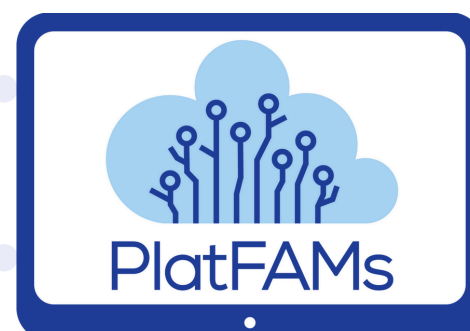


HOW DO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES BECOME EMBEDDED IN FAMILY LIFE ACROSS GENERATIONS?

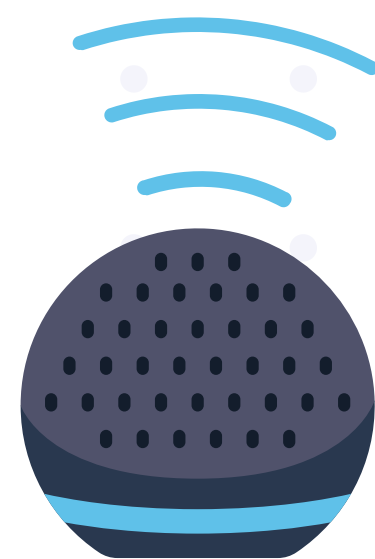
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Mariya Stoilova

As part of the



research project

Supported by:



HOW DO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES BECOME EMBEDDED IN FAMILY LIFE ACROSS GENERATIONS?

- In our scoping review, we looked for evidence about digital technology, family, generational research, and relationality to answer this question.

