

Week 6: Answer to Louise Blog

Interesting thoughts about how the traditional line separating what's private from what's public is disintegrating in SNSs. Perhaps in the future information that we share online will be more likely to be acceptable. As Chester et al. (2013) pointed out, people with more extensive personal SNS experience were less willing to judge candidates' attributes and abilities on the basis of their SNS profiles.

Sadly, I have to agree with what Stephen said to Justin 'even stuff shared only to a select list, is not totally safe', basically, social networks make we all public, some more, others less.

@Louise: Back in January 2010 Mark Zuckerberg suggested that privacy was a thing of the past (http://readwrite.com/2010/01/09/facebooks_zuckerberg_says_the_age_of_privacy_is_ov#awesm=~ox3k1eTIJr6Rub). That should have been a wake up call for everyone about etiquette in SNS or in any electronic media. 4 years later as you mentioned, policies, awareness, the law are lagging behind.

I like to maintain a professional image at work, so I am very cautious "to let my hair down" in SNSs. In essence, I believe that what you share also delimits what others will think is ok to share about you. Perhaps a crucial ingredient encouraging people sharing private things online is the tension between privacy and potential celebrity. They want to be interesting, they want to be memorable, having followers, and for that they need to get attention first. This kind of behaviour is more frequent amongst generation Y than with our generation I guess. For them, the longing to be popular far outweighs the longing to be respected and their social media accounts can verify this. Maybe this is where educator should step in to assist students.

@Justin: Good point about the danger of those spaces becoming bland and homogenous. Perhaps our on-going quest for identity, or "personal brand", will always be more propelling to the opposite direction.