FEMINIST DATA MANIFEST-NO

The Manifest-No is a declaration of refusal and commitment. It refuses harmful data regimes and commits to new data futures.

1. **We refuse** to operate under the assumption that risk and harm associated with data practices can be bounded to mean the same thing for everyone, everywhere, at every time. **We commit** to acknowledging how historical and systemic patterns of violence and exploitation produce differential vulnerabilities for communities.

2. **We refuse** to be disciplined by data, devices, and practices that seek to shape and normalize racialized, gendered, and differently-abled bodies in ways that make us available to be tracked, monitored, and surveilled. **We commit** to taking back control over the ways we behave, live, and engage with data and its technologies.

3. **We refuse** the use of data about people in perpetuity. **We commit** to embracing agency and working with intentionality, preparing bodies or corpuses of data to be laid to rest when they are not being used in service to the people about whom they were created.

4. **We refuse** to understand data as disembodied and thereby dehumanized and departicularized. **We commit** to understanding data as always and variously attached to bodies; we vow to interrogate the biopolitical implications of data with a keen eye to gender, race, sexuality, class, disability, nationality, and other forms of embodied difference.

5. **We refuse** any code of phony "ethics" and false proclamations of transparency that are wielded as cover, as tools of power, as forms for escape that let the people who create systems off the hook from accountability or responsibility. **We commit** to a feminist data ethics that explicitly seeks equity and demands justice by helping us understand and shift how power works.

6. **We refuse** the expansion of forms of data science that normalizes a condition of data extractivism and is defined primarily by the drive to monetize and hyper-individualize the human experience. **We commit** to centering creative and collective forms of life, living, and worldmaking that exceed the neoliberal logics and resist the market-driven forces to commodify human experience.

7. **We refuse** to accept that data and the systems that generate, collect, process, and store it are too complex or too technical to be understood by the people whose lives are implicated in them. **We commit** to seek to make systems and data intelligible, tangible, and controllable.

8. **We refuse** work *about* minoritized people. **We commit** to mobilizing data so that we are working with and for minoritized people in ways that are consensual, reciprocal, and that understand data as always co-constituted.

9. **We refuse** a data regime of ultimatums, coercive permissions, pervasive cookie collecting, and blocked access. Not everyone can safely refuse or opt out without consequence or further harm. **We commit** to "no" being a real option in all online interactions with data-driven products and platforms and to enacting a new type of data regime that knits the "no" into its fabric.

10. **We refuse** to "close the door behind" ourselves. **We commit** to entering ethically compromised spaces like the academy and industry not to imbricate

ourselves into the hierarchies of power but to subvert, undermine, open, make possible.

11. **We refuse** a data culture that reproduces the colonial 'ruse of consent' "which papers over the very conditions of force and violence that beget 'consent'" in the first place. **We commit** to data practices developed by and for Indigenous peoples and in relations of reciprocity.

12. **We refuse** more dispossession, erasure, stealing, and profiting from Black, Indigenious, and people of colors' lives and works. **We commit** to build the standpoint that the people most screwed over by data have the best understanding of data and to lifting up, mobilizing, and celebrating their knowledges in building a data methodology of the oppressed .

13. **We refuse** to reproduce research as a form of exploitation and to allow people in positions of privilege make the decisions on behalf of those without. **We commit** to research cultures that promote data autonomy and SELF-representation.

14. **We refuse** to cede rhetorics of revolution, disruption, and creative innovation to Silicon Valley marketing and venture discourse. Especially, when this discourse marginalizes and appropriates the voices and actions of social justice communities. **We commit** to a recognition and an amplification of the long histories of the labor, dedication, and power of feminist voices for social transformation.

15. **We refuse** systems that simplify consent into a one-time action, a simple click of a yes to a terms of service agreement, to ownership of our data in perpetuity. **We commit** to enacting Planned Parenthood's FRIES model of consent that ensures that it is always "Freely given, Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic and Specific."

16. **We refuse** surveillance as the only condition for participation and to feel powerless in the face of "inevitable" mass technological surveillance. **We commit** to find our communities, hold them close, and resist together.

