

Erica:

So from my point of view, recording and keeping these stories as a record and if they're publicly accessible and if they're from the point of view of the people that were there when you're tired and you don't feel like you want to show up for the march, if you remember why other people went or if you remember why you went, if somebody interviewed you and you're like, "Oh yeah". I mean if you've gone to four marches that month, and you're trying to show up for people in your community and you're trying to be an activist and remember why you're doing that, right? And not get, and not wanting to get up at 7:30 in the morning and go out to a march that's two degrees or whatever. Hearing those stories and remembering why you show up can potentially spark additional marches.

And in some ways, that's part of the reason why I think some of their questions were like, why are you here? Why do you march? Why, why are you showing up? Who you are showing up for? So that we remember why they were there and it's not just the information that was published in the New York Times or in the Kansas City star and the Washington Post about how many women showed up and what they were looking for. And it's not just those two lines of interview text that they gathered from Washington D.C. that show up on tons of news feeds or on Twitter or whatever. We have an archive from a distributed set of stories, and I think we talked about this when we talked about your thesis. The more MeToo stories you've gathered from the more people, the more powerful that collection becomes. The more stories you gather about why people show up at women's marches or why people show up at any protest, the more powerful it becomes. And in my mind it becomes a catalyst, but it only becomes a catalyst to those who can access it.

Abby:

And it only becomes a catalyst to people who want to access it. Yes, it could be open access and people could know about it. But will anyone click on an archive unless they have a need for it?

Erica:

Like, how many people know that women's archive exist? Yeah. Like that women's march archive is first of all, I mean it's got some issues, right, with its searchability and not covering all states and places and we realize that when we were trying to figure out where stuff is. But even if we popularize that a little bit from putting it on this website and potentially creating a need, we don't want to create a duplication, right? Like there's no reason for us to do another Women's March archive because there's already one there. We should encourage people to continue to participate in that process because those archivists

are going to continue doing that over time. But we might talk about the importance of collecting archival research from all protests, from all marches there are plenty of marches and things that happen in Kansas City that nobody records.

But the question, is that important? And I think the other question that our reviewer asked is, is that important for our discipline? And how does that fit into the idea of activist scholarship?

And that's something that's growing, right? The activist scholarship around this is new. It's really only showed up in the...A lot in the last four years and really in the last seven years has activist and coalitional scholarship then become a thing. And so in some ways we don't necessarily know if it's a catalyst, right? Because we don't know what it does. There's not really a good example for us to pull from.

Abby:

I'm trying to think like, cause I'm thinking is it? Cause if I, oh I don't know. I'm just struggling to see it as a catalyst, as more of like a resource for people to use to then... Cause it's like, I keep thinking like I just don't know if I would access something like the archive unless I had use of it or like I needed it for some reason. But it's so helpful for something like this, whereas people can use it to pull necessary things. Like if we're trying to collect themes for the most, like the biggest reasons of why people marched the most reoccurring themes, then that becomes helpful for organizers, people trying to understand motivations of people and things like that. So it can that way, it's obviously super helpful and necessary.

Erica:

So it's becomes a catalyst for research but not a catalyst for action? I'm asking.

Abby:

Yeah. That's what I'm thinking, I don't know. My opinion could probably change.

Erica:

I'm not trying to change your opinion or, no, I really want to know because that was something that maybe both reviewers said is this seems like a really interesting idea, but I'm not sure that it's true.

Erin:

Well, no. Well, okay. If we're saying that like a stories are supposed to be like catalysts for change or whatever, one of the things that I think runs into like a block then with what we're looking at is that the interviewer, and we said this when we were like listening to him, that there were opportunities where

he could have asked for more storytelling but he failed to do so. So when, like we especially talked about, when that one woman brought up like, oh, we marched in the 60s and then he just moved on to the next question. Like it would have been really, I would have seen that as very like sparking something up to like say like, why did you march in the 60s? And like, why are you marching now? And why was there such a big time span between those? And like, tell us that story.