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Transcript

Rosemary Ferreira

Hello and welcome to the table podcasts where we unpack questions regarding race, ethnicity, culture norms, and current events. My name is Rosemary Ferreira.

Courtney Jones Carney

And I'm Courtney Jones Carney.

Speaker 2

In this episode, we're.

Rosemary Ferreira

Discussing social media and its impact on social movement. Like many other millennials, I grew up at the crossroads of a time before social media and a time when many widely popular sites such as Myspace, Facebook and Twitter were created. I remember my late teens and younger 20s being filled with news of various movements around the world that arose from the collective organizing taking place on social media. The Arab Spring in 2010 and Occupy Wall Street in 2011 were examples of large scale protests that utilize social media to raise awareness of political and economic corruption and to gain support from other people interested in creating change.

Courtney Jones Carney

10 years later, we're still seeing how social media plays a significant role in informing, educating and organizing people around the world about issues pertaining to human rights and social justice. The racial justice protests after the murder of George Floyd, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the women's rights protests in Iran as a result of the death of Mahasaya Amini under police custody continue to demonstrate the power of social media. However, social media has also become a space for heightened surveillance. Related to political organizing and protests. Reports from the ACLU and think tanks such as Brookings Institute discuss the ways that local police departments and the FBI utilize social media as a surveillance mechanism to monitor the actions of activists don't come from the FBI. For example the ACLU. Report highlights the ways that Baltimore City and county police departments utilize a social media monitoring platform to quote, help them stay one step ahead. Of the rioters. After the murder of Freddie Gray in 2015. There are currently few laws that specifically constrain law enforcement's ability to engage in social media monitoring, although organizations like the ACLU are pushing for legislation. We've recorded this episode while I was out on parental. So in addition to our guests, you'll. Be hearing from our. Executive producer and editor Angela Jack.

Rosemary Ferreira

Our guest is. Keyong Park, a student at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and a fellow podcast host here he is introducing himself.

Ki-Yong Park

Hi everyone. My name is Ki-Yong Park. I'm a little bit about me in terms of my background, so identify it as Korean American sister male. I grew up in Montgomery County, but my parents were from Korea. They immigrated from Korea and came to this.

Speaker 4

Right.

Ki-Yong Park

I grew up in Montgomery County, which is a really predominantly White County, specifically where I lived in Kensington and growing up and kind of realizing that I have certain privileges that I have because of the resources that were allocated to Montgomery County and like, you know, the property tax in schools and such like that. You know, growing up, I saw that my county and my living situations and you know my experience, you know, I. Was very privileged. To have certain things like for example like you know having access to a college and Career Center in a local high school. But The thing is that with our career in college center, it's like they have, like a bunch of lists of like, scholarship websites to apply for. And they even have, like, job opportunities for us to apply for, you know, like, that's kind of like. One of the things that like I saw as a privilege that not other schools have and then Fast forward to college where I went to UMBC, you know, coming from a very predominantly White County, which is in Montgomery County and then going to Baltimore County, which is completely different, you know. UMBC's close to Baltimore. City and you know, let that kind of paint an image there for me in the sense of going from one place to another and going. From hot to cold. So ever since I've made that choice to go to UMBC and really understand, you know, what the differences in lifestyle are in comparison to like Baltimore City versus. Huntington, it really kind of painted this image of, like, interest in social justice. And you know, why do we have certain things of the way they are and you know, ever since that whole journey, I've been really just interested in just. You know, challenging the norms, why do we think the way we think? You know, why are people behaving this type of way towards other people so?

Speaker

That's kind of.

Ki-Yong Park

A little bit about me.

Rosemary Ferreira

Thank you so much for sharing that. I feel like for me, I kind. Of have the looked experience. So I grew up in a predominantly black and brown communities in New York City, and then when I went to college, that was like the first time that I went, I was in a predominantly white space. But similar to you. I was also aware like I became kind of activated in my interest in social justice because it was. Like, how can that be coming from these communities that have such little resources? And now I'm going into this space, which has a lot more resources.

Ki-Yong Park

Right. So it's like a juxtaposition, right?

Speaker 4

Right.

Rosemary Ferreira

First I wanted to ask you like what is your relationship with social media?

