Young people, digital media and engagement: A meta-analysis of research / Shelley Boulianne & Yannis Theocharis

Abstract: New technologies raise fears in public discourse. In terms of digital media use and youth, the advice has been to monitor and limit access to minimize the negative impacts. However, this advice would also limit the positive impacts of digital media. One such positive impact is increased engagement in civic and political life. This paper uses meta-analysis techniques to summarize the findings from 106 survey-based studies (965 coefficients) about youth, digital media use, and engagement in civic and political life. In this body of research, there is little evidence to suggest that digital media use is having dire impacts on youth's engagement. We find that the positive impacts depend on directly political uses of digital media, such as blogging, reading online news, and online political discussion. These online activities have offline consequences on participation, such as contacting officials, talking politics, volunteering, and protesting. We also find a very strong relationship between online political activities, such as joining political groups and signing petitions, with offline political activities, which undermine claims of slacktivism among youth. Finally, while research generally assumes a causal flow from digital media to participation, the evidence for the alternative causal flow is strong and has very different implications on interventions designed to address youth's levels of engagement in civic and political life.

Countering hate speech on Facebook: The case of the Roma minority in Slovakia / Jozef Miškolci, Lucia Kováčová, & Edita Rigová

Abstract: This article explores hate speech against the Roma in Slovakia on Facebook between April 2016 and January 2017 and the impact of fact-checking and personal experience strategies in countering hate speech through a quasi-experimental research design. It examines how the Roma were constructed and how discussion participants reacted to our pro-Roma interventions. The research sample consisted of 60 Facebook discussions (with more than 7,500 comments) on Roma-related topics posted by the profiles of various members of the Slovak Parliament and the most popular online news media outlets. Qualitative content analysis revealed that the Roma in Facebook discussions were constructed primarily in a negative sense, as asocial criminals who misuse welfare benefits. This study demonstrated that Facebook discussion participants presenting anti-Roma attitudes did not use any research evidence to support their constructions. It also demonstrated that pro-Roma comments encouraged other participants with a pro-Roma attitude to become involved.

Continued use of Mobile Instant Messaging apps: A new perspective on theories of consumption, flow and planned behavior / Amandeep Dhir, Puneet Kaur, & Risto Rajala

Abstract : Mobile instant messaging (MIM) services have entirely changed the communication landscape from where it was a decade ago. They have taken communication among humans to the next level. However, despite their massive popularity among masses, we do not know of specific reasons that drive continuous use of MIM apps (e.g., LINE, WhatsApp, Snapchat). The current study bridges this gap by investigating the continuation behaviour in the context of a popular MIM app called LINE. The study developed a comprehensive framework using three popular consumer behaviour theories namely theory of planned behaviour, flow experience theory, and consumption value theory. A total of 309 middle and late adolescent LINE users participated in an online survey. The analysis revealed that perceived ease of use, functional value and social value exert significant positive influences on users' continuation intentions. The perceived ease of use was found to have the strongest influence among all. Additionally, social influence was found to have the significant but negative influence on users' continuation intentions. However, other factors (perceived enjoyment, concentration, telepresence and perceived behavioural control) have no role in predicting continuation intentions. Furthermore, continuation intentions were found to have no impact on users' actual LINE use related behaviour. The findings of the present research offer several theoretical as well as managerial implications.

Does rejection still hurt? Examining the effects of network attention and exposure to online social exclusion / Jessica M. Covert & Michael A. Stefanone

Abstract: Social media platforms archive the content and flow of social exchange across communication networks. This may present challenges for individuals because using these platforms increases the probability of observing exchanges among their friends in which they were unintentionally excluded. This study randomly assigned 194 participants to conditions where they were presented with written scenarios describing hypothetical online conversations between their close friends in which they were excluded or included. Results suggest that participants in the excluded condition experienced the most negative and least positive emotional responses. Further, participants with the tendency to devote cognitive resources to understanding their social networks—a construct we call network attention—were particularly sensitive to the stimuli. Network attention predicted negative emotional responses in the excluded condition and positive emotional responses in the included condition. Results are discussed in the context of communication and cognition via social media.

Testing an integrated self control and routine activities framework to examine malware infection victimization / Thomas J. Holt, Johan van Wilsem, Steve van de Weijer, & Rutger Leukfeldt

Abstract: Recent research demonstrates that those with low self-control have an increased risk of victimization due to involvement in routine activities which place them in close proximity to motivated offenders and decrease their willingness to utilize appropriate guardianship factors. This relationship is significant in predicting physical forms of victimization, though few studies have considered how this may account for property offenses, particularly forms of cybercrime which may be hidden from victims.

This paper explores the extent to which personal characteristics and user behaviors affect the probability of malicious software infections, a serious form of cybercrime, using the integrated routine activities and self-control theory of victimization. Using a nationally representative sample of adults in the Netherlands, this analysis found time spent on specific computer activities (e.g. downloading files) as well as low self-control increase indications of malware infection, while protection of wireless networks seem effective in preventing them.

Testing the use of voice input in a smartphone web survey / Melanie Revilla, Mick P. Couper, Oriol J. Bosch, & Marc Asensio

Abstract: We implemented an experiment within a smartphone web survey to explore the feasibility of using voice input (VI) options. Based on device used, participants were randomly assigned to a treatment or control group. Respondents in the iOS treatment group were asked to use the dictation button, in which the voice was translated automatically into text by the device. Respondents with Android devices were asked to use a voice input button which recorded the voice and transmitted the audio file. Both control groups were asked to answer open-ended questions using standard text entry. We found that the use of VI still presents a number of challenges for respondents. Voice recording (Android) led to substantially higher nonresponse, whereas dictation (iOS) led to slightly higher nonresponse, relative to text input. However, completion time was significantly reduced using VI. Among those who provided an answer, when dictation was used, we found fewer valid answers and less information provided, whereas for voice recording, longer and more elaborated answers were obtained. Voice recording (Android) led to significantly lower survey evaluations, but not dictation (iOS).

Invitation timing and participation rates in online panels: Findings from two survey experiments / Elina Lindgren, Elias Markstedt, Johan Martinsson, & Maria Andreasson

Abstract: Falling participation rates is one of the most significant challenges facing survey research today. To curb this negative trend, scholars have searched for factors that can increase and decrease citizens' willingness to participate in surveys. In this paper, we investigate the timing effects of survey invitation emails on participation rates in a university-based online panel with members of the Swedish public. Through two large-scale experimental studies, we examine whether the day-of-week (N=11,294) and time-of-day (N=47,279) for sending out survey invitations impact participation rates. We also ask respondents when they prefer to answer surveys. We find that the timing of survey invitations affects participation rates, however, the effects are small, short-lived, and even out within a week. We also find that the effects of timing vary by employment status and age. The results have implications for scholars and practitioners who utilize online panels for web surveys. When quick answers are important, there may be some limited gains of tailoring the timing of the survey invitation to different individuals. In surveys with more extended field periods, however, such efforts seem less warranted.