Please join us for a research talk on

The Networked Individual Question in the Digital Era: How do Individuals Connect at Different Stages of the Life Course?

Barry Wellman
Distinguished Visiting Scholar • NetLab Network • Ryerson University

Although there has been much discussion about “networked individualism” (4,760 cites), there has been little evaluation since Wellman first proposed the concept in 2001. Meanwhile the populace has become even more networked—as the internet and mobile devices supplement in-person, landline, and postal means of connectivity. As part of the fourth East York study, we use in-depth interviews with 101 Torontonians to understand how digital media affects social connectivity and social support for people at different stages in the life-course. Are they Networked Individuals, Bounded in traditional groups, or socially limited? While all but the Limited rely on digital media, we are surprised that only one-third were Networked Individuals, with an even lower percentage among older adults.

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10:30 -11:45am
Social Sciences, Room 415

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