

E-shaming, Informal Social Control and Disclosure of Sexual Victimization

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With the development of internet-based communication, new methods of online shaming have been adopted and employed by the growing number of internet users. This practice gains much attention with regard to sexual victimization. The potential risks of using the internet for social control in general and the practice of e-shaming in particular do not diminish its advantages as a potential tool for enforcing positive norms and contributing to the development of society.

Based on a study we conducted in the Netherlands and Israel on social media disclosure of sexual victimization, we aim at examining both advantages and risks of such e-shaming as perceived by the victims and the general public. In the presentation we will present data collected from the Israeli social media. First, we will discuss data collection and analysis of the #Me Too campaign while focusing on the public sentiment toward it. Next, we will explore victims' motivations in self disclosure of their sexual abuse and their perceptions towards the (1) Police (2) justice system (3) aid organizations.

Theoretical and practical implications will be discussed.