OUR SEARCH FOUND

1348

PUBLICATIONS

&

WE NARROWED DOWN*

53

* Filtering process on p. 4-5

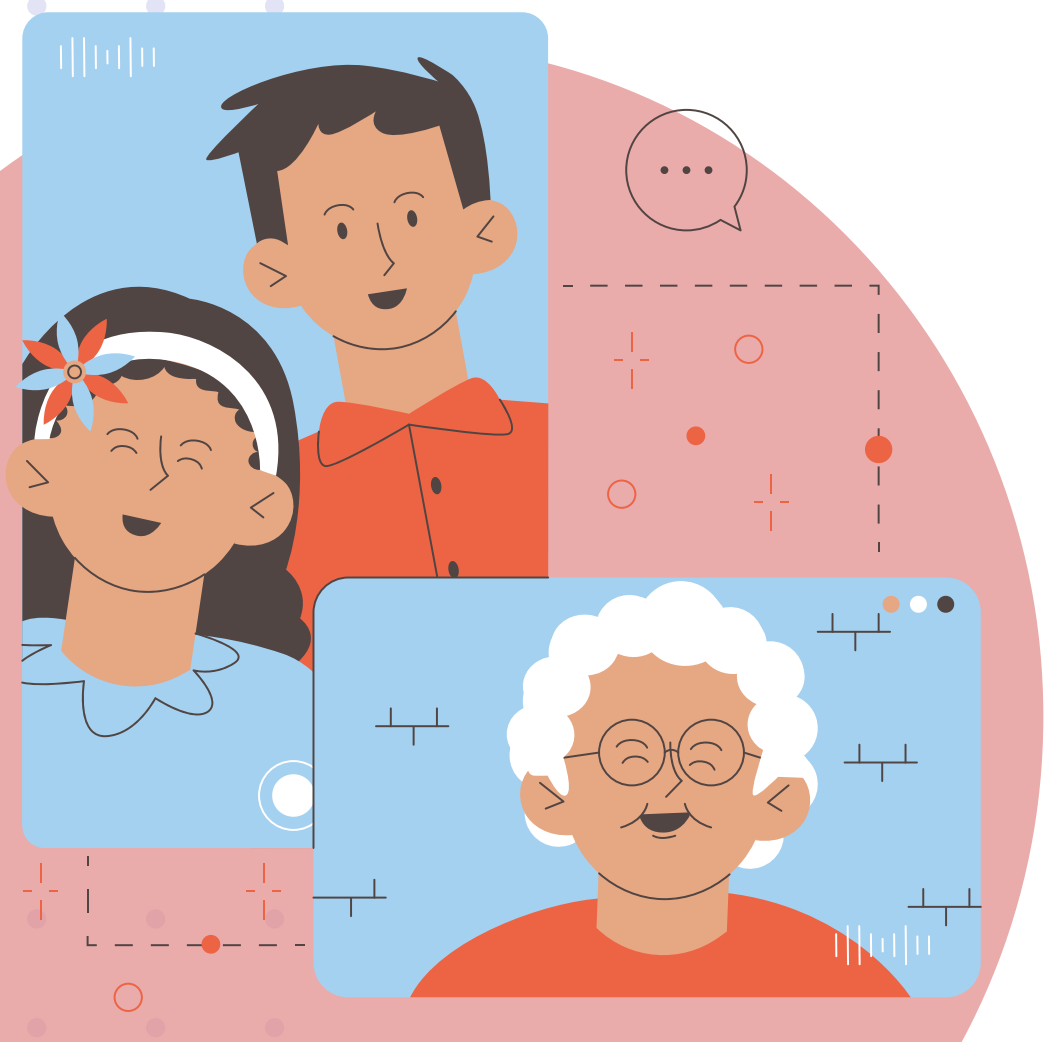


AMONG THE SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, WE FIND TWO MAIN THEMES

1. Platformised connectedness, intimacy and care

The platformisation of family life allows for **new ways of capturing and retaining moments of intimacy** and **sharing them beyond the immediate** physical co-presence. This enables not only the **archiving** but also the **reliving** of such moments. An important role of these practices is the **performativity of certain types of family life** (happy, relaxed, shared and unconflicted), and the **'uplifting' of the mundane** by giving it a valued status. Once posted and shared on platforms, moments of relationality seem to **'gain a life of their own'** –

they may **become accessible beyond the family circle**, durable in ways that can **outlive** participation by family members and **appropriated by platforms themselves**, when using them for commercial purposes or, for example, auto-reminding us what happened 'on this day.'
(p. 8)



