Every day, it seems there’s a new scandal or headline exposing the dark side of digital technology. From Zoom hackers hate bombing or conference calls to smartphones secretly listening in on our private conversation, there’s so much happening. And even more happening behind the scenes. There’s been a sudden and massive shift to online everything following the arrival of COVID-19 and a growing sense of urgency that we really need to know more about the impacts of digital technologies on our lives, our communities, our society.

Well, there’s a ton of academic research out there that delves into these very issues that can be hard to find, and even harder to sit through. What should we read? And what does it mean? These are two questions that I get asked a lot as a professor of Digital Media and Technology Studies. And while there’s no such thing as a universal reading list, or one right way to read a text, this podcast will provide some tangible answers to those questions.

I’m Sara Grimes, Director of the Knowledge Media Design Institute at the University of Toronto, a research institute that, for the past 24 years, has explored the complex relationships that exist between technology and society. In each episode, I’ll interview a scholar whose work I think is a game changer for understanding the culture and politics of digital technologies. You’ll hear firsthand accounts of critical emerging research and its broader implications. Critical Technology premieres fall 2020. Listen and subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, or wherever you’re listening right now.