Ki-Yong Park

I think it started off with creating an e-mail. I think I remember middle school me 6th grade creating my own very own first Gmail account. It's not like your typical social. Media like Twitter or Facebook, but like in terms of like social media and that sense of like communicating with other people. On the Internet, my very first interaction with social media was an e-mail like a Gmail account. Now, Fast forward to creating an Instagram account in middle school, then to Facebook, then to Instagram, then to Twitter, and all of these other avenues. And So what is my relationship with social media like? I would like to say it's an integral part of my life, but I also am comfortable without it, if that makes sense. Like if I were to delete social media right now off my phone, I wouldn't be like, Oh my gosh, it's the end of the world because I have just established myself. As a person to you know, I don't need social media. I don't need to stay connected with other people who I do not necessarily talk to on a daily basis and I'll be. OK.

Speaker 5

Keyong, I think you bring up a really good point and a question that I want to ask. Rosemary, what was your first social media site?

Rosemary Ferreira

That was. That's exactly what I was. Gonna say it. Was definitely my face and we were out there coding at 11/12/13 year old. That was definitely the 1st.

Speaker 4

I know. Yeah, I remember.

Rosemary Ferreira

Days for myself. I also remember aiming instant messaging as another really popular social media, and this is all before, like cell phones had like all these apps and stuff.

Ki-Yong Park

Oh my gosh.

Rosemary Ferreira

And so everything was like on computer so. It was only. Really, we had one computer in my household. He was in my brother's room. He was a, you know, a gamer. So like, it'd be very rare for me to be able to get on social media. But when I did, you know I had to update the picture, put the music on all of that. What about yourself, Angela?

Speaker 5

I'm pretty sure it was Yahoo groups.

Ki-Yong Park

Oh my gosh, yes, I remember that.

Speaker 5

And it was when I was like, way too young to be on the Internet. I was like 8 and me and my cousin and my brother would go on Yahoo groups and talk to people we shouldn't have been talking to.

Speaker

Ohh Lord.

Ki-Yong Park

What's it called do? You all remember AOL? Oh my God. I remember my sister. So I have two older sisters and they're like one's a decade above me. And you know the the second one's close to a decade above. I mean, but I remember like when I was a 6 year old. They would be. Chatting with their friends on AOL and it would like. And there was like this, this paper clip guy with on the bike that. Would come out. On the paper, right. Oh Lord, what a throwback.

Rosemary Ferreira

Courtney, what was your first social media site?

Courtney Jones Carney

I don't know. Is Black Planet social media? I think that was it. But when I've googled it recently, it said it was a dating site. But I don't think I was on there for that. I vaguely remember making a profile, maybe adding music and like some fun facts about myself, but that was a really long time ago.

Rosemary Ferreira

So we kind of have already been touching on this. But from what you've. Experienced in your lifetime and you know and and I can also talk about this, how have you seen social media impacting social movements? And what are some? Examples that you've.

Ki-Yong Park

Well, just like. The ones that you mentioned, right, the racial justice protests, right? And also COVID itself was also another one too, right? There was even, like, some discussion about Palestine and Israel. I feel like social media it is. A weapon, but it's also uplifting tool to our benefit. It's like a double edged sword. You can either use it for good or you can use it for bad. And I feel like social media has created awareness and educated people on certain issues that were not brought into their daily. Being for example, I grew up very fortunate enough to like, learn about social justice. So you know, civil rights. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks. All of these historical pioneers that have helped pave the way for black people in America, right? I'm very fortunate that I had a professor and a teacher to take me under their wing and educate me and mentor me about social justice. Right now I can't say for my

colleagues have had the same experience because I had a different experience than they did. This is where social media comes in. Social media has like. Infographics you know TikTok be coming in like oh, you know, you can do this little quick cheat hack for like, you know, cooking our food or vice versa. Whereas in some tick tocks are like when this happens to you, this is what you can do. So I feel like social media can be a good helpful resource for others and be a very helpful. And really thought about gang like tool but then also it can also go completely left because as you and I both know, people have the right to speak what's on their mind in my opinion. Hey, speech should be censored, but that's another story for another day. But with social media, people have like the freedom to say whatever they want to say, so it's like. Ignorance is bliss because when you look at these comments that people are posting on like a feed on Instagram, Twitter, whether it's Facebook, et cetera, it it, it can get a little overwhelming because it's just like who in the world would ever think that like what is in your brain? And yeah, and I also have a question for you all. Like you know. We come from different generations, so I'm. I'm gonna go out on a limb here. I'm 21. So born in 2000. How was social media like for you? And how did you did, like, did you think that it impacted? And helped other people in your perspective time generations.

