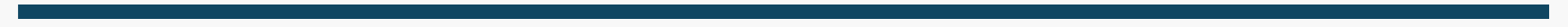




"Riccardo Massa" Department of  
Human Sciences for Education



Monica Facciocchi & Lucinda Ugarte

# *Safe Zones and Harmful Tones*

**Tech-Mediated Paths of Resistance  
and Reproduction of Violence**

19 November, 2024



# *Our research*

"Riccardo Massa" Department of  
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Online places of public  
sharing  
as an Agorà or a Ring  
for marginalized issues



**Lucinda Ugarte**  
LGBTQI+ Migrants and  
Digital Media

**Monica Facciocchi**  
Child-to-Parent Violence and  
Digital Narratives

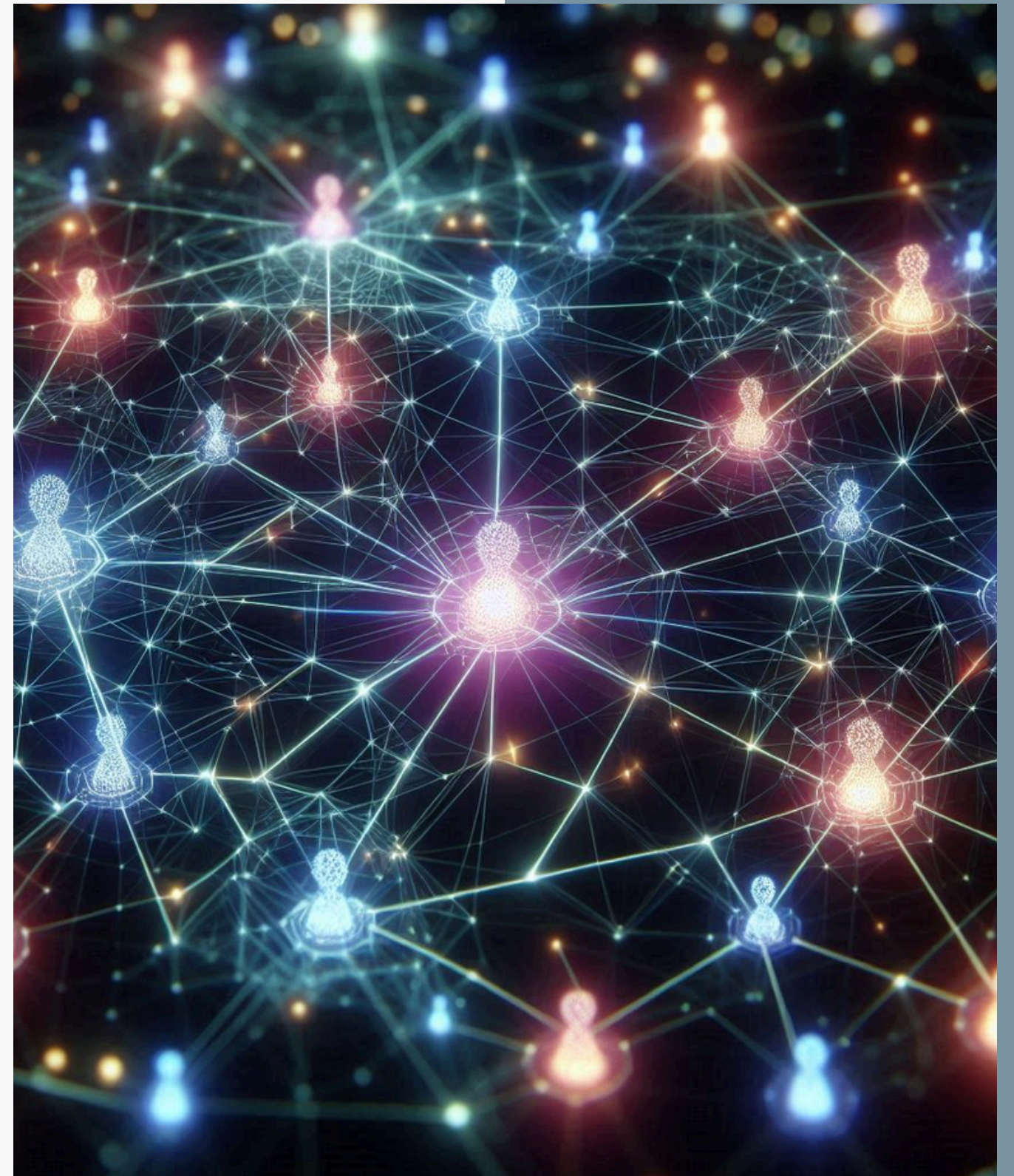




# *The Role of Digital Spaces in Vulnerable Situations*

## **Current scenario:**

Digital technologies have recently revolutionized communication and support access, especially for vulnerable groups offering safe, accessible platforms to fight isolation in stigmatized situations (Unicef, 2021) but they can also become environments of the reproduction of violence against these groups (Barter&Koulu, 2021).



