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Title: Fandom's "den of filth": Community-production and kink memes

Abstract: The intersection of social and functional settings in which fans write, publish, and read fanfic is essential to understanding what fans write and why. One such space and mode of production is the kink meme, in which participants freely exchange prompts and completed pieces of fiction, most typically within the comments section of a blogging platform. Kink memes highlight the inextricable relationships between fannish community, practice, and production in their technological setting. This project uses interviews with eleven current and former participants to describe the form, use, and culture of kink memes, both in relation to the fannish contexts and to the architecture of online spaces fans frequent. The theoretical constructs of a community of practice and gift economy are useful in this analysis. Additionally, I consider the factors that have contributed to the decline of kink memes and put their future in jeopardy, arguing that it is in the best interest of both fans and scholars to save and revitalize kink meme as a fan praxis. For fans, kink memes are a unique formative and productive space; for scholars, they exemplify co-constitutive community-production that illuminates fandom better than content or network analysis alone.