Speaker 5

Yeah. So I am not 21, I.

Speaker 2

AM 30 years old and. Yeah, young millennial. But I would say.

Speaker 5

When I was growing up, social media was just starting to be a thing. I mean, I still remember when you had to have a .edu. E-mail address to join Facebook. Yeah, I see.

Speaker 2

You laugh at Kia, you. Like she.

Ki-Yong Park

Well, I didn't know.

Speaker 4

Is so old? Yeah. When?

Ki-Yong Park

I didn't know that was. The thing, but OK.

Rosemary Ferreira

When Facebook first started, it was like 4.

Speaker 5

College students and you had to have a .edu e-mail address to. And I still remember that I remember being like, oh, when I get to college, I'm gonna.

Speaker 2

Be able to get a Facebook page.

Speaker 5

But I think for my generation, I don't think that it was about connecting with people that were outside of your social circle. I think the primary goal of it was I have friends who I met in summer camp who maybe live in Delaware, who maybe live in New York. And so I want to make sure that I can still stay in contact with them. You know, I'm going from middle school to high school and I want to stay with my middle school. For me, at least, it wasn't like how it is now where it's. This wide global audience, where you are trying to interact with people all around the world. Of course, unless you had people who were in other countries that you personally knew, I remember I had a friend who I was pen pals. With in middle school. So, like we were friends on Myspace, but that was pretty much it for me. And so that's the biggest change is that there are people who are having more interactions with strangers. But Rosemary, what do you think?

Rosemary Ferreira

So I was also on those pages that you should not have been on like at 12 years old, where you're like talking to these random strangers. And I remember like putting your age, your sex, you're like where you're from. Like all of these, like, information. So in that case, I was talking to people. Across the country around the world? But I do think that there's a difference in terms of now, there's a lot more imagery, there's a lot more visuals, there's. More videos that you can access real quick with things like YouTube and TikTok and Instagram. They they become a lot more visual versus I feel like as a kid I didn't feel like through anything in ASL or the other platforms. Those are more like text heavy. But yeah, I think. For me, as I'm reflecting. I remember, like when Y2K was like gonna be a big deal. So when you were going to be blinking. I feel like I remember the first big social media campaign around like organizing was on things like anger. Do you remember this Kony 2012?

Speaker 2

Oh, my God. Yes, Connie ohhh. My gosh, I went to Catholic school. So Cody was like, that was a.

Speaker 5

Big thing Keyong. Do you remember that, do you?

Speaker 2

Know what we're talking about.

Ki-Yong Park

I think I kind of do colony. Is that like a super? Is that like a celebrity or like a like a artist? OK. That's why you know I'm a different age group.

Speaker 5

Here's a little background for you listeners who may not know what we're talking about. Kony 2012 is still considered to be one of the first social media campaigns to ever go viral. And going viral means that it quickly gained popularity on social media through a high level of engagement. I'm talking millions of people from around the world engaged in Kony 2012. Now Kony 2012 was a campaign started by an organization in the United States called Invisible Children. They're so active today and their website describes them as peacekeepers who help prevent violent conflict in central Africa. Their mission directly aligns with the campaign they started 10 years ago. Kony 2012 wasn't just the name of their campaign, it was also the name of the short documentary Invisible Children posted on YouTube in March 2012. The documentary outlined the atrocities of accused Ugandan militant Joseph Kony, the then leader of the rebel militia group Lord's Resistance Army or LRA, who are active in northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. The documentary also specifically focused on his forced recruitment of child soldiers. The documentary was part of the larger campaign to raise awareness of the conflict in East and Central Africa, and to paraphrase invisible children, make Joseph Kony famous. See, the idea was that if the world became aware of Kony's atrocities, the UN and Uganda would be forced to finally arrest Joseph Kony. The documentary supported this by ending with a call to action. Everyone who watched the documentary and millions of people watched, including my entire Catholic school. We're encouraged to put up posters, wear T-shirts, pass out buttons and bracelets and stickers, all with Kony's face on them in order to pressure world governments to do something. Now, as you may be able to imagine.

