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ALGORITHMIC WARFARE
TO DISCUSS:

How Algos Rule
Who is affected
Dangers
Micro & macro Effects
Money as Tech
Sex work as a Frontline
Contact Surfaces & Speech
Future
**ALGORITHMS**

*UNAMBIGUOUS* SPECIFICATIONS

- Automates data processing
- well-defined steps --> output
- outputs constrained by rules
- rules carry bias inherently

Where? Everywhere. Algos govern everything from how money moves on wallstreet to which tweets you see on your timeline.
HOW ALGOS RULE

AUTOMATED REASONING

They do not supercede human input, they depend on it.

They enact the biases of their creators.

Define borders of who/what is acceptable, tolerated, supported.
“People and computers will work symbiotically to increase the ability of weapon systems to detect objects.”
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MARINE CORPS COL. DREW CUCKOR.
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MARINE CORPS COL. DREW CUKOR, CHIEF OF THE ALGORITHMIC WARFARE CROSS-FUNCTION TEAM IN THE INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE-WARFIGHTER SUPPORT IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE
Dangers

- Structurally Enshrine Existing Bias
  - Define who is allowed to exist publicly and truthfully.
  - Control or otherwise limit behavior.

- Inconsistent Standards Remain.
  - Enforcement/appeal varies
  - "Context qualifies" Influencers v. Whores

- Exclusion from Platforms = Exclusion Beyond
  - Lists created across platforms
  - Tracking by SSN, Device IDs, cohort,

  Straight up used for evil

  Violence is intentional, not a byproduct.
WHO IS ALLOWED TO EXIST?

THOSE WHO WILL NOT OR CANNOT CONFORM TO THE TERMS AND TONE OF PLATFORMS ARE ERASED.
WHO GETS HIT?

Disproportionately, already marginalized populations. Women, queer people, PoC, sex workers, people @ these intersections.

People who "don't deserve" money.
**MICRO / INDIVIDUAL**

- Immediate loss of income, other forms of security.
- Sustained distribution suppression.
- Continued (Permanent) denial of financial services.
- Loss of opportunity for future business development.*
- Death??

*(Ask me how I know.)*

**MACRO / NETWORK**

- Network hedging: Organization is inhibited. This is intentional.
- Two-front war: Target populations are kept from both community and resources.
- Forced adoption of exploitative technologies.
PRIVATE INFRASTRUCTURE:
Private companies are creating digital financial infrastructure.

AUTOMATED EXCLUSION:
Tech has unprecedented control over who has access to financial systems, and therefore money.

CENTRALIZED, PROPRIETARY TOLL-GATING:
Access becomes more expensive on margins. It's expensive to be poor.
This isn’t even about sex work. It is about whether or not a centralized, privately owned technology company has the right to decide whether you are “allowed” to transact money for anything that you do or make.
SEX WORKERS @ THE FRONTLINES.

Porn built the internet, one.
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Sex workers have been at the forefront of emergent technology for communications, media distribution, and p2p finance, and content monetization.

Sex workers frequently develop platforms to profitability before being written out of the ToS and discarded.

People leading web development are summarily banned from using mechanisms they developed.

Marginalization increases.
"JUST BUILD YOUR OWN!"

FIRST OF ALL, NO.
We already have jobs. We are trying to do them.

PARALLEL MACHINES.
- Replicating functions but not networks does not create identical functionality. e.g. "switter".
- Technological survival rate low. Creates dichotomy of official vs. unofficial technology therefore modes of comms and transaction.
- Exacerbates isolation.
WHAT'S COMING IS ALREADY ON THE WAY.
TRAJECTORY:

SEX WORKERS ARE A TEST POPULATION.

Enforcement of laws governing speech requires surveillance of speech.

Will you tolerate technofascism as long as it's only affecting people you may not like very much?

Protect the front lines.
PS. SEX WORKERS ARE PEOPLE.

This should go without saying but we are not just (e.g.) producers of pornography. Relegating us to "adult" technology silos is not only destructive to our livelihood but our humanity beyond our work.
The future of speech is @ stake.

Do you want to live lies or what?

“Our freedom of speech is freedom or death.

We got to fight the powers that be.”

“Fight the Power” Public Enemy (Painting by Piet Mondrian, “Tableau I, photo by @AmyVernon)
REMEMBER: WHORES TOLD YOU.

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