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Title: Why's Everyone on TikTok Now? The Algorithmized Self and the Future of Self-Making on Social Media

General topic: The paper investigates the significant role of algorithms in shaping personal and social identities on social media platforms, with a particular emphasis on TikTok.

Specific behavior: The paper explores how TikTok users perceive the platform's algorithm, and how their engagement with the algorithm, coupled with the algorithm's functionality, impacts their identity perception on the platform.

Research questions:
- How do algorithms influence the process of "self-making" on social media?
- How do everyday users make sense of their experiences on algorithmic social media streams?
- how is "the self" created on and through TikTok, and does the process of self-making on TikTok differ when compared to other social media sites?

Challenges: The researchers first grapple with the complex task of deciphering the nuanced relationship between a largely opaque TikTok algorithm and human behavior, and then determining how this interaction influences users' perception of their social identities.

Paradigm: The research adopts the social informatics paradigm, with a specific focus on the socio-technical interaction between algorithms and user behavior.

Problem: This study aims to fill a significant gap in existing research by investigating how algorithms on social media platforms, particularly TikTok, impact user identities. Prior research has not substantially addressed this concern. The authors coin the term "algorithmic representational harm" to describe the experiences of users who feel marginalized or misrepresented due to the interaction between their identities and the algorithm's interpretation of them. This complex issue requires a nuanced understanding of the dynamics between technology and human behavior, which is what this study seeks to provide.

Importance: Unraveling the intricate role of algorithms in shaping identities on social media platforms, particularly TikTok, holds considerable value. As the study delves into how user perceptions and interactions with TikTok's algorithm influence their identity on the platform, it sheds light on a crucial aspect of social media engagement. This exploration is significant given the profound impact these perceptions can have on the user experience and, by extension, the social dynamics within these platforms.

Claims: The paper asserts that TikTok's algorithm and its users co-produce identity knowledge on the platform. The researchers argue that "both algorithms and users are co-producing knowledge of identity on social media and, as such, play a role in producing knowledge that holds weight in our social world."

State of Knowledge: The study builds upon existing literature on algorithms and identity and introduces new concepts such as "algorithmic privilege" and "algorithmic representational harm." The researchers argue that these concepts "can be used to interrogate other algorithmic systems in how they engage with identities."

Evidence: This study's evidence comes from both theoretical and empirical sources. The theoretical evidence is drawn from the existing body of research on algorithms and identity. The empirical evidence, on the other hand, is gathered through interviews with users and careful analysis of their interactions with the platform. The researchers discovered that users resist what they perceive as bias and suppression on their TikTok feed, which they believe is partly due to "algorithmic symbolic annihilation". This resistance, in turn, leads to what the researchers describe as "algorithmic representational harm".

Story Structure: The paper begins by outlining the problem and its importance, introduces its claims, presents the state of knowledge, and then provides supporting evidence. It concludes with implications and potential areas of future research.