Speaker 2

There were a

Speaker 5

Lot of criticisms of the Kony 2012 campaign, and we could probably do an entire episode on this particular social media campaign alone. But what you need to know for this episode are two key criticisms. The first is that the Kony 2012 campaign was criticized for oversimplifying the conflict in the region. This was especially egregious because at the time, everyone behind invisible children were American. They weren't African, and they were a largely white American organization at that with absolutely no ties to the region where the conflict was occurring. Second, the campaign was criticized for encouraging slacktivism. Factive ISM is a form of activism which produces no real change but makes the person sharing the social media post or wearing the T-shirt or putting up the poster feel really good about themselves for doing. Quite frankly, the absolute bare minimum. A quote from Ethiopian American journalist Denaau Mangetsu. Called the Kony 2012 campaign. A beautiful equation that can only work so long as we believe that nothing in the world happens unless we know about it and only works in the myopic reality. Of the film. A reality that deliberately is thinking, depth and complexity.

Ki-Yong Park

Angela, I think you mentioned something connecting with other people you have like that put a light bulb in my brain for those who are listening, shout out to Cindy Wilson. That's my home girl, even though I never met you. And I'm hoping to meet you one day. She has a book called Too Much Soul, but the thing is that soul. Misspelled the capital of Korea. So too much. So the author has an Instagram account and, you know, basically some insight, I guess, like one sentence. If I could say it is. I was born Korean, but I'm culturally black. Like that sentence is like, wait let me. I need to learn. More basically,

she was. A Korean woman who was adopted into a black family. So picture that and read the book to find. Out the things. That she experienced growing up. And you know me being Korean. American and being in close proximity to the black community and learning about their culture and the environment, I always felt like. Alone in the sense of like I always have to educate my Korean counterparts about, like what the black community is. And ABC and D like This is why it is the way it is. Because of this history and the past. So it's like, you know, it gets a little exhausting and you have to keep continuously educating your colleagues and your peers to like, be on the same page with you, if that makes. And so being able to read this book and find her on social media was like, Oh my gosh, like what it's like, I'm talking to a celebrity. So I reached out to her and she actually. Reached back. And I told her I was like your book means so much to me, ABC&D. And basically like we were getting ready to have a zoom meeting, but you know. I'm in nursing school right now. Sign notes. You know, I'm. I'm hustling out here every day, but you know, I got busy with school and I never really got the chance to follow up with her and, you know, connect. And it's like, that's just really crazy. That social media can connect you to people. That's like, I mean, shoot, even Beyoncé and you know, Michael B Jordan and all these crazy like celebrities are on social media. And the fact that. You could just send like a note and like whether they read it or not. It's like it's kind of crazy, you know.

Speaker 5

Yeah, I think to your .1 of the things that I love about social media is how you can connect with. People who are. Outside of your social circle and learn from them. Like specifically, I'm thinking during COVID where there was and continues to be an unfortunate rise in anti Asian. Hate as someone who is black and who does not identify as Asian, I was a unaware that so many physical, violent attacks were happening to the Asian community and it was harrowing to see. And I hate that they are happening, but I was I was glad to have the opportunity to learn. From Asian activists of what was happening, but also to learn from Asian activists and also black activists about how we can kind of bridge the divide between people of color. Because I know you were talking about Cindy Wilson's book about growing up in a black family as a Korean woman. But I I also think just like like growing up in the black community. Sometimes you do hear people making like these very weird anti Asian statements and.

Ki-Yong Park

Like what are they cooking in the Chinese cook out on the block or something like that? Or like, they would just be like, oh, you must be Chinese. And I'm like, oh, no, I'm Korean. But like.

Speaker 2

Exactly, exactly. And like so.

Speaker 5

Growing up, I know I did not have the language. I didn't know how to combat that and to be able to go on social media and see how other activists, how they're saying. OK, here are. The things that you can say when people are saying these, like racist things that are completely and totally out of pocket.

