Latin America

in a Glimpse

Gender,
Feminism and
the Internet
in Latin America

Internet Governance Forum
Switzerland, 2017

Latin America

in a Glimpse

November, 2017

Introduction

During the last three years, Latin America in a Glimpse has been an annual recount of the most relevant events in Latin America in terms of technology and human rights. This summary allows readers to get an idea of the scene in the region regarding: relevant issues discussed, emerging threats, the response of public policies to the challenges projected by technology and the role that civil society organizations are playing in those scenarios.

We also wanted to highlight the work that each of the civil society organizations are doing in their respective countries and areas of interest, both through the report and the annual event held the day before the internet Governance Forum, with the intention to establish a bridge between Latin America and other regions of the globe, to facilitate interaction with financiers, allies and colleagues.

In this fourth edition of Latin America in a Glimpse we wanted to continue this work, but with a twist. Following a global trend, we want to understand the intricate link between gender and technology, and the responses that, from this part of the world, different groups of women have given to this complex, problematic and difficult relationship.

We set our objective on researching the projects that have been developed during 2017 in Latin America that work the intersection of gender and technology. We want to answer questions such as: Which are the critical areas being explored? What are the main problems? And, above all, who are the people behind each of these projects, which are their motivations and how is their work framed in a larger panorama of the struggles for gender equity?

An increasingly violent and hostile digital environment towards women, the lack of participation in the different layers of the internet ecosystem, and a generalized scenario of scarce opportunities, multidimensional injustices and invisibility, has generated a series of different answers, but with a common goal: a dignified internet for women, where they can exercise their rights freely and develop in an integral and autonomous way; where digital technologies are a tool for personal and collective fulfillment, and not a weapon of the male dominated status quo.

What we found was a highly active community of organizations and collectives that practically covers the entire spectrum of nodes in digital environments, from the creation of feminist servers to the discursive occupation of the internet through self-managed media. Women who have decided to lose their fear of error and have discovered the joy of learning, experimentation and sorority.

Faced with devastating statistics, the initiatives listed here are powerfully inspiring. That is precisely the idea: to build bridges between the women mentioned here and those who - due to our lack of time, knowledge or even clumsiness - are not; women doing similar jobs in other regions of the planet and, above all, those who after reading the following pages are encouraged to join the fight. The latter will surely appear in the next editions of this report.

We are very proud of this fourth edition of Latin America in a Glimpse, not so much for what we have done, but for having the opportunity to learn about these experiences.

Many thanks to all of you. For your work and inspiration.

Santiago de Chile / Mexico City, November 2017

Technological autonomy: feminist infrastructure

At the same time that the internet becomes a space increasingly quantified and intensely monitored by governments, where a handful of companies monopolize the majority of online traffic and where gender violence has found an important sounding board, some women in Latin America are experimenting new forms of autonomy, setting up their own servers, writing their own applications, creating networks, experimenting without fear of error and sharing with others.

Vedetas *(Brazil)*

https://vedetas.org/

The technical discussion regarding the internet and its operation continues to be a largely male dominated and not very diverse space. Being aware of the political potential of autonomous networks as a form of resistance to control and surveillance, Vedetas is a project dedicated to disseminating and encouragement in the exchange of knowledge about servers, hacking and feminist technology.

The key word is autonomy, which - as Fernanda Fer Shira explains - in the feminist approach means resistance "to a system and an infrastructure of communication and information constituted in a patriarchal space, masculinized and under the control of the global north."

For this reason, Vedetas has developed a feminist server, which sponsors useful tools and websites of related projects, and, at the same time, offers support and workshops to other groups. During 2017 they carried out two "mini-courses" on feminist infrastructures and began a study on mesh networks.

For Fernanda, the important thing is to "create spaces for exchange, learning and experience", thus creating the conditions for more women to become interested in learning about feminist hacking and "(re) appropriating technology, so that it responds to our needs and interests."

Kéfir *(Argentina & México)*

https://kefir.red/

"We do not want to just defend ourselves, we want to experiment, create and think in an in-depth and collective way, from the experiences of the groups that we accompany, their needs and concerns", explains Kéfir collective that hosts activists for the social struggles of libre software and culture, feminisms, critical social economy and self-management movements.

Kéfir is a transfeminist libre/free technological co-op, committed to the creation of "communal digital communities, where we can feel confident, express ourselves and act without fear." They offer an ecosystem of services ranging from communication tools and online work, to accompaniment in the learning of free technologies, through web development and digital security.

With the idea of working "from the collective construction and not from the technical solution", during 2017 Kèfir developed several projects like Vrrrim [https://vrr.im] a URLS shortener "without accounts, without logs, without small print", and an "improvised and crude" manifesto written with Vedetas [https://fermentos.kefir.red/aco-pele].

"In Kèfir we are in a process of thinking what it means to work as a cooperative and how to reflect on each process, not just in day-to-day work. Also, always make sure we have a time to think about micro-politics; know how we feel and how projects are working through us."

Cl4ndestina *(Brazil)*

https://clandestina.io/

Narrira Lemos and Steffania Paola met at Django Girls, a women's programming workshop. "I say this because it seems very important to me: this relatively new movements of exclusive spaces for the exchange of knowledge of digital technologies among women", explains Steffania.

One was already inserted in the world of systems administration, the other was learning. "Why not transform that process into a shared space?" This is how Cl4ndestina was born, a project that since November offers web hosting to Latin American feminist projects.

"Making an analogy with the street, and thinking of the internet as a place where our body transits, we suffer various forms of violence when passing through there. The projects that have arisen are a reaction to that; but I think we are now in the next stage: to build the streets where we want to travel, the roads that make possible the meetings in this city, which we want to be feminist and reflected everywhere", they explain.

Under the idea of collective learning, the first project hosted at Cl4ndestina is Ciberseguras, a repository of learning material about digital self-defense and digital autonomy for women and diverse identities. "We want to re-take the technologies, use them

"We want to re-take the technologies, use them in a feminist and autonomous way. This means having control over what we are using, but also having the possibility of experimenting, erring, not being afraid of getting into those spaces."

Narrira Lemos and Steffania Paola, Cl4ndestina.

in a feminist and autonomous way. This means having control over what we are using, but also having the possibility of experimenting, erring, not being afraid of getting into those spaces", they point out, and they clarify that Cl4ndestina is not a solution but "a means to build and think alternatives for an open, free and safe digital space."

