

# “You don’t want to be the next meme”: College Students’ Workarounds to Manage Privacy in the Era of Pervasive Photography

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# Pervasiveness of digital photography in everyday life

77% of Americans own **smartphones**

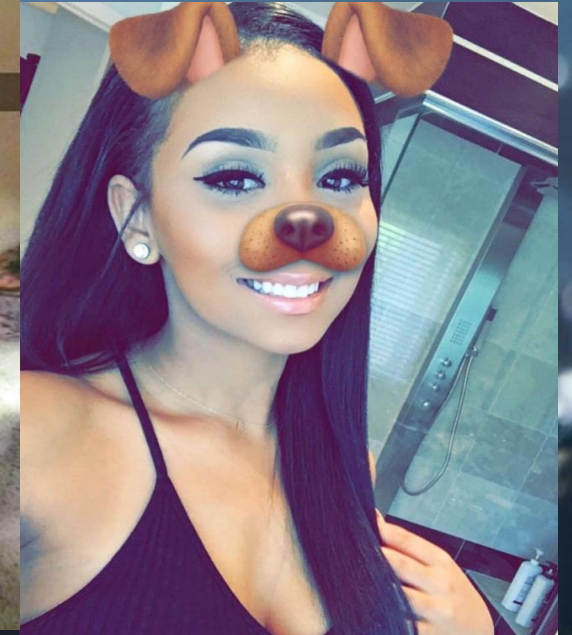
[The Pew Research Center]

Instagram, has **doubled its user base**, to 800 million monthly active users in **two years**

[Statista]

In Snapchat, users **create 3.5 million snaps** everyday\* that include, for example, funny situations, selfies, and sexting\*\*

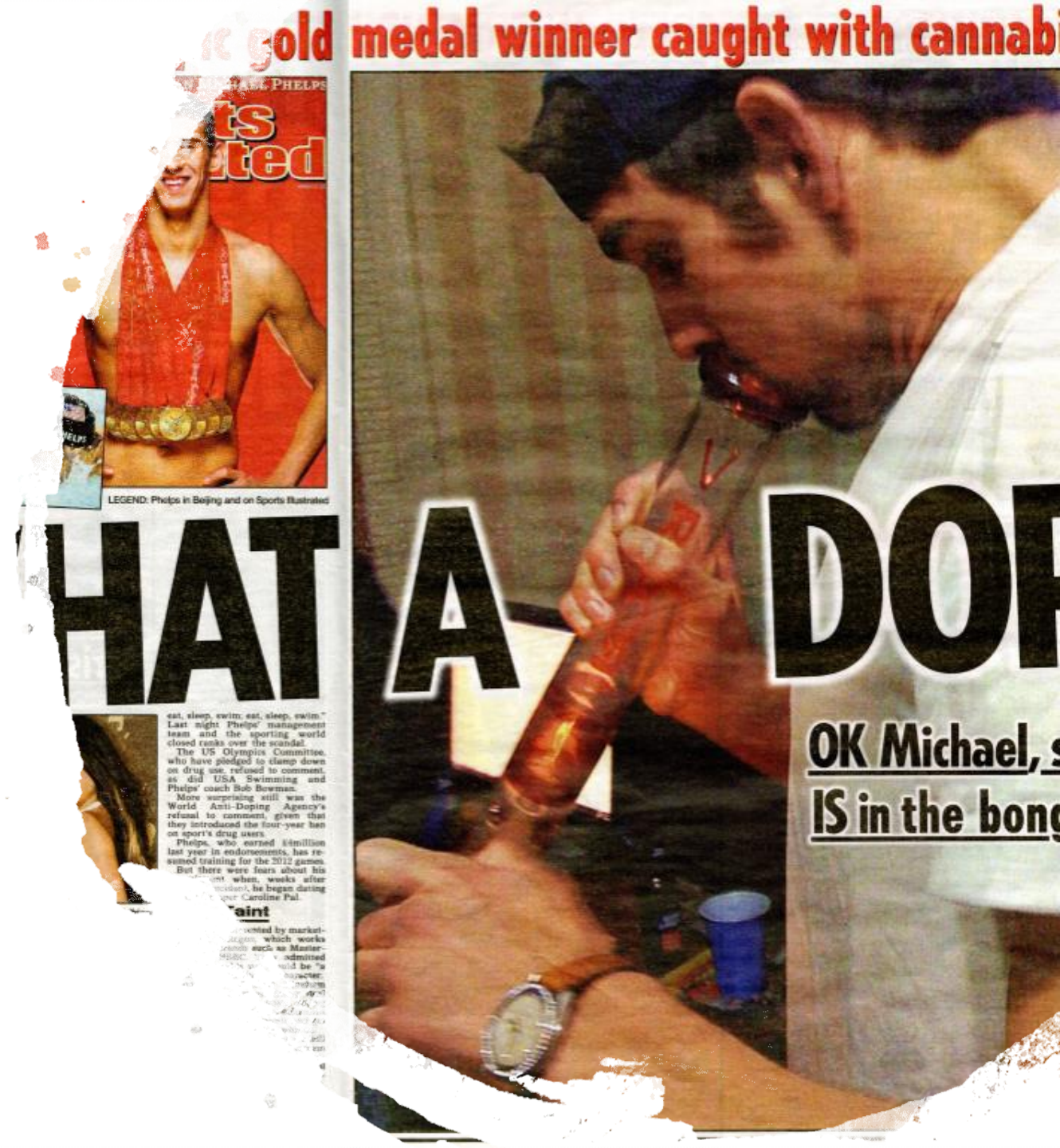
\*[Statista]    \*\*(Roesner et al., 2014)





# Pervasiveness of digital photography in everyday life

In 2009, a published photo of the Olympian swimmer Michael Phelps smoking marijuana went viral

