Know the GAP!
WTI for Gender Equality

Virtual Gender Lecture "A STORY TO BE TOLD – WHEN THE INTERNET WORKS FOR WOMEN AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE"

16 December 2020, 12:30-13:30

Abstract

What we know most about the women and gender diverse people, is that they draw the short story of the internet. We know more needs to be done to close the gender digital divide and get more women online. We do not know enough about the experiences of gender diverse people because our data, when it is there is not disaggregated enough? Or the questions we asked look at marginalised groups more so as passive receivers of change rather than having the capacity, when supported in the ways that work best for them, to shape the internet.

In this talk I reflect on the issues around the gendered digital divide when it comes to the internet including, affordability, digital skills, online gender-based violence and surveillance. I will focus on what an internet that works for women and gender diverse people would like through an imaginative lens. I will draw from feminist internet ways of thinking such as data feminism, intersectionality, and Feminist principles of the Internet. I imagine what an internet that works for me and gender diverse people would look like from a research perspective, policy design and implementation as well as technological development responsive to lived realities.

Biography of the speaker

Chenai Chair is a digital policy researcher who has extensively focused on understanding the impact of technology in society to better public interest policy.

She is World Wide Web Foundation's Research Manager focused on Gender and Digital Rights and a 2019/2020 Mozilla Tech Policy Fellow focused on assessing adequacy of data protection and privacy regulation in Africa taking on gender and data justice perspectives. She recently led the research for the 2020 Women's Rights Online report for the Web Foundation and launched My Data Rights – feminist review of AI and gender.

Her work has included research on ICT access and use issues from a youth perspective, net neutrality and zero rating and unpacking the gendered digital divide through a feminist perspective. She has supported organisations working on understanding digital ID issues in Zimbabwe and occasionally writes for GenderIT on her experiences as a feminist researcher.

Chenai currently sits on the Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group and co-chairs the Gender Best Practice Forum. She has also been part of the African School of Internet Governance core faculty. Chenai holds an MSocSci specialising in Global Studies, a BsocSci (Honors) in Industrial Relations, and a BSocSci in Gender Studies and Industrial Relations from the University of Cape Town.

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