Data, codes, circuits: women working on technology

The first person to program a computer was a woman, Ada Lovelace. Until recently, programming was a common professional activity among American women. Today the landscape is different. The gender gap in this sector of the economy is added to the gap that separates the global north and the south in the development of technology. As a way to amend this inequity, women's communities in Latin America have been created around specific areas of technology, to exchange knowledge and promote a fair and equitable employment.

Preta Lab *(Brazil)*

http://pretalab.com/

In the same way that having references can encourage vocation, the lack of role models can become an obstacle when choosing a career in technology. Aware of this, Silvana Bahia decided search for women who work with technology in Brazil and give them visibility. This is how Preta Lab was born, a project conceived in 2014 within the framework of the Roda-da Hacker (http://rodadahacker.org) and finally achieved in 2017, working from the makerspace Olabi in Rio de Janeiro.

Obviously, it is not a simple challenge. In the first place, because in a country like Brazil, talking about race is inescapable. "Our country was the last to end slavery, and even today black women are at the base of the social pyramid: they lead the indexes as victims of feminicide, gender violence, lack of access to health and education", Silvana explains. In the second place, because what does it mean to work in technology? For many women, the mastery of technical tools is not enough to be considered within this group.

"Our country was the last to end slavery, and even today black women are at the base of the social pyramid: they lead the indexes as victims of feminicide, gender violence, lack of access to health and education."

Silvana Bahia, Preta Lab.

That is why the first Preta Lab project is a mapping of black and indigenous women working in technology, which covers more than engineering, programming or mathematics, including those that "produce content, journalists, youtubers, women who work with data, those who learn about the internet, who use these tools for political activism in the Brazilian context" and more. To date, they have registered more than 600 women from all over the country.

The second initiative developed by Preta Lab during this year consists of a campaign with ten videos in which different women explain their relationship with technology and how this has influenced their lives. The idea of the series is "to inspire other black and indigenous women to consider the field of technology as a possibility for them."

Rails Girls *(Venezuela)*

https://twitter.com/railsgirlsve/

"Women, programming and free software is an explosive combination", says Betsabeth Torres. "We have all experienced that loneliness of being the only one in a group of programmer friends; now we can say 'it feels good to be together.'" In Venezuela, until recently there was no space for female programmers, "there were activists for free software, but they did not work in the area of programming and development, where there is a greater gap", explains Betsabeth. In May 2017 Rails Girls Venezuela was born.

Rails is an open source web application framework created in 2004 for the development of applications with the Ruby programming language. Towards 2010 Rails Girls was born in Finland, a global community of volunteers that works to have more female programmers, making technology more accessible. In Latin America there are Rails Girls communities in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and, since this year, in Venezuela.

"We have all experienced that loneliness of being the only one in a group of programmer friends; now we can say 'it feels good to be together."

Betsabeth Torres, Rails Girls.

They started doing webinars on their Youtube channel and sharing information on social networks. Then they made their first face-to-face course, aimed at women who are not familiar with technology, and the second one, aimed to encourage the use of free technologies among women programmers. And if their first face-to-face activity coincided with Debian Day, the distribution of which they are users, in the second workshop they worked on a Venezuelan GNU / Linux distribution, called Canaima.

In six months of work, says Betsabeth, the community already has 70 members nationwide, and government support for the development of training activities.

Chicas Hacker *(El Salvador)*

"There is a point in life when, as a technology professional, you get tired of hearing, 'but isn't that a career for men?'" For a long time, Karla Hernández felt like "the unicorn monochromatic girl with three horns", isolated in a corner with her technical stuff and her extraterrestrial language. Questions about the allegedly male character of her activities used to irritate her. But then she chose to opt for tolerance and

to explain, again and again, the social inequalities that encourage men, much more than women, to opt for engineering careers in the area of technology.

Today Karla leads Chicas Hacker, the Salvadoran node of Geek Girls Latam, a "technology sisterhood" born in Colombia that inspires, empowers and connects girls, young people and women in the use, appropriation and creation of technology.

Working from La Casa Tomada, a center of research, development and distributed and collaborative prototyping, Chicas Hacker was the first node of Geek Girls outside of Colombia. Today the project is also in El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and Panama, and this year they presented a manifesto (http://geekgirlslatam.org/manifiesto/) that seeks to inspire the execution of "powerful strategies and actions" to attract, retain and empower a greater number of women, youth and girls in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Django Girls Arequipa *(Peru)*

https://djangogirls.org/arequipa/

Django is a web framework for open source web development written in Python, a popular programming language. The project is in the hands of the Django Software Foundation, which in 2014 created the Django Girls organization in Europe, with the aim of helping more women to develop web sites and applications using HTML, CSS, Python and Django, through free workshops.

Django Girls has offered workshops in more than 80 countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Haiti and Mexico, thanks to a community of volunteers who are locally responsible for delivering them.

In Arequipa, Peru, a group of students from the National University of San Agustin and the Catholic University of Santa Maria saw in this initiative a way of working towards gender equity, "helping women to trust in themselves and expand their vision of the future." Although women have made their way in different branches in the workplace, they still make up "a small part of the IT sector. At the same time, each year the number of female students enrolled in careers associated with this sector is lower", they explain.

In 2017, the community of Arequipa held its second workshop, with the participation of more than 70 women. The goal is to promote the idea that programming is not difficult and, above all, "eradicate the theory that this is a task in which men have more skills." The space also serves to create bonds of friendship and also to generate employment contacts.

"We made many women interested in technology and trust their own potential, as well as the added value that their knowledge of creating a web page can give to their careers", they say with pride.

Chicas Poderosas *(Venezuela)*

https://www.facebook.com/PoderosasVE/

Chicas Poderosas was born in 2013, with the aim of forming "ambassadors through digital tools and skills, new media and leadership." Today the organization has communities in 13 countries and, starting in 2017, has begun to give workshops on journalistic research and hackathons, so that "many women acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to investigate and report on issues of public interest by accountability and seek truth with precision."

This was part of what happened this year in Venezuela, where a data journalism workshop was held for the first time, two days after a public data hackathon. "25 journalists with average knowledge in data journalism where invited for a workshop with Natalia Mazzote and Alvaro Justen, both from Brazil. Two days in which they learned to work with databases, ask questions, to get to the juicy part", explains Marjuli Matheus, manager of the project.

The second initiative of the year was Chicas Wiki, in partnership with Wikimedia Venezuela and the British Council in Caracas, where women journalists between 21 and 30 years old created profiles of Venezuelan Women that until then had not been included in Wikipedia, to help close the current gender gap. The activity was complemented with a talk on journalism with a gender perspective and an editing workshop on Wikipedia. After four hours, 23 new profiles were added to the online encyclopedia.