# Quora

Questions Or Answer



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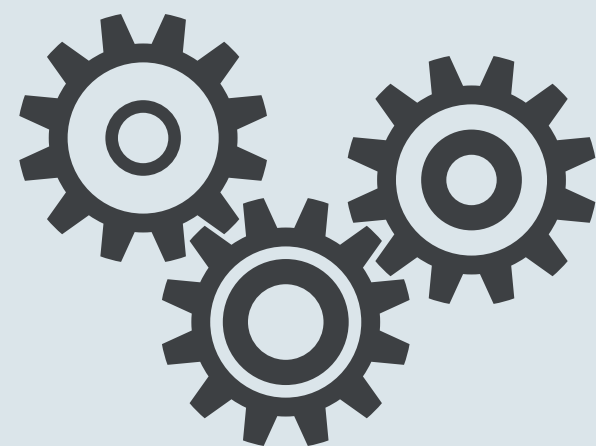
Quora is a forum platform where users can post questions and answers on any topic

Quora offers a public space where parents share experiences and seek advice on child-to-parent violence, yet it is often filled with misleading, harmful, or judgmental advice

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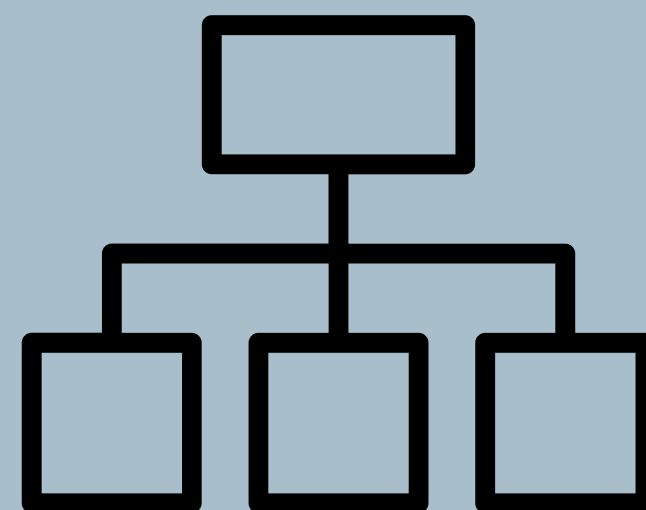


# The Possible Harms of the Digital Platforms



## Secondary victimization

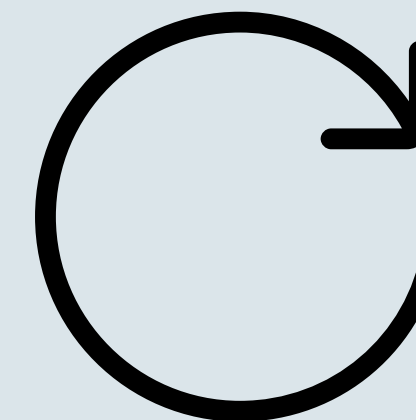
Some platforms may subject people to judgment, blame, or stigmatization, particularly when responses are unmoderated or come from individuals who lack expertise



## Structural violence

(Galtung, 1969; Farmer, 2006)

Form of invisible violence linked to specific representations of the role of specific 'types' of subjects within a shared moral economy



## Reproduction of the cycle of violence

Aggravation of guilt, emotional manipulation, low self-esteem and isolation that reinforce the cycle

**Mio figlio di 17anni non parla con nessuno in famiglia, passa la notte fuori e il giorno a dormire/al cellulare. Se ti avvicini per parlare, ti alza le mani. Non possiamo portarlo nemmeno dallo psicologo in quanto si rifiuta di uscire. Che fare?**

3 "I think you should get help from a specialist to understand what is wrong with you two, I mean you two parents. That boy needs to be loved!"

