



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Special Issue on *Digital Families: Gendered relationships in online spaces*

**Special Issue Editors:** Abigail Locke, Lisa Lazard & Rose Capdevila

**Deadline:** 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The advent of social media and the increased accessibility and affordances of smartphones as networked devices have enabled a proliferation of family focussed content online. Drawing on critical feminist psychological perspectives which question the prioritisation of essentialist and normative conceptualisations of family and gender, this special issue will examine the phenomenon of digital families, or how families engage with and about each other online, through the intersectional lens of gender and relationships. Engagement in digital spaces has, notably, been subject to negative characterisations in both academic and popular arenas. For example, online selfie posting practices are typically understood as displays of digital narcissism, whilst parental posting about children online is often characterised as 'sharenting' (the overuse of social media to share news, images, etc. of one's children). However, these linguistically gender-neutral characterisations obscure the fact that they are, in the context of online practices, highly gendered and feminized - focusing respectively on young girls and mothers.

While research into social media and families is burgeoning, little has been said about positive engagements or how these digital technological practices can support or translate into family relationships more broadly. This Special Issue departs from a mainstream discourse that rests almost exclusively on problematisation of behaviour, social unacceptability of engagement or threats to mental health. Whilst acknowledging these concerns, its purpose is instead to provide a platform by which we explore a range of issues which highlight the nuances and complexities that are relevant to how families engage with social media in negotiating (and facilitating) their online relationships.

This Special Issue will ask questions such as:

- How are family interactions shaped through the affordances of social media?
- How are gendered and (inter)generational discourses (re)produced and resisted online?
- How do digital technological practices on social media support different forms of family relationships?
- How is consent around engagement in social media negotiated within families?

The Issue will extend dialogue around digital engagements by dedicating space to online family relationships and curation in order to foster new and innovative insights into this area. It will welcome contributions from a variety of rich critical theoretical perspectives and approaches in psychology and related disciplines.

We welcome papers from academics and practitioners at different stages of their careers. Submissions may be theoretical, empirical or methodological, and/or focus on research and practice, and should be no longer than 8000 words. Please contact us if you would be interested in submission in an alternative format. See <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/FAP> for submission information. All manuscripts will undergo anonymous peer review.

If you have any questions, please contact the Guest Editors [networkingfamiliesresearch@gmail.com](mailto:networkingfamiliesresearch@gmail.com) putting "Special Issue" in the subject line.