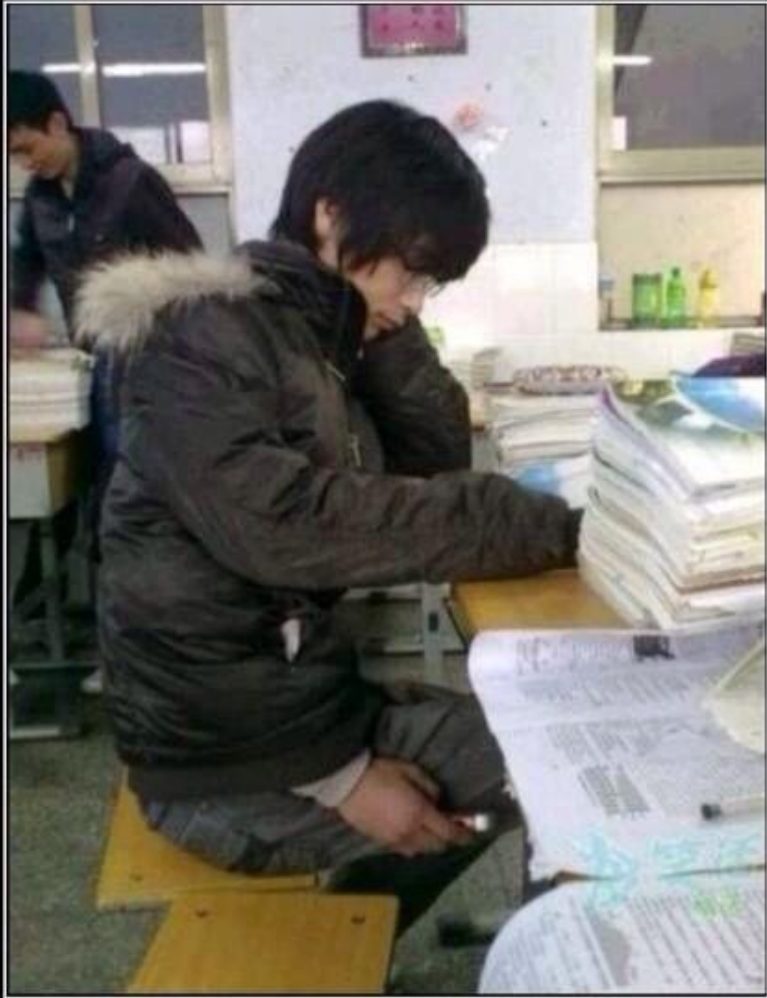


## Pervasiveness of digital photography in everyday life

In 2011, New England Patriots cheerleader, Caitlin Davis, was fired after photos surfaced on Facebook of her defacing a person's face with sexual and racist drawings



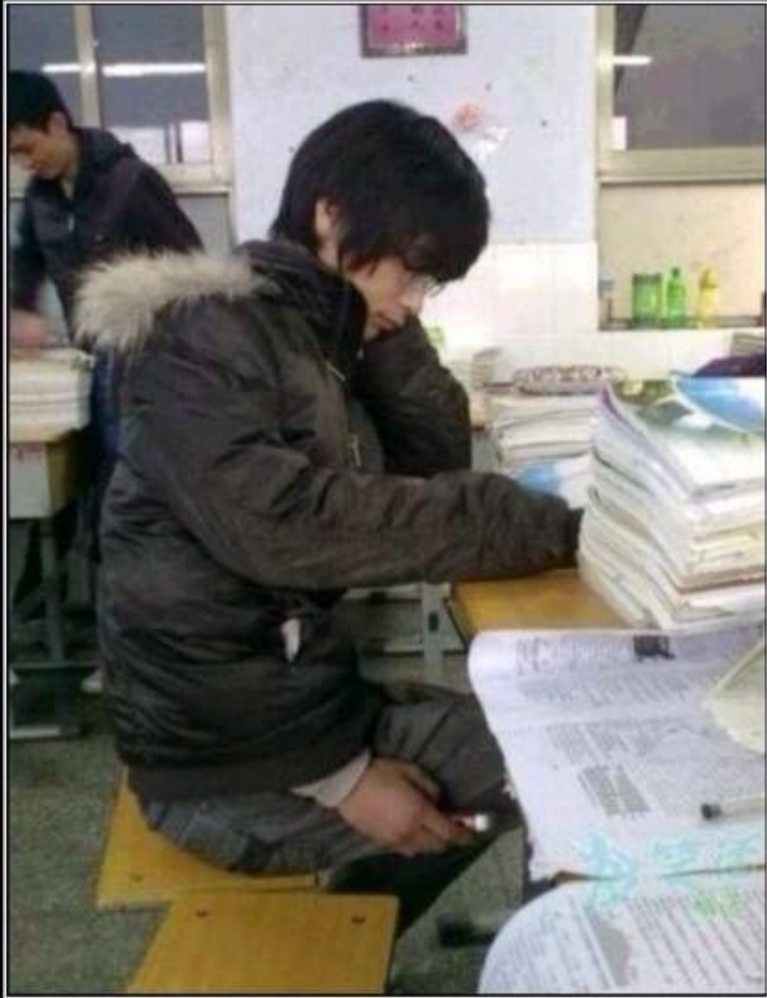




# Cheating

Level: expert

VERY DEMOTIVATIONAL .com



**Cheating**

Level: expert

This is Mario after doing 2 joints of marijuana. Still think doing drugs is cool?







Maybe she's born with it, maybe it's  
methamphetamine



After doing 2 joints of  
think doing drugs is

Cheating

Level: expert





Cheating

Level: expert

VERY DEMOTIVATIONAL .com

Maybe she's born with it, maybe it's  
methamphetamine



After doing 2 joints of

S

**BAD ASS**



**GRANDMA**

memecenter.com MemeCenter



my main goal in life is to be as comfortable as this man is on the subway



with it, maybe it's

after doing 2 joints of

S

**BAD ASS**



**GRANDMA**

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Constant state of surveillance  
by one's peers, friends, family  
and strangers

What does it mean to be a **young adult**  
living in such an environment?

What does this mean for an **individual's**  
**privacy**, and for the challenges of trying  
to control the **impression** others have of  
one, now and in the future?




# We focus on...

RQ1: What are the everyday privacy **concerns** of undergraduates with regard to photography and social media?

RQ2: How are undergraduates **responding** to these concerns?

RQ3: What privacy **enhanced designs** are inspired by this understanding?





Holistic perspective  
on digital  
photography and  
privacy, is needed...

## Wearable camera and Lifeloggers

(Hoyle et al., 2014-15)

## Public and private spaces

(Denning et al., 2014)

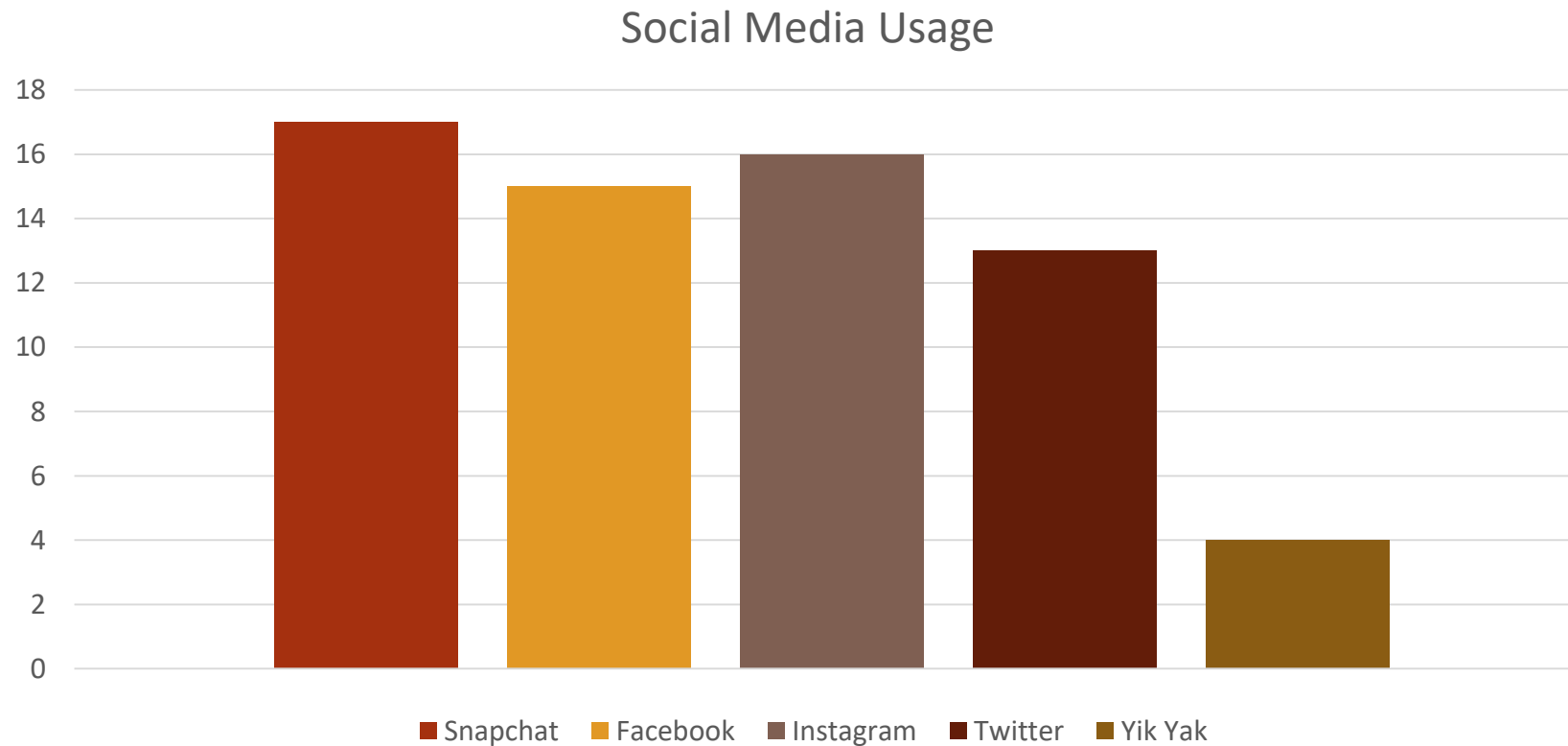
(Choe et al., 2011)

