Name Removed

July 12, 2016

#9 Annotated Bibliography

What I find intriguing, is the practice of moms (and dads) who document every detail of their child's life from sonogram forward. I am "friends" with a mom on Facebook that started a Facebook account in her child's name as soon as she was born. The endless daily posts and photographs describe everything this child does -- from how many times a day she has a temper tantrum, to how many times a day she changes her clothes and everything she eats and says. Mom exclaimed that she found the "child" in the closet with the iPad with the door shut. To me, this is suspect. “All of these technologies have to be evaluated as they impact your life,” he says. Adults can evaluate and reject various technologies—he offers the example of people turning down Google+ invites—but kids lack the experience and self-control to do so, he says. They may be more tech-savvy than their parents, but they are also under greater social pressure to engage with the next big thing,” Rosen argues. (Web)

The “child” is "tagged" in every one of her mother’s, relatives’ and friends’ "comments" and it's all recorded on the internet. Out of curiosity, I clicked on the “child's” name which immediately took me to her Facebook page. I’m shocked to see that there are no filters at all! Her full name appears beside her profile picture and if you’re confused about the pronunciation of her name – it’s also spelled phonetically. Not only is the mere fact that this information is easily
accessible to anyone with less than desirable motives but this child will grow up knowing at a very early age how to get "likes", "wows", "angry faces" and "sad faces."

I copied some examples of posts on “the child’s page:

Mom: Wow... more evidence that we are in trouble... “She” just got herself all dolled up... batted her eyes and said "Raise your hand if you want to marry me!" Commenter: She will be a prize catch … in due time!

In one of the pictures, the child poses; hands on hips, one leg angled in front of the other and a rehearsed smile. A commenter: “Look she poses so naturally. Mom: “I know.”

As I view the Facebook page, I can’t help but feel uneasy about so much personal information about “the child” is being shared for anyone to see and other parents surveyed feel the same way. According to study and resulting paper presented at the CHI 2015 Crossings study, *Managing Children’s Online Identities: How Parents Decide what to Disclose about their Children Online*, “A few parents were opposed to sharing photos of their children on Facebook regardless of the content of the photo or perceived audience on the site. For example, Fa09 said, ‘Facebook is not private. So we’re not going to make anything public about our son…”*
Parents are anxious about raising their children in a technology-saturated world. Parents are challenged to navigate increasingly complex choices about how to monitor, understand, and limit what kinds of content their children share online and with whom they share it. Despite their concerns, parents themselves post extensively about their children online, often sharing personal content about children’s behavior, development, and appearance. While extensive research has investigated the risks and implications of children’s use of SNSs, little work has investigated the responsibilities parents take on while they decide to post content about their children online. This is critical for understanding and preserving children’s online identity, privacy, and digital footprints, as well as for promoting healthy relationships within the family. Doing so requires considering theories that focus on identity and privacy from an individual perspective and reframing them as shared concerns.

I agree with the parents who expressed fear of the unknown when it comes to posting any and all details of their children’s lives on Facebook. This information, so readily accessible can be shared. And, more importantly, what becomes of the children who at such an early age learn to present themselves in a subjective way in social media.


Vezina argues that Psychologists see good and bad in social networks. On the bad side, possible links to psychiatric disorders; on the good side, increased empathy. Larry Rosen’s work focuses on the differences between generations, and on the way technology affects kids. “All of these technologies have to be evaluated as they impact your life,” he says. Adults can evaluate and reject various technologies—he offers the example of people turning down Google+ invites—but kids lack the experience and self-control to do so, he says. They may be more tech-savvy than their parents, but they are also under greater social pressure to engage with the next big thing.”

I agree with Rosen’s assessment that children lack the judgement and control to evaluate the best use and practice of their personal and private information in an on-line format.