

From flamewars to state warfare, this module introduces students to cutting edge conversations in cyber criminology. While some cybercrimes are arguably analogous to their “offline” equivalents, thorny issues around privacy, anonymity and security have been fundamentally transformed by the shift of companies, platforms, states and personal relationships to online spaces which work differently to face to face interactions. The organisation and structure of harms has been transformed in response to the malleability of time, space and scale offered by digital technology as we move into new frontiers of social experience created by innovations such as social media, big data and AI. Yet while new harms emerge, pre-existing injustices find new roots in this digital world. While the early web developers dreamed of a utopian network of equality, blind to existing social inequalities, we draw on knowledge built in core modules of the MA Criminology and Criminal Justice programme to demonstrate that the intersections of race, class, ability, gender and sexuality continue to influence the flow of social exchange, shaping harms in familiar patterns.