

Article Review #2: Digital Social Media  
Student Name: Rieco Hellams  
School of Cybersecurity, Old Dominion University  
CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences  
Instructor Name: Professor Yalpi  
Date: Nov 14, 2025

*María González-García Vinuela's article, The Legal Response to the Intrusion into Digital Identity in Social Media, looks at how digital identity theft specifically creating fake accounts poses new challenges to the law, ethics, and social order. With many principles of social science, this topic connects some legal studies with psychology sociology, and criminology by seeing how behaviors and responses evolve over time in the digital world. It reflects broader sociological questions about power, trust, and cooperation in a globalized world where the internet blurs national boundaries. The study highlights how societies construct norms to regulate deviant online behaviors and protect individual dignity, echoing core social-science themes of social control, collective security, and the balance between personal liberty and societal order.*

*Research:*

*Although Gonzalez-Garcia's paper is not an empirical experiment, it is organized around three guiding research questions: Is criminal punishment the most suitable, Should countries adopt similar rules to Spain in 2022 to reform criminalizing fake profiles, and lastly how effective transnational cooperation can be achieved against cybercrime. Throughout the text the author doesn't implement a specific hypothesis, however he builds conceptual arguments around the assumption that criminal law should only be used in endangerment to moral integrity or freedom. The independent variable in this case is the legal approach chosen, and the dependent variable is the effectiveness of protecting rights such as privacy, identity, and liberty.*

*Data:*

*The research methods used were slightly different than the usual ones. The study used legal dogmatic and comparative-law methodology. Instead of surveys or experiments, it used*

*systematically examines statutes, court cases, and documents. This approach allowed people to see how different countries classify and punish online identity theft, for example the Spanish criminal code and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and Directive 2013/40/EU. Her method emphasizes interpreting written law, identifying protected legal rights, and evaluating the need for global harmonization.*

*Relation:*

*In relation to the PowerPoints this article speaks on the social engineering and a example of consequence while also harping on cyber victimization. The article has a focus towards how digital behavior can blur public and private boundaries, and how laws need to evolve with the evolution of technology. Garcia also put an emphasis on Ultima ratio principle; the principle has emphasized the repressive nature of the criminal justice system and positioned it as the last resort of the legislator. With that emphasis, it helps to connect social control and ethics.*

*Marginalized:*

*The article also engages with the experiences of marginalized groups. These groups refer to the people who often face disproportionate harm from identity theft and online harassment. For example, Women, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations are frequently targeted for impersonation, humiliation, or reputational damage online. The author indirectly emphasizes that without clear legal protections, these groups struggle to seek justice due to high costs, barriers, or lack of legal literacy*

*Conclusion:*

*Overall, Garcia's study helps to make a significant contribution to society by simplifying the legal and ethical dimensions of digital identity. The content in the reading helps to expand the awareness and need of comprehensive frameworks that protect online users dignity while helping to promote cooperation globally. The author proposes that crimes related to digital identity should be grouped under a new section—Offenses Against Digital Identity—to unify and modernize legal responses. Beyond its legal implications, the study deepens our understanding of how social systems adapt to technological change and how legal reform can uphold the principles of justice, liberty, and respect in an increasingly digital world.*

*Reference:*

*González-García Vinuela, M. (2025). The Legal Response to the Intrusion into Digital Identity in Social*

*Media. International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime, 8(2), - . DOI:*

<https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1221&context=ijcic>