Youth Culture and Net Culture: Online Social Practices

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## Section 1
### Context of Net Cultures

### Chapter 1
**Young People and Online Risk**

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The aim of this chapter is to give a critical approach to online risk and safety and question fear as a driving force for protecting young people online. The authors suggest that there is a clash between young people's own narratives and the media debate. To understand this discrepancy a new metaphor, the Layer Cake, is introduced.

### Chapter 2
**Youth and Online Social Networking: From Local Experiences to Public Discourses**

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Often, young people do not have a voice in the public debate on internet safety and online social networking, but as this chapter will demonstrate that does not mean they do not have an opinion. In this chapter the authors discuss how they position themselves as 'responsible young people' by distancing themselves from the public or "grown up" discourses represented by e.g. their parents or the news media.
Chapter 3
Swedish Students Online: An Inquiry into Differing Cultures on the Internet

Håkan Selig, Uppsala University, Sweden

This chapter focuses on questions related to user patterns on the internet. The author uses the notion of culture to explain the differences observed among the two clusters of internet users. The findings do not support the claims made by early commentators of a “Net Generation”, or “Digital Natives”, with a set of common characteristics. The considerable variations within the age groups indicate that the process of appropriation of the internet by the individual is far more complex than what is embedded in the generations approach.

Section 2
Identity

Chapter 4
Fat Talk. Constructing the Body through Eating Disorders Online among Swedish Girls

Ann-Charlotte Palmgren, Åbo Akademi University, Finland

This chapter builds on a study with the aim to analyze how the eating disordered body is staged in textual performances online and specifically in blogs among Swedish girls in the community ungdomar.se. The author shows the body is not only constructed by teenage girls by striving to obtain a certain type of a female body, but also by mastering the talk about one’s own body and dissatisfaction with it. The process of becoming or constructing a certain body and blogging is both social and collective because of the interaction between the blogger, the community and blog commentators.

Chapter 5
To Be Continued... Fan Fiction and the Constructing of Identity

Patrik Wikström, Jönköping International Business School, Sweden
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Fan fiction is part of a larger transformation of the media sphere and the society in general where media consumers’ roles as collaborative cultural producers grow ever stronger. In this chapter the authors show how fan fiction can play an important role in the development of adolescents’ literacies and identities and how their pastime works as a vehicle for personal growth.

Chapter 6
Digital Neighbourhoods: A Sociological Perspective on the Forming of Self-Feeling Online

Ulrik Lögdlund, Linköping University, Sweden
Marcin de Kaminski, Lund University, Sweden

In this chapter the authors outlines a sociological perspective on online interaction and net cultures in a Swedish context. They discuss how young people are engaged in social interaction in the context of on-
line communities. Belonging to a larger social group in order to develop self-feeling, seems significant. It is suggested that the process of forming self-feeling online may be limited to a single community or occasionally spread in a broader perspective.

Chapter 7
The Use of Interactive Media in Identity Construction by Female Undergraduates in a Nigerian University

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The chapter examines the uses of interactive media by a selected group of Nigerian female undergraduates in identity construction. The chapter reports on a study that affirms the “uses and gratification” theory. Media users engage the media actively by utilizing it for gratification purposes to suit their desires. The author suggests that interactive media provides a way for youths to explore, discover, assess, achieve and construct a concrete identity for themselves. A major demerit of interactive media in identity construction is that it may encourage subjective assessment of young females and contribute adversely to their identity construction.

Chapter 8
The Representation of Female Friendships on Young Women’s MySpace Profiles: The All-Female World and the Feminine ‘Other’

Amy Shields Dobson, Monash University, Australia

This chapter examines the representation of female friendship on MySpace. Two prominent constructions of female friendship are outlined: firstly, female friendships as idealistically party-oriented, ‘wild’, and rowdy; and secondly, female friendships as close, loyal, and intimate. The author discusses constructions of female friendship and points out the complexity of female self-representation in a contemporary media landscape.

Chapter 9
YouTube as a Performative Arena: How Swedish Youth are Negotiating Space, Community Membership, and Gender Identities through the Art of Parkour

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Simon Lindgren, Umeå University, Sweden

The YouTube video sharing site is used by huge a number of young people in the roles of consumers as well as producers of content and meaning. Users represent a wide variety of nationalities, religions, ethnic backgrounds, identities and lifestyles. In this chapter the authors analyze how a specific interest group with a certain national anchoring, Swedish parkour youth, deal with the vastness and complexity of YouTube in creating a sense of identity and community in relation to their specialized interest.
Chapter 10
Young People and Cybersex in a Sexually Conservative Society: A Case Study from Mauritius

Komalsingh Rambaree, University of Gävle, Sweden

This chapter describes the process, explains the aspects, analyses the experiences and considers the social policy implications, of cybersex among young people from the sexually conservative Mauritian society. It is argued that internet-based technologies are further breaking down ‘the traditional and moral values’, which some politicians, religious leaders and parents want to preserve through social policy related to sexuality education in Mauritius. The author suggests that an appropriate formal sex education for young people should take into account the Net Culture context.

