

Public Abstract

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Title:Redefining Community in the Digital Age: An Examination of the Physical and Facebook Communities of Generation X

As technology evolves, it is reshaping the way that people communicate and define community. Online social networks, such as Facebook, bring people together in a digital environment. However, it is not clear whether participants reap some of the same benefits as they do with offline relationships and communities. This qualitative study will utilize one-on-one interviews to examine the generation that has bridged the technological divide, Generation X, in order to gauge whether physical communities and Facebook seem to provide similar benefits.