(Singhal et al., 2016)

## Social media networks (e.g., Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter)

(Such et al., 2017)

# Semi-structured interviews with undergraduate students (N=23)





# Structure of the interview

## **Stories about privacy and technology related events**

*4–5 stories about different living (e.g., dorm) and public places (e.g., bar)*

## **Attitudes and behaviors around digital photography**

### Sample questions from interview protocol

Q: I want you to recall an instance within the last 6 months in a living space where you or someone else felt uncomfortable because there were concerns that someone may record, post, or possess certain information about you or them.

Q: I'd like you to think about when you take a photo. How would you describe the conventions you personally follow when using social media apps, like Snapchat or Facebook, to take/share a photo?

# Analytic Procedure: Identifying key concepts

**Recorded and transcribed audio**

**Coding procedure**

*Iterative process using open and axial coding*

*Reached theoretical saturation with the first 18 interviews*



What are the everyday privacy  
**concerns** of undergraduates?

# Photos as threats to privacy

## Personal Privacy

*Judgments and misinterpretations*

*Captured by strangers to create memes*

## Group Privacy

*Group privacy as “an extension” to personal privacy*





## Personal Privacy: Judgments and misinterpretations

*[My friend] came home and was **drunk**. Somebody was **taking a video** of her ... She asked the person to **delete** it ... [but] she found out the video wasn't completely deleted ... She didn't want a video **leaked on Twitter** ... I don't think it's the general **reputation** she wants to have is this **silly sloppy drunk girl**. (P14)*



## Personal Privacy: Captured by strangers to create memes

*[I saw a] person **taking a picture** and ... **laughing** around 'cause he was a **heavier-set guy**. I didn't think anything of it at that time but there was a **trend** going around **social media** of people taking pictures of each other and **giving rude comments** about it (P4)*





## Group privacy as “an extension” to personal privacy

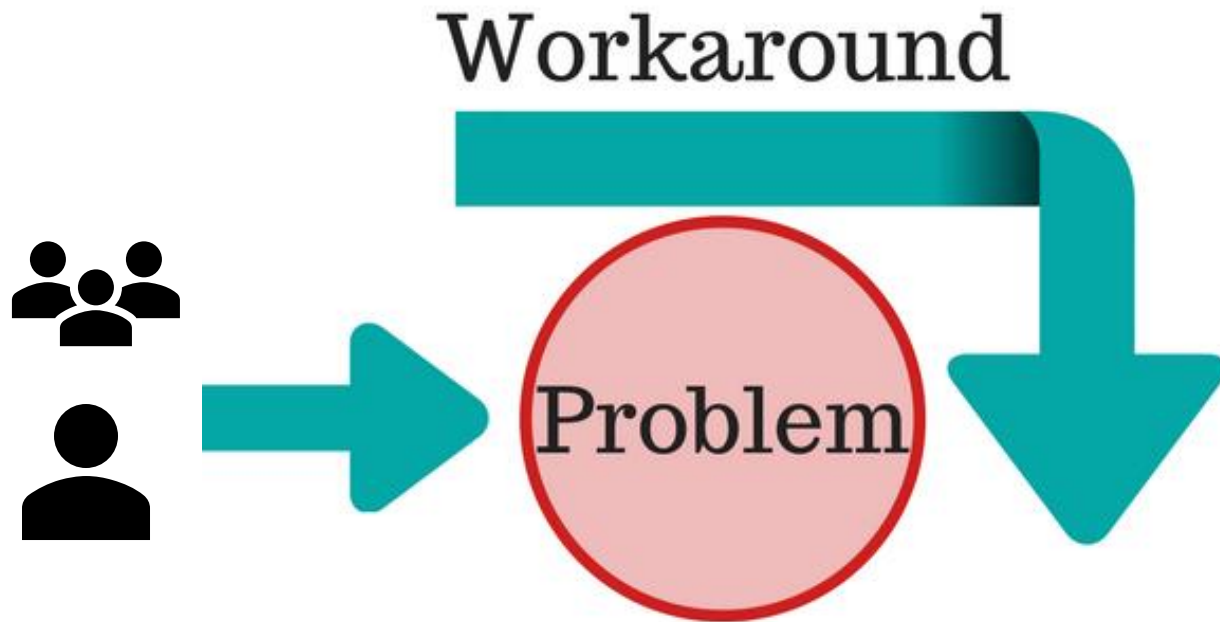
*We have **people** that **watch** all our **accounts** so if you're ever **drinking** in your letters [in clothes with the **sorority's name on them**], that's a big **no-no** because our **nationals** can see it, and our **chapter** will be in **trouble**. So if you ever post a **Snapchat** at a bar or a party and you have your letters on ... you'll be **asked to remove it**.(P11)*





How are undergraduates responding to their everyday privacy concerns with regard to photography and social media?