Ki-Yong Park

Exactly. And that's why I'm. So super grateful. For social media in those times because it gives. You a toolkit? And me being a nursing school, right. They're always giving us toolkits, right. How do you treat

this patient with a certain condition? How do you approach this patient? What is your bedside manner to approaching your patients? Right. Our toolkits are always changing, and I think one thing about me being in a modern day nursing school. Your toolkit is always. Changing and social media is one of your toolkit so. Used to your advantage, the amounts of impact that you can create is tremendous. So I really, really agree and I really like just hearing you say that is like so hopeful because I will admit personally from you growing up, my sense of Korean heritage was in. My church community. It was it like in high schools or colleges that I had a connection with fellow other Korean peers. My sense of retaining my Korean heritage fruits was in church, which is like a predominantly Korean church. And like kind of outside of church, I hung out with a lot of black kids. So just hearing activism on anti Asian hate crimes is very like, OK, I'm listening and I'm listening. And it's like kind of everything's bridging together, if that makes sense. It's not, uh, it's not a black issue. It's on the Asian issues on the white issue is the issue that concerns. All of us, because at the end of the day, let's take that group away. Who's next? So that's why I really believe that all of us have to really band together. Really think about what we need to do to fix certain issues. So yeah, they think social media is like the glue. That kind of pieces us all together.

Rosemary Ferreira

I feel like we're kind of touching already on what are some of the positives of social media and I want to add one more before we kind of delve a little bit more deeper into the negative parts, which I think we've touched on. Something that stood out to me. Keong from what you shared, was how going to college was like a place for you to like, learn. And you know, you had that Professor who was able to kind of take you on their their wing and, like, teach you about social justice and activism. And I feel like for me, I also have the. Privilege of going to undergo. Bad, but where it really became radicalized quote UN quote radicalized was on Tumblr most early 2. 1010 days. Where I got to really learn about like for example, actual Latina doll like Black Latin Americans, where I got to critique Latinx identity. Where I got to unpack more on our, learn more on trends and queer identities. Tumblr was really my place to learn a lot, and I feel like and explore. Yep, and so. I feel like social media also is so much more accessible than. The gatekeeping that happens in higher education, right, like on social media, you can learn from scholars directly versus having to pay for like \$25 for an article on JSTOR or something like that, or take a \$300.00 credit course. So like you can learn so much on YouTube on through Googling. And then I guess. It also leads to. You one of the negatives of anybody could put anything up there, right? And so it could lead to false information. So I guess I wanted to check in with you both around what are some of the negatives that can also happen. It's using social media as a way to mobilize or organize people.

Ki-Yong Park

How can social media be a? Negative thing to start with. Bullying people out. Here in this world, they are crazy. Lauren knows like what people do on a daily, and Lord knows like what people have gone through to get to where they are. Right. Like we have had an unstable childhood traumas from like a really big like incident in your life. You know. So many other things, right? And I think that one of the negatives of social media is that it can cause those issues that we have within ourselves to lash out at other people who are not even like, who are innocent people to you. And it's like they did nothing wrong to you, who hurts you. And I think also that. It's just misinformation. Especially with COVID, the vaccine for COVID, it's like, you know, the vaccine has been tested. People did research on it. No ones exploding or being tracked by the government or like being injected with like a magnetic device in your body like and it's like I think there was like this Instagram. Those where it's like, Oh yeah, like the magnet is sticking to my

arm. Once I got my COVID shot. But then it's like social media shows a snapshot of what it wants to see. It doesn't show you that that girl that individual had put some type of like sticky or lotion or some type. Of like adhesive. To the magnet to stick on to her arm. So it's just like social media can be a manipulator, but it can. Also be a weapon for good. It can uplift others. It can empower others to change and act. I mean goodness, like when we had the the social justice protests right back in 2020, people were donating like crazy. So, like people are able to donate, you know, find resources, I feel like it's a positive aspect in the sense of like education and empowerment.

Courtney Jones Carney

Before we continue, it's important that we define some terms misinformation and disinformation. Are terms that are commonly used in the same conversation. However, it's important to note that they are not the same thing. Misinformation is when false information is shared and the intent of sharing that information is unknown, so it's unclear if the information is being spread to purposely misinformed. Or if the person sharing the information genuinely believes the information is true. An example is that people often share misinformation during a national disaster, like how much death or damage has occurred. This is because the situation is constantly evolving. And in a. Natural disaster. It can be difficult to confirm information in a timely manner. Disinformation, on the other hand, is when false and misleading information is spread with malicious intent. So in these cases, we know that the person sharing the information is aware that the information is false and they are sharing it intentionally to disinform. An example is in 2019, after the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris caught fire. Far right groups utilize social media to spread the false claim. That the fire was started by Islamic extremists. In truth, the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit or an improperly extinguished cigarette.

