

**TITLE:** Violent and degrading images of women: a comparison of social media posts from four Chicago neighborhoods.

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**FACULTY MENTOR DEPARTMENT:** Department of Surgery

**RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Background

Increased access to technology and the proliferation of social networking sites—among them, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram—have radically transformed social interactions, particularly for low-income teenagers and emerging adults living in violent urban neighborhoods. These individuals now have a social, and sometimes very public, space to cope with traumatic events; communicate thoughts and feelings; share information; and curate their identity. Violence is a daily reality for many women, but is particularly common among disadvantaged groups.

Hypothesis

We hypothesize that social media posts depicting violent and degrading images of women will be common among Chicago residents. By comparing four different neighborhoods, with differing socioeconomic and racial demographics, we can learn more about the acceptability of these images in difference communities, and determine the effects and potentially the influences of these images.

Methods

Geofeedia software was used to collect three months of social media posts from four Chicago neighborhoods from 7/1/15-9/30/15. Media sources included Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, Instagram, Snapchat, and many others. All public posts were included and have been stored in an Excel file.

## Role of medical student

Students will analyze and abstract data using coded data dictionaries; sources include Urban Dictionary and others. Working in a group that includes a PhD social worker, a social media expert, and a surgeon with an extensive history of research in the area of interpersonal violence, the students will find, catalogue, and analyze pertinent images and postings. Students will also help with any research presentations and publications that may emerge from this work.

## Funding

No additional funding is available for this project.

## Relevant publications

Foster, J. D., Kuperminc, G. P., & Price, A. W. (2004). Gender differences in posttraumatic stress and related symptoms among inner-city minority youth exposed to community violence. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, *33*, 59-69. doi: 10.1023/A:1027386430859

Gorman-Smith, D., & Tolan, P. (1998). The role of exposure to community violence and developmental problems among inner-city youth. *Development and Psychopathology*, *10*, 101-116.

Patton D, Patel S, Ranney M, Crandall M, Hong JS, Dungy L, Leonard P. Tweets, gangs, and guns: a snapshot of gang communication in Detroit (in press for *Violence and Victims*)