CONNECTING FAMILIES?
Information & Communication Technologies, generations, and the life course

Edited by Barbara Barbosa Neves and Cláudia Casimiro
# Contents

List of figures and tables v  
Notes on contributors vi  
Acknowledgements xiv  

Foreword: The family has become a network xv  
*Barry Wellman*

**one** Connecting families? An introduction 1  
*Barbara Barbosa Neves and Cláudia Casimiro*

**Part I Theoretical and methodological approaches** 19

**two** Theoretical perspectives on technology and society: implications for understanding the relationship between ICTs and family life 21  
*Natasha Mauthner and Karolina Kazimierczak*

**three** Recursive approaches to technology adoption, families, and the life course: actor network theory and strong structuration theory 41  
*Geoffrey Mead and Barbara Barbosa Neves*

**four** Weaving family connections on- and offline: the turn to networked individualism 59  
*Anabel Quan-Haase, Hua Wang, Barry Wellman, and Renwen Zhang*

**five** Oversharing in the time of selfies: an aesthetics of disappearance? 81  
*Amanda du Preez*

**six** The application of digital methods in a life course approach to family studies 97  
*Alexia Maddox*

**seven** Cross-disciplinary research methods to study technology use, family, and life course dynamics: lessons from an action research project on social isolation and loneliness in later life 113  
*Barbara Barbosa Neves, Ron Baecker, Diana Carvalho, and Alexandra Sanders*

**eight** From object to instrument: technologies as tools for family relations and family research 133  
*Cláudia Casimiro and Magda Nico*
Part II Empirical approaches

nine Use of communication technology to maintain intergenerational contact: toward an understanding of ‘digital solidarity’
Siyun Peng, Merrill Silverstein, J. Jill Suitor, Megan Gilligan, Woosang Hwang, Sangbo Nam, and Brianna Routh

ten Careful families and care as ‘kinwork’: an intergenerational study of families and digital media use in Melbourne, Australia
Jolynna Sinanan and Larissa Hjorth

eleven Floating narratives: transnational families and digital storytelling
Catalina Arango Patiño

twelve Rescue chains and care talk among immigrants and their left-behind parents
Sondra Cuban

thirteen ‘Wherever you go, wherever you are, I am with you ... connected with my mobile’: the use of mobile text messages for the maintenance of family and romantic relations
Bernadette Kneidinger-Müller

fourteen Permeability of work-family borders: effects of information and communication technologies on work-family conflict at the childcare stage in Japan
Yuka Sakamoto

Afterword: Digital connections and family practices
Elizabeth B. Silva