Adolescents’ Self-Defining Internet Experiences

# Details

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## Editors

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Book chapter

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Technology and Youth: Growing Up in a Digital World,Sociological Studies of Children and Youth

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## Topics

## Sample

Narratives written by Swedish adolescents. (Access to actual article N/A.)

## Implications For Parents About

## Other Parent Implication

The Internet as an arena for young peole for defining oneself and shaping one's identity

## Implications For Policy Makers About

Other

## Other PolicyMaker Implication

Adolescents' own perspectives on the Internet

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Researchers

# Abstract

Purpose
The purpose of this study was to investigate how young women and men perceive the Internet as a phenomenon and what role and meaning they ascribe to the Internet as an arena for defining themselves and for shaping their identity.
Methodology/approach
The empirical data consist of narratives written by Swedish adolescents. Using content analysis the analysis was carried out in three steps: (1) finding categories and themes, (2) calculation of statistical differences in category frequencies, (3) a theoretically informed interpretation of central themes, using Bourdieu’s concept of different forms of capital, and Giddens’ concept of “pure relations.”
Findings
The narratives exemplify how computer literacy and technological competence can be converted into social, cultural, and symbolic capital. Gender differences occur both in statistical differences between category frequencies in girls’ and boys’ narratives and in the interpretation of central themes. But there are also several examples that show more complex and contradictory tendencies, exceeding or transformative of gender differences and hierarchy.
Originality/value
This study considers adolescents’ own perspectives on an arena of great importance. The analyses have been performed both qualitatively and quantitatively, which gives a nuanced picture of young people’s self-defining experiences on the Internet.

# Outcome

"The narratives exemplify how computer literacy and technological competence can be converted into social, cultural, and symbolic capital. Gender differences occur both in statistical differences between category frequencies in girls' and boys' narratives and in the interpretation of central themes. But there are also several examples that show more complex and contradictory tendencies, exceeding or transformative of gender differences and hierarchy." (Authors, in Abstract)