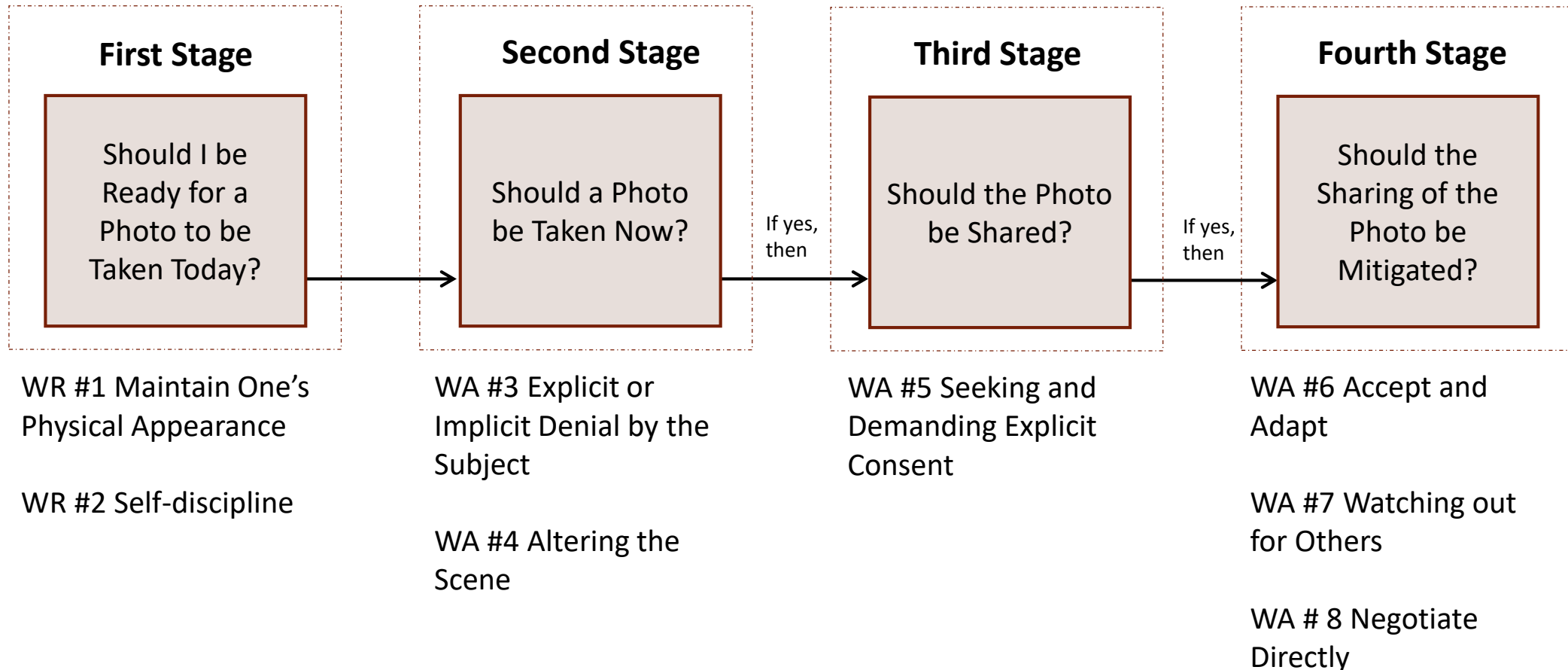
# Workarounds to manage privacy



“Work patterns an individual or a group of individuals **create** to **accomplish** a crucial work goal within a **system of dysfunctional** work processes that prohibits the accomplishment of that goal or makes it difficult”

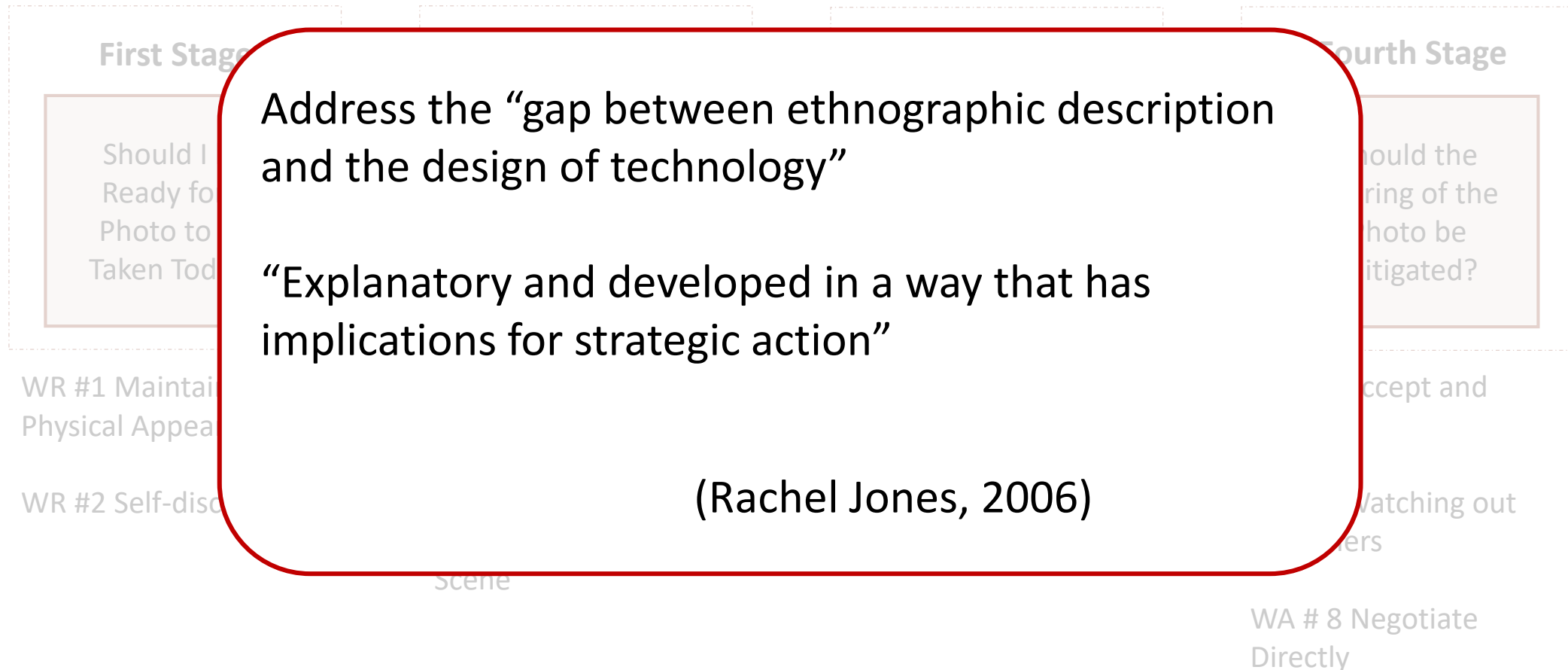
(Morath and Turnbull, 2005)

