

The expert group meeting brought together activist and academic researchers working on gender and digital technology (these latter referred to as the participants) – particularly on issues of economy and labour, intersectionality, embodiment and autonomy, access, expression and movement, and digital technology. The meeting also reflected on the research landscape of the next decade and the role of digital technology as well as priority areas that can inform the potential development of a research agenda and network in this field.

To find out more about FIRN visit

<https://www.apc.org/en/project/firn-feminist-internet-research-network>



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with (gender at work, India), activist, media expertise and modules and digital storytelling workshops, combining movement and digital technology. The latter were particularly useful for activists and researchers, and for building a diversity of perspectives and experiences.

The 20 participants (10 from Spain) and 10 facilitators (and related staff) were divided into two groups, each with a facilitator. The first group was focused on the theme of 'learning' and the second on 'building'.

The first group also involved a digital storytelling workshop, which was followed by a discussion on the theme of 'learning'. The second group was focused on the theme of 'building' and involved a digital storytelling workshop, which was followed by a discussion on the theme of 'building'.

The second day largely focused on sharing and exploring interests and excitement about digital technology and see as potentially part of the research agenda. The first day could be a feminist research agenda, focusing on questions of intersectional axes of discrimination and appropriation, exploitation and regard to the latter's own interests. The second day could be a feminist research agenda, focusing on questions of intersectional axes of discrimination and appropriation, exploitation and regard to the latter's own interests.

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DO YOU CARE

about access to the internet and to information, about the growth of movements led by women, black people, Dalits, transgender people, LGBTQIA groups, workers, environmentalists, activists, indigenous people and others against oppression and exclusion?

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

faced violence and attacks online?

DO YOU BELIEVE

that the internet can enable free expression and empower people, but if used mostly by corporations and governments, it could increase all existing inequalities between people?

DO YOU FIND

people, community, love, solace and compassion through digital networks and connections?

DO YOU THINK

it's important to make the internet an exciting, limitless and safer space for women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender expressions?

THEN LET'S MAKE THIS FEMINIST INTERNET REAL!



WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?

In 2017 APC WRP undertook a mapping study of the field of gender and digital technology, identifying gaps in knowledge and emerging areas. The findings emphasised that while there is a common understanding that gender is a critical consideration for realising an inclusive and rights-based information society, there are many vital feminist concerns that are not at all centred in the policy making, research and discourse around internet policy and rights.

This includes bodily autonomy, meaningful access to ICTs for women and other disaffected populations, analysis of gendered forms of labour and work, online violence, abuse, harassment of women, minorities, marginalised or vulnerable groups, and how datafication and algorithmic decision-making impact diverse and marginalised populations.

In October 2018, APC WRP sent out a call looking for research partners interested in doing research on the following areas:

- a) access (usage and infrastructure) and gender, b) big data and its impact on vulnerable populations, c) policy initiatives and movements that address online gender-based violence, and d) the precarious forms of gendered labour in the digital economy.

Out of the varied and exceptional applications, eight projects were selected that form part of the first iteration of the network.

The APC Women's Rights Programme (APC WRP) is leading the project for creating a Feminist Internet Research Network (FIRN), with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). This project uses research and knowledge towards the making of a feminist internet – this includes data-driven research that provides substantial evidence to drive change in policy and in discourse around internet rights, research in emerging areas and building the field of feminist internet research.

WHAT IS OUR VISION

In the period 2019-2021, FIRN is engaged in research-related efforts to make the feminist internet and working towards change and transformation in gendered structures of power that exist online and onground.

THE OVERARCHING RESEARCH QUESTIONS FOR THE NETWORK ARE:

1

What forms of discrimination do women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender expressions face because of social, political and economic changes driven by digital technology and the internet?

2

What are the challenges and opportunities in policy, infrastructure and socio-cultural norms to the making of a feminist internet?

