

Monica Barbovschi

■ *Meet the "E-Strangers". Predictors of Teenagers' Online-Offline Encounters*

Keywords: *adolescents, online-offline dating, predictors, skilled social agents*

The purpose of this study is to investigate several factors associated with adolescents' online-offline dating behavior (On-Off Dating), i.e. romantic encounters initiated online and transferred offline at a certain point. Due to the novelty of the topic in the Romanian context, multiple dimensions were taken into consideration. In order to move beyond the victimization perspective, this article relies mostly on the social agency theory that envisions teenagers as skilled and informed actors, who possess the technological, social and communicative competencies which enable them to distinguish between safe and unsafe situations (both online and offline). The sample consisted of 1806 subjects aged 10 to 19 who completed a self-report questionnaire administered in 101 classrooms from secondary schools and high schools in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in November 2007. Results of the analyses indicate a series of factors significantly associated with this particular practice, with some differences for boys and girls, e.g. parental monitoring, identity management (disclosure and dissimulation), exposure to unsolicited (and deliberate) sexual material and unwanted solicitations online, use of Social Networking Sites (SNS), and several psychosocial factors. Among the most important predictors, e.g. use of Instant Messaging (IM), the amount of time spent online, and positive social self-concept appear to influence both boys' and girls' decision for online-offline dating. Other items, like parental monitoring and exposure to sexually explicit content, showed ambivalent relation to the investigated behavior.

Lívia Szedmina

■ *American Aspects of Charles Stewart Parnell's Political Work*

Keywords: *Irish Free State, Charles Stewart Parnell, Irish immigrants, United States, Eamon De Valera*

This paper has been written with the aim to present research material collected as a background to the various Home Rule Bills and eventually, the creation of the Irish Free State. Focus will be on the American aspects of Charles Stewart Parnell's political work and his connections with Irish immigrants in the United States. Indeed, Parnell was not the only prominent figure in Irish history to come from a partly American background, as Eamon De Valera immediately springs to mind. However, this American connection only highlights the fact that Irish history had not only taken place on the island of Ireland. In fact, alongside Dublin, it was New York that had acted as an exile capital of the Irish nation, especially after the large number of immigrants who arrived in the US fleeing from the Great Famine. The ever-strong nationalistic sentiment of these immigrants lead to the great amount of financial support had been provided by the Irish-American community. Any Irish leader had to be accepted and approved of not only in Ireland and Britain, but indeed, in the US as well.

Constantin Vică

■ *Trust, Reliance and the Web Technology*

Keywords: *trust, reliance, identity, online communities, web technology*

The paper discusses the problem of trust in the context of the World Wide Web. It argues that identity is not the fundamental question for trust on the web. Trust evolves in the context of local relations on the web, such as social networks and online communities. Using the metaphor of the web as an information highway, the paper emphasizes the idea that individuals play fair on the

web because costs for incorrect playing are too great. On the highway, respecting the rules, various people may travel: those who know how to hack their cars and those who don't. Trust in others is reliance, not personalized trust. As, when crossing the border between states, the road code changes, trust is local, specific to a given fragment of the digital space.

**Hanna Orsolya Vincze**

■ **Romanian News Media Representations of Online Social Networking**

Keywords: *online social networking, opportunities and risks, privacy, idling, moral panic, media violence*

Online social networking has recently become a major mass media topic, a source of an optimistic buzz, but also the focus point of various social anxieties. In parallel with the unprecedented rise of social media use among Romanian internet users, Romanian mass media has also been devoting increasing space to the risks and opportunities presented by social networking sites. This paper investigates Romanian news media representations of online social networking,

focusing on the coverage offered by two of the largest news outlets. It charts the main risks and opportunities associated with the use of these sites, with special attention to the way concerns about children's social media use are framed, the moral language the latter are cast in, and the voices framing the representation of children's online experience.

**Noémi Zörgő**

**Social media 2.0**

Keywords: *online social networking, political campaigns, campaign instruments, Web 2.0*

In planning a political campaign it seems quite easy to copy a successful one, even if its context shows significant differences. After Barack Obama's exquisite election campaign in 2008 an impressive number of political parties and candidates tried to follow his hit. Although this mode seems to be the easiest and the cert one, a new campaign tool such as the use of the social media is not as simple as it seems. The author demonstrates some of the major factors which determine the campaign instruments and the efficiency of the new Web 2.0 opportunities.



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„A kérdés, mellyel a hálózati kultúra hajnalán szembesülünk, az, hogy mi, a hálózatba kapcsolt nyilvánosság lakói, elérhetjük-e mikroklaszterezett világunkon át azt, hogy olyan erővé egyesüljünk, mely képes megérteni azt az állapotot, melyben benne vagyunk. Létrehozhatunk-e pozitív változást, megőrizve azt, ami jó a hálózati kultúrában és megváltoztatva azt, ami rossz – vagy pedig az lesz a végzetünk, hogy szétszóródunk a hálózatban?”

(Kazys Varnelis)

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