# Experience Model: Privacy Workarounds (WA) for Surveillance from Everyday Photography

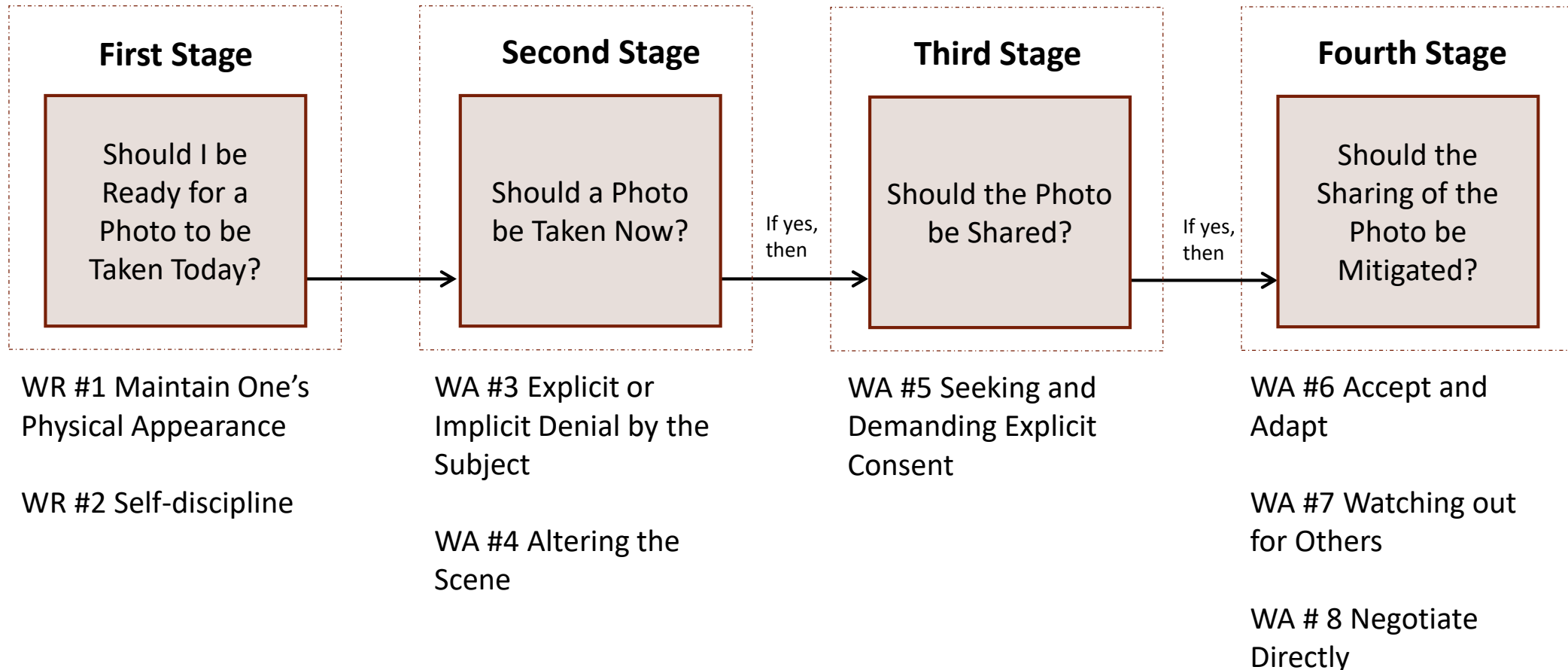




# Experience Model: Privacy Workarounds (WA) for Surveillance from Everyday Photography



# Experience Model: Privacy Workarounds (WA) for Surveillance from Everyday Photography



# First Stage: The potential to be captured in a photo

## First Stage

Should I be  
Ready for a  
Photo to be  
Taken Today?

WA #1 Maintain One's  
Physical Appearance

WA #2 Self-discipline

Ubiquity of photography in public  
places

Being alert to one's environments  
and actions

Scene

## Fourth Stage

Should the  
Sharing of the  
Photo be  
Mitigated?

5 Accept and

7 Watching out  
for Others

WA # 8 Negotiate  
Directly



# First Stage: The potential to be captured in a photo

## First Stage

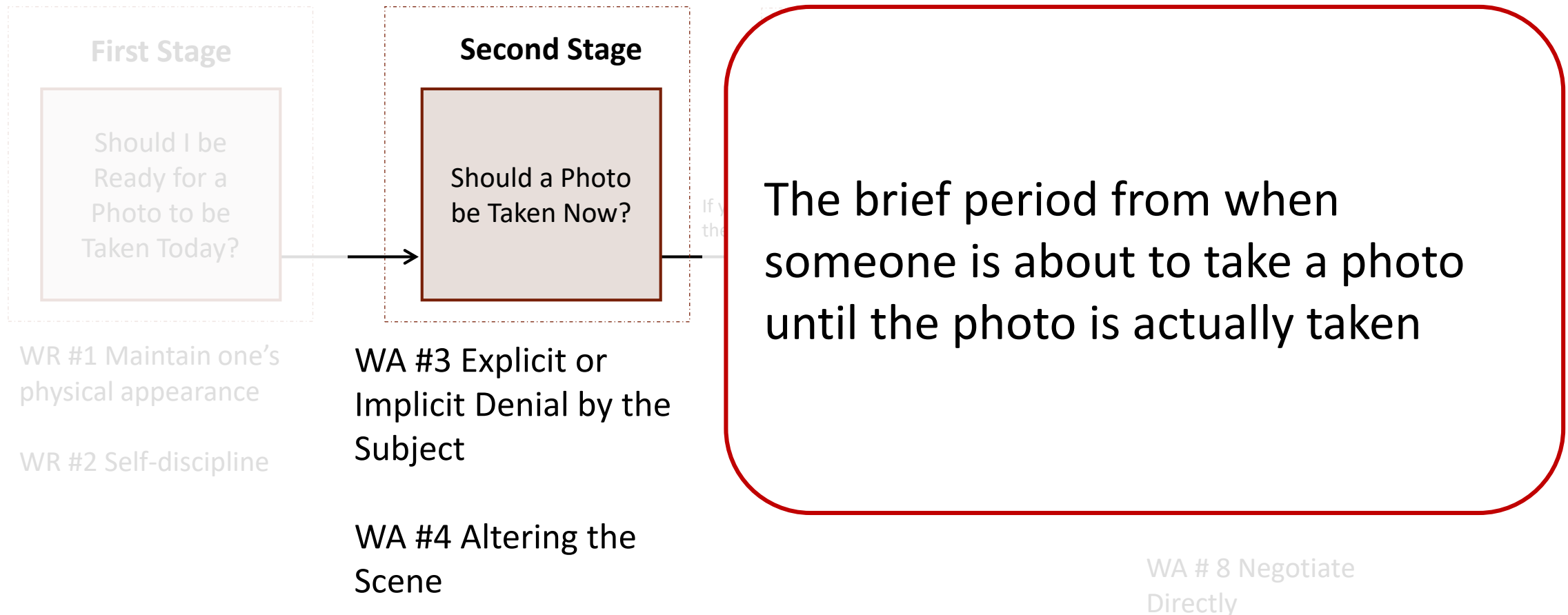
Should I be Ready for a Photo to be Taken Today?

**WA #1 Maintain One's Physical Appearance**

*I know if I'm going to a **social gathering**, a lot of **people** are gonna **take pictures** so I make sure to do my **makeup** ... my **hair** and I'll wear a **new top** (P6).*



# Second Stage: Imminent photography and altering the scene



# Second Stage: Imminent photography and altering the scene



## Second Stage

Should a Photo  
be Taken Now?

If  
th

WA #4 Altering  
the Scene

*[W]e were **dancing** around  
and **acting stupid**, and my  
**friend** started **recording** us ...  
so I **stopped** dancing ... (P1)*

WA # 8 Negotiate  
Directly



## Second Stage: Imminent photography and altering the scene



### Second Stage

Should a Photo  
be Taken Now?

