There are two sides to every story: young people’s perspectives of relationship issues on social media and adult responses

# Details

## Year

2018

## DOI

10.1080/13676261.2017.1418083

## Issued

2017

## Language

English

## Volume

21

## Issue

6

## Start Page

## End Page

## Authors

Edwards S.;Wang V.

## Type

Journal article

## Journal

Journal of Youth Studies

## Publisher

Informa UK Limited

## Topics

Internet usage, practices and engagement

## Sample

42 young people (16 male and 26 female) aged between 13 and 15 years recruited through a youth organisation

## Implications For Policy Makers About

Creating a safe environment for children online

# Abstract

This paper reports on a recent research project undertaken in the UK
that investigated how young people negotiate their identities and
relationships online, including how they experience interventions
by adults. Drawing on qualitative interviews with young people in
two schools and a voluntary youth organisation in England, we
argue that young people engage rather successfully in practices
of self-governance. Our findings based on this sample of young
people’s agentic practice and care for their peers challenge some
dominant perceptions of young people’s online practices as risky
and/or harmful to themselves and/or others. Furthermore we
found a lack of evidence concerning the effectiveness of, and
need for, interventions orientated around surveillance and zero
tolerance.

# Outcome

"our sample of young people are able to manage simultaneously different categories
of relationships online via eight prominent social media sites. They are able to
learn how to maintain a balance between individualism and communitarianism. Each young person is simultaneously responsible for (i) maintaining his/her self-narrative; and
(ii) ensuring his/her and others’ actions do not restrict peers maintaining their self-narratives.
Although we have found evidence of the value of e-safety measures and adult intervention
we have not found evidence, which sufficiently supports the effectiveness of
online surveillance and zero tolerance policies. Rather, these young people favour interventions
with trusted adults in safe spaces offline. They wish to develop their personalagencies
to maintain both their individual identities and online community responsibilities. (Edwards and Wang, 2018: 729-30).