



Centre for Research on Families and Relationships
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5 June 2019

Children's privacy relations around their media uses in Turkey

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Conceptual Framework

Privacy

Management of contact when desired

(Altman, 1975; Westin, 1967)

Control over access to information

(Schoeman, 2007; Petronio, 2002; Wynne, 1976)

Aims

This research aims to explore

- ▶ how children's privacy is treated within families in Turkey
- ▶ how parents intervene in children's online and indoor private lives
- ▶ how children construct boundaries around their privacy

Aims



Aims

Management of contact	Consumption	Children's access to media contents
	Production	Children's production of media contents
	Interaction	Children's use of media of tools as a medium of communication
Information disclosure	Consumption	Surveillance over children's media contents consumed
	Production	Surveillance over children's media contents produced
	Interaction	Surveillance over children's digital interactions

Method

Qualitative method: Participatory observational fieldwork

In depth interviews and informal revisits

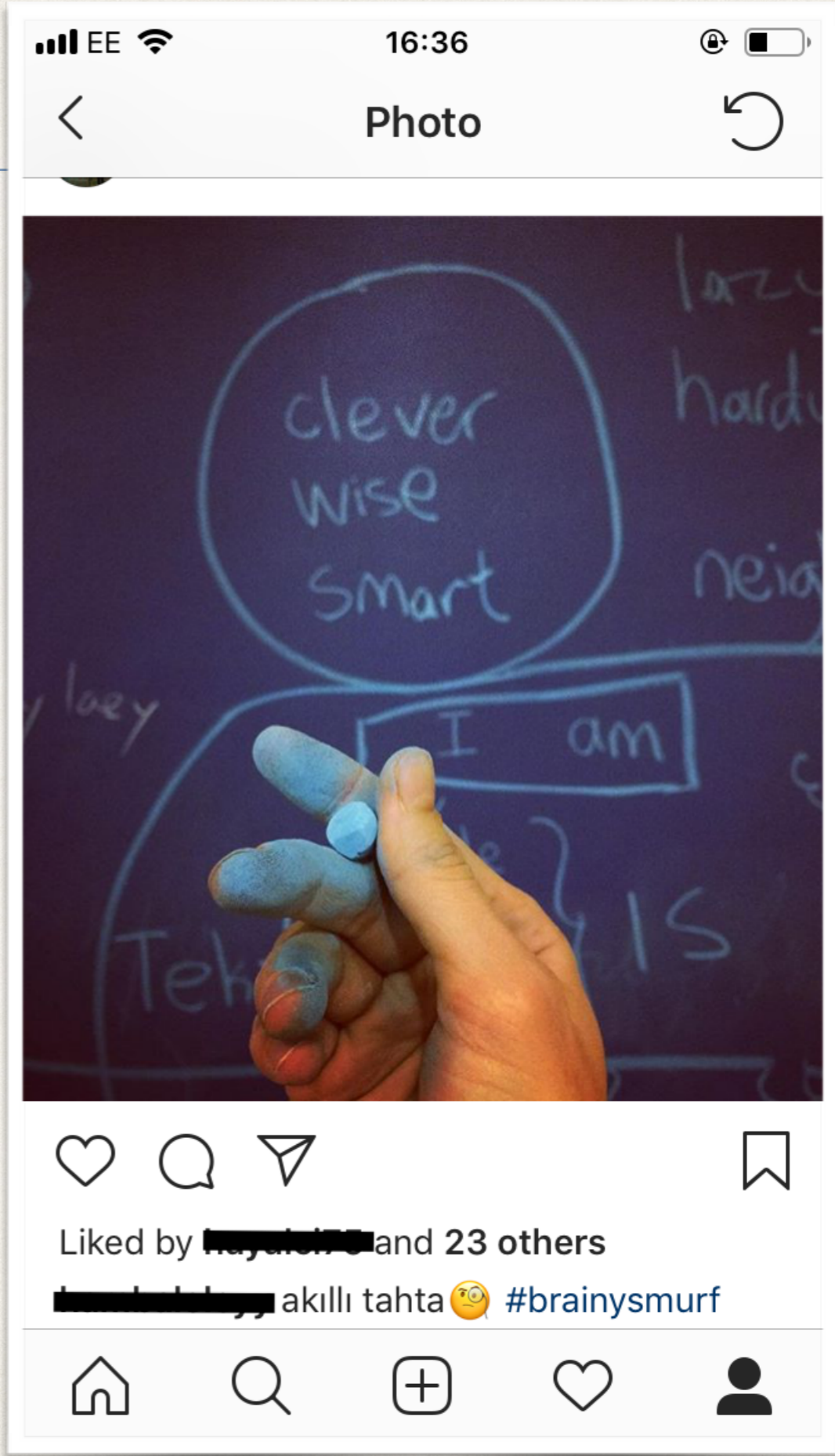
33 families living in the city of Eskişehir in Turkey:

➔ children aged 11 to 13 (n=33)

➔ their parents (n=37)

➔ their siblings (n=24)

Method



1. Children's managing contact when desired: Interaction

Parents' side:

I gave her cell phone back on one condition.

We had actually taken it from her for 15 days or so. She should not have used the social media... Because she is not able to sustain self-control. She was supposed to use only Whatsapp. So, I took her sim card out and kept it.

(Father, 45, Self-employed, Eskişehir, 2018)

Now we live in a such an age that we bought this cell phone for her. But her phone bill was too high and that was our excuse (to take her phone from her)... Now we are considering to convert it into pay-as-you-go. We need her to have a phone to contact with her, because the neighborhood is bad. Monitoring her is hard!

(Mother, 42, Self-employed, Eskişehir, 2018)

1. Children's managing contact when desired: Interaction

Children's side:

“... Instagram suggested me another account of Ecrin tonight*: “Ecrinkacar_yedek” was her nickname which literally means “Ecrin Kaçar’s_alternative_account”. She put a selfie on the profile, which was filtered with bunny ears and nose. She had 0 post, but 63 followers and was followed 23 friends.”

(Field notes, Kaçar Family, Eskişehir, 2018)

*Pseudonym was used.

2. Children's control over access to their information: Consumption

Parents' side:

We let her take her phone at certain hours. But this does not stop her. Because she -for example takes my phone, takes her father's phone. She takes it and says she will call someone. With these sorts of excuses, she goes into social media and shares posts. She gave her password to her friends and her friends share posts on behalf her. My husband knows how to use this technology, so he can monitor her. I don't get involved with monitoring as I don't know how the technology works.

(Mother, 42, Self-employed, Eskişehir, 2018)

2. Children's control over access to their information: Consumption

Children's side

How about your parents? What do they think about your relation with your phone?

They say I am addicted...

What do you think?

Well, I think so. I just can't hold myself back!

Why do you think you are addicted?

I overstay online. For example, before I got punished, my phone bill was too expensive. It charged 400 Turkish Liras! [...] They took my sim card from me, so that I could study better. My course grades in Science were bad last year, for example. I used to get 60 points. I got 60 points four times in a row. Then they took my cell phone from me. I studied well for the Science exam and I got 98. So, it actually worked in that sense.

(Female, 11, 6th grade student, Eskişehir, 2018)

Conclusion

- ▶ Relation between parental authority & privacy
- ▶ Children's resistances and strategies to guard their privacy
- ▶ Children's reflections on parental surveillance



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