In defense of eavesdropping: Twitter as conversation, not self-indulgence

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Shannon Sindorf

PhD student, Journalism and Mass Communication

University of Colorado

@shannonsindorf

The "self-indulgence" frame

Participation in social media is often considered a self-indulgence

Social media are thought of as performances

Twitter carries the baggage of Facebook

The “conversation” frame

A better frame with which to view Twitter is to see it as a broad

conversation

Conversation in Democracy

Deliberative democracy theory:
Democracy works primarily not through formal processes such as voting, but through the debate and discussion that precede voting

Twitter can be one venue for that crucial, informal deliberation

What we gain when we see Twitter as a conversation

Tweeting is not (necessarily) a self-indulgence, but rather the taking of one's turn

The "self-indulgence" frame is a hindrance to conversation

Eavesdropping on Twitter

On Twitter, eavesdropping is <u>invited</u> but <u>unacknowledged</u>

Eavesdropping is not an anti-social act, but a <u>pro-social</u> one

Good and bad conversation

A "conversation" frame allows us to distinguish between good and bad forms of conversation

A lot of online conversation is very bad conversation

Meta-conversation

We need to acknowledge and talk about the fact that we're in a conversation if it's going to be a productive one

Irony and self-reflexivity are tools of meta-conversation

Twitter and scholarship

A conversation is more than a **hashtag**

Discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis are great **methods** to use to analyze Twitter-as-conversation

DA and CDA will likely need to be more **autoethnographic**—mass media methods won't work on Twitter

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