

Who has the right to be anonymous? | New Statesman

By Emily Tamkin

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WASHINGTON — On Tuesday (19 April) the *Washington Post* journalist Taylor Lorenz published an article that confirmed the name of the woman behind the Twitter account Libs of TikTok. I say “confirmed” not to undermine Lorenz’s reporting, but because the woman, Chaya Raichik, appears to have registered the domain name libsoftiktok.us under her own full name.

Libs of TikTok, for those who are unfamiliar with or perhaps smartly less online than some, is an account with more than half a million followers that mockingly posts clips of liberals and LGBTQ+ people, as well as memes and tweets attacking transgender people. As Lorenz’s piece notes, “Her anti-trans tweets went especially viral. She called on her followers to contact schools that were allowing ‘boys in the girls bathrooms’. She also purported that adults who teach children about LGBTQ+ identities are ‘abusive,’ that being gender-nonconforming or an ally to the LGBTQ+ community is a ‘mental illness,’ and referred to schools as ‘government run indoctrination camps’ for the LGBTQ+ community. Raichik’s posts have made it onto Fox News, a station into which Raichik herself has (anonymously) called into in the past.”

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