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Escape identification?

Responsibilities, agencies and feminist opportunities within new developments of information and communication technologies (ICTs)

New developments of information and communication technologies (ICTs) enable powerful institutions to not only accumulate an abundance of data about humans but also to create mechanisms for interpretation of big sets of data into high quality information in order to identify movements, preferences, political attitudes and aspirations of individual persons, social groups and communities.

At least during the last decades of the 20st century, feminist politics was to a large extent based on the idea of a unifying identity as women, the common identification of discriminatory practices and emancipatory agency. This idea was criticised to be illusionary to the extent that feminism is thought to struggle for the betterment of live for all women (Mohanty 1988; Butler 1991). Moreover, feminist technoscience scholars hold, that new ICT impede static concepts of identity and open new ways of subject production beyond authenticity (Landström 2007). According to this view, the 'cybersubject' would entail a multiplication of sites for subject production and therefore a potential change in power regimes because of the difficulties to identify stable abstract identities like gender dualism necessary for enabling and restricting agency.

In this paper it will be investigated if the strategy of multiplying, ambiguity producing or shifting of gender holds as a feminist strategy for the 21 century on a theoretical as well as a practical level when it comes to escape identification through new developments of information and communication technologies.