Through Research



Answering Epistemic Questions

What does an epistemically just CSCW look like?

Thank you!

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Pdf of paper at
leahajmani.com
or
https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3687062

What does an epistemically just CSCW look like?

- Increased testimonial methods
- Bolstering communities through research
- Answering epistemic questions