TIC-as, Sula Batsú *(Costa Rica)*

https://tic-as.com/

Less than 20% of people in the field of "Information and Communication Technologies" (ICT, TIC in Spanish) are women. To cope with this rough statistic, the cooperative Sula Batsú has developed the TIC-as program, which seeks to train women as leaders in the field of technology, so that they develop technological poles in their localities. "Our proposal is to strengthen territorial development based on the local economy, led by young rural women", says Kemly Camacho, executive director of Sula Batsú.

The engine of this project is a network of 500 young women from the technological sector of Costa Rica, who meet every eight weeks and define activities to be developed. "It's part of the leadership training and also part of them being mentors to the younger ones", Kemly explains.

During 2017 Sula Batsú worked in rural areas, where they have four "technology clubs" for girls from 10 to 12 years old, four "moms and technology" clubs and four programming clubs for teenagers. Each of these clubs teaches ten-week workshops. There are also six clubs in universities, to support new students to face a "very masculinized" space, such as computer science, informatics and other related subjects.

They also develop "feminine hackathons", spaces of coexistence around technological challenges. This year they held the First Feminine Hackathon of Central America and the Dominican Republic, with the participa-

"Women should build alternatives to the business model on which the digital industry is based; we believe that another digital economy is possible and women have the responsibility and the possibility of proposing another alternative to the digital society."

Kemly Camacho, Sula Batsú.

tion of 180 young women and 35 teams developing proposals for urban sustainability.

They also have an incubator for digitally based companies with a feminist focus, where 12 women's ventures are in the process of consolidation; a network of 50 mentors to support young women in their personal and professional growth and in their studies of technological careers. And also a scholarship fund, with which they have supported the participation of 50 young women in national and international conferences, specializations courses and others.

The conviction is that women have the right to create technologies from their own experiences and perspectives, access to a labor field that offers possibilities for personal and professional growth, with job stability and appropriate income, and that is reserved mostly for "white urban males." It is also an opportunity to "deconstruct the algorithms", "the digital society that has been built with them" and also the logic with which the ICT market works.

"The digital sector works on the basis of excluding business models, based on extreme vigilance towards people, with tendencies towards the precariousness of work, oriented towards extreme consumption, with no respect for the environment. We believe that women should build alternatives to the business model on which the digital industry is based; we believe that another digital economy is possible and women have the responsibility and the possibility of proposing another alternative to the digital society" Kemly concludes.

Internet for support, access and defense of our rights

One of the great promises associated with the internet is the democratization of access to information. And while this has happened, it is also true that digital environments are not immune to the inequities, injustices and violence present in the physical world. On the contrary, gender violence is replicated in the internet, adopting old and new forms. Is it possible to combat this violence-online and offline-with the same tools that the internet gives us? Different Latin American projects are trying to do so.

Empoderamiento de la mujer *(Ecuador)*

http://empoderamientodelamujer.org/

"Internet and new technologies are more present in our lives and offer efficient communication tools, facilitating access and expanding the scope of information. However, in Ecuador it is still not possible to find necessary information on gender violence and women's rights in a clear, accessible, updated and reliable way ", Carla and Fernanda Sánchez explain.

To fill this void, Empoderamiento de la Mujer ("Women empowerment") was born, a platform created with the purpose of bringing relevant information online, which allows Ecuadorian women to become aware of their rights and the services available in the country that can contribute to their social, economic and political development.

Currently, the platform provides information for the Quito area and its metropolitan region, with plans to expand to the rest of the country, and compiles information in the following areas: women's rights, types of violence; routes of assistance for women victims of violence, sexual health, and family planning. It also offers a map with the contact information of different public and private organizations that provide different types of services for women.

"The knowledge and access to technology is still predominantly masculine and elitist, which corroborates that women, mainly those with limited resources, continue to be excluded from the digital world, and, therefore, experience greater social and economic exclusion in an increasingly computerized society."

Carla y Fernanda Sánchez, Empoderamiento de la mujer

"The knowledge and access to technology is still predominantly masculine and elitist, which corroborates that women, mainly those with limited resources, continue to be excluded from the digital world, and, therefore, experience greater social and economic exclusion in an increasingly computerized society", explain Carla and Fernanda.

With the intention of reducing this gap, the project has meant a lesson for them, who have been in charge of the entire development of the project: programming, mapping and constructing texts, as well as gathering information on Ecuadorian legislation on rights of women and the routes to access them. It has been an arduous, but satisfactory, work that links the movement #VivasNosQueremos (We want to be alive) in Ecuador with the technical learning that involves the design and development of a web page. "It's a wonderful feeling to know that you are collaborating with other women and to know that you can make a difference in the life of some of them", they say.

acoso.online *(Chile)*

https://acoso.online/

acoso.online is a website of help and advice for victims of non-consensual pornography, developed by Francisco Vera and Paz Peña. "Many people came to us for guidance on these issues, both legal and at the level of internet platforms. The demand increased and the dramatism of the cases also did, so one day we decided that we would make this information public and facilitate the access to it."

Currently the project provides information for victims in Chile and it is expected that during 2018 it will expand to the rest of Latin America. "When we did the research for the project, we realized that there was no reliable information on the internet, and what existed was either in a cautionary tone or in English. In addition, legally and on the internet platforms, everything could be very confusing" Paz explains.

For her, non-consensual pornography is an example of how new technologies reproduce the patriarchal logic of society, generating new expressions of gender violence that are very difficult to solve: "as in most of women's sexual and reproductive rights, waiting for adequate responses from the State cannot be the biggest bet. The States either punish the internet, or re-vicitimize the victims, or simply does not care. In this sense, we must follow that line of Latin cyberfeminism not to abandon, but deepen solidarity, community and autonomous networks; and in the case of non-consensual pornography, open social dialogues that make this type of violence simply unacceptable."

Género y Número *(Brazil)*

http://generonumero.media/

Both a startup and an independent media, Gender and Number is a Brazilian organization that has set as a goal to talk and investigate, with numbers and data, the urgent issues that have an impact on the rights of women, trans people and the LGBT community in general.

It is not always an easy task, often the data simply does not exist: "there are communities that have no recorded data, which are totally invisible. This is connected with the lack of public policies for this community. [In Brazil] there is no legal classification of the crime of homophobia, transphobia

or lesbophobia for example", Maria Lutterbach explains.

Along with beginning a qualitative and quantitative research on the LGBT community in Brazil, in 2017 Gender and Number presented Braços Dados, an application that, in case of danger, sends an alert message to five trusted people, including the location of the user. The idea is to be able to offer a tool for women who feel insecure when walking alone on the street.

