

Introduction and Significance of Research

With the capabilities and extents of speech and expression allowed on modern social media and online platforms such as TikTok, Reddit, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter by users, there arises multiple questions gauging the oversight of this modern discourse. Among these questions are:

- Where should the boundary lie before the discourse is deemed excessive or harmful?
- Who should have these jurisdictions to determine whether the discourse is allowed or not allowed?
- Are current Oversight Boards, terms of agreement, and community guidelines sufficient to monitor users?

This research aims to explore how the law ties into the social interactions of users in the global communities of social media and digital spaces. The scholarship and publications attempt to assess if this modern discourse is fair, ethical, safe, and aligns with rights given by the First Amendment, or if there is need for revisitation and more agency to protect users by relevant or necessary entities.

My findings are that social media corporations need to take more initiative upon themselves to monitor social media discourse.

Why Should the Corporations Monitor More?

Scholarship shows that the extent to which users can freely discuss a range of matters with an international community of people is an amazing feat, but this may be at the detriment of the people due to:

- Political polarization propelled by social media
- Dissemination of misinformation
- Promotion of violence and self-harm
- Lack of standardized oversight and user confusion
- Blurring of the professional and private realms

These consequences ultimately triumph over the benefits of social media discourse, which include:

- Supporting collective action efforts
- Amplification of voices
- Arranging worldwide networks
- Offering resourceful information
- Diversity of public communication

The literature points to how it is more effective and would have better public perception if the corporations took action instead of the government because they directly construct user agreements.



Legal Implications for the Future

As social media becomes increasingly more prominent and advanced in our society and culture, and as developments are being made in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Facebook's Metaverse, and more, there is a wider legal implication and question for the future of law on social media speech and discourse as it applies to the 3-D and 4-D spheres:

How will we translate what we are learning and have assessed on these 2-D platforms to 3-D and 4-D spaces, and what role will the law play in this oversight?

Room for Further Research

Because technology and social media is consistently evolving and being built upon, the availability of research and scholarship has not been able to completely keep up, so these findings are not definite, rather they are *most supported* by the research that is available. Since social media is so crucial to our society, there is benefit to deeper analysis of usage and user discourse that can inform law and policy.

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