Family Connections: An Introduction to Family Studies

By David Morgan

Polity Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Family Connections: An Introduction to Family Studies, David Morgan, The changing nature of the family is a topic of intense public concern. It also has been the focus of research in sociology and related disciplines for many years. Family Connections is a major new introduction to the study of the family, written by one of the leading scholars in the field. Morgan shows that the study of the family is not a peripheral concern of sociology but rather lies at the heart of sociological theory and research. Family Connections takes the reader through the established debates, such as the relation between family life and the world of work and employment, the impact of class and stratification on the family, and the relevance of gender. Morgan then examines some newer areas of social inquiry, including the sociology of the body, time and space, food, and the home. The relevance of the family to more general topics of sociological theory such as postmodernity, citizenship, consumption and risk are all discussed. The emphasis throughout is on family relationships as processes which are fluid, complex and open to change. This timely, wide-ranging and innovative book will...

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Underpinning family life, is family connection: how families not just connect but also maintain connections. Contemporary extended families are living in an unprecedented age of connecting technology. Previous studies on family connecting technology (FCT) indicated the presence of someone who could be considered as a “kinkeeper” who keeps family members informed about one another. However, there has been limited research in HCI to date on who kinkeepers are and how this role is technologically enacted in a family digital environment. In this paper, we present a study on digital kinkeeping by the kinkeepers through WhatsApp as a representative example of contemporary FCTs in mediating familial bonding.

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Children develop and learn within all types of families and family members are the most important people in young children’s lives. When teachers understand families as a system and the impact of parenting in early childhood, they are better able to develop partnerships with families and to help create an environment that meets the needs of each child. Researchers studying and working with families define family as “two or more people who regard themselves as a family and who carry out the functions that families typically perform. These people may or may not be related by blood or marriage and may or may not usually live together” (Turnbull, Turnbull, Erwin, & Soodak, 2006, p. 7).

As teachers reach out to families in new ways, attempt to learn from them, and connect that knowledge to instruction, what do the teachers reflect on and consider? This article explores this question based on the experiences of two teachers involved in a multi-year study focused, in part, on school-family connections. Demand for the solution of a perplexity is the steadying and guiding factor in the entire process of reflection.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS. evening each week; as she shared her reflections, her comments were recorded on a laptop. The other teacher (Karen) kept a weekly journal of her reflections, which was later analyzed by another research collaborator.

As explained, the research team made extensive family visits throughout the study, each visit followed...