The application is available to be downloaded for free in the Android operating system. And, since it is possible to collect anonymous data about its use, in the future the idea is to analyze that data and to be able to map the most insecure sectors of Brazil and identify geo-localized support points for women and the LGBT community.

Fundación Karisma *(Colombia)*

https://karisma.org.co/

In February 2017, within the framework of the International Safer Internet Day, Fundación Karisma presented the guide "Safety, Privacy on Twitter. A Guide for Survivors of Harassment and Abuse." It is an adaptation for Latin America of the tips developed by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), developed with the support of Twitter. The content is mainly aimed at women and minority groups, who have traditionally been victims of harassment and violence. The guide explains the platform's privacy options and provides guidance on ways to report cases of abuse and harassment. The manual also includes other useful digital security resources.

The guide is one of the most interesting examples of cooperation between civil society and private enterprise when dealing with a complex issue such as online violence against women, a topic that Karisma has been working on for some time, offering workshops raising awareness and creating materials, such as Alerta Machitroll ("Macho troll alert"), a tool that encourages the visibility of violent and misogynistic content circulating on the internet through humor.

"It is clear that sexist violence prevents us from enjoying and exercising our rights fully."

Amalia Toledo, Fundación Karisma (Colombia).

"It is clear that sexist violence prevents us from enjoying and exercising our rights fully. Colombia is a country that has a good legal framework to prevent and combat this violence, but practice tells us otherwise. Additionally, that legal framework is not being translated into state and government actions against sexist violence on the internet" explains Amalia Toledo, Karisma's project coordinator, adding that "these small actions seek at least to serve as a vehicle to reflect on the problem, generate narrative of non-violent counter-discourse and offer tools and knowledge that help prevent violence."

During this year, Karisma also developed the campaign "Stop and look: 10 Latin-American Women on science", which, through graphic material, highlights the contribution of ten women on biology, engineering, botany, mathematics, computer science and other fields of knowledge. As if this was not enough, they are also a central part of "Empowered Women", a documentary produced with the support of the Sueños Films collective from Ciudad Bolívar, which records the learning process of a group of women in the Potosí neighborhood around digital technology, in the framework of workshops conducted by Fundación Karisma.

Feminist pedagogies: doing and learning together

Despite policies of inclusion and equity, women still have much less access to education and work, and receive lower wages. They also have less access to digital technologies and, once on the internet, they are exposed to the male violence that also permeates this space. Faced with this daunting scenario, women from all over Latin America have organized to fight for a different situation, building safe and dignified spaces for them, through the development and practice of learning methodologies about the network, its risks and the ways in which interacts with the physical world.

Ciberfeministas *(Guatemala)*

http://ciberfemgt.org/

"The internet, that medium that promised us horizontal relationships, was mutating into a privatized, ultra-concentrated and hyper-guarded environment, of which women were being, once again, excluded." In 2014 Ciberfeministas emerged from this reflection, a Guatemalan network of organizations and independent activists that works to reverse this scenario. "It was not enough to focus on gender and feminism for transformative action, it was necessary to go further and take feminism as an analytical starting point to understand the power relations that are involved there", they explain collectively.

Given that many times counter-hegemonic discourses like feminism are censored, attacked, limited or banned in the network, for this collective the first step was to occupy the internet, "from feminist publications on Facebook, where rights are defended, to the creation of an autonomous feminist

The internet, that medium that promised us horizontal relationships, was mutating into a privatized, ultra-concentrated and hyper-guarded environment, of which women were being, once again, excluded."

Ciberfeministas Guatemala.

infrastructure, that works with feminist methodologies and on which feminist processes rest in a safe way."

The idea is to "land the discourse" and generate actions that produce changes. And for this "to understand and manage the communication and information technologies – from a critical, feminist and anti-capitalist approach- and to help others to do so, is a key point to reach, defend and protect other individual and collective freedoms", they affirm.

During 2017, Cibefeministas has held digital security workshops for women and human rights defenders, workshops on ICT and digital journalism for women journalists and community communicators, and Wikifemhack, editors of Wikimedia that seek to expand both the number of women editors, and articles on women written from a feminist perspective. It is worth noting the activity carried out this year to edit the article on the Sepur Zarco case, the first to be brought to justice for sexual violence against Ixil women during the internal armed conflict, and whose verdict was in favor of the women claimants.

Laboratorio de Interconectividades *(México)*

https://lab-interconectividades.net/

Laboratorio de Interconectividades started in 2014 as a space for transhackfeminist experimentation. From early 2017 the Lab is coordinated by Liliana Zaragoza Cano (Lili_Anaz), one of it's founders.

In this four years, the Lab has worked on the development of self-defense and "collective -digital-care" strategies against misogynistic violence, on-line and offline; to defend and inhabit internet in a safe way, so it could be a space for our fights and enjoyments; to enable free-culture ecosystems, and to expand our concept of technology and its infraestructures.

"We no longer want to survive in Mexico, we want to live; live with dignity and live fully."

Liliana Zaragoza, Laboratorio de Interconectividades.

"We do not believe in the dichotomy of the real and virtual world. Our body is physical and we want it to inhabit and circulate any space we choose, in a safe way", says Liliana. Under this idea, in complicity with Escuela de Defensa Personal para Mujeres Comando Colibrí, they have developed the "Taller de Autodefensas Hackfeministas", a comprehensive and holistic self-defense methodology.

"What strategy can we create together to organize ourselves in the safest and most autonomous way? How to represent the physical part of the internet through our bodies?" This are some of the questions they explore through free and feminist technologies in a three day workshop.

In Liliana's words, "we no longer want to survive in Mexico, we want to live; live with dignity and live fully. And to achieve this trust networks are needed: no more surveillance networks; because the networks are not the platforms, but the people. We explore free and feminist technologies to nurtured stronger networks of trust."

In Liliana's words, "we no longer want to survive in Mexico, we want to live; live with dignity and live fully. And to achieve this trust networks are needed: no more surveillance networks; because the networks are not the platforms, but the people. We explore free and feminist technologies to nurtured stronger networks of trust."

Akelarre Ciberfeminista *(Argentina, Colombia, Chile and Spain)*

https://akelarreciberfeminista.noblogs.org/

"The world of technology is dominated by men; the presence of women decreases progressively as we climb in the organizational pyramid of companies. Another problem is gender stereotypes in the educational stage, where even though there are more women who finish a university career, those who study a science or engineering career are always a minority." This is a reality not only in Latin America, but in the world, and that is what motivated the organization of Akelarre Ciberfeminista.

