

# Families on Facebook

Discussion lead by Eva Laini

# Let's start with you !

- ▶ If you have Facebook, are you friends with at least one of your parents?



# Friends or not ?

- ▶ 40% of parent-teen dyads are friends and marked their relationship
- ▶ What about the rest? What could the researchers have missed?

**QUIET SON MUSTERS COURAGE  
TO ASK ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT  
AND POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING**



**PARENTS POST ABOUT  
IT ON FACEBOOK**

imgflip.com

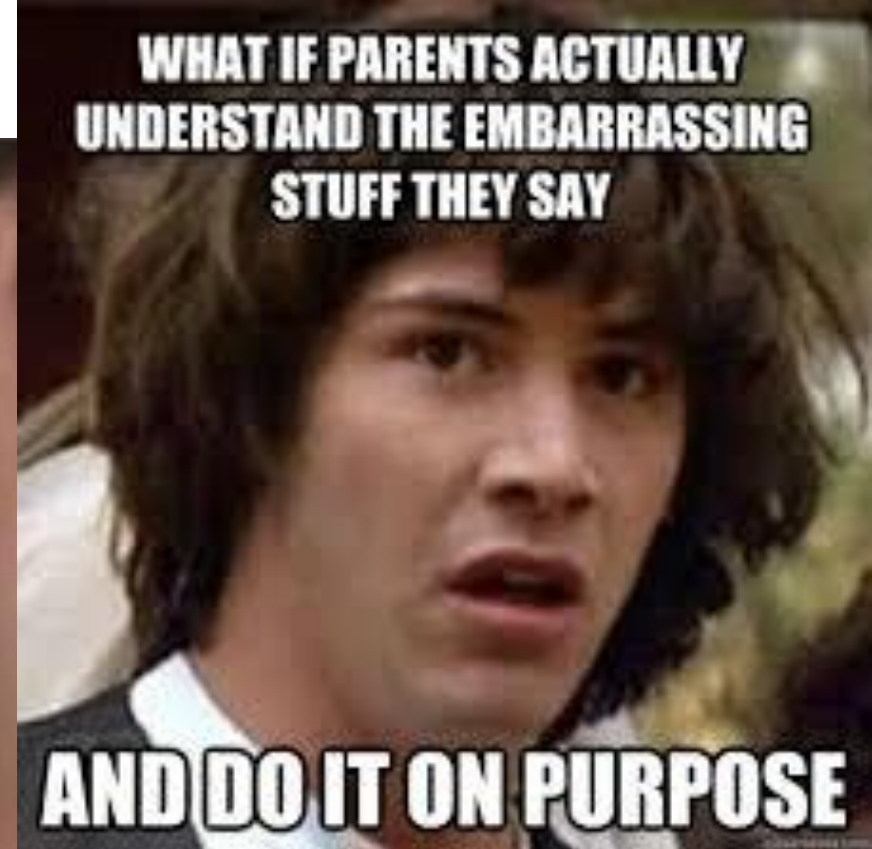
Embarrassing? Me?  
I would never!

**PARENTS**

**EMBARRASS  
THEIR CHILDREN**

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**WHAT IF PARENTS ACTUALLY  
UNDERSTAND THE EMBARRASSING  
STUFF THEY SAY**



**AND DO IT ON PURPOSE**

# Controlling presence ?

- ▶ Parents of teens friend them and their social circle to be able to “monitor their teens and to make their presence known, in an effort to mitigate bullying and bad behavior”



- ▶ Does having their parents as friends on social media change the behavior of teens?



## Share everything?

- ▶ The researchers talk as if Facebook was the only means of communication
- ▶ Do Facebook posts and comments really reflect how parents interact with their children?

A hand is pointing towards the word 'PRIVACY' which is written in white chalk on a black surface. The word is partially obscured by the hand and the blue geometric shapes on the right side of the image. The background features a white area on the left and blue geometric shapes on the right.

PRIVACY

## Just a show ?

- ▶ Are the observed communication patterns simply a performance, with parents and children acting in ways that are expected of them?



MY FACEBOOK PROFILE SAYS I HAVE

*The Perfect Life*

# Still relevant ?

- ▶ Offline parent-child relationship assessment from 1983:
  - ▶ Mothers more likely to talk about thoughts and feelings, especially with their daughters
  - ▶ Dads more authoritarian and focused on facts
  - ▶ Sons more pushed to be independent and to control their feelings



- ▶ Do you think this study is still relevant today?
- ▶ If and when you have kids, do you think you are going to follow these patterns?



# Already changing ?

- ▶ This study is from 2013, which is already old by social media standards



- ▶ Teens aren't using Facebook as much now, so what social media would now regroup these generations?

# Easier communication ?

- ▶ They found that communication frequency on Facebook does not diminish with geographic distance, suggesting that the site may facilitate extended family communication
- ▶ What type of communication is it? Does it really replace one-on-one calls or face-time?

