

# Digital families across the lifecourse



scottish universities  
insight institute  
mobilising knowledge for a better Scotland

## Background

Digital Families Across the Lifecourse was a Knowledge Exchange programme, funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute and run by CRFR during 2015/16.

## Key aims of the Digital Families Programme

1. Understand how digital technologies are impacting on family life and personal relationships in Scotland.
2. Identify the issues that families are grappling with in relation to digital advances, and stimulate new ways of addressing these.
3. Foster innovative collaborations between academics and non-academics with the potential to both raise new questions and inform policy and practice.
4. Establish a 'digital families' research network, to provide a forum for ongoing discussions and knowledge exchange, identify areas for further research and to foster collaborations to deliver new research.



## Topics

We held 3 seminars to explore the impact of digital technologies on families and relationships across 3 stages of the lifecourse.



### Children and digital technology

Are digital technologies changing childhood?



### Digital families are here to stay

How are digital technologies being used to manage family life and work? Are digital technologies shaping family relationships, communication and practices?



### Digital technologies, older age and caring

How are digital technologies being used by older people, their families and by carers?

The seminars were attended by academics, practitioners, policy makers and voluntary sector representatives from a wide range of organisations. We used the Twitter hashtag #digfam1516 to help to record our discussions.

<http://www.crfr.ac.uk/digital-families-across-the-lifecourse/>

## Digital Families seminars

Questions generated by the seminar participants in their discussion groups:



### Children and digital technology

What is the impact of variation in access to digital technologies on equalities and inclusion?

Educational opportunities and challenges - what are the implications for teachers, practitioners, policy, funding and parental involvement?

What is the impact of technology on children's social, emotional and cognitive development and emotional literacy?

Growing up on-line: who controls information and images about children & young people as they grow up? How do we support and inform young people to manage an on-line identity?



### Digital families are here to stay

Does digital technology promote or challenge children's skills, independence and empowerment?

Is there a gendered use of technology?  
Is digital technology leading to more intensive emotional labour especially for women/ mothers?  
What is the impact of technology on everyday relationships between family members?

Are there generational differences in the use and knowledge of digital technology? Does digital technology bring together generations?

Is digital technology leading to intensification of attention on the family and on parenting practices? Or is this happening anyway?



### Digital technologies, older age and caring

What can we do about capacity, consent and control issues for older people – including privacy vs security?

How can people be supported to learn new technologies throughout their lives?

How can we get players in the care system to work better together around new technologies?

What is the role of technology in relationships between the generations?

### Cross cutting themes

What evidence is already available?

What issues need further research?

What methods can we use to research digital lives? What are the opportunities and challenges?

How can we make more effective links to engage policy-makers and practitioners in this research?