

Provisional title: feminist history and critique of technology

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From the late 19th century onwards, women framed technology within the social relations of power, conceptualizing it either as way to reinforce the sexual hierarchies or as a possibility of emancipation and even liberation. Focusing on technology applied to the domestic space and to reproductive and contraceptive methods, women's theory emphasized from the very beginning that technology is historically and socially produced – namely it is neither neutral nor it follows the linearity of a universal progress. However, the emergence of algorithm technologies present challenges that are qualitatively and quantitatively different with respect to former technological paradigms.

This research aims at investigating – from the perspective of feminist political theory – the role that algorithm plays in the reproduction of social hierarchies and the way sexual and gendered asymmetries of power are redefined through the automatic reproduction of social and sexual/gendered codes. To do it, this work focuses on the impact that the algorithm produces on some categories – sex and gender, nature and culture, private and public, domestic and political – that have been historically relevant for feminist political theory as they have been a tool to unveil and challenge sexual and gendered relations of power. Referring to some inputs of Reinhart Koselleck's conceptual history, working on political concepts from a feminist perspective allows to examine the field of tension between the «experience» of sexual hierarchies encoded in technology and the «expectations» of transformation that technology contributes to open. Therefore, a historical and conceptual analysis focused on the feminist confrontation with technology is helpful to show the discontinuities produced by the algorithm and to point out at the possibilities of transformation that feminist theory of techno-social relations can activate within the algorithmic society.