Speaker 5

I think that social media platforms have become so powerful, particularly Facebook has become so powerful that at a certain point, I think they need to play a bigger and better role in managing the types of information. Because when we're thinking about. Social media and the roles that they play in activism, particularly one of the negatives, is that third party organizations are using them to collect information. From their users, and so particularly the MIT Technology Review, I think they actually just released this this week, or maybe it was early in March. They revealed that law enforcement agencies in Minnesota have been tracking activists and have been collecting data from them from social media sites. Have been keeping records on them so that they can find information to charge. Them with a crime. And so no longer do law enforcement agencies have to actually interact with you in any sort of meaningful way. They can just go on your social media and take a bunch of information from you and we know that this has happened during protests when they just troll TikTok, Troll, Instagram, troll your Twitter and be like, well, you were there. And now we can potentially arrest you.

Ki-Yong Park

Again, it can be used for a weapon because you just don't know who else is out there and you know, I even digress this, you know. So God willing, my goal is to go to NIH once I graduate, cause then age has a clinical Center for their nurses. So I'm, you know, I'm hoping to work in that institute. And, you know, I was just like, listen. I mean, I'm fine. I'm very proactive. I love talking to people face to face. And I really considered deleting all of my social media outlets. I'm just like pressing for me. I'm of the belief that if I matter to you, you will take the time to reach out to me and like. Say, how are you?

Speaker 4

How have you been?

Ki-Yong Park

Whereas in like, oh, we're just connected on Facebook and we're just. Connected on social media. Also kind of to think about that. The face to face. Interaction is super important and I wanted to like get your thoughts about that. Like, do you? Think social media. Cough. Cough. Catfishing do. You think that social media takes like the humanity out of like our communication skills.

Rosemary Ferreira

With social media like I think originally right like that, there's that social. Part to it. Right. Like it was always supposed to be a way for us, for humans to be able to connect with one. Another and then I think about how social media is a lot more accessible. There's no paywall like there is or gatekeeping like there is and or not. I shouldn't say no. There is less gatekeeping than with higher education, and at the same time, knowing that like. Socially, it really isn't free right that we are paying in other ways, and that social media has definitely been a part of absorb into this economic model that we live on there of capitalism. So now it's kind of like all of our information is being sold. And so there is. So this cost to participating in social media and I feel like it is and so gets to your question Keong, I feel like because of that ship. Into becoming a money maker for these huge corporations of Facebook. Now there is kind of this watering down of connections between people and not necessarily that it has gone completely. I think I still find a lot of community on Twitter and Instagram. But I do think that a lot of it now is by this, by that, you know, connect to this so that you can buy this, you know, like there's a lot more of that capitalism piece into. The purpose of social media.

Speaker 5

There's this tweet that I always. Think about and it's. Gone it's rounds, but the person had tweeted, like we were never supposed to know this many people or their thoughts about like social media and how it's just super overwhelming of how many people we now know exist in the world, but not just their existence. But we know what they eat in the morning. And what they're wearing and we know their dog, we know all this information about so many people. People and I just, I don't know about you all. But I just. Feel so overwhelmed sometimes when I'm on social media. It just feels like I'm in a crowded room and there's 1000 people around me and they're all talking at, like, an extremely high volume.

Speaker 2

And I'm like.

Speaker 5

OK, there's this horrible thing that's happening in Ukraine. But then there's also these other terrible things that are happening in these other countries. But then there are terrible things that are happening in America. Then there are terrible things are happening. And then there are terrible things are happening in Baltimore City. And it's just like I I I feel yes.

Ki-Yong Park

It's overwhelming.

Speaker 2

It's so overwhelming.

Ki-Yong Park

And like to that point, it came so overwhelmed. Saying that I had to delete it. That's why I'm just like I'd rather be, I don't know. Ignorance is bliss. I'd rather just not know.

