


# EVERY TECH PERSON IN SILICON VALLEY REVEALED TO BE FRAT HOUSE SCUM, ESPECIALLY THE VC'S

## Tesla and beyond: Hidden problems of Silicon Valley

LISTEN

Co-produced with  PRX  
Logo



Listen on  
**Apple Podcasts**

With Silicon Valley under the microscope for not living up to its idealistic hype, this week's episode of Reveal investigates tech companies on the cutting edge that are struggling to solve old-fashioned problems.

We start with worker injuries at Tesla's electric car factory in California. Alyssa Jeong Perry of KQED in San Francisco and Reveal's Will Evans examine what caused the company's safety problems and whether its claims of improvement hold up.

Next, we look at who holds the power in Silicon Valley. Reveal data reporter Sinduja Rangarajan got unprecedented access to demographic data about workers in Silicon Valley's biggest companies. She found that most tech companies get low marks on diversity, and makes these findings come alive with help from a choir.

Then, Ellen Huet and Aki Ito, reporters with the Decrypted podcast from Bloomberg News, profile one of the women who sued Google over unequal pay. Kelly Ellis and other women say they were paid less than men for equal or similar work.

We end the hour with a discussion among successful women of color in Silicon Valley about why women feel out of place at the office and the shortcomings of company diversity efforts.

#### **DIG DEEPER**

- **Read:** Tesla says its factory is safer. But it left injuries off the books
- **Read:** What women of color in the tech industry want
- **Read:** The sound of disparity: Data directed Silicon Valley diversity choir

## **'I was getting confused figuring out whether hire you or hit on you': Five Silicon Valley tech investors are accused of sexually harassing women**

- Dave McClure of 500 Startups and Chris Sacca of Lowercase Capital were both accused of sexually harassing women in the tech industry
- Justin Caldbeck of Binary Capital, Marc Canter of Macromedia and investor Jose De Dios also had allegations leveled against them
- Ten female entrepreneurs came forward and revealed the allegations this week
- They claim the men targeted them with sexist comments, touched them without permission or sent inappropriate messages or emails over the years
- McClure, Sacca and Caldbeck have all publicly apologized for their behavior
- De Dios has denied the allegations against him, while Canter accused a woman of lying about her claims

---

By [EMILY CRANE FOR DAILYMAIL.COM](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:12 EDT, 30 June 2017 | UPDATED: 00:19 EDT, 1 July 2017

---

Five Silicon Valley tech investors have been accused of sexual harassment by multiple women in the technology start-up industry.

Ten female entrepreneurs came forward and told the [New York Times](#) of the harassment allegations this week.

They specifically named five investors or advisers who had allegedly targeted them with sexist comments, touched them without permission or sent inappropriate messages or emails over the years.

Dave McClure of 500 Startups, Chris Sacca of Lowercase Capital, Justin Caldbeck of Binary Capital, Marc Canter of Macromedia investor Jose De Dios were all accused by the women of some form of sexual harassment.

Chris Sacca of Lowercase Capital is one of five Silicon Valley tech investors accused of sexual harassment by multiple women in the technology start-up industry

**Chris Sacca of Lowercase Capital is one of five Silicon Valley tech investors accused of sexual harassment by multiple women in the technology start-up industry**

Sacca issued a public apology on Thursday for his bad behavior toward women in tech

**Sacca issued a public apology on Thursday for his bad behavior toward women in tech**

McClure, who is a founder of 500 Startups and an investor, is accused of sending 31-year-old Sarah Kunst a Facebook message when she was discussing a potential job with him.

'I was getting confused figuring out whether to hire you or hit on you,' the message read. Kunst told The Times that she denied McClure's advances.

500 Startups has since said McClure, who has not commented publicly, is no longer in charge of the company's day-to-day operations following the allegations.

'After being made aware of instances of Dave having inappropriate behavior with women in the tech community, we have been making changes internally,' the company said.

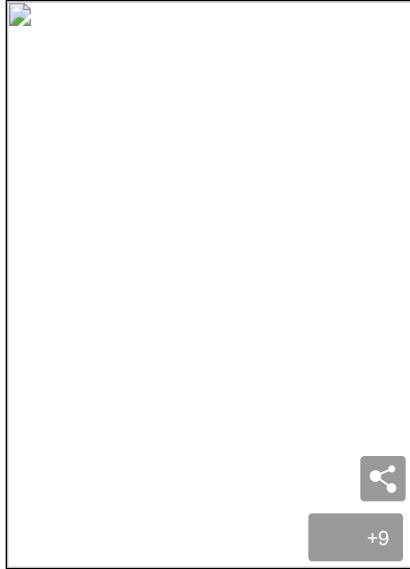
'He recognizes he has made mistakes and has been going through counseling to work on addressing changes in his previous unacceptable behavior.'

Another woman, Susan Wu, claimed that Chris Sacca - who founded Lowercase Capital in 2007 - had made her feel uncomfortable when he allegedly touched her face without permission at a tech event in Las Vegas in 2009.

Sacca helped fund companies like Uber and Twitter, and has made appearances on ABC's Shark Tank. He issued a public apology on Thursday for his bad behavior toward women in tech.

