Project title.
Coding Bias: The Metanarrative of Technology-Focused Social Platforms

Description.
In the past decade, coding has become a coveted skill. With the wealth of free resources online, anyone can learn to code—or so the endless promise of technology purports.

This project interrogates the aforementioned promise through an analysis of online technology-focused social platforms and their media content. The aim is to investigate learning communities, questioning how platforms democratise access to knowledge (such as coding and technical skills) or not. In what ways do technology-focused social platforms such as YouTube, Reddit, and GitHub fulfil or break the promise of democratising technical knowledge? Which learners or teachers are prioritised on the platforms? How accessible are the learning communities? What community identities are created, solidified and/or challenged?

The project is transdisciplinary and therefore welcomes candidates from Media Studies, Computer Science and Engineering, Gender Studies, Education, and History. As such you are free to develop a specific area of research based on the broad description provided above. We are particularly interested by investigations into these platforms, which identify coded bias, however that may manifest.

If there aren’t any search results for “sexism”, does it even exist?
Looks like there aren’t any results for “sexism”. Try double-checking your spelling or searching for a related topic.

Reddit search result for sexism on a programmer subreddit

Background.
‘Full Stack Feminism in Digital Humanities’ is a collaborative UK-Ireland project which aims to embed intersectional feminist thinking and practices within and across the broad discipline of digital humanities. Broadly, the research project recognises that biases and stereotypes can manifest in digital culture, its tools and community-based environments. For more info http://ifte.network/full-stack-feminism/.

Method.
• Media/textual analysis of online content (eg. videos, blogs, forums and more)
- **Data Collection:**
  - Cataloguing and indexing online learning resources;
  - Categorizing data. For example collating demographics of teachers and students, programming or coding languages, delivery methods or styles.
- **Data Analysis:**
  - Analysis of the data collected
- During this research, you will be working with core members of the FullStack Feminism team as supervisors including Dr Sharon Webb, Dr Irene Fubara-Manuel and Dr Cécile Chevalier. The share supervision highlight values around existing research collaboration, transdisciplinary and intersectional feminist praxis (see [http://ifte.network/full-stack-feminism/](http://ifte.network/full-stack-feminism/); [http://fact.network/](http://fact.network/); [https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/sussex-humanities-lab/](https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/sussex-humanities-lab/)).

### Skills / experience required.
- Desire to learn
- Critical and creative thinking
- Written and oral communication
- Interest in digital culture and social justice
- No programming or coding skills needed

### Key readings.
Learning Outcomes.

Candidates will learn: - to develop their research skills, through conducting literature reviews and data analyses (eg. quantitative data, textual, media); - to develop expertise in assessing sources, developing rigorous research questions and identifying research problems; - to develop a feminist approach to research - to publicly present research material (e.g. academic poster, end of project event).

Supervisors:
Dr Sharon Webb (History & Sussex Humanities Lab), Dr Irene Fubara-Manuel (Digital Media Practice & Sussex Humanities Lab) and Dr Cécile Chevalier (Digital Media Practice & Sussex Humanities Lab).

Departments/School: Media, Arts and Humanities