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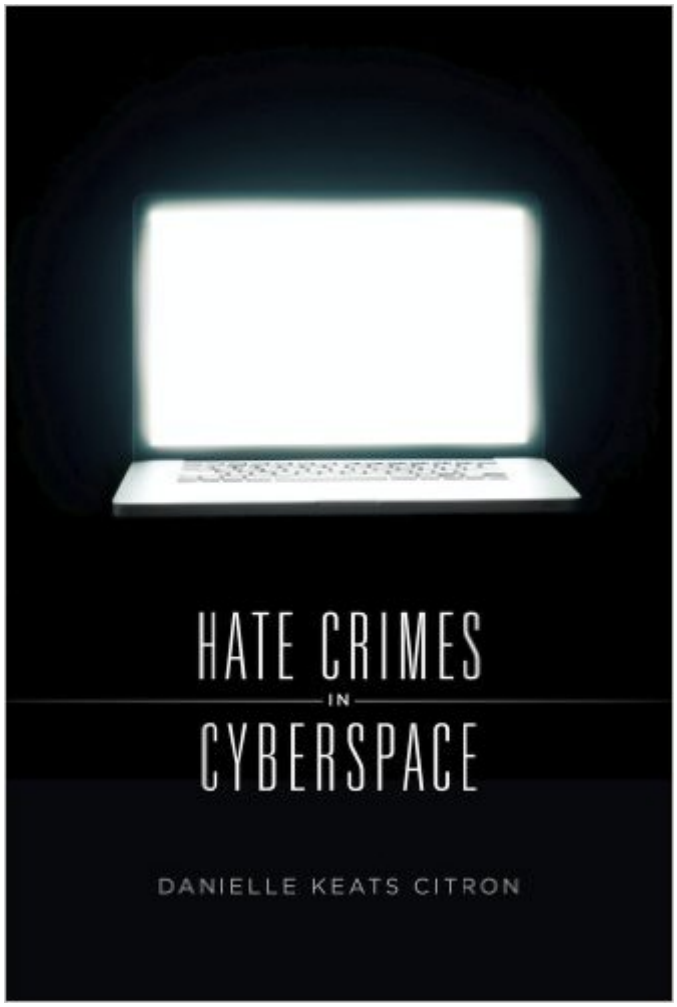
Hate Crimes In Cyberspace



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Synopsis

Most Internet users are familiar with trollingâ •aggressive, foul-mouthed posts designed to elicit angry responses in a siteâ ™s comments. Less familiar but far more serious is the way some use networked technologies to target real people, subjecting them, by name and address, to vicious, often terrifying, online abuse. In an in-depth investigation of a problem that is too often trivialized by lawmakers and the media, Danielle Keats Citron exposes the startling extent of personal cyber-attacks and proposes practical, lawful ways to prevent and punish online harassment. A refutation of those who claim that these attacks are legal, or at least impossible to stop, Hate Crimes in Cyberspace reveals the serious emotional, professional, and financial harms incurred by victims.Persistent online attacks disproportionately target women and frequently include detailed fantasies of rape as well as reputation-ruining lies and sexually explicit photographs. And if dealing with a single attackerâ ™s â œrevenge pornâ • were not enough, harassing posts that make their way onto social media sites often feed on one another, turning lone instigators into cyber-mobs.Hate Crimes in Cyberspace rejects the view of the Internet as an anarchic Wild West, where those who venture online must be thick-skinned enough to endure all manner of verbal assault in the name of free speech protection, no matter how distasteful or abusive. Cyber-harassment is a matter of civil rights law, Citron contends, and legal precedents as well as social norms of decency and civility must be leveraged to stop it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Itâ ™s said that criminal lawyers see bad people at their best, and divorce lawyers see good people at their worst. At times, the Internet seems to bring out the bad in all types of people.In Hate Crimes in Cyberspace, a fascinating book just out, author Danielle Keats Citron details many incidents where unsuspecting and ordinary people suddenly found themselves under direct attack in the form of hateful emails, threats, prank calls, online bullying and more.The irony is that in the cases she details, the victims were not the dregs of society or criminals, rather tech bloggers, law students and the like.Citron notes a few times that in the early days of sexual harassment in the workplace, the common wisdom was that the victim was told that they should simply deal with it and go on with their lives. The current environment doesnâ ™t blame the victim and every firm now has policies and programs to deal with workplace sexual harassment.She writes that to a large part, law enforcement and the media has taken the approach that todayâ ™s victims of internet trolls should use the sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me approach. But that gives little solace to victims of internet trolls who are living their lives in fear due to the many threats against them; from malicious impersonation, proxy stalking, rape and death threats and more.The book deals with the question of if there is something about the Internet that fuels destructive cyber mobs and individual harassers. She asks if the Internet brings out the worst in us, and why.She writes that women are more often the victims of cyber harassment then men.

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