2 "Take away his mobile phone first. take away all his clothes except two ugly ones, confiscate his means of transport if he has it. take away his house keys and don't give him any money. as soon as he raises his hands, call the police"

1 "Excuse me for saying so, but as parents you don't have any balls ??? You are the adults, the house is yours, the responsibility is yours and you are his parents and not the other way around. If that was my brother my parents would have made him a Tibetan priest other than these rebel hormonal tantrums. He probably has mental problems, he needs a psychiatrist. I would forcibly take him to the psychiatrist, raise my hands if necessary. If you don't take him by force he will never go"

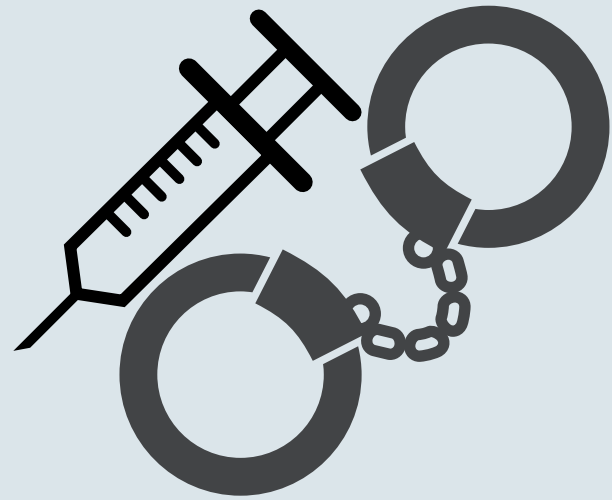
4

"There is always a trouser belt on the side of the buckle that has been used a little, which might be useful in case"

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# Harmful tones as...



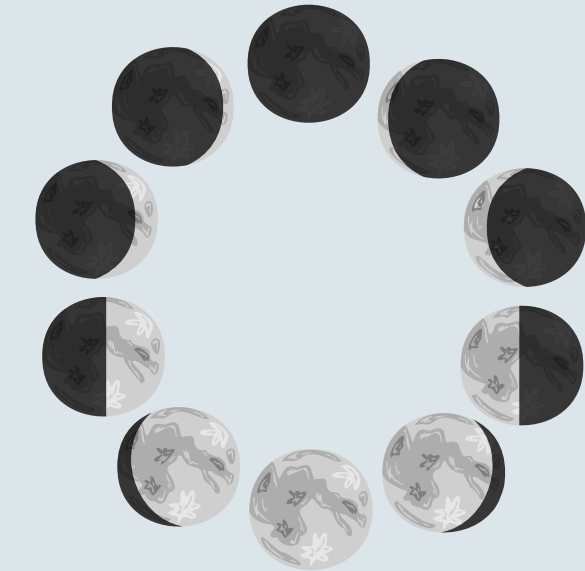
**“better sedated and  
zombified”**

Extreme and unformed advice



**“you are reaping the  
benefits of how you  
raised she”**

Parents are frequently criticized or  
blamed



**“they call it the  
tsunami age”**

Dismiss or normalize abusive  
behavior as part of  
adolescence

# A digital safe place for parents



## Features:

- Anonymous support
- Expert advice
- Tailored resources
- Real-time interaction

## Potential Benefits:

- Openness and dialogue
- Empowerment
- Prevention





*...and also the power of social media as  
informal education hubs...*



# *Digital Spaces for Intersecting and Marginalized Populations*



## **What is intersectionality?**

Multiple intersecting identities for one individual. For example, sexual orientation and race, culture, socio-economic status, religion.

## **Role of intersectionality in marginalization**

Having at least 2 intersecting marginalized identity factors is linked to increased minority stress (Rosati 2021).

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## **Intersecting identities with current project:**

Lgbtqi+ and immigration

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# History:

