

Digital Epiphanies:

Work/Family Configurations in a Digital Age

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<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/business/research/epiphanies/index.php>

Focus of the project:

The study forms part of a larger EPSRC funded project which explores the work/family/technology figurations and practices.

We are interested in exploring how boundaries are being made between work and family in everyday practices, and how technologies are implicated in constituting these boundaries.



Research question:

How are work/family/technology figured – made and remade – through everyday social and technological practices, where the social and the technological are not treated as separate?

Theoretical approach:

We adopt a performative, posthumanist approach (Barad 2007).

We take agency/doings/practices as joint achievements of humans and nonhumans; and as our unit of analysis.

Our focus is on how boundaries, and bounded entities, come to be constituted through what people *and* objects *do*; through practices that are inseparably material and semiotic. The focus of our empirical study is, in Suchman's (2007: 286) terms, "to identify the materialization of subjects, objects, and the relations between them as an effect, more and less durable and contestable, of ongoing sociomaterial practices".



Participants, sites and methods:

We are working with 15 families in North-East Scotland, with at least one child under the age of 18. Family members are invited to take part in the project as collaborators and will be involved in the selection of methods and production of artefacts. The methods we have in mind include participating in/shadowing domestic life, conversations, video ethnography, digital, photographic and written diaries.

Collaborators:

The project is undertaken in collaboration with: Anna Cox, Jon Bird and Rowanne Fleck (University College London); Rosie Robison (Anglia Ruskin University); Chris Preist and Paul Shabajee (University of Bristol).



References

- Barad, Karen (2007) "Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning". Duke University Press.
- Suchman, Lucy (2007) "Human-Machine Reconfigurations: Plans and Situated Actions". Cambridge University Press.