

LAWRENCE MARK LESSER

E(X)

Let's call X the platform
where the expected value of a post
is mean lifespan,
spread rate, or number of

hearts. Or just what's expected
when algorithms center
negative,
people being mean.

The mean is a levelling value
as if X lets all voices
signal virtue
in the noise.

And it's a shaky point
of balance how posts lie,
swayed by extremes
(always both sides?)

like theft
of an election
or indigenous
land.

Note: The expected value, $E(X)$, is the mean of all possible outcomes of a statistical experiment where each outcome is weighted by its probability. The poem explores expected values in the context of social media.

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