



Rethinking  
Research Ethics,  
Power, and the Risk  
of Visibility in the  
Era of the “Alt-  
Right” Gaze



# Contents

Introduction

OperationDiggingDiGRA

Visibility and the “Alt-Right” Gaze

Rethinking Researcher Risk

Conclusion

Reference



# Introduction

- ◆ In this paper, we discuss about the issues and challenges that scholars face in the era of the "alt-right" gaze, setting the stage for the paper's critical analysis of these issues and its call for a rethinking of research ethics in the digital age.
- ◆ The significance of this trend for academic freedom and the pursuit of knowledge.
- ◆ The power dynamics at play in academia and how they contribute to the vulnerability of certain scholars to online harassment and surveillance.

# OperationDiggingDiGRA

- ◆ OperationDiggingDiGRA was a campaign launched by a group of individuals associated with the "alt-right" movement to expose what they perceived as bias in the academic field of digital game studies.
- ◆ Using the hashtag #OperationDiggingDiGRA, some individuals publicly declared their intention to fact-check and peer-review every DiGRA conference paper.



# Visibility and the “Alt-Right” Gaze

- ◆ There is a need for new theoretical understandings of how the "alt-right" engages in surveillance of others, particularly social and new media scholars.
- ◆ Foucault's work on regimes of visibility sensitizes us to the ways that technological apparatuses can be used as tools for discipline and surveillance.
- ◆ Laura Mulvey's came with the concept of the “male gaze”.

# Rethinking Researcher Risk

- ◆ The author suggests 3 ways scholars can move forward.
- ◆ Research on the "alt-right" is risky and can have negative consequences.
- ◆ Scholars need to be thoughtful and strategic in how they engage with the "alt-right" and its supporters.



# Conclusion

- ◆ There is a need for a rethinking of research ethics in the digital age.
- ◆ The rise of the "alt-right" movement and its associated tactics of targeted harassment and surveillance pose a significant threat to academic freedom and the pursuit of knowledge.
- ◆ The importance of protecting academic freedom, promoting ethical research practices, and fostering collaboration and solidarity among scholars.

# Reference

- ◇ American Association of University Professors. (2017). Open letter regarding the professor watchlist. Retrieved from <https://www.aaup.org/open-letter-regarding-professor-watchlist>



Thank You