The project was presented by Lyann Cuartas and Virginia Díez to the "Digital Narratives in Real Time" initiative of the MediaLab Prado in Madrid. Together with collaborators from different latitudes, the objective was "to analyze digital activism, with its new narratives and performativities, from a gender perspective, as well as macho attacks on the web and ways to neutralize them."

The research had two objectives. On the one hand, to compile information on safer web tools, such as "alternative email accounts", search engines or password managers, and on the other hand, to collect information about sexist aggressions in the network. From this process the "Cyberfeminist Self-Defense Kit # one" was born [https://akelarreciberfeminista.noblogs.org/kit-de-autodefensa-ciberfeminista-uno] composed of a fanzine or manual for users of the network, a stencil with the hashtag #Stop-Machotrolls, and a "Cyberfeminist Santoral", with the profiles of cyberfeminism referents.

Cyborg Feminista, Tedic *(Paraguay)*

https://cyborgfeminista.tedic.org/

Technology and community are the working axes of this Paraguayan organization, which develops open civic technology and defends digital rights in favor of a free and open culture on the internet. During 2017 they developed several projects related to gender, following a global trend on the subject, but that had not cover the technology field in in their country yet.

This year, Tedic accompanied peasant women, lesbian women, transgender people and sex workers in digital security and account management in social networks. "Especially with the sex workers and trans people the work was very complex, because they have totally different problems from those of traditional human rights organizations. They suffer persecution on the part of radical religious communities, problems with the use of their real name on platforms such as Facebook", its executive director, Maricarmen Sequera explains. The accompaniment had different dimensions, from "setting up web pages and creating contents to free servers, always focusing on the use of free and secure tools."

The process lasted six months and as a result they created the Cyborgfeminist site to share learning materials, with information on topics such as sexting and anonymization with a gender perspective. "The idea is that the website is articulated with girls who are in Paraguay working with a gender perspective, not necessarily working with technology, but the idea is to invite them to write articles about the situation and the local circumstances."

In addition, Tedic has carried out public advocacy activities on gender issues, for example commenting on the National Cybersecurity Plan, and denouncing and accompanying cases of online violence against

women, such as that of journalist Karen Ovando [https://www.tedic.org/buena-noticia-tribunal-revoca-sentencia-que-censuraba-a-tedic-por-denunciar-violencia-de-genero].

Palabra Radio *(México)*

https://palabraradio.org/

Women in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have the legal right to freely make decisions on their bodies or their lives. In Mexico, seven women are killed per day. In this context the work of Maka is framed: a trainer in digital security, who is curious about the autonomous communication infrastructures and part of Palabra Radio, a team of women dedicated to the accompaniment of community communication processes, generating spaces for the exchange of knowledge and experiences and facilitating technical support to communication projects based on free culture.

"Women have turned our rage through the use of our smart phones and digital social networks to denounce the harassment and sexist violence that we live on the street, in college, in our close relationships, in our family and job. But in addition to denouncing, digital technologies help us organize collective responses such as street demonstrations and build support networks", Maka explains.

Palabra Radio is part of Siempre Vivas (Always Alive), a space of convergence of women's collectives in Mexico that work on gender issues and technologies against online violence, which during 2017 has been working on the creation of a media campaign against the normalization of online violence and the relationship with violence that women live on the street, at home and in work spaces. In addition, Maka has devoted an important part of her time to accompanying digital security issues to women's communities in Latin America.

For her, the main challenge is "to build a critical pedagogy of technological literacy, with a feminist approach", through which it would be possible "to face the surveillance, control and profit that currently prevails in the technological field, and from there, to rethink our relationship with technologies and the possibilities of creating safe spaces and autonomous infrastructures, free from sexist violence."

Coding Rights *(Brasil)*

https://www.codingrights.org/

Can creativity hack hatred? That is the question that prompted a two-day meeting held at the end of November in Santiago, Chile. Feminists who work for social justice, gender equality and reproductive rights, together with feminist artists and women in the field of digital security met with the objective of thinking, collectively, creative strategies for the fight against gender violence on the internet.

"Inequality, in all its socio-economic levels, cannot be solved by codes, standards and protocols developed by privileged dudes, in their bright playful offices, while drinking Club-Mate, simply because they have never experienced it" explains Joana Varon, executive director of Coding Rights, a Brazilian think-and-do-tank that organized the event, with the logistical support of Derechos Digitales and Hivos' economic support. "While the internet has been an extraordinary and disruptive tool, in the end it is a tool that can be used for many purposes. And as we have seen, it has been used in an important way to maintain the status-quo of social inequality and the norms of a consumer, misogynist, racist, binary gender

and hetero-patriarchal society. Sexist violence is a manifestation of all that."

The methodology and resources compiled at the meeting were documented and will soon be published to receive feedback, suggestions and improvements. Some of the ideas will be developed as pilot projects to hack hatred.

Hacking Hate is part of a series of initiatives developed by Coding Rights on gender and technology, which combine feminist criticism with a playful, creative and artistic approach. Other projects carried out during 2017 were "Transfeminist Algorithms: a speculative exercise", where women and feminists working in fields such as artificial intelligence, algorithms and design, met to try to answer together the question "how would transfeminist algorithms look like?"

It is also worth mentioning Chupadatos, which brings together Latin American stories about "data capitalism", and the ways in which we are monetized in each click we make, and where gender is one of the recurrently addressed dimensions.

In 2017, Coding Rights was considered among the heroines of human rights by the organization Access Now and also received the FRIDA Women's Award in Technology 2017.

Ciberseguras

http://ciberseguras.org/

Is it possible to build a safe space for women on the internet? What should we do for us to impose the configurations so that technology companies are not the ones who impose them? That is the inquiry and the dream of Cybersecguras, to create a space without discrimination, violence or hatred, that guarantees the freedom to say, think and do, without fear of being attacked: "A space that benefits us and that serves as a tool to meet, talk and learn together", they respond collectively.

The project started in 2013 and, after some difficulties, it was reactivated at the beginning of 2017. Luchadoras (Mexico), Ciberfeministas (Guatemala), Nodo Común (Bolivia), Cl4ndestina (Brazil), APC and the Dominemos and the campaign Dominemos las Tecnologías, Social ICT (Mexico) and Digital Rights (Latin America) are involved in the project, with the aim of building a safe learning space, inline and offline; Ciberseguras is a repository of materials and tools, but also a place to share experiences, recommendations and resources of digital self-defense with a gender perspective, accompanied by reflections on the relationship between women, feminisms and technology, they explain.

But the learning process is not just "outward": "it was decided that the page will be hosted in a self-managed server, where the process is focused on strengthening our knowledge, making us happy and more secure in these spaces."