Rosemary Ferreira

So I guess to that point I did have a question around the form that's his activism. And so during the 2020 racial justice protest, there were things such as using the black box to kind of putting that on Instagram.

Ki-Yong Park

And like, you know, demonstrate a BLM, but then it's like, oh, BLM isn't. Someone correct me if I'm wrong. Like they said, something along the lines where like it's not a moment. This is a lifetime thing. Oh Lord, yes. So when I learned about performative allyship versus being an ally versus, you know, dedicating yourself to, you know, activism and advocating for those who are not as fortunate as you, for me, performative. Ally **** to me identified it as like. OK, like you're just doing it for the sake of the moment. You're doing it in the midst of the moment and like. All of a sudden, like as time goes by, you forget about it. For me, what I learned to kind of prevent myself from going there is like this is a constant thing that you have to keep addressing. It's not a one time thing, this is still going to keep happening and you know, I think one thing I will never forget my mentor telling me that day was that she said, you know. Keeyon this is an issue that you can either take apart in and when any issue that you can take apart and I'm talking about racial justice right. This is a an issue that you can commit yourself to. Or step away and just try to remain neutral, but at what point do you remain neutral because at one point it's? Going to hit. Home and you know what I mean. Performative allyship, for example. It's like I remember my high school, which is a predominantly white high school. You would see high school students like jamming out to like rap music. Stop music random flow. You know, doing black culture things and then all of a sudden Black History Month is over. Oh, let me go back to my typical, like, baseline. It's like, no, that's not. That's not a moment. You have to. Live it out and when I mean live it. Out you have to understand what did I learn? What did? I take away from this. And how can I be a better person and? I think a lot of people. Forget that now this is what I'm going to get real, like, assertive about. I hate it when people say, why aren't you doing anything? Why aren't you posting stuff? Social media and. That's like ohh, but I thought like it's. Not by force. Just because I'm not doing stuff on. Social media doesn't mean that I'm not advocating for. Black lives. It doesn't mean that I'm not advocating for social justice. It doesn't mean that I'm not advocating for anti Asian for example, like let's say one of the people that I know confronted me about being a sellout. It's like you're quick to support black efforts, but then when it comes to Asians, you're just really quiet. That's throwing me off a real nasty.

Speaker 4

OK.

Ki-Yong Park

And I think that's where social media can get so twisted in its circle because it's like you don't know what people do outside of the Internet world. I have things to do. I'm in school. Did you know? I was taking. Five classes, you know, like things like that, and it's like.

Courtney Jones Carney

I think social.

Ki-Yong Park

Media creates a snapshot of what it wants you to see. Not the whole story.

Rosemary Ferreira

I agree that just because you're not using social media as a platform for your activism does not mean that you aren't doing the work in other way. Is whether that's, you know, serving your community through volunteering, or serving your community by doing research. Or, you know, like, there's just so many other ways for folks to be engaging in social activism in a way that's not putting it on social media. I think social media is. Kind of vehicle that folks can use to share about different initiatives so that folks can donate or join or use their resources in some way, but it doesn't have to be the place for folks to say hey. Look at. What I'm doing?

Ki-Yong Park

Yeah, yeah, right.

Rosemary Ferreira

Aren't I the person?

Ki-Yong Park

And in my opinion, I think social media is the raw. Being on the present, it is just the superficial things that you are doing. And that's what personally. For me, like I do other things besides, like advocating that, you know, This is why a group of people are important and This is why, like, we have to learn from what we historically have done to these groups of people. I think a lot of us like. Social media is our only way that we can make direct impact. Well, you can make direct impact by, you know, volunteering, mentoring youth, right? I volunteer with a nonprofit organization that's based in Baltimore City coach Geez Academy. I don't know if you all are familiar with the documentary step the movie Gary Mccarter. Basically, she created this movement of empowering. Inner city you. Fiesta, financial literacy, all everything like a slice of life, if you will. And personally for me, I know that there's a lot of issues that we have within, like racial justice and all of these other things, but I find peace and comfort knowing that I'm dedicating my time to helping out inner city youth get the things that they need.