2. Power struggles and ruptures of platformised relationality

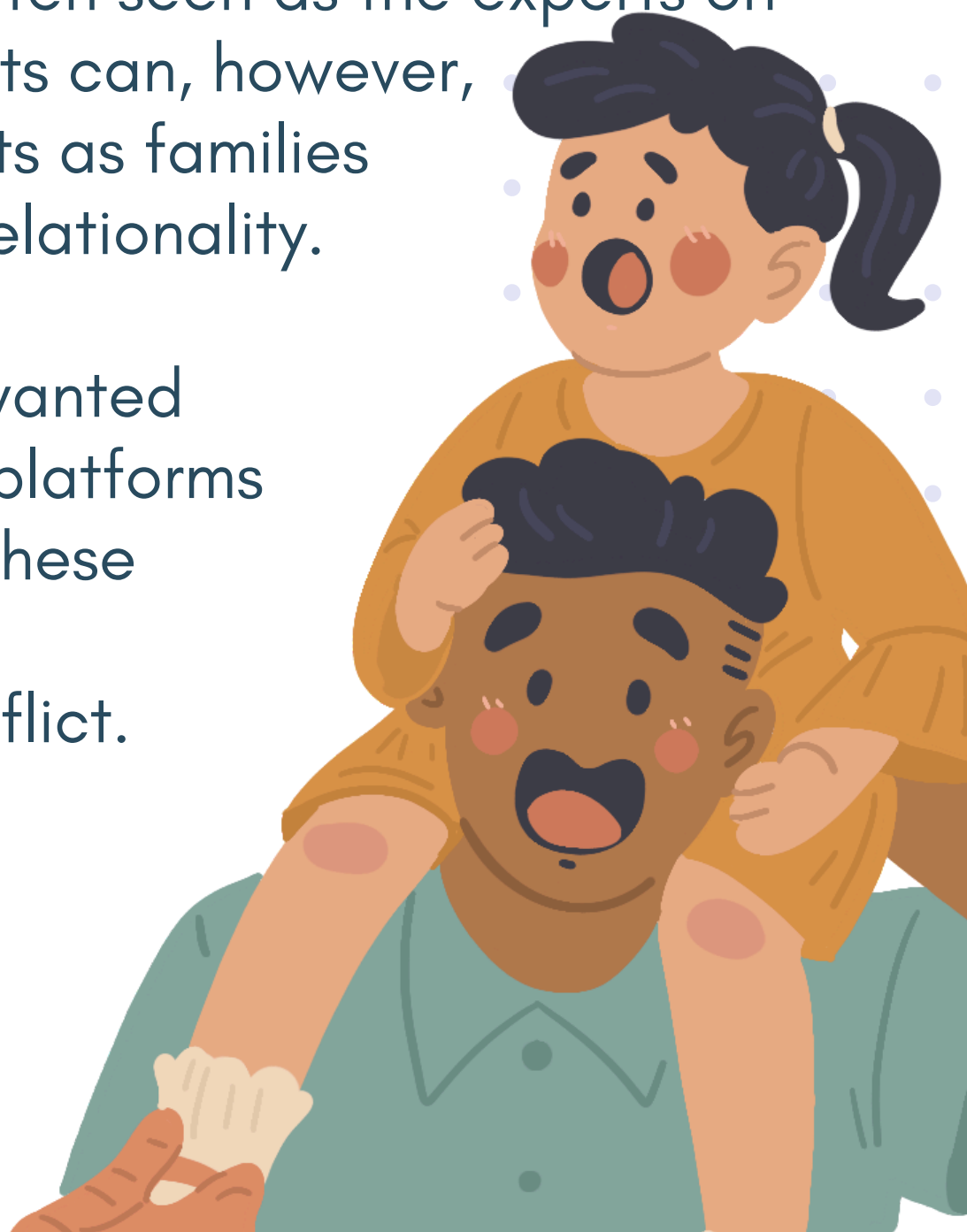
While platformised communication and care can bring some family members closer, **for others – usually those less able to navigate and benefit from such multifunctional platforms – it can highlight their exclusion.**

Further tensions or exclusions might arise **as not all forms of connection online create the same feeling of closeness.**

Platformised relationality plays an important part changing family relations as children are often seen as the experts on all things digital. Such power shifts can, however, create conflict and disagreements as families actively negotiate platformised relationality.

Additionally, while the issue of unwanted parental surveillance is not new, platforms seemed to offer new venues for these practices, potentially creating opportunities for more family conflict.

(p. 8,9 & 10)



WE ALSO FIND SOME KEY KNOWLEDGE GAPS

- **A lack of studies exploring the experiences of multigenerational families, particularly including older people.**
- **A lack of a nuanced understanding of the impact of digital platforms. Most of the reviewed studies did not differentiate between the specific roles of different platforms (e.g., WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram).**



- **Little specific attention to the nature or affordances of these digital devices, products and services except insofar as they facilitated either practices linked to intimacy or power within the family itself.**

A possible future development within this field could be a deeper understanding of how relationality is not only built (interaction) and mediated (transaction), but also platformised (immersive) through technology.

WE WELCOME YOU TO FOLLOW OUR RESEARCH PROJECT...



PlatFAMs examines the embeddedness of digital platforms in the lives and practices of modern families by researching three-generation families (children, parents, grandparents) in five European countries (Estonia, Norway, Romania, Spain and the UK).

Our team of scholars will be working over the next years to address key gaps in the literature. We will be conducting multi-generational research, adding to empirical and theoretical understandings of platformisation and families.



To read the full article, and get a list of area-specific studies that inform our review...

**CLICK THE
LINK ABOVE!**



Ola Erstad, Kristinn Hegna, Sonia Livingstone, Oana Negru-Subtirica, and Mariya Stoilova (2024) How digital technologies become embedded in family life across generations: scoping the agenda for researching 'platformised relationality'. Families, Relationships and Societies: An International Journal of Research and Debate. pp. 1-17. ISSN 2046-7435