WA #4 Altering  
the Scene

*If I'm hanging out at a friend's apartment and they do have **alcohol**, I make sure **not to include** that in the picture. (P4)*

WA # 8 Negotiate  
Directly

# Third Stage: The taken photo

The photo has been taken for a subject, but is not yet shared on social media

WA #4 Altering the Scene

## Third Stage

Should the Photo be Shared?

yes, then

WA #5 Seeking and Demanding Explicit Consent

If yes, then

## Fourth Stage

Should the Sharing of the Photo be Mitigated?

WA #6 Accept and Adapt

WA #7 Watching out for Others

WA # 8 Negotiate Directly

# Third Stage: The taken photo



## Third Stage

Should the Photo  
be Shared?

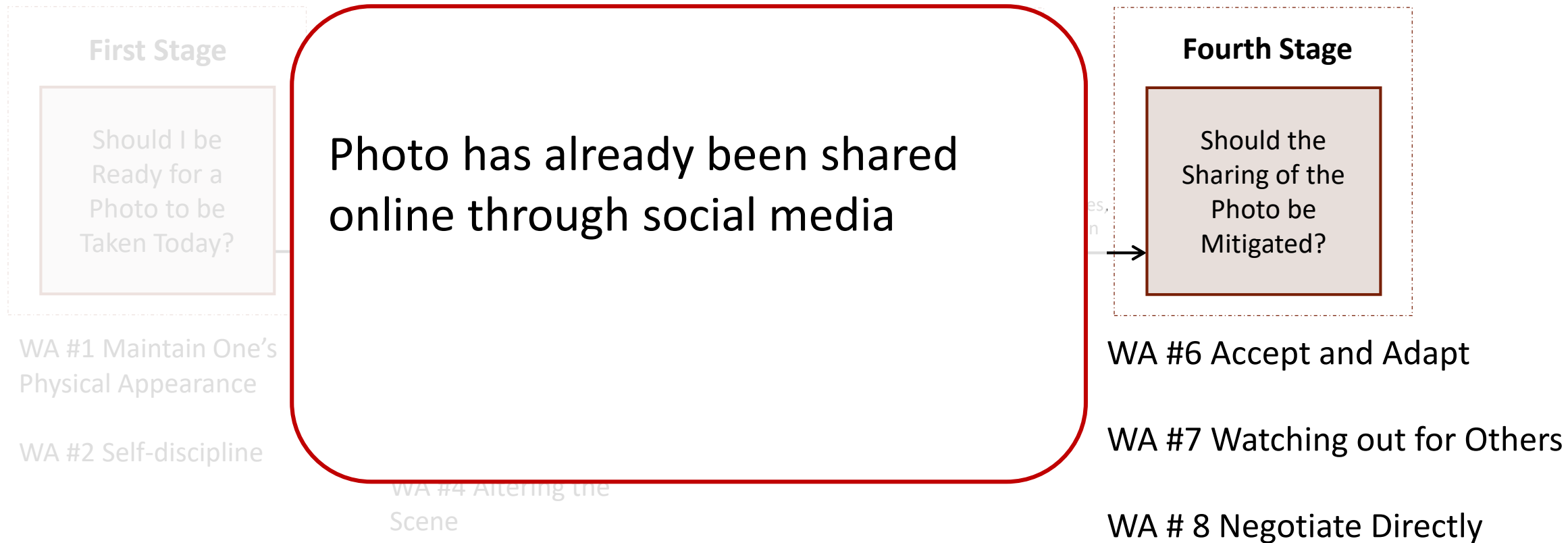
**WA #5 Seeking  
and  
Demanding  
Explicit  
Consent**

***Before I post pictures I  
say, “Hey **look** at my  
photos from the night  
before,”  
and we'll **pass each  
others phones** around  
... “Hey don't **put this  
up**” or “Let's **delete  
this**” (P10)***

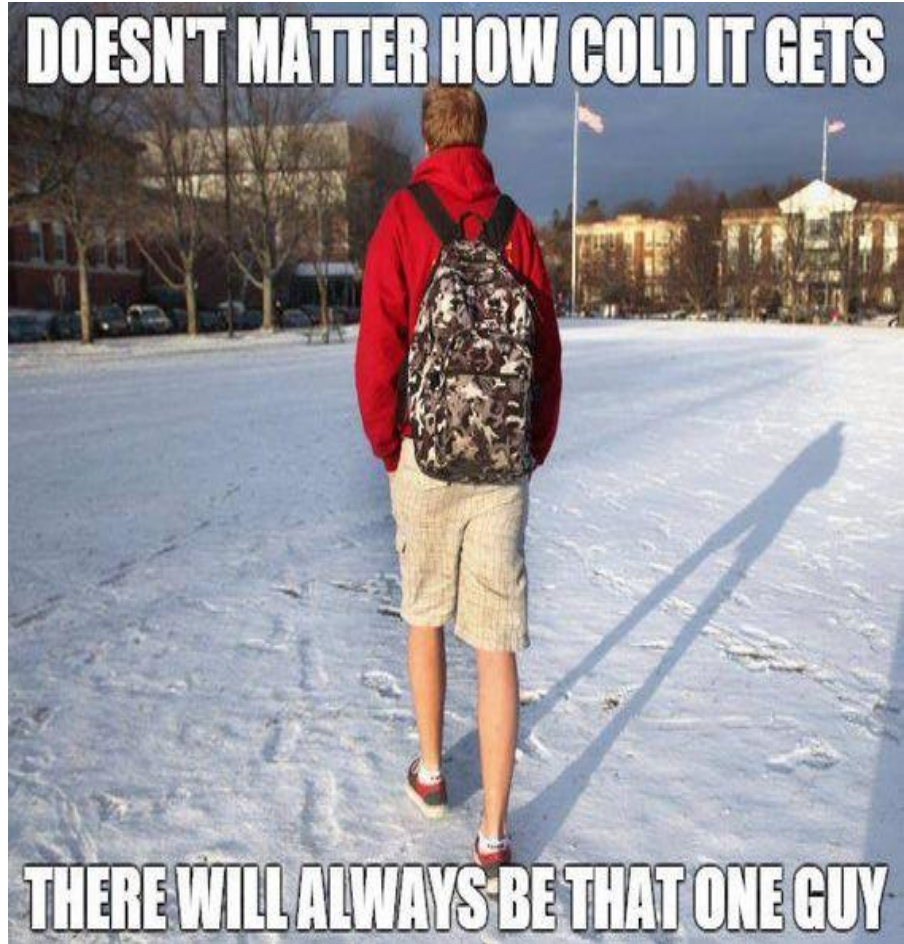
Directly



# Fourth Stage: Photo as shared object



## Fourth Stage: Photo as shared object



It was **snowing** and [my friend] was wearing **open-back moccasins**. One of her friends saw on a guy friend's Snapstory ... like, "Who is this girl **wearing moccasins?**" and she was like, "I **know** who that girl is." She took a **screenshot** and **sent** it to [my friend] ... It was a **random guy** who **made fun** of her. (P10)

### Fourth Stage

Should the  
Sharing of the  
Photo be  
Mitigated?

**WA #7**  
**Watching out**  
**for Others**

What privacy enhanced designs  
might help to support  
participants goals?



