Eyes up! – Navigating our new hyperconnected reality

Conversation Brief

Most teens today have access to a smartphone, tablet or home computer, and a growing number are connected to the internet on a near-constant basis.

As we live more and more of our lives online and on smartphones – virtual spaces are replacing physical avenues for everything from socialising, to entertainment and learning.

At a time when we have the ability to connect with people, products and information from anywhere in the world at the swipe of a screen, has technology caused us to become disconnected from the world around us? With smartphones becoming ever more ubiquitous, to what extent is the well-being of young people today linked to their relationship with their devices? How is this changing the nature of our social interactions?

And as more people, young and old, base opinions and decisions on information found online, and terms like "post-truth" become part of our everyday lexicon, will the ability to know the difference between truth and disinformation become a basic skill?

With developments on the horizon that seek to further blur the lines between real and virtual, and as extended, augmented and virtual forms of reality layer our view of the world, how can we be more responsible consumers of technology? What new skills and abilities will young people need, to thrive in our new hyperconnected reality? How will individual relationships and the concept of communities need to evolve in our new reality, and how can we make sure that our relationship with technology is to the benefit of ourselves, our communities and society?
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