17. **We refuse** Big Tech's half-measures and moral compromises that constantly defer the needs of vulnerable users as something to be addressed in the next round (of funding, of testing, of patching). **We commit** to centering the needs of the

most vulnerable among us in making way for a radical address to Big Tech's data problems.

18. **We refuse** technologies that defer or delay accessible design because it is too expensive, inconvenient, or not legally required. **We commit** to learning from the work of disability activists. #NothingAboutUsWithoutUs

19. **We refuse** the naturalization of data as what is simply 'off gassed' by a thing, object, or interaction. **We commit** to treating data as a resource to be cared for and cultivated, beyond a colonial extraction logic (as something to be constantly mined, extracted, captured).

20. **We refuse** to consider data as raw and only an end product without context and values and to ignore that data has an origin story, and a creator or creators whose legacy must be understood in order to understand the data itself. **We commit** to working with data subjects rather than capturing data objects by centering the matrices of oppression that shaped data's production and the infrastructure--the code, algorithms, applications, and operating systems--in which it is used, processed, and stored. Data always has social values including race, gender, class and ability inscribed into it.

21. **We refuse** to cede that convincing unjust institutions and disciplines to listen to us is the only way to make change. **We commit** to co-constructing our language and questions together with the communities we serve in order to build power with our own.

22. **We refuse** 'damage centered' research that gathers data to reproduce damage, and that traffics in or profits from pain. **We commit** to 'desire centered' research that mobilizes and centers data by and for Indigenous, Black, poor, uncitizened, transgender, disabled and other minoritized, over-researched and under-served people as resource and tool for their thriving, survivance, and joy .

23. **We refuse** to tolerate economies of convenience (also known as the 'gig economy' or 'sharing economy') that build capital and data empires on the backs of precarious workers and hidden labor. **We commit** to working against the exploitation of labor and precarity in all of its forms.

24. **We refuse** tech solutionism as a moral cover for punitive data logics like always-on facial recognition systems, default capture of personal data, and racist predictive policing. **We commit** to feminist problem-solving that interrogates data logics as mirrors of power inequalities rather than simple solutions to legacies of racism, sexism, ableism, and oppression of vulnerable people.

25. **We refuse** data logics of prediction that presume omnipotence and conceit to know better than community-centered forms of decision making. **We commit** to countering the risks of defaulting to data-driven forms of prediction and decision-making by valuing the expertise of community-engaged practitioners.

26. **We refuse** to accept that data only matters when it is big, abstract, digital, aggregated, machine-readable, and instrumentalized for the market. **We commit** to valuing other forms and materialities of data that privilege accountability and legibility to users and community, and examine data at and across all of its scales.

27. **We refuse** the appropriation of feminist discourses of collective safety and the language of consent for the legitimization of surveillance. Safety does not demand subjection to, submission to, subordination to rational, high tech, colonial orders . **We commit** to feminist collective safety and consent as a means of building resilience, creating solidarity, reducing harm, and as a tool of self-defense and empowerment.

28. **We refuse** the argument that feminist data reform is too slow, too expensive, too much, too little, too late. **We commit** to radical disruption for social transformation.

29. **We refuse** data logics that hyper-value the quantitative, the "objective," and the "generalizable." **We commit** to developing, adopting, and advancing methodologies that draw insight from the subjective, embodied, contingent, political, and affective in ways that transcend traditional boundaries between qualitative and quantitative.

30. We refuse coercive settler colonial logics of knowledge and information organization; we commit to tribal nation sovereignties and Indigenous information

management that values Indigenous relationality , the right to know , and data sovereignty .

31. We refuse settler colonial logics of data ownership; we commit to advancing the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples who harness data practices as "infrastructural commitments" to get back their land and divest foreign occupying powers .

32. **We refuse** reductionist practices that view people as data points in order to embrace the whole person. **We commit** to the requirement of recognizing personhood as a feminist data value.

Our refusals and commitments together demand that data be acknowledged as at once an interpretation and in need of interpretation . Data can be a check-in, a story, an experience or set of experiences, and a resource to begin and continue dialogue. It can - and should always - resist reduction. Data is a thing, a process, and a relationship we make and put to use. *We can make it and use it differently.*