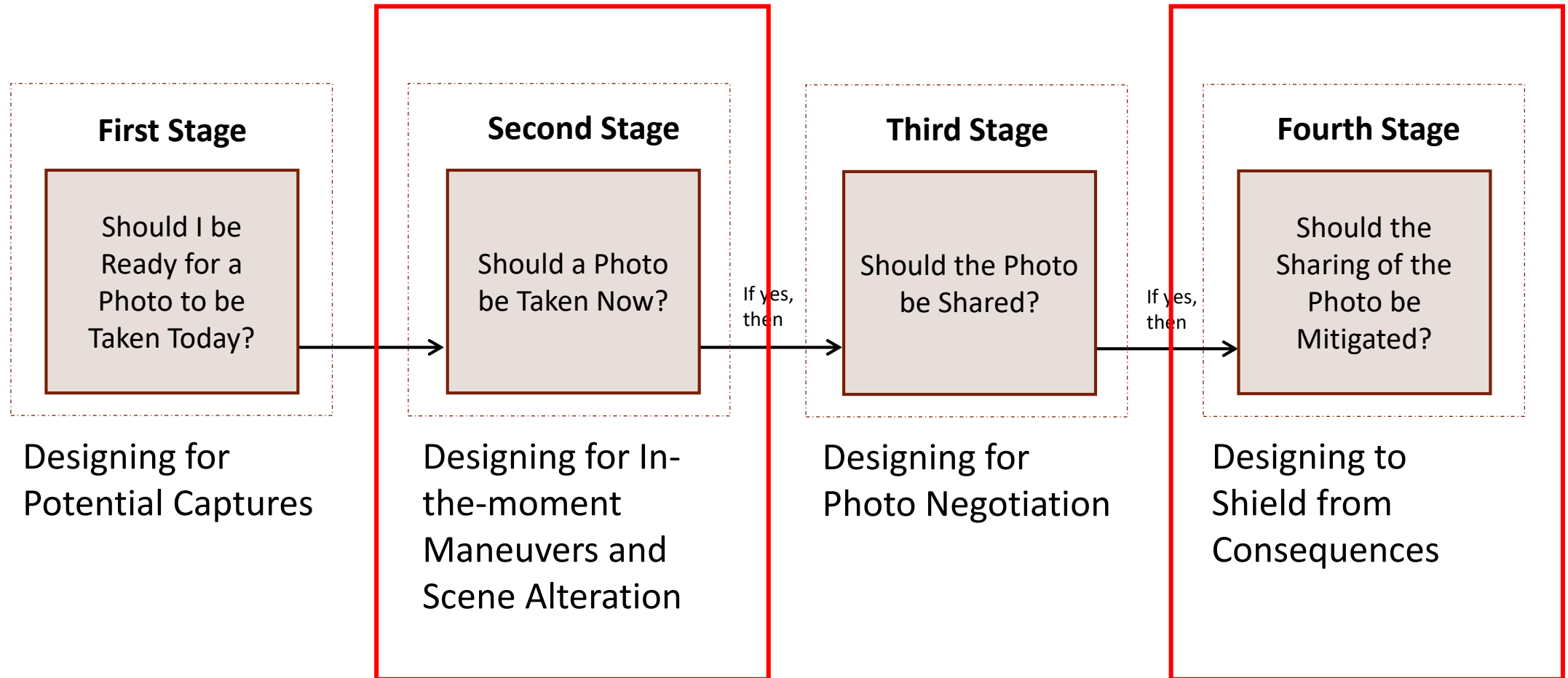
Designs for Individual Stages

Photo Trajectories: It Takes a Village...

A design  
opportunity  
map for  
photo  
surveillance



# Designs for Individual Stages



# Designs for Individual Stages



## Second Stage

Should a Photo  
be Taken Now?