At the same time, Ciberseguras facilitates workshops, talks, laboratories and meetings between women to discuss, from a horizontal and self-critical point of view, our relationship with technologies. "We want to generate spaces of affection, fun and empathy for us. The internet is a space that we inhabit, share and build together."

Counter inform, visualize and narrate ourselves

As an extension of the physical world, the internet reproduces its inequities and violence: machismo, racism and homophobia have found novel ways of manifesting themselves on the internet. But, at the same time, it is a powerful tool for various forms of resistance in the political exercise of narrating, listening to other voices, making them resonate and convoking audiences that want to listen to and dialogue with them.

La Imilla Hacker *(Bolivia)*

http://imillahacker.sdf.org/ - https://eldesarmador.org/

In the Aymara language, imilla means 'girls' or 'indigenous youth' and it is the chosen name of a group of people interested in community communication processes and technology in Bolivia. The imillas opt for heteronymy as a pragmatic and political position in defense of their identity and their personal lives: "the network is our loudspeaker and our balaclava."

In 2016 they began to make El Desarmador (The Screwdriver), a podcast of discussion and critical reflection on how technology affects us, with the aim of "outlining a technological community." The program is also broadcasted on Radio Cepra in Bolivia and Wayna Tambo Radio in the city of El Alto, Radio Almaina and Vacalloria in Spain, and La Viglieti in Venezuela, Radio Muda in Brazil, and Radio Ciudadana and Contacto Sur in Uruguay, as an effort to address a sector of the population that is not currently connected.

Although El Desarmador was not born as a feminist project, they say, the feminist approach quickly became necessary, due to the generalized situation of violence against women in Bolivia. "It is a form of violence that cannot be ignored: it transcends every sphere of action, every communicative form, shapes all idiosyncrasies, permeates our way of understanding the world, conditions our decisions and shapes our fears. We understood this in each program that we produced."

"The net is our loudspeaker and our balaclava."

La Imilla Hacker.

The link between gender and technology is evident, for example, when dealing with issues such as abortion, which is currently penalized by law, while women who decide to have an abortion are stigmatized both socially and institutionally. "It's a sensitive issue, how can we make a support network as open and accessible as possible, while remaining opaque while contemplating the safety of the women who are part of it?" These and other questions guide many of the programs they have produced.

So, they do not hesitate to say that, of all the programs carried out, the "most exciting was the interview with the group ACABgang [https://eldesarmador.org/hazteoirleaks-entrevista-a-acabgang.html] hackers who leaked information from the group HazteOír, "a fundamentalist Catholic, far-right and homophobic organization that promotes campaigns against organizations that defend sexual and reproductive women's rights, that seeks to impose its retrograde agenda in the development of public policies throughout the world. We were able to see at first hand the way in which these types of ultra-right lobbies work and are organized, what their objectives are for public opinion, and what the true strategies they identify internally."

Luchadoras *(Mexico)*

http://luchadoras.mx/

Promoting processes of political, personal and collective transformation is the central objective of Luchadoras, a Mexican feminist collective. They do it through the creation and dissemination of stories, reflection, the feminist critical appropriation of technologies and the creation of meeting spaces that vindicate and dignify the knowledge, strength and power of women.

The project began five years ago as an internet TV show, but they quickly noticed that it was not enough. What they really wanted to do was a feminist information medium. "We consider that the digital space is a deeply political public space and our exercise there is to tell narratives and make visible stories of women who are working and transforming the world in multiple aspects, but who are not recognized as such" says Lulú Barrera.

"Nowadays when we talk about network, people think about Facebook, Twitter, social networks. We want to dispute this word, because networks are much more than that, they are a connection between women, dialogues, bodies."

Lulú Barrera, Luchadoras.

In July 2017, Luchadoras celebrated the birth of their new website with other women - artists, activists, athletes and journalists -, a space to narrate as a counter-information exercise; "For example, instead of having a section called 'violence', we have "We wants us alive." Similarly, the health section of the site is called 'My body is mine', and this changes appear on each of the topic they address on their website; the idea is to talk about the problems from the transformation they want to achieve.

In this work, the internet has changed from being a means of dissemination to an entire platform for the construction of a discourse. That is why, in March, they made a conversation about online violence with women from many parts of Mexico. And although most of the sites of the participants had been censored or attacked, "what we identify is that people do not recognize online violence as violence", says Lulú.

For Luchadoras it is equally important to inhabit the digital and the physical public space: "it is very important to build online-offline networks. Here we connect with each other to go to strikes, for parties, to

create projects and also to be working and enjoying online. Then one of our goals is also to create connections, community ", explains Lulu and adds: "Nowadays when we talk about network, people think about Facebook, Twitter, social networks. We want to dispute this word, because networks are much more than that, they are a connection between women, dialogues, bodies."

Editatonas de Wikimedia *(Mexico)*

https://twitter.com/editatona/

Since 2011 Carmen Alcázar is editor of Wikipedia and a volunteer of Wikimedia Mexico, from where she has dedicated herself to the spread of good news around the possibility of sharing the knowledge produced in a collective way: "I talked about the whole Wikimedia movement with such pride, until I found out that out of every ten Wikipedians, only one is a woman" she explains.

Faced with this reality, herself and other Wikipedians decided to do something about it. Thus "Editatonas" were born in 2015, these are Wikipedia edition marathons only for women, where they also learn to edit and spend several hours building articles in the free internet encyclopedia.

One of the main objectives is the visibility of women in history: "of all the biographies of Wikipedia in Spanish, only 16% correspond to women" Carmen explains, adding: "when we are lucky to find the article of a woman we are looking for, it seems that the most relevant thing that woman have done is to have a relationship (family or sentimental) with a man, and that it will always be more important to know if she is married, her body measurements or her offspring."

The initiative has been very successful, being replicated in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Uruguay. In 2017 at least 7 editatonas were carried out, with different themes: online violence, women journalists, women in science, writers. In addition, this year they brought together 40 women from several countries working to reduce the gender gap in Wikipedia, in the Wiki Women Camp 2017, a work and dialogue event that took place over three days in Mexico City.

"One of the main problems we have faced is the criticism for making exclusive events for women. It began with the change of name to Editatona; by feminizing it we appropriated the concept and it became clear that our events would be for women only. This raised many eyebrows, we received criticism inside and outside the Wikimedia movement. There was an initial refusal to the exclusion of men, but as we stubbornly continue, it has decreased."

Weaving networks: women's meetings around technology

Sorority is a feminist term that refers to the need to create links and alliances between women to face together social problems. Picking up that spirit, during 2017, different initiatives were carried out with the objective of creating safe spaces for the meeting of women, so they could get to know each other and share about technology.

I International Cyberfeminism Meeting *(Ecuador)*

https://ciberfeminismo.elchuro.org/

"What happens if we do women's only meetings and with women facilitators?" the members of El Churo asked themselves, an Ecuadorian collective that since 2005 manages, promotes and sustains cultural and community communication projects.

It was a question that had begun to take shape after participating in Tactical Tech's Institute of Gender and Technologies, in 2016. "We saw that it was super necessary to talk about the appropriation of digital technologies and the critical use of platforms", says Ana Acosta and Verónica Calvopiña; They began to look for a space where the internet, social struggles, feminisms and technology converged, but unlike what happens, for example, in Brazil and Mexico, they found nothing.

"Men do not share knowledge. They are 'progressive', they are in the free software movement, but that does not guarantee anything."

El Churo.

"Men do not share knowledge. They are 'progressive', they are in the free software movement, but that does not guarantee anything. Then we have to look for other channels for an autonomous process between us." Thus, the First International Meeting of Cyberfeminism was born, which between September 21 and 23 met in Quito with women from Ecuador and other parts of Latin America to share knowledge, ideas, feelings and learnings about feminist digital activism and cyberfeminism, and strengthen struggles "for a more equitable world, where patriarchal, racist and homophobic capitalism does not take away our joy."

And the evaluation is good: "The first thing I can rescue, and that seemed very nice, is that we realized what the other women are doing. And a very curious thing happened: at first when we invited some women, from the free software world, for example, we received an answer like this: 'I can talk about free software but I'm not a cyberfeminist, I do not know how to talk about that'; but after the meeting they all recognized themselves as cyberfeminists."

FemHack (Nicaragua)

https://enredadasnicaragua.blogspot.cl/

Between September 29 and 30, the third edition of FemHack was held in Managua, a "hackathon" for the technological empowerment of Nicaraguan women, organized by EnRedadas, a "social, feminist and autonomous" enterprise that has been working in a self-managed way since 2013, creating spaces for reflection, training and collective construction of knowledge for the empowerment of women, through art and technology.

"We move in two different spaces and in both we find resistances. In feminist spaces, the technological issue is not a priority; and in the technological spaces, our feminist positions causes a lot of rejection", explains Gema Manzanares: "we see it as a necessary struggle."

The 2017 version of FemHack had a Central American profile and convened three homologous initiatives in the region to share reflections on its work and develop training spaces for Nicaraguan women: GT Ciberfeministas from Guatemala, Geek Girls from El Salvador and the TIC-as program of the Costa Rican organization Sula Batsú. It also counted with the participation of 14 Nicaraguan digital experts, to talk about cyber-activism, entrepreneurship and free software, with the aim of "visualizing the contributions of Nicaraguan women to the constant construction of a connected society."

> *"We move in two different spaces and in both we find resistances. In feminist spaces, the technological issue is not a priority; and in the technological spaces, our feminist positions causes a lot of rejection."*
>
> *Gema Manzanares, EnRedadas.*

With four years of work on her back, for Gema the importance of the project is clear: "we have learned the importance of creating spaces for and by women: the power that bringing many diverse women together and have the opportunity to learn from one another."

Take Back the Tech, Colnodo *(Colombia)*

https://www.dominemoslatecnologia.org/

During 16 days of activism that separate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25) and Human Rights Day (December 10), the Take Back the Tech campaign invites to know and recover the technology "to fight against the gender violence that circulates more and more frequently through the virtual spaces and that unfortunately have been normalized as all the violence against women", the director of the Colombian organization Colnodo, Olga Paz, explains.

This is a global campaign, promoted since 2006 by the Association for Progressive Communications

(APC) that uses the internet to open dialogues on different topics each year: in 2017 the theme was "Revisit to resist: Histories of the movement to end gender-based violence." APC is, at the same time, an organization and a network of organizations (of which Colnodo is part of), which works with technology in favor of human development, social justice, processes of political participation and environmental sustainability.

During the development of this campaign different activities were carried out: transmission via Facebook Live with cases of young women survivors of violence on the internet; they published the results of a joint investigation with a local university on digital violence among young people from universities in the center of Bogotá; they organized a digital graphic resources contest to raise awareness about violence against women in digital spaces; they organized the online course "Safe Women Online: Opportunities and Challenges", in conjunction with a theater group in the city; and made short videos about women in science and technology, along with fellow activists and journalists.

In Colnodo, activities against gender violence are not limited to these 16 days. With more than 25 years of experience working on issues related to women and ICTs nationwide, each year they carry out special actions on important dates such as International Women's Day (March 8), Girls' Day in ICT (third Thursday of April) or World internet Day (May 17), to name a few.

This year, on the occasion of Girls' Day in ICT, Colnodo produced a series of videos where girls between 7 and 13 share their interests and opinions on technology.

#Womens IGF: Women's Meeting and Governance on the internet *(Panama)*

Within the framework of the tenth preparatory meeting for the internet Governance Forum, LACIGF, the #MujeresIGF was held in Panama City, with the aim of bringing together women from all expressions of the internet ecosystem.

"The importance of feminism and, above all, the participation of women in internet governance issues, is key to the equitable and secure development of the internet", explains Angélica Contreras, one of the organizers of the meeting.

The idea of having a recognized space on the agenda of LACIGF had been taking place for a long time and had precedents such as meetings like gigX Latin America, a meeting on gender and internet governance during the LACIGF held in Mexico City in 2015, the FemHackParty held in the framework of the internet Governance Forum of 2016 in Guadalajara, and also in efforts such as the Young Latin American Women Declaration written by the women of the Youth Observatory or the project for the formation of the Internet Society's Special Women's Interest Group.

"Whenever I mention the theme of the internet for women and feminists, many - even if they say otherwise - imagine that I am going on a strike against men. (...) They also say that 'internet is already inclusive', but they still believe that just by having more women reporters in a forum and by having a meeting they meet the quota" explains Angélica.

Angélica is clear regarding the lessons that the meeting left them: the importance of weaving a network

of women ("know where they are, what they do"), take the spaces ("not wait for us to be give a space, propose and insist"), the importance of a "joint and sorority" work and the need to have a code of conduct ("we have detected several cases of harassment in the events, but we learned about it too late").

Investigate to denounce, understand, claim, and strengthen us

As a historical gain in the struggle for equity, a gender perspective has been installed, transversally, in different areas of social life. However, there is still a long way to go in reducing gaps, balancing forces and guaranteeing rights equally to everyone. As we have seen throughout this report, the relationship between gender and technology is not less uncomfortable. Therefore, we conclude with three investigations -among the many that we hope are being developed in the region- on the diverse and complex ways in which women relate to digital environments.