Dave McClure of 500 Startups is accused of sending an inappropriate message to a potential employee going for a job with his company. McClure is now getting counselling

**Dave McClure of 500 Startups is accused of sending an inappropriate message to a potential employee going for a job with his company. McClure is now getting counselling**



**Justin Caldbeck of Binary Capital has been accused by multiple women of making unwanted advances towards them**

---



'By stupidly perpetuating a culture rife with busting chops, teasing and peer pressure to go out drinking, I made some women feel conscious, anxious and fear they might not be taken seriously,' Sacca wrote in a [blog post](#).

'In social settings, under the guise of joking, being collegial, flirting, or having a good time, I undoubtedly caused some women to themselves, retreat, feel alone, and worry they can't be their authentic selves ... I had a duty to say and do more on behalf of those were not in the conversation but nevertheless affected by it. I failed.'

---

## SHARE THIS ARTICLE

---

## RELATED ARTICLES



'She doesn't know me': Melania slaps down Mika after






Trump coverage is 'not patriotic': Now Kellyanne accuses...

---

Caldbeck has been accused by multiple women of making unwanted advances towards them. Tech news website [The Information](#) reported earlier this week that Caldbeck had been accused of preying on females in the industry at three separate firms over the past seven years.

One woman, Lindsay Meyer, told The Times that Caldbeck invested \$25,000 of his own money into her fitness startup in 2015. She claims he then proceeded to text her constantly and asked if she was attracted to him. Meyer also claims Caldbeck groped and kissed her.

Caldbeck is now taking an indefinite leave of absence from Binary Capital, which he co-founded, following the allegations of unwanted advances.

  
 Marc Canter of Macromedia is accused by one woman of sending flirty text messages when she was trying to start her own tech company in 2014 

**Marc Canter of Macromedia is accused by one woman of sending flirty text messages when she was trying to start her own tech company in 2014**

 The start-up adviser has since taken to Twitter accusing the woman of lying and attacking him 

**The start-up adviser has since taken to Twitter accusing the woman of lying and attacking him**

'The past 24 hours have been the darkest of my life. I have made many mistakes over the course of my career, some of which were brought to light this week. To say I'm sorry about my behavior is a categorical understatement. Still, I need to say it: I am so, so sorry,' Caldbeck said in a statement published on [Axios](#) last week.

'I direct my apology first to those women who I've made feel uncomfortable in any way, at any time - but also to the greater tech ecosystem, a community that I have utterly failed.'

Caldbeck's previous employer, Lightspeed, also issued a statement on Twitter after receiving complaints from women.

'Justin's behavior as described in recent reporting is completely unacceptable. We received a complaint regarding Justin from a portfolio company during his time at Lightspeed.

'In response, we removed him as a board observer at the request of that company. In light of what we have learned since, we regret we did not take stronger action. It is clear now that we should have done more.'

Wendy Dent claims she was sent flirty text messages by Marc Canter - the founder of Macromedia - when she was trying to start her own tech company in 2014.

He allegedly wrote in one message that she was a 'sorceress casting a spell' and commented on how she looked wearing a blue dress saying: 'Know what I'm thinking? Why am I sending you this - in private?'

Canter said the woman 'came on strong to me, asking for help' and that he behaved that way to make her go away. The start-up company has since taken to Twitter accusing the woman of lying and attacking him.

An investor named Jose De Dios is accused of making an inappropriate comment to Lisa Curtis after she pitched her start-up idea for a competition in San Francisco in 2014.



'Of course you won. You're a total babe,' he is alleged to have said when Curtis came off the stage.

De Dios has flat out denied the allegation, saying he 'unequivocally did not make a defamatory remark.'

ADVERTISEMENT

**Read more:**

**[Silicon Valley Women, in Cultural Shift, Frankly Describe Sexual Harassment - The New York Times](#)**

 An investor named Jose De Dios is accused of making an inappropriate comment to a woman in 2014. De Dios has flat out denied the allegation 

**An investor named Jose De Dios is accused of making an inappropriate comment to a woman in 2014. De Dios has flat out denied the allegation**

[Justin Caldbeck takes indefinite leave of absence from Binary Capital - Axios](#)  
[I Have More Work To Do. – Chris Sacca – Medium](#)  
[Silicon Valley Women Tell of VC's Unwanted Advances — The Information](#)

## Credits

Support for Reveal is provided by the Reva and David Logan Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The John S. And James L. Knight Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation and the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

Reveal is a co-production of The Center for Investigative Reporting and PRX.

# How tech's richest plan to save themselves after the apocalypse

Silicon Valley's elite are hatching plans to escape disaster – and when it comes, they'll leave the rest of us behind

▲ 'The Event was their euphemism for the environmental collapse, social unrest, nuclear explosion, virus, or hack that takes everything down.' Illustration: Matt Huynh

**Douglas Rushkoff** for  
*Medium*

Tue 24 Jul 2018 02:00 EDT



3,068

Last year, I got invited to a super-deluxe private resort to deliver a keynote speech to what I assumed would be a hundred or so investment bankers. It was by far the largest fee I had ever been offered for a talk – about half my annual professor's salary – all to deliver some insight on the subject of “the future of technology”.

I've never liked talking about the future. The Q&A sessions always end up more like parlor games, where I'm asked to opine on the latest technology buzzwords as if they were ticker symbols for potential investments: