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Care-tographies, Ethics and the Digital

Sam Hind, University of Warwick

In this talk I want to introduce the notion of 'care-tographies', in order to push-back against a digital revanchism. In other words, to provide a framework to challenge an increasingly oppressive, austere, and discriminatory global political terrain, that takes the digital as its all-purpose weapon of choice. Digital data, devices and platforms are used across multiple instances to further disempower and marginalize peoples – from urban inhabitants of major cities to cross-border migrants. What is missing in accounts of these practices (Graham 2011, Amoore 2013, Jones 2016) is a conceptual framework to comprehend their (un)ethical dimensions. In other words, more work needs to be done to consider the intersection of the digital, care, ethics and world. Work in critical GIS has taken care to be a 'representational' concern (Stephens 2013, Leszczynski and Elwood 2015), but how might it be enacted in digitally-mediated practices? Does our digital world provide space, mechanisms and protocols for caring? How do these build on, develop, or quite possibly diverge from traditional, feminist accounts of care, care-work and care responsibilities (Tronto 1993; 2013, Fisher and Tronto 1991)? Indeed, can they be routed through digital architectures themselves, as topological, rather than topographical concerns? I make this case with reference to digital navigation, protest mapping, and refugee rescues.