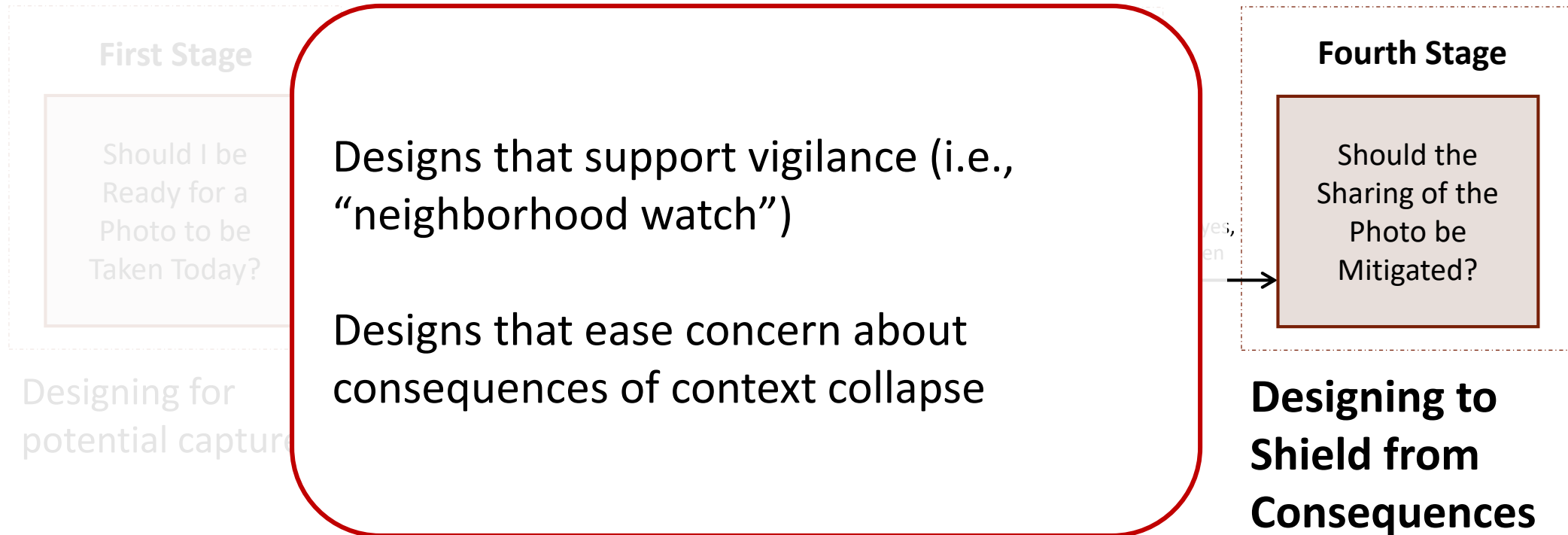
If ye  
ther

**Designing for In-  
the-moment  
Maneuvers and  
Scene Alteration**

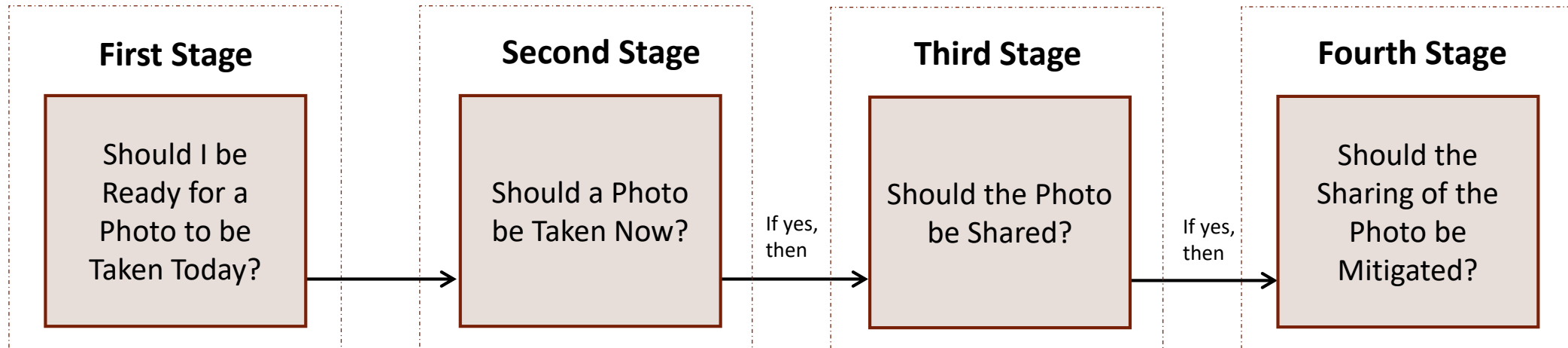
Designs that support socially  
unobtrusive rejection of  
capture

Designs that evaluate how  
“safe” a photo is

# Designs for Individual Stages



# Photo Trajectories: It Takes a Village...



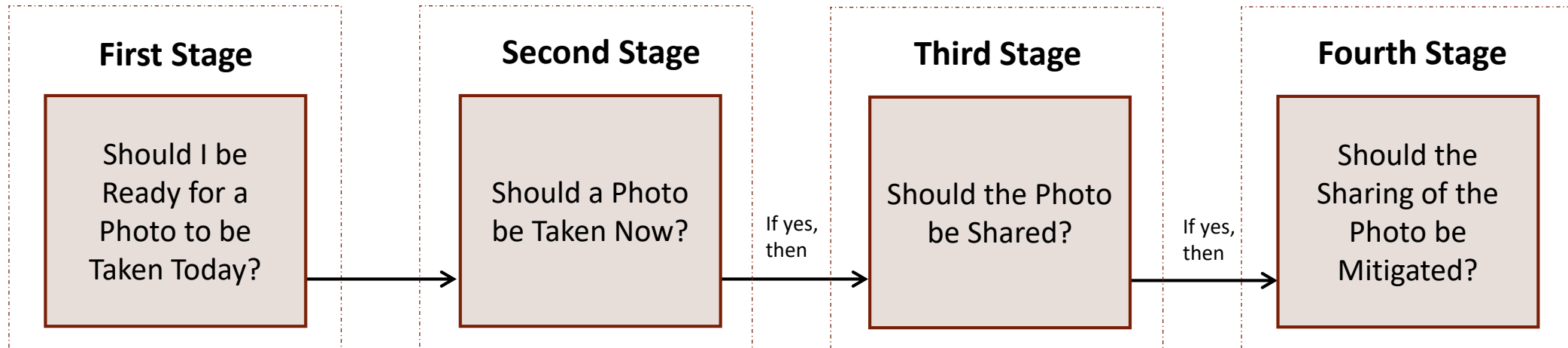
The Power of the Photographer:  
Empowering the Subject and Bystanders, too

Making Past Workarounds Visible

Making Future Trajectories Visible



# Photo Trajectories: It Takes a Village...



**The Power of the Photographer:  
Empowering the Subject and Bystanders, too**

Making Past Workarounds Visible

Making Future Trajectories Visible

# Photo Trajectories: It Takes a Village...

**Dilute** the concentrated **power** of photography that resides with the **photographer**

Spread that power **across all interested actors**

Solutions need to answer questions on how to **work around conflicts**

**The Power of the Photographer:  
Empowering the Subject and Bystanders, too**

Making Past Workarounds Visible

Making Future Trajectories Visible

# Photo Trajectories: It Takes a Village...

Did all **co-owners** (photographer and the subjects) of a particular photo **approve** it to be **shared** online? With **whom**?

Could past **workarounds** of a photo be **visualized**? Can we see to what **degree** different actors' decisions allowed the photo to reach its **current state**?

The Power of the Photographer:  
Empowering the Subject and Bystanders, too

**Making Past Workarounds Visible**

Making Future Trajectories Visible

# Summary

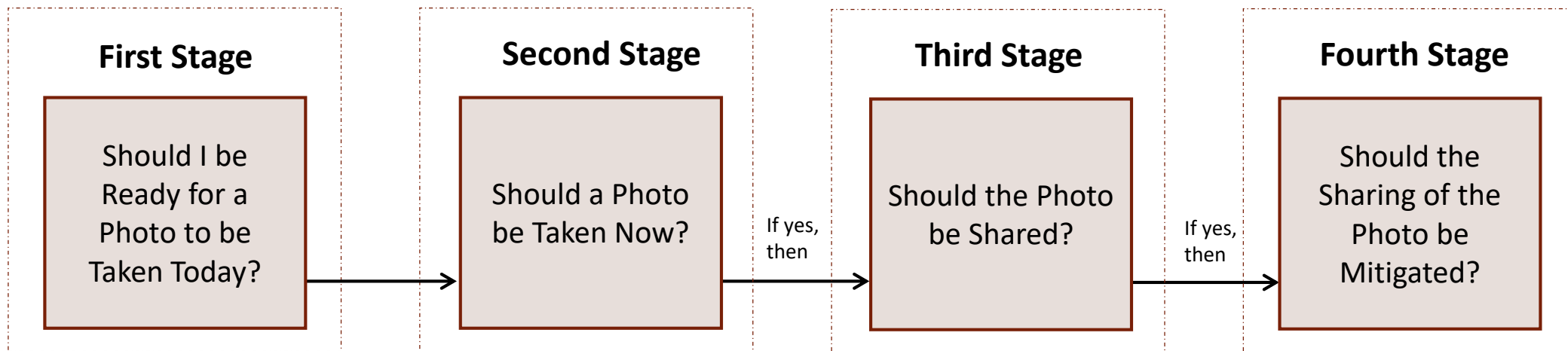
Provide a **holistic model** that highlights how undergraduate students use **workarounds** and live in constant state of **watchfulness** to **manage** their **privacy** in the face of **surveillance** from pervasiveness **photography** and social media

Build a **design opportunity map** that highlights how **designs** can address users' **privacy** concerns over a digital **photo's lifespan**, both on **individual stages** and **across stages**.



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<b>Work-arounds</b>	Maintain One's Physical Appearance  Self-discipline	Explicit or Implicit Denial by the Subject  Altering the Scene	Seeking and Demanding Explicit Consent	Accept and Adapt  Watching out for Others  Negotiate Directly
<b>Design for Individual Stages</b>	Designing for Potential Captures	Designing for In-the-moment Maneuvers and Scene Alteration	Designing for Photo Negotiation	Designing to Shield from Consequences
<b>Design Across Stages</b>	The Power of the Photographer: Empowering the Subject and Bystanders, too  Making Past Workarounds Visible  Making Future Trajectories Visible			