

Researching gender in the history of the Internet and the Web

An Open Proposal for an unconventional session (roundtable) for the Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT 2023) Long Beach, Calif., October 25-29, 2023

Janet Abbate (Virginia Tech), Autumn Edwards (Western Michigan University), Leopoldina Fortunati (University of Udine), as co-editors of a special issue (in progress) of the academic journal *Internet Histories* on the topic of Gender and Internet/Web History, and Valérie Schafer (University of Luxembourg), as a co-editor of the journal, would like to further investigate the many sources, approaches, methods related to this theme. This roundtable could be part of the final issue, shedding light on the shadows and the shaping of history.

The special issue investigates how histories that integrate gender and the Internet/Web help us comprehend the sociological, cultural, and political meaning and dimensions of this relationship. It explores this question through a diachronic approach that includes global, transnational, national, regional, and local histories.

The roundtable aims to complement this approach by discussing methods, sources, corpora, as well as challenges in the following areas:

- Discussing the meaning of the Internet for women and the historical transformations of the relationship between women and the Internet
- Approaching the construction of gender, including its intersectionality with race, on the Internet; feminism on the web, gender activism, and social movements; masculine cultures and the Internet/Web, etc.
- Analyzing diachronically participation of women online, including structural/cultural obstacles and varying national patterns
- Filling gaps in the knowledge of women's expertise as Internet builders, managers, hackers, influencers, bloggers, content moderators, coders, etc.
- Finding relevant sources to better grasp gender and imaginaries of the Internet
- Mapping and discussing innovative methods to retrace gendered controversies and anti-woman movements online (e.g., trolling, gamergate, #metoo, etc.)
- Taking full advantage of oral histories
- Understanding how the Internet has exploited relational/affective labor
- Working on silences and invisibility
- Communicating on these findings and disseminating them beyond audiences that are already interested and convinced.

Procedure: Colleagues who are interested in participating in the roundtable are invited to prepare a short abstract and CV, which should include their current contact information. Please indicate the topics you are particularly interested in addressing and enlightening and the reasons for your interest and experience in these areas. Junior scholars with work in progress are especially encouraged to participate. Please submit it to valerie.schafer@uni.lu until March, 26, 2023.