

**DIS<sup>20</sup><sub>26</sub>**

# Problem Space **Attunement** in Youth Social Media Design



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“ If I had asked people  
**what they wanted,**  
they would have said  
**a faster horse** ”

- Henry Ford



**Attunement:** caregivers perceive and respond to experience that cannot yet be explicitly stated (Stern, 1985)

What do youth *actually* seek on social media?

# Conceptual Misattunement

# Social Media

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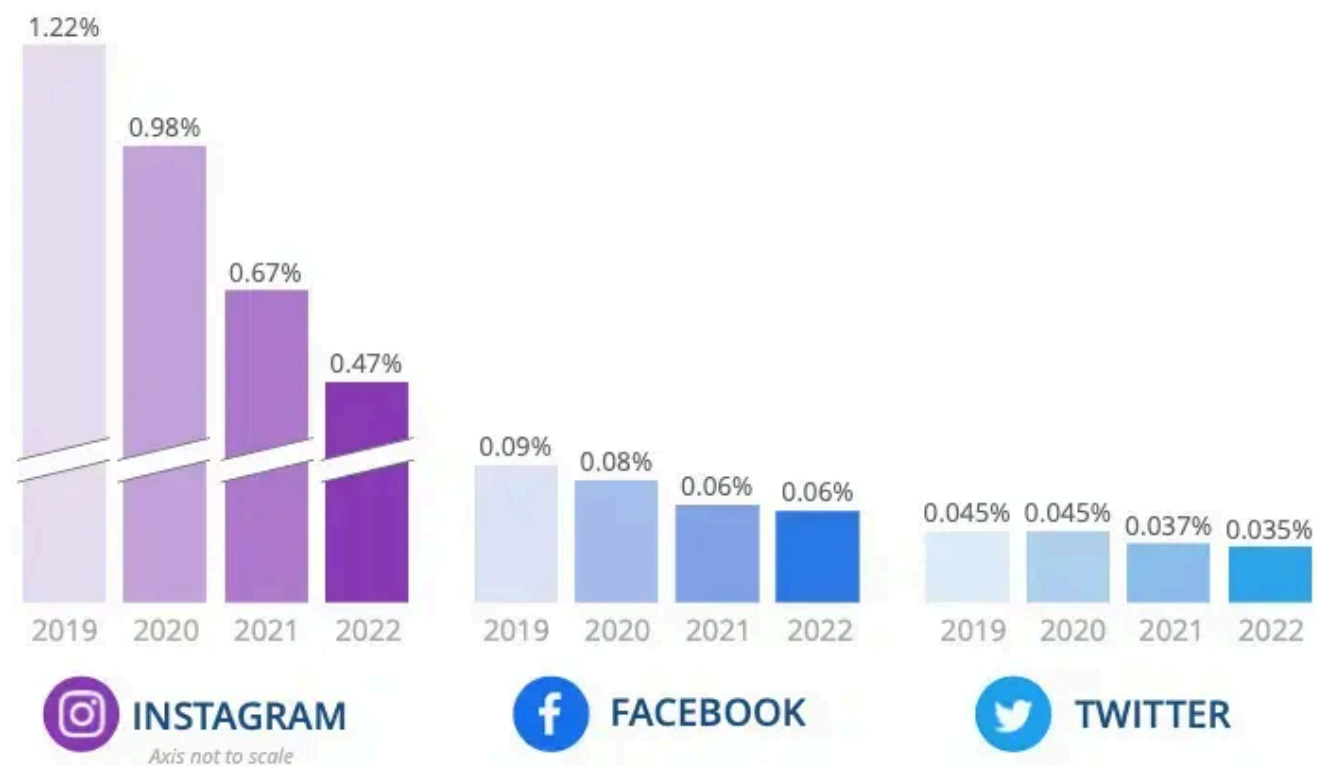


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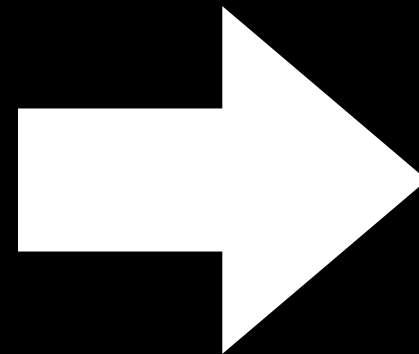
# Definitional Misattunement

# What does “better” social media mean?

## Engagement Rate Benchmarks Over Time



# **Evaluative Misattunement**



Evaluations during youth co-design often rely on **hypothetical contexts that require imagining large-scale, long-term dynamics**, which is difficult even for design professionals given how social media dynamics are nuanced, evolving, and scale-dependent.

A sandbox that supports design evaluations by generating **concrete thought anchors through ego-anchored simulations**, such as inner monologue and agents calibrated to represent the user and their real friend network.

Thank you! 😊

**Conceptual** Misattunement

**Definitional** Misattunement

**Evaluative** Misattunement