

Propositions belonging to the thesis

# Digital Vigilantism in Russia

by Rashid Gabdulhakov

1. Russia has a unique history of state-coordinated citizen involvement in matters of everyday justice and this involvement is experiencing a renaissance. State-supported vigilante formations constitute a façade for active civil society in the context of its increasing suppression. (*This dissertation*).
2. Those vulnerable offline, such as political activists, women, sexual, ethnic and other minorities, are highly vulnerable online in Russia. (*This dissertation*).
3. While visibility in digital vigilantism is instrumentalised to harm targets, it can bring about certain benefits to participants, such as income, political power and social status. (*This dissertation*).
4. Traditional media outlets can assist vigilantes in building their brand and expanding publicity, while further harming targets whose unsolicited exposure is broadcasted on TV and featured in newspapers. (*This dissertation*).
5. Amid the intensified internet control in Russia and due to the vague definitions of “extreme speech”, practically anyone can be arrested for virtually anything they post, share or ‘like’ on social media. (*This dissertation*).
6. As platforms become powerful to the point that they can mute state leaders, their role in facilitating social justice and political change must be urgently addressed.
7. Platform regulation must put user interests, and not political ambitions, in the centre. In the context of bad governance, regulation can lead to censorship of critical voices.
8. Steps taken by some states to establish regional or domestic sovereign internet bubbles, pose fundamental challenges to the globality and connectivity of the World Wide Web.
9. The penetration of algorithms into all sectors of human interaction amid the existing inequalities and biases can intensify power position disparities. More scholarly work on the role of algorithms in various global divides is a must.
10. *Interdisciplinarity* is not just another fancy word; it is an inevitable reality for informed scholarly queries.
11. “Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.” (Mary Oliver).