

Death and the Social Network

The mass adoption of social network sites includes a growing presence of profiles of individuals who are no longer alive. The death of a user, however, does not result in the elimination of his or her account or the profile's place inside a network of digital peers. Friends use these profiles post mortem to say last goodbyes, share memories and to coordinate funeral arrangements. Death plays an increasingly significant role in the experience of social networking. The intertwining of online and offline experience highlights the importance of thinking about digital representations as things that might well survive their owners.



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