Chapter 11
Youth, Sexuality and the Internet: Young People's Use of the Internet to Learn about Sexuality

Kristian Daneback, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
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In many western cultures and societies sexuality is surrounded by shame and guilt and often restricted to the private areas of life. Prior research on the use of the internet for sexual purposes has primarily focused on its negative and problematic aspects, such as compulsivity and addiction. Thus, little is known about any possible benefits. The purpose of the chapter is to focus on how young people aged 12-24 use the internet as a source of knowledge about sexuality.

Chapter 12
Adolescents and Online Dating Attitudes

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This chapter considers the attitudes of adolescents with African background in relation to online dating. Important findings are that there is no significant difference in the attitudes of male and female adolescents in relation to online dating. Also, the perception of parents in relation to adolescents getting involved in online dating activities is in tandem with the African belief that adolescents are too young to get tangled in any aspect of sexual activities, online dating inclusive. It is also revealed that both male and female adolescents have coping strategies for dealing with online dating activities.

Chapter 13
The Role of Internet Newsgroups in the Coming-Out Process of Gay Male Youth:
An Israeli Case Study

Avi Marciano, University of Haifa, Israel

Analyzing newsgroup’s messages, the chapter focuses on an Israeli newsgroup that appeals to GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) youth and operates within the most popular user-generated con-
tent portal in Israel. One significant finding is that through four distinct yet interrelated ways, the newsgroup helps its participants to cope with one of the most significant milestones in a gay person’s life – the coming-out process.

Section 4
Contemporary Challenges

Chapter 14
The Competent Youth’s Exposure of Teachers at YouTube.se .............................................. 243

Marcus Samuelsson, Linköping University, Sweden

Schools and the events going on during ordinary lessons have in one sense, at least in the western society, been closed from direct insight until the internet exploded during the 1990s. Through interpretations of movies that expose angry teachers as well as jocular teachers on YouTube.se the author problematizes how the content of online movies of teachers could be understood.

Chapter 15
Moving from Cyber-Bullying to Cyber-Kindness: What do Students, Educators and Parents Say? ................................................................. 256

Wanda Cassidy, Simon Fraser University, Canada
Karen Brown, Simon Fraser University, Canada
Margaret Jackson, Simon Fraser University, Canada

The purpose of this chapter is to explore cyber-bullying from three different, but interrelated, perspectives: students, educators and parents. The authors also explore the opposite spectrum of online behavior - that of “cyber-kindness” - and whether positive, supportive or caring online exchanges are occurring among youth, and how educators, parents and policy-makers can work collaboratively to foster a kinder online world rather than simply acting to curtail cyber-bullying.

Chapter 16
Electronic Aggression among Adolescents: An Old House with a New Facade (or Even a Number of Houses) ..................................................... 278

Jacek Pyżalski, Wyższa Szkoła Pedagogiczna w Łodzi & Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland

Young people as potential victims and perpetrators of electronic aggression conducted via the internet or mobile phone is the focus of this chapter. The potential novelty of electronic aggression, its features and the diversity of electronic aggression acts is addressed. The chapter also presents a typology of electronic aggression based on the victim’s identity and his or her relationship with a young person who is a perpetrator. The presented theories and discussions are illustrated with data from two Polish projects on students and teachers.
Chapter 17
Ways of ICT Usage among Mildly Intellectually Disabled Adolescents: Potential Risks and Advantages

Piotr Plichta, The Pedagogy Academy in Lodz, Poland

In this chapter patterns of ICT usage among mildly intellectually disabled adolescents aged 13-17 are explored. The author puts emphasis on an issue of victimization and perpetration of electronic aggression. The importance of leisure activity in life and rehabilitation of the disabled is also underlined. Several patterns of usage are presented in the chapter: importance and declared range of ICT usage, ICT and its usage for communication purposes, awareness of the risks related to ICT usage and ICT usage and electronic aggression.

Chapter 18
Gaming and Aggression: The Importance of Age-Appropriateness in Violent Video Games

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Dagmar Strohmeier, University of Vienna, Austria
Christiane Spiel, University of Vienna, Austria

Video games play an important role in the modern entertainment industry and determine the leisure time activities of many children and adolescents. This chapter presents a study on pre-adolescents. The main goal of the study was to examine whether pre-adolescents who play non-violent or age-appropriate violent games systematically differ in aggression from youth who play age-inappropriate violent games. The authors also examine gender differences. Conclusions for practical implications for adolescents and for parents are discussed.

Chapter 19
Young People, Sexual Content and Solicitation Online

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Despite the widespread acceptance and use of the internet within society, it is also shrouded in mystery and fear, particularly in relation to sex. This chapter aims to address several questions regarding young people’s exposure to and experiences of sexual content and solicitation online including the nature of sexual material to which they are exposed online; the processes by which young people access sexual material online; the nature by which potential predators may target young people and how young people in turn come to interact with sexual predators online.

Chapter 20
Spirituality in Cybercrime (Yahoo Yahoo) Activities among Youths in South West Nigeria

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To provide a socio-cultural analysis of the relevance of spirituality as a critical factor in cybercrime ('yahoo yahoo') activities among Nigerian youths this chapter explores the use of spirituality in cybercrime; the roles of spiritualists in cybercrime; the experiences of self-confessed and known youths that are involved in 'yahoo yahoo' activities and the future intentions of youths to engage in cybercrime.

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