

**Technological
Justice: Social Work
Ethics, Access,
Diversity, and Equity**

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Learning Objectives:

Explain	the concept of technological justice, including examples of tech injustices that affect individuals, families, groups, organizations, & communities.
Assess	ethical issues that may arise when clients, families, groups, organizations, and communities do not have equitable and reasonable access to tech
Develop	options to promote tech justice, including ways to address specific problems in access to tech

Agenda

- Definition of Technological Justice
- Tech to Promote Justice
- Tech Injustices
 - Access
 - Exclusion
 - Unintended Effects...
- Social Work Ethics & Responses
- Questions and Key Points



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Definition: Technological Justice

Fairness or equity regarding

- access to, and
- impacts of

technology as used by individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations, and society

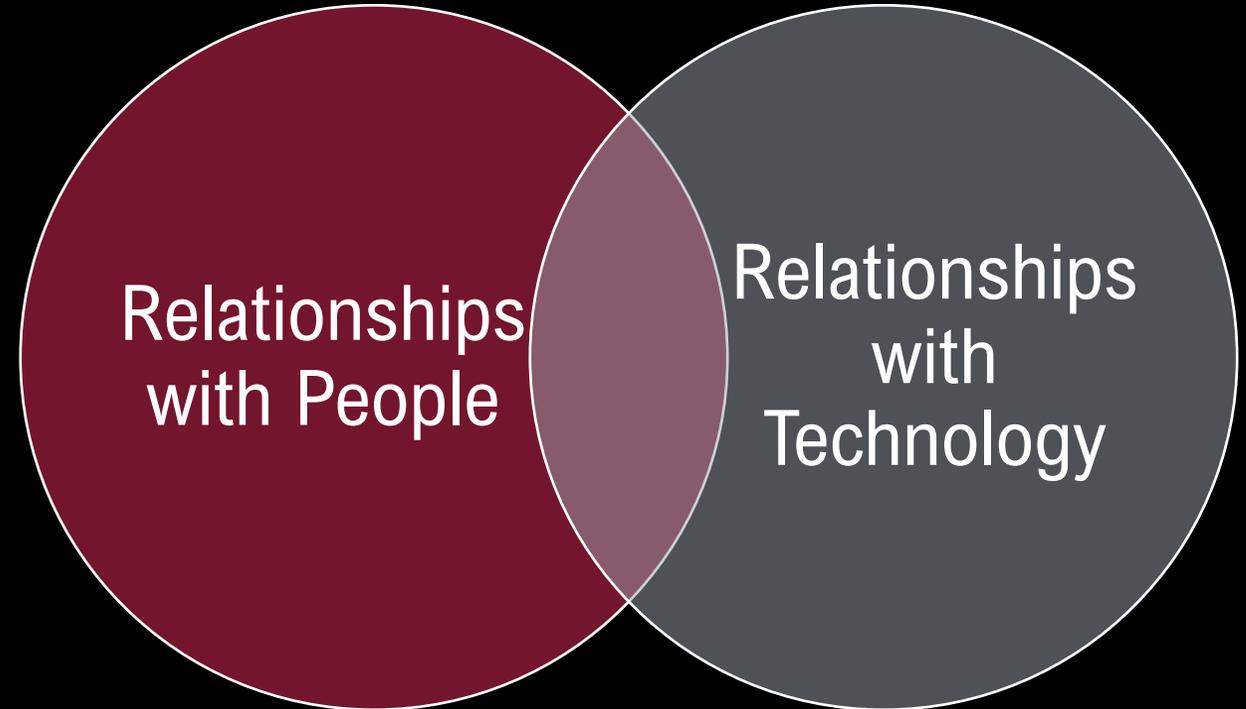
Consider: benefits, risks, costs

(Ortega et al., 2018).

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SW Value of
“Social Justice”
vs.
“Technological
Justice”



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Tech to Promote Social Justice (COE Part 6)

What types of tech can we used to:

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Build coalitions

Educate

Mobilize

Advocate for social justice in distribution of resources

Barsky-Technological Justice

Tech Injustices

1. Lack of access to tech affects ability to acquire:

- **Good education**
- **Jobs**
- **Housing**
- **Food information**
- **Other needs**

(Hermann, 2019)

Tech Injustices

2. Exclusion from tech dehumanizes by:

- inhibiting relationships with family, friends, and other social systems (Alonso, 2016)





Tech Injustices

3. Negative / Unintended Impacts of Tech:

- **Pollution**
- **Misinformation**
- **Hate speech**
- **Business monopolies**
(vulnerable populations tend to suffer most)



Tech Injustices

4. Environmental and Cultural Impact on Indigenous Peoples

- “Monocropping” (vs. Agriculture)
- Loss of ancestral lands and resources
- Degradation of land, water, plants, animals, and sacred places

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**What are the pros
and cons of
“Telemental Health”?**

Who benefits?

Who doesn't?

**Who benefits and
who suffers from
social media?**

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How are different groups affected differently by specific types of power plants and energy sources: nuclear, hydroelectric, coal, fracking... ?



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How might today's tech affect future generations?

