

## Call for papers: *Community, Work & Family* Special Issue

### *Digital Communication in Work and Family Life*

Overview: Anja-Kristin Abendroth (Bielefeld University), Tanja van der Lippe (Utrecht University) and Judith Treas (University of California Irvine) are guest editing a special issue of the journal *Community, Work & Family*. We seek submissions that offer insights on the dissemination and consequences of digital synchronous and asynchronous communication in the spheres of Work, Family, and/or Community and how this differs between individuals within and between European countries.

Background information: Information and communication technologies and the extension of digital infrastructures increasingly allow for digital synchronous and asynchronous communication in the work and family sphere. Moreover, the global COVID-19 pandemic, with social distancing measures in place, increased the experiences with digital synchronous and asynchronous communication with colleagues and supervisors as well as family members. The implications for workplace flexibility in time, place and employment contract as well as family relationship quality are highly debated. An optimistic scenario foresees improved maintenance of existing relationships and improved flexible adaptation of the work and family spheres. A more pessimistic perspective suggests that digital social contacts erode social capital, involve more precarious work contracts and/or result in a blurring of boundaries between work and family life fostering conflicts between the life domains.

Empirical evidence, typically based on small-scale, single country studies, has yielded mixed findings, suggesting that social circumstances produce different effects. Opportunities-based arguments from research on the digital social divide point to differences in home and workplace access to digital communication and digital capacities from state investments in technology and skill development. Needs-based arguments refer to restrictions on face-to-face contact due to geographic distance, living arrangements, teleworking or long work hours--all differing between countries/regions depending on employment rates, welfare and labor protections, or family policies. Following trust-based arguments, the generalized trust, openness, and privacy policies of countries reflect privacy concerns limiting the use of digital communication and the digital exchange of support and appreciation. Influence-based arguments address individuals' agency to limit the costs involved in digital communication, depending on country context and work or family cultures – e.g., labor policies defining the negotiating power of employee and employer, family policies being a basis for employees' requests for work-life balance, or workplace cultures determining the worker ideal of prioritized work, minimal family obligations, or familialistic values for parenting strategies and elder care strategies.

Anticipated Content: We expect that this special issue will include 6-8 articles plus an introduction by the editors. Our goal is to accept a portfolio of articles that provide theoretical and empirical contributions on dissemination as well as costs and benefits of digital synchronous and asynchronous communication in work, family and community. We invite contributions examining intersections of community, work and/or family based on the module on “Digital Social Contexts in Work and Family Life” in the European Social Survey Round 10 collected in 2020/21. Moreover, we welcome papers employing qualitative or quantitative methods based on other data sources. While not exhaustive, guiding questions for the special issue are:

1. Does digital communication in work and family life, its evaluation, and consequences differ between European countries and to what extent can these differences be explained by differences in digital infrastructures, national policies, demographic composition, and economic circumstances?
2. Are there gender, parenthood, migration and class-specific patterns of digital communication in the spheres of work, family or community or their interfaces?
3. How does digital communication shape relationship quality, well-being, resources and demands in work, family and/or community as well as the intersection of these life spheres?
4. Does digital communication mitigate or reinforce gender or other social inequalities in the family or workforce?

Interested authors should submit an abstract of 500-1000 words to all special issue editors via email, outlining their research question, theoretical background, data and method of analysis. Abstract submission deadline is 1. May 2023.

For authors invited to submit an article, their submitted manuscript should be approximately 8000-10,000 words inclusive of tables, references, figure captions, footnotes, endnotes. When submitting, you will be able to indicate that your paper should be considered for the special issue *Digital Communication in Work and Family Life*. Detailed submission guidelines can be found here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=ccwf20>

#### Timeframe:

Abstract submission deadline: 1 May 2023

Decision on abstracts and invitation to submit manuscript: 1 June 2023

Online submission site open: 1 September 2023

Deadline for submission of manuscripts: 15 December 2023

First review process completed: 15 February 2024

Revised manuscripts must be resubmitted by: 15 April 2024

Second review process completed: 15 June 2024

Revised manuscripts must be resubmitted by: 1 September 2024

All manuscripts must be ready for publication by 30 September 2024

Publication of special issue: December 2024 issue 5 (and published online earlier, as manuscripts become available)

#### Inquiries:

Questions about the special issue can be directed to the special issue editors:

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General inquiries about submissions and the journal can be made to joint journal editor Mara Yerkes ([M.A.Yerkes@uu.nl](mailto:M.A.Yerkes@uu.nl))