

Kill yourself. Feminists are a waste of air.

Shut the fuck up bitch I'm the lawyer of this community.

Bitch were not talking about that so I hope you get fucking raped u fucking whore

Kill yourself oh wait sorry did I hurt your tites with my keyboard

How about you get cancer

Fuck you bitch

Fuck you mother fucker slut bitch female ass hole slut fuck off show me your tites

Kill yourself you piece of garbage. You shouldn't be able to breathe. Such a waste of oxygen.

Most women are ugly as fuck without makeup i'm glad they have to wear it

Fucking bitch you don't deserve rights feminist need to go to jail for existing

All of those attacks were addressed to the feminist Anita Sarkeesian been harassed on a daily basis by irate gamers angry at her critiques of sexism in video games.

«If Hilary Clinton can't satisfy her husband what makes her think she can satisfy America?»

Oh, and that last one comes from Donald Trump on Twitter.

Surprising? Not really.

PAUSE

Well, hello everyone. My name is Lea. I'm a 24 year old French Canadian from Montreal and I'm a feminist. I'm a PHD student at the Laval University in political science in Quebec. My thesis analyses cyberviolence against women. I'm at the beginning of my project. So, for the moment, my speech intended to stimulate feedback and is not meant to be exhaustive. Today, this is not merely a theoretical or academical conference, but more a testimony. In this context, my presentation aims to introduce the question of cybersexism in a political and

canadian perspective and giving to focus solely on the mobilisation against Roosh V in Montreal that happened in July 2015.

Before beginning my presentation, I would like to tell you a little about part of my story.

I embrace the label of feminist since the age of 14. I didn't understand exactly why I was a feminist. But I knew. Then, I became an adult and I realized how things were unfair for women. I began to have a rational understanding of the movement. I became more feminist when, at the age of 17, I've been sexually harassed by my boss in a civil society organisation. I became more feminist again when I understood what was domestic violence. When I experienced domestic violence.

I became more feminist when I heard anti-feminist say to feminist friend of mind: «You are a an angry, sex-hating, man-hating victim». I became more feminist when I learned around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives. By far the most common perpetrators of

sexual violence against girls are current or former husbands, partners or boyfriends [7]. I became more and more feminist when I realize friends of mine, women and men, had sexist comments.

I was so naive.

Today, I'm a just a woman we try to make sense of the world we live in. If I'm here to talk to you today, it's also because I experimented myself cyberviolence. Last year, I presented a documentary about the beauty obsession in our society called Beauté Fatale. I received sexist insults and death threats. I've been threatened with rape, being subjected to sexual attacks. I've received tons of insults attacking my sexuality and my body. This made a real public debate. I gave a lot of interviews about my movie and I became visible. Of course, I've been mansplained by people who told to file a complaint to police. When I met the policemen, he laughed at me. I realized there was something wrong about that problem. I realized I was not the only one to experience cyberviolence. Why am I talking to you about

that all of these experiences?

Patricia Hill Collins, well known feminist, wrote *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*, originally published in 1990. She introduced with Kimberly Crenshaw the idea that oppressions of race, class, gender, sexuality and nation are intersecting, mutually constructing systems of power. Collins utilizes the term « intersectionality, » to refer to this simultaneous overlapping of multiple forms of oppression. She also theorized the personal experience in her epistemology. It's impossible to be absolutely neutral about the subject we study. As a student, I'm completely not objective about the subject I study. All of these experiences determine the nature of my reflexion. And moreover, should I say I'm part of the privileged white women of Canada. It's important, as Patricia Hill Collins and other feminist like Chandra Mohanty advance, to recognize our social position. Well,

Patricia Hill Collins explores also the idea of safe space. In fact, great thing with feminism is the existence of safe space to gather with and learn from their peers. A safe space in which to

express ideas openly and authentically without fear encourages people to contribute. In educational institutions, safe-space (or safe space), safer-space, and positive space are terms used to indicate that a teacher, educational institution or student body do not tolerate perceived anti-LGBT violence, harassment, hate speech or disagreement, but rather are open and accepting to opinions aligned to their own, thereby creating a safe place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and all students.

On Facebook, I gather with other feminists who had experienced cyberviolence. We initiated a public letter published in a national newspaper: Misogynie 2.0 who was signed by 48 feminists from all horizons. Women of color, queer women and transgender women had signed that letter that alleged increasing cyberviolence against women.

We initiated a public debate about that topic.

Finally, we were right. Last October, UN organization published an important report about Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls.

This report, released by the United Nations Broadband Commission, reveals that almost three quarters of women online have been exposed to some form of cyber violence, and urges governments and industry to work harder and more effectively together to better protect the growing number of women and girls who are victims of online threats and harassment.

Millions of women and girls around the world are subjected to deliberate violence because of their gender. Violence against women and girls knows no boundaries, cutting across borders, race, culture and income groups, profoundly harming victims, people around them, and society as a whole.

