

Silicon Valley's MATCH.COM, OKCUPID and TINDR have destroyed dating and trust forever

By [Beth Teitell](#) | GLOBE STAFF

Mike LeSage of East Boston is 34, single, and on the dating scene. Dating has always been a somewhat fraught experience for LeSage, but lately, he — like many men — finds himself particularly at sea.

In encounters with women, how does he ensure he doesn't step over a line?

He hastens to note that he knows no man should ever force himself on a woman, but far short of that, how should he act?

“You could argue that a lot of girls don't like passive men,” LeSage said. “So if you aren't a little forward you lose. It's almost a leap of faith either way.”

In this time of upheaval, with the news supplying a steady diet of new accusations of sexual misconduct, and with social media aflame with differing beliefs about the appropriate response to those accusations, those in the dating world find themselves navigating especially perilous terrain.

The anxiety emerges in the offices of therapists and in bars, where singles find themselves confused about what's OK and what isn't, especially in the days since the Internet blew up over a woman's anonymous accusations of sexual misconduct against comedian Aziz Ansari.

The woman called the date “the worst night of my life.” Ansari said in a statement he thought the encounter was consensual.

At a watering hole on State Street where LeSage was hanging out one recent evening, Tito's vodka and Bud Lights flowed and vivacious singles with good hair and on-trend outfits smiled and flirted. But beneath the surface, it was all tension. “You can offend