Print advertisements

- 
- 
- 

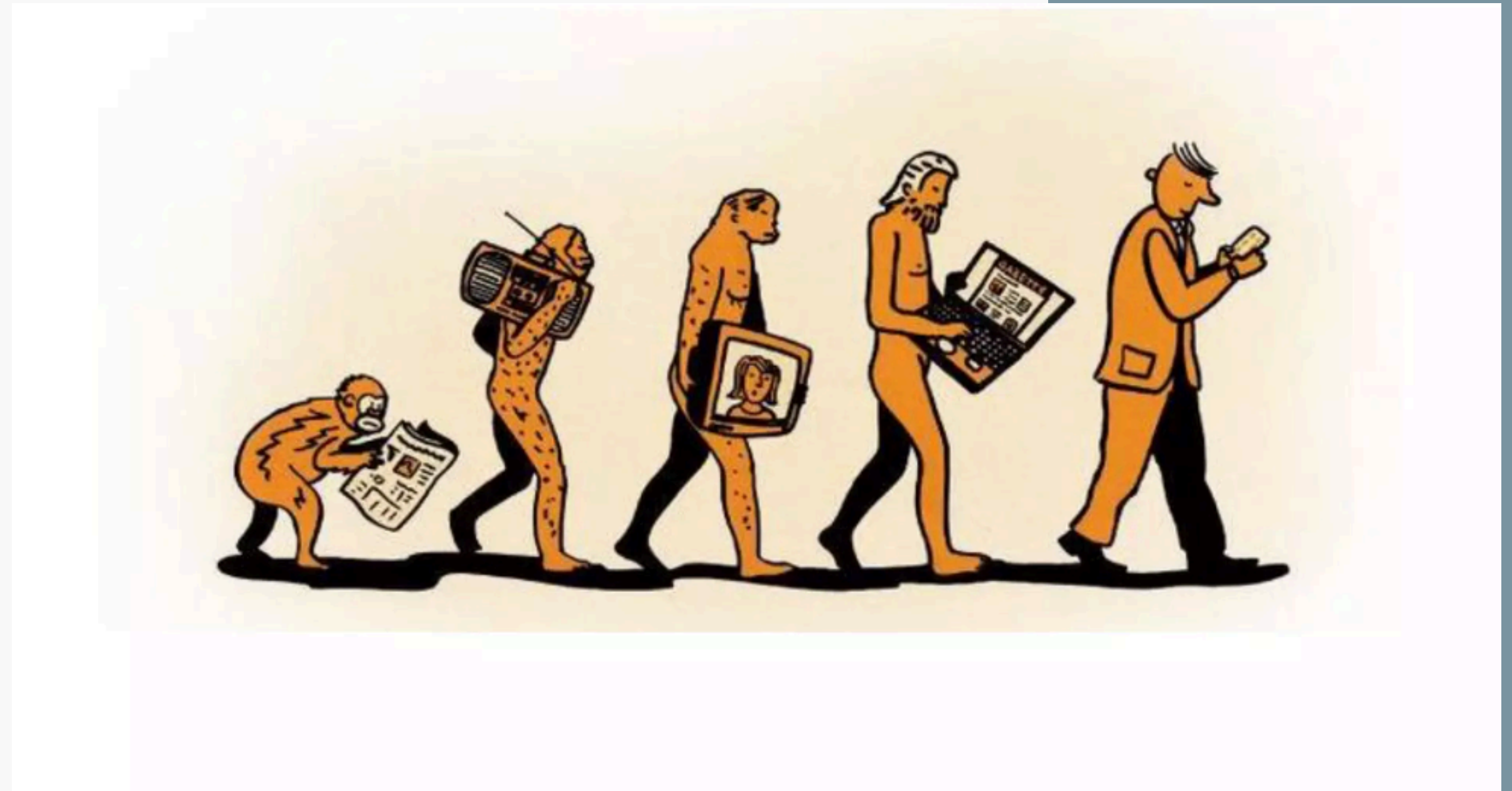
Messenger platforms

- 
- 
- 

Smart phones

- 
- 
- 

Covid-19



# *Where the digital space meets lgbtqi+ migration*



## Pre-migration



Whether international or internal, forced or voluntary, online networks foster transnational flows of ideas and information, which can enable international travel (Shield).

Digital spaces such as Facebook, YouTube, and WhatsApp have been used to prepare individuals to immigrate to a host country.



YouTube provided videos with information about the journey from CoO to host country.

Facebook connects individuals pre-immigration to groups and individuals in host countries for practical information regarding laws, policies, resources to decide where to go.

WhatsApp and Messenger has connected online group members abroad and locally, as well as with smugglers.



# *Where the digital space meets **lgbtqi+** migration*

In transit



Digital platforms, especially WhatsApp is the main way to facilitate contact with smugglers, other migrants and allies who help during transit.





# *Where the digital space meets lgbtqi+ migration*

## Host country arrival



Using digital media to pass hope on to the people who experience the same kind of sexual oppression raises awareness by making the migratory narrative known, thereby motivating others that are rejected by their families, communities, and many others.

From the **WhatsApp** group to **Messenger** and both the **closed and open Facebook groups**, people coordinated meetings, actions, events and started to develop an activist political culture.

Digital media also has created informal queer networks ,awareness about rights, and spread knowledge of specific health and mental health concerns and resources for these communities.



## *Pros*

- Gives **visibility** through art and personal narratives shared via YouTube videos, personal blogs, and a range of hashtagged media on various other platforms.
- A space of **self empowerment**, to build **networks**, and to trace, reach and create **safer spaces of care** (mental health/health).
- **Wider reach:** These platforms have vast user bases, making it easier to engage and inform a broader audience.
- **Community interaction:** Support groups on these platforms offer a sense of belonging and shared experience.

## *Cons*

- Too high of an exposure for an individual in a country that persecutes homosexuality. It is physically and digitally dangerous.
- Disparaging or negative comments masked as “freedom of speech”
- Limited privacy: Despite privacy settings, platforms like Facebook and Instagram may not guarantee full anonymity or protection from external judgment.



# Digital media and research with a marginalized population



**Bridging LGBTQI+ Communities in the Postmedia Age: Narratives of Oppression and Resistance in Italy and the United States.**



# Google Search



- Homepage
- Asylum in Italy <
- "Stay safe" Campaign
- Services ▾
  - Health Services
  - Work
  - Housing
  - Education
  - Help from violence
  - Citizenship
  - Marriage
  - LGBTIQ+
- Family reunification
- Resettlement
- Statelessness
- UNHCR in Italy
- Frequently asked questions
- Report exploitation or

## LGBTIQ+

### If you are a person with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC – LGBTIQ+)

Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) and the National Office Antidiscrimination (UNAR) created the website [Infotrans](#), providing legal and health information and a map of relevant services for transgender persons

Movimento Identità Trans is an association based in Bologna, Emilia Romagna, offering legal and psychosocial [support](#) to transgender persons.

[Il grande colibri](#) is an association based in Bologna, Emilia Romagna and active also in Lecco, Piacenza and Turin, providing assistance to LGBTIQ+ migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, raising awareness on LGBTIQ+ issues and organizing support networks, initiatives and meeting spaces

[Boramosa](#) is an association based in Padova, providing information, social and legal support for LGBTIQ+ migrants

[Circolo Pink](#) is an association based in Verona, providing assistance to LGBTIQ+ migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and organizing support networks, initiatives and meeting spaces. It Circolo Pink also offers [services](#) like information, legal, psychological, medical support to transgender persons.

ArciGay Genova offers a [legal helpdesk](#) to support LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers throughout the refugee status application process.

ArciGay Palermo provides support to LGBTIQ+ migrants and asylum seekers through a dedicated helpdesk, [La Migration](#), offering psychological and legal assistance.



# Facebook

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## All Pages You Like or Follow (15)

Sort



**Progetto IO - Immigrazioni e Omosessualità Milano**  
News & media website

Following



**Arcigay Udine - Fûr APS**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Movimento Pansessuale | Arcigay Siena**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**MIT - Movimento Identità Trans**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Arcigay Gioconda Reggio Emilia**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Antinoo Arcigay Napoli**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Arcigay**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Maurice GLBTQ**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Pink Refugees**  
Community Organization

Following



**Circolo Pink**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Boramosa**  
Nonprofit organization

Following



**Entre Hermanos**  
Community Organization

Following



**GAGA Vicenza**  
Community



**Cassero Lgbtqia+ Center**  
Nonprofit organization

# Instagram

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**I.ugartephd** ▾

0 Posts   9 Followers   45 Following

**Lucinda**  
☀️ PhD candidate ☀️ Milano-Bicocca ☀️ Igbtqia+ immigration IT/U.S. ☀️ English 🇺🇸, Español 🇪🇸, imparando l'italiano 🇮🇹 ☀️  
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**Discover people**

[Find more people to follow](#)

For you ▾

arcigaytralaltro...   maurice.glbq   circolopink   cigarcigaymilano

the\_florenceproject

**You may be wondering?  
What can I do to support my friends, neighbors, and family vulnerable to deportation?**

**Now Is the Time To:**

- Stay Informed
- Share our resources
- Volunteer
- Reclaim the narrative
- Fundraise and donate

Swipe through to learn more.

319 likes

the\_florenceproject The motto we've embodied in our 35-year history with every new administration is... more

[View all 4 comments](#)

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- [telefono\\_amico\\_cas...](#) Telefono Amico Cass... [Following](#) ⋮
- [globalcassero](#) Global Cassero [Following](#) ⋮
- [refugeeswelcomeita...](#) Refugees Welcome It... [Following](#) ⋮
- [arcigay\\_vercelli](#) ArcigayRainbowVerce... [Following](#) ⋮
- [boramosa](#) Associazione Boramo... [Following](#) ⋮
- [lgbtqrefugees](#) LGBTQ REFUGEES [Following](#) ⋮
- [quoretorino](#) Quore Torino [Following](#) ⋮
- [sportelloantidiscrimi...](#) Sportello Antidiscrimi... [Following](#) ⋮
- [orizzonti.cooperativa](#) [Followina](#) ⋮

# *Successes:*

- 4 Organizations*
- 3 Support groups*
- 3 Researchers*
- 4 Activists*
- 2 Lawyers*



# Conclusion



Both projects highlight the reward of having safe spaces to express anonymously and freely as well as the risks and harms of having unmoderated and public platforms.





*Thank you*