The growing reach of the Internet, the rapid spread of mobile information and communications technologies (ICTs) and the wide diffusion of social media have presented new opportunities and enabled various efforts to address VAWG.² However, they are also being used as tools to inflict harm on women and girls. Cyber-VAWG is emerging as a global problem with serious implications for societies and economies around the world. The statistics pose

risks to the peace and prosperity for all enshrined.

Cyber VAWG could significantly increase this staggering number, as reports suggest that 73% of women have already been exposed to or have experienced some form of online violence in what must still be considered a relatively new and growing technology.

But, what is cybervawg. According to the VAW learning network, there are six broad categories that encompass forms of cyber VAWG.⁵

1.Hacking: the use of technology to gain illegal or unauthorized access to systems or resources for the purpose of acquiring personal information, altering or modifying information, or slandering and denigrating the victim and/or VAWG organizations. e.g., violation of passwords and controlling computer functions, such as freezing the computer or logging off the user.

2.Impersonation: the use of technology to

assume the identity of the victim or someone else in order to access private information, embarrass or shame the victim, contact the victim, or create fraudulent identity documents; e.g., sending offensive emails from victim's email account; calling victim from unknown number to avoid call being blocked

- 3. Surveillance/Tracking:** the use of technology to stalk and monitor a victim's activities and behaviours either in real-time or historically; eg. GPS tracking via mobile phone; tracking keystrokes to recreate victim/survivor's activities on computer
- 4. Harassment/Spamming:** the use of technology to continuously contact, annoy, threaten, and/or scare the victim. This is ongoing behaviour and not one isolated incident; e.g., persistent mobile calls/ texts; filling up voicemail with messages so no one else can leave a message
- 5. Recruitment:** use of technology to lure potential victims into violent situations; e.g.,
- 6. Malicious Distribution:** use of technology to manipulate and distribute defamatory and illegal materials related to the victim and/or

VAWG organizations; e.g., threatening to or leaking intimate photos/video; using technology as a propaganda tool to promote violence against women.

In addition, the proliferation of online violence means cyber VAWG now has its own set of terminology; ‘revenge porn’⁵¹ consists of an individual posting either intimate photographs or intimate videos of another individual online with the aim of publicly shaming and humiliating that person, and even inflicting real damage on the target’s ‘real-world’ life (such as getting them fired from their job). This is also referred to as non-consensual pornography. One aspect of ‘sexting’ is the posting of naked pictures and sending them usually via text messaging. BluettBoyd notes that “there is a gendered expectation for girls to provide nude images that draws on already existing social norms and scripts about heterosexuality, male entitlement and female attractiveness.” Girls’ photos also tend to travel further than the intended recipient and girls experience more social consequences for sexting.

Amanda Michelle Todd (November 27, 1996 – October 10, 2012)^{[4][5]} killed herself at the age of 15 at her home in [Port Coquitlam](#), British Columbia, Canada. Prior to her death, Todd had posted a video on [YouTube](#) in which she used a series of flash cards to tell her experience of being blackmailed into exposing her breasts via webcam,^[3] and of being bullied and physically assaulted. The video went [viral](#) after her death,^[6] resulting in international media attention. The video has had more than 17 million views as of April 2014.^[3] The [Royal Canadian Mounted Police](#) and British Columbia Coroners Service launched investigations into the suicide.

In response to the death, [Christy Clark](#), the [Premier of British Columbia](#), made an online statement of condolence and suggested a national discussion on criminalizing [cyberbullying](#).^{[7][8]} Also, a motion was introduced in the Canadian House of Commons to propose a study of the scope of bullying in Canada, and for more funding and support for anti-bullying organizations. Todd's mother Carol established the Amanda Todd Trust, receiving donations to support anti-

bullying awareness education and programs for young people with mental health problems.

So, there's so many thing to say about that subject, but let's take a really clear case of the limitation of the legislation in Canada about limiting freedom of speech within that context.

So, now, let's talk about Roosh V. Valizadeh is an American author, blogger and speaker who "advises" men on the best methods to convince a woman to have sex with them.

Valizadeh, known online as Roosh V, is a men's rights activist who received international attention when his blog published an article saying women with eating disorders are attractive because they're more "delicate."

He's made controversial remarks, including that all public rape allegations are false and that non-consensual sex in a home shouldn't count as rape.

His goal is to paint a picture of someone who is vulnerable and might be an easier target. He's basically suggesting that if a woman consciously takes a decision to walk into a private space with a man, she would be knowingly putting herself in a situation where she could be raped.

He's written prolifically on seducing women, including a book series where he reviews the sex appeal of women based on country, as a sort of Lonely Planet guide for sex tourism.

In fact, Roosh V is a dangerous guy who has done hate speech.

In Montreal, there was a petition started online suggested Roosh V. was coming to Canada specifically for the purposes of violating section 319 of the Canadian Criminal Code, which clearly prohibits gathering and organizing for the purposes of inciting hatred of an identifiable group. The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has identified both Roosh and his website as hate-based, and the hateful misogynistic views that he is coming to Canada to disseminate are likely to breach public peace.