Rosemary Ferreira

So I kind of just want to, I feel like we've been able to touch on most of the questions, but I wanted to wrap up our time together with any other additional thoughts or ideas that folks or how moments that may have happened young. I appreciate that you already started sharing kind of some tips. Or ideas on

how to how to engage in social activism using social media or without using social media. So I just wanted to open up the space. If there's anything else folks would like to add.

Ki-Yong Park

I guess like takeaways from this podcast is like. Have a discerning mind. When I say discerning take everything with a grain of salt. Because everything you see on social media, whether it's a picture or a infographic or an informational post, take it with a grain of salt. Because I think one thing that we are starting to learn is that everything that's posted on social media is not true. Figure it out for yourself and do your research and do your due diligence to appraise and figure out what is true versus what is not true. And the sense? Of building a network, I don't know, but you know, ever since I've been in nursing school, I've been following a lot of Tik Tokers who are in, like, nursing school. They give out a lot of good tips so you know to anyone who's listening to this podcast, whether it be that you are a fashion designer. Or a business major or engineering major like just go type in random things on social media and just be like engineer, nurse dance right. And if you were willing to go forward and build your network. That's how you do. So I think. That's like my takeaways from this podcast.

Speaker 5

For me, the first is just that digital literacy is so important, and especially for the people that are listening and that have children teaching your children how to backtrack all of the information. So if they see something, click on the profile of the person who posted it, what's their name? Can they find information about them? If they say that they're a journalist, look up the journal that they say or the newspaper or the publication that they say that they're from. And then just because it looks legitimate, don't just take it at face value, go to that pages about page, right, do some leg work to really identify what is the purpose behind this person posting this sort of information. I know it's a lot of work because a lot of us just use social media to wind down, but I think that that is. Really, the crux of misinformation and disinformation.

Rosemary Ferreira

For me, I think especially for folks who have privileged identities. So, for example, identify as a system the woman I also identify as able bodied. And so for me, social media is really important so that I'm able to learn from these communities and engage with these communities. And be able to like check myself. And also that means like. If there's a Venmo. Or cash app on that profile that you're learning from Venmo and Cashapp that person, right? Like this is a lot of Labor that folks have marginalized experiences are, you know, they're putting their lives on social media. They're sharing. They're dropping so many amazing gems and so also compensating. For that work is so important for me as someone who's navigating, continuing to unpack my own privileges, and where I hold power and how I can be someone who is in alignment with, you know, disability, justice, trans plus, justice, etcetera.

Speaker 5

Two Rosemary's point this is just a really quick one. I think I mentioned this earlier. Everybody on social media. OK, wait, that's not true, cause everybody isn't a real person. Some people are. Bot but a. Lot of people on social media are actual people. People make mistakes. Activists make mistakes because they are human beings. Just extend grace, especially to to Rosemary's point to people who are doing this work unpaid and who just want to educate individuals. Don't hold them under some extremely small

microscope. You're really doing more harm than good, but also lastly, social media companies are business. They do not exist out of altruism. They are not there to lift up activists. They are there to make money.

Ki-Yong Park

And it's also a way to dismantle, like, the cover up businesses and also like. Combat racism in a. Way too, but I think once we start displacing our worth away from social media. I think that's when we can start getting comfortable with being not being so concerned about what other people say or what other people do, cause I'm pretty sure that I don't know where my life is going to take me. But like, let's say that I get some type of big promotion or some type of big career. I know I'll probably be under a microscope, but my value and my work. Is not placed on the opinion of what other people say. It's what I do and it's what I command.

Rosemary Ferreira

Thank you so much for joining us Kiang on the table. We really appreciate your jenvy 21st century perspective. Angela and I are still part of that 20th century 1900s. We're really grateful for you to join us and to be able to share your lived experiences and your thoughts with us. So thank you. For joining.

Ki-Yong Park

Of course. Thank you so. Much for inviting me. I really appreciate you all and I hope that this is not the. Last time we have a cut talk.

Speaker 5

The table is a production of the intercultural center and the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. It's hosted and produced by Courtney Jones, Carney and Rosemary Ferrera. This episode was written by Rosemary and me, Angela Jackson, executive producer of this podcast and senior marketing specialist at the Division of Student Affairs. A big thank you to our guest Keyong Park for joining us at the table For more information about the intercultural center, including events where students can learn more about race, ethnicity, culture norms and current events. Visit you, Maryland at Edu forward slash lle.