'Doing feminism' online: acknowledging the materiality of the processes and relationships involved

Yvette Hutchison, University of Warwick

In this paper I am going to compare the 'interplay between local embodied struggles, protests and the more discursive and disembodied activity online' (Fotolopou, 2016, 5) by analysing my experience of establishing the virtual African Womens' Playwright Network (2015-2019) via a mobile application and Facebook. I will compare the engagement of the women online with face-to-face encounters to suggest how and why we need to acknowledge the materiality of the processes and relationships involved in these kinds of online networks, which as Stephansen (2016) argues, involve the making of new publics. I will end by considering White and Le Cornu's (2018) argument that the key to successful use of online sites is not so much understanding how people generally respond to new technologies, but rather understanding what motivates their behaviours.

References

- Fotopoulou, A. (2016). Feminist Activism and Digital Networks: Between Empowerment and Vulnerability. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Stephansen, H. C. (2016). Understanding citizen media as practice: Agents, processes, publics. In M. Baker & B. Blaagaard (eds.), *Citizen Media and Public Spaces: Diverse Expressions of Citizenship and Dissent*. Oxon: Routledge.
- White, D. S., & Le Cornu, A. (2011). Visitors and residents: A new typology for online engagement. *First*Monday,

 np., http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3171/3049, accessed 12/07/2018.