From advocating for the decriminalization of rape to imploring men to sexually abuse women with mental illness to straight up dehumanizing women as an entire group, 'The Return of Kings' is part of the 'Manosphere', a misogynist hate-scene that has been developing a growing presence on the web. Misogynists from all over the world are attracted to Roosh and his website not only because it, like all hate groups, provides an easy scapegoat to blame all of their problems on, but because it also promises to provide them with an easy guide to sexually abusing women. The most dangerous ideas that RooshV propagates are about what to do with women in the real world: how to treat them, why and how they owe men sex, how to best take full advantage of their fundamental inhumanity.

More than 6000 people signed that petition. Our Mayor, Denis Coderre addressed the issue during an executive committee meeting on Wednesday morning and again with reporters after the meeting.

“There’s no room for homophobic hatred and people who are pro rape.”

At the end, did Roosh V come ? Yes. He came and in perfect legality. Why ?

Hate speech laws in Canada include provisions in the [Criminal Code of Canada](#), provisions in the Human Rights Act and in other federal legislation, and statutory provisions in each of Canada's ten provinces and three territories.

The Criminal Code prohibits "hate propaganda." The [Canadian Human Rights Act](#) prohibits discrimination on various grounds. Legislation in the provinces and territories prohibits discrimination on the same grounds as Canada's Human Rights Act in matters of provincial or territorial concern such as employment and accommodation.

Public incitement of hatred

- **319 (1)** Every one who, by communicating statements in any public place, incites hatred against any identifiable group where such incitement is likely to lead to a breach of the peace is guilty of

- **(a)** an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years; or
 - **(b)** an offence punishable on summary conviction.
- **Marginal note: Wilful promotion of hatred**
- (2)** Every one who, by communicating statements, other than in private conversation, wilfully promotes hatred against any identifiable group is guilty of
- **(a)** an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years; or
 - **(b)** an offence punishable on summary conviction.

But, even if the law adapt to societal change, needless to say, the culture has not chagen.

It is therefore in the victim's own interest to file such a complaint as soon as possible. It's not always that easy. 80% of vicitms are not speaking out because of fear and powerlessness. We can understand that feeling.

Well, for all of these reasons, it became difficult to stop Roosh V to come. In the meantime, he continue to make hate sexist speech in total impunity. In fact, Roosh V had hate speech, which is proscribed by Canadian Law, but in cyberspace. And who legislates the cyberspace ? That's another question. There are legal uncertainties about that subject.

The [Constitution of Canada](#) incorporates the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#).^[1] [Section 2](#) of the Charter grants to everyone, among other things, freedom of conscience and religion, and freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media. [Section 1](#) restricts the granted freedoms by making them subject "only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society."^[2]

But, in the section 10 of the [Quebec](#) Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms^[36] prohibits discrimination based on race, colour, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, civil status, age except as provided by law.

Criminal harassment

- **264 (1)** No person shall, without lawful authority and knowing that another person is harassed or recklessly as to whether the other person is harassed, engage in conduct referred to in subsection (2) that causes that other person reasonably, in all the circumstances, to fear for their safety or the safety of anyone known to them.
- **Marginal note: Prohibited conduct**
 - (2)** The conduct mentioned in subsection (1) consists of
 - **(a)** repeatedly following from place to place the other person or anyone known to them;
 - **(b)** repeatedly communicating with, either directly or indirectly, the other person or anyone known to them;

- **(c)** besetting or watching the dwelling-house, or place where the other person, or anyone known to them, resides, works, carries on business or happens to be; or
- **(d)** engaging in threatening conduct directed at the other person or any member of their family.

The values surrounding freedom of expression - including acceptance of diversity and encouraging participation of all individuals in a democratic society - are in fact precluded rather than promoted by allowing the propagation of messages suggesting that certain groups are inherently inferior, are not welcome in our communities, or indeed should not exist.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion,

Solutions can be found in innovative ICT technologies, the media and gaming industry, content creators and disseminators, users of the Internet, policy makers, and the regulators in the absence of 'the industry' able and/or willing to self-regulate.

Changing social attitudes and norms is the first step to shifting the way online abuse is understood as a serious challenge. Violence is not new, but cyber violence is, and the public needs to recognize this and address it as a priority issue. Sensitization to cyber VAWG must include educating the next generation of ICT users, both boys and girls, through their parents, teachers and wider communities, as well as police authorities and the justice systems. The second imperative is to put in place and implement safeguards to secure safe online spaces.

Free speech is a fundamental right, and its preservation requires vigilance by everyone. Free speech online requires the vigilance particularly of those who use the Internet.

But, we want to assure to give empowerment, we have to change the world wide web so that it become safer for girls. We didn't succeed to obtain Gender equality on web. That's a problem.

All together, we should urge states and Facebook to question themselves seriously about a global and individual issue. Because the farweb is not a safe space.