

‘Authors Meet Critics’ ISA World Congress Toronto 2018

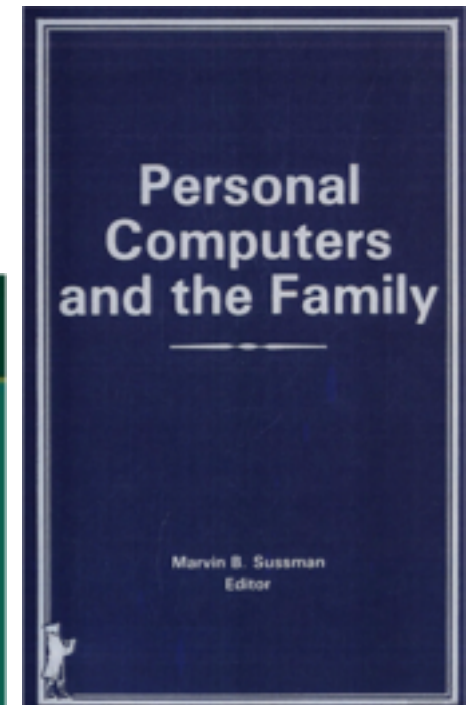
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Background

- Growing **pervasiveness** of **ICTs** (e.g., Internet, smartphones, tablets, etc.) in everyday **family life** in industrialized countries.
- Sociological research remains **scant & scattered**.
- Lack of an understanding of interplay of ICTs & family dynamics in **different regions/contexts**.



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Context

- Two **RC06-ISA sessions** tasked with assembling international and diverse research.

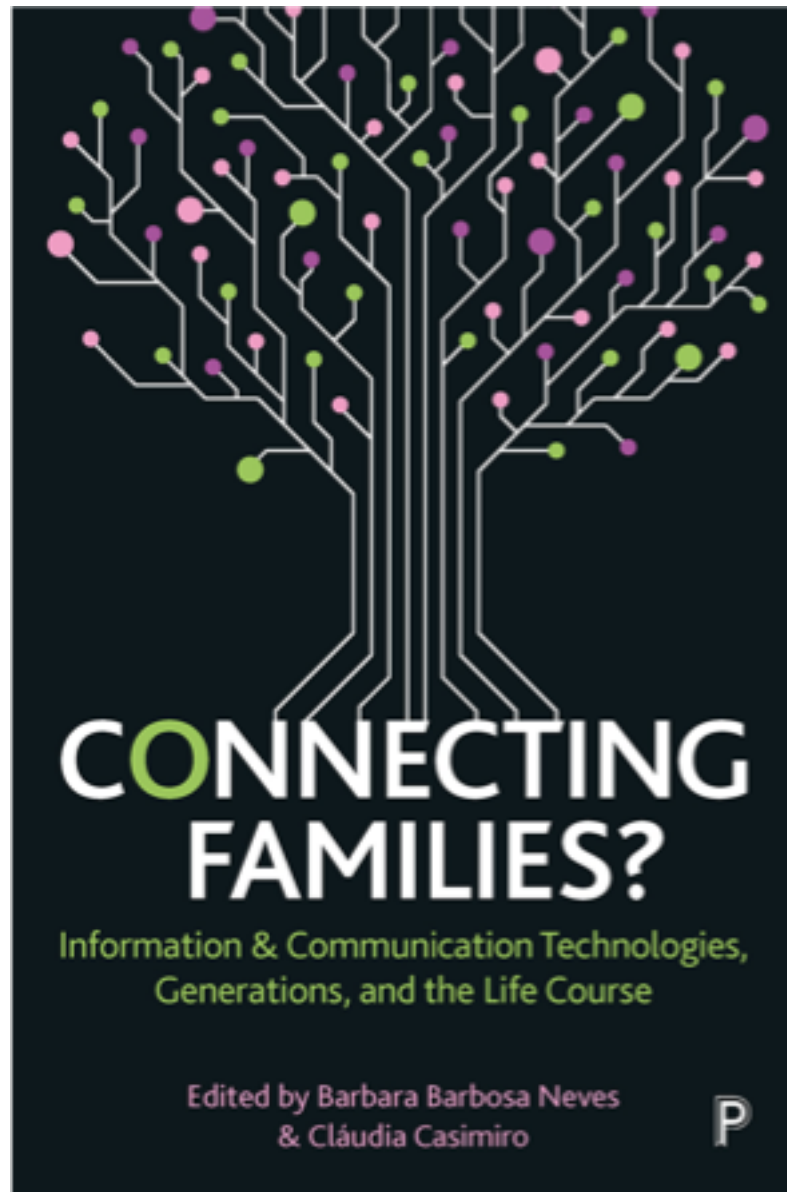


- Increasing **relevance** of the topic for sociologists.
- New questions/new angles: **generational** but also a **life course** perspective.

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Outcome



- Contributions from 5 continents.
- Fills a gap in family & ICT studies by presenting **theoretical, methodological, & empirical** work using a generational & life course perspective.

Overview

- *“The family has become a network”*, foreword by **Prof. Barry Wellman**.
- **Part I** presents different **theoretical and conceptual** perspectives & **methodological** techniques.
- **Part II** presents ground-breaking **empirical research** from around the world.
- *“Digital connections and family practices”*, afterword by **Prof. Elizabeth Silva**.



Part I

- ***Theoretical perspectives on technology & society***

Natasha Mauthner & Karolina Kazimierczak

- ***Actor network theory & strong structuration theory***

Geoffrey Mead & Barbara Barbosa Neves

- ***Networked individualism***

Anabel Quan-Haase, Hua Wang, Barry Wellman, & Renwen Zhang

- ***Oversharing & disappearance on/offline***

Amanda du Preez



Part I

- ***Digital methods***

Alexia Maddox

- ***Cross-disciplinary methods***

Barbara Barbosa Neves, Ron Baecker, Diana Carvalho, & Alexandra Sanders

- ***Technologies as tools for family research***

Cláudia Casimiro & Magda Nico



Part II

- ***Use of CT to maintain intergenerational contact***

Siyun Peng, Merril Silverstein, J. Jill Suitor, & Megan Gilligan

- ***Intergenerational study of families and digital media use***

Jolynna Sinanan & Larissa Hjorth

- ***Transnational families and digital storytelling***

Catalina Arango Patiño



Part II

- ***Use of ICTs among immigrants and their left-behind parents***

Sondra Cuban

- ***Use of mobile text messages for family and romantic relations***

Bernadette Kneidinger-Müller

- ***Effects of ICTs on work-family conflict***

Yuka Sakamoto



Reflections

- Understanding ICTs & family requires numerous tools to grasp **changes and continuities** in its interplay.
- Need to overcome **binary assumptions** of technology impact (positive vs. negative) and **technologically deterministic** views: family and ICTs shape each other, offering opportunities and challenges for care, intimacy, support, solidarity, work-family balance.
- **Future research:** comprehensive life course research, intersectional approach, more diverse contexts.



Acknowledgements

- Contributors
- RC06 family
- Fausto Amaro
- Susan McDaniel
- Policy Press



Policy Press

Isobel Bainton



Helen Davis



Ruth Wallace



Victoria Pittman



Shannon Kneis



Rebecca Tomlinson



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