The situation in Latin America about gender violence exercised by electronic means

In response to a call from the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, eight digital rights organizations from across Latin America built a joint regional report on online violence. The experiences of many years working in the local contexts of different countries "has demonstrated the need to articulate regional visions for the contribution in the international debate, where often the national voices are forgotten. And online gender violence is no exception", the coordinator of the report, Paz Peña, explains.

In addition, "it was important to diagnose regionally the needs of female users in Latin America and put them on the table" she says, and "to highlight the different political, economic and social realities of our countries. We cannot adopt recipes from developed countries to realities where, for example, sexist violence permeates the entire State." For this reason, it is also important to show how, "well-intentioned public policies can often end up criminalizing aspects that are fundamental for the functioning of the internet and for the human rights of the victims themselves, such as encryption, anonymity, etc.", she adds.

The report offers some conclusions about the importance of the responsibility of private platforms in the response and attention of these cases, because in Latin America there is a feeling of "total impunity"

in the face of online violence; but the platforms do not even have figures that allow a clear picture to be made about the size of the problem. On the other hand, much remains regarding public policies. "It is important that legislators open a dialogue and listen to specialists before presenting projects that may be contradictory to wellness of the internet and the human rights of the victims themselves", as well as that the officials called to treat these cases have the proper preparation.

In Paz's opinion, even when there is little systematized information, the issue "is becoming so evident, that many countries, whether through state agencies or thanks to the work of NGOs and local researchers, are realizing the problem. And I believe that here the articulation that is done with other groups that work on a gender agenda locally is important, because like all violence, there is a lot of naturalization in the attacks on the internet for reasons of gender ".

Twitter, abortion and digital security

Florencia Goldsman is a cyberfeminist journalist and researcher of the Cyberculture and Gender Research Group (GIGA) of the Federal University of Bahia, Brazil.

Florencia is currently doing a research on the ways in which information circulates on Twitter and how feminist groups are using these tools in their vindictive struggles: "I have been long interested in the abortion discussion as a fundamental political issue, especially on these times of greater criminalization and prosecution to activists. The investigation I'm doing now involves the case of a young woman, Belén (a nickname to protect her anonymity). She was sentenced to eight years in prison after suffering a miscarriage in a public hospital in Argentina. She was accused of murder and imprisoned 2 years. While in jail, she managed to contact a lawyer from 'Catholics for the Rights to Decide' and their legal representative started a huge legal battle; together with the Argentinian feminist organizations, they helped her make the case public. From there, a very large mobilization on the internet and on the streets began."

Florencia began to analyze the actions of support and repudiation on Twitter and, more broadly, the relationship between the fight for abortion and technologies: "the networks that accompany women who have an abortion and how digital tools are used by regular activists and the organizations that have been fighting for this cause from long time ago."

This is a topic she has been interested in for some time: "Twitter is a commercial platform and I try to analyze how this platform collects an enormous amount of data and how it uses it. Now I'm doing a qualitative analysis, examining how content circulates on Twitter and how the debate is structured. And so, I will have some categories of analysis that allow me to reflect on how the protest against this extreme form of criminalization was expressed on Twitter in Belén's case, but also about this type of actions on social media and the debate on abortion in this space. I also question the issue of 'trending topics', which feminist organizations use as a measure of success of an action, but without knowing how it really works. These algorithms are a way of imposing realities."

In addition to her interest in this platform, another concern that guide Florencia's work is the safety of users: "I am very concerned about the digital security and privacy issues of women and the LGBTQ people. But I always have the feeling that I am talking about this with few people, especially with my ciber-activist friends. So from my research work, and also as a journalist, I am always talking about these issues, so that more people think critically about the tools that are being used. If you want to use Facebook, it's

good to know that it is a misogynistic, arbitrary tool that has many other interests: political, economic, and linked to surveillance ideology. This topics should be more usual on the discussions about the ways we communicate with each other and the tools we use in our political struggles."

Latin American Cyberfeminism

Inés Binder is a communicator and researcher, and has dedicated herself to studying the "explosion of cyberfeminist initiatives in the region", organizations and groups that, from different spheres, are thinking about technology from a critical perspective. "Campaigns, investigations, reflection processes, training, and all kinds of activities around the intersection between gender and technology have been promoted. Even autonomous feminist infrastructure projects have emerged."

The objective of the research was to determine if, despite its diversity, we were facing a social movement "if they had a common agenda, a common identification of the problems they seek to reverse, a shared repertoire of collective actions, or if there was a notion of collective cyberfeminist identity. And interesting things came out. For example, we find that although there is a collective cyberfeminist notion, there is no consensus on what it means to be a cyberfeminist. They range from those who assume themselves as cyberfeminists doing feminist cyberactivism in networks, to those who prefer to identify with transhack feminism as a current that focuses on women and other gender identities as producers of technology."

"What internet has an indigenous mother woman defender of the territory who does not speak English and Spanish as her second language?"

Inés Binder.

Regarding her motivations, Inés points out that the network is increasingly hostile: "The causes are multiple but capitalism has that capacity to co-opt absolutely everything and impose its logic. And among these logics the patriarchal system is an indisputable ally ."The capacity to stop from a critical perspective is what makes it relevant to cyberfeminism "women and gender non conformist people are in worse conditions. What internet has an indigenous mother woman defender of the territory who does not speak English and Spanish as her second language? And not only are the material realities that make up the digital gender gap at stake, but also the increasingly widespread manifestations of online sexist violence are expelling us from the digital territory as well. The response to violence and exclusion cannot be silence, to turn off our cell phones because we do not know how to use them and close our accounts so they do not harass us. Because there we are being double-harmed: ravished and silenced."

Regarding the particularities of Latin American cyberfeminism, Inés emphasizes that this is not isolated from national realities, nor from other movements and initiatives that are also defending human rights in the region. "And we're not just talking about women's movements, LGTBIQ, or defending sexual and reproductive rights, for example. The cyberfeminists are accompanying activists and groups of defense of the territory, indigenous rights, popular communication, and defense of human rights in general. The levels of state surveillance and repression are alarming. The activists have great deficiencies in literacy and digital security, which cyberfeminists are trying to correct."

But not all is bleak: "The quantity and diversity of cyberfeminist experiences is amazing, I'm really excited about it. Cyberfeminism calls us to occupy the cyberspace, no just as users, but as designers, producers and administrators of technology. And that's what we are doing."