- Global climate change
- Employment
- Quality of life
- Health disparities

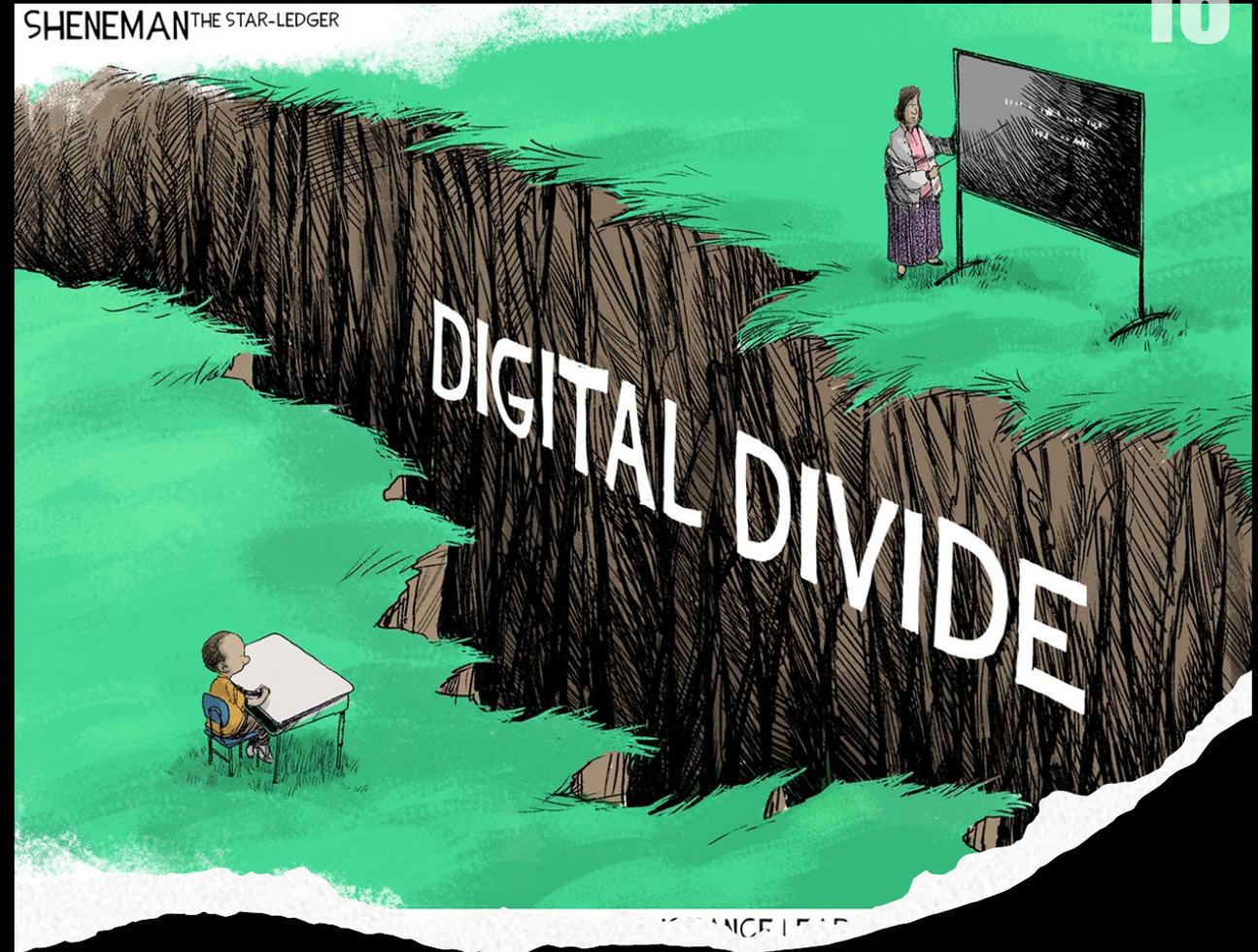
(Indigenous peoples: 7 generations)

SW Response to Tech Injustices

- Psychosocial assessments should address access to and the impacts of technology on individuals, families, groups, or communities (BPD Technology Committee, 2018)
- “Futurist ethics” – using foresight, being proactive

How can we address digital divides related to:

- Socioeconomic status
- Age
- Race and ethnicity
- Rural / urban location
- Disability





SW Value: Access

How can we ensure true access to health, mental health, and SW services that require tech?

**How to we
ensure AI and
Algorithms do
not have
discrimination
embedded...**

Child abuse risk assessments

Facial recognition

Problem-solving programs

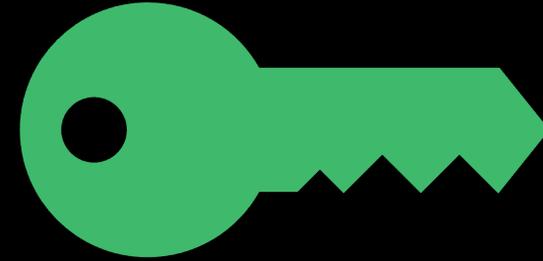
CBT apps

How do we address “transitional” injustices with new tech?

- Social innovation – disruptive
- Affects employment, social support, ways people interact
- Wealthy and educated benefit first
- Vulnerable populations may “resist” access

Consider: voice, fair opportunity, transitional support

Questions & Key Points



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