

re:think

a journal of creative ethnography

volume two: summer 2019

(dis)connection: in a connected world, all we miss is
each other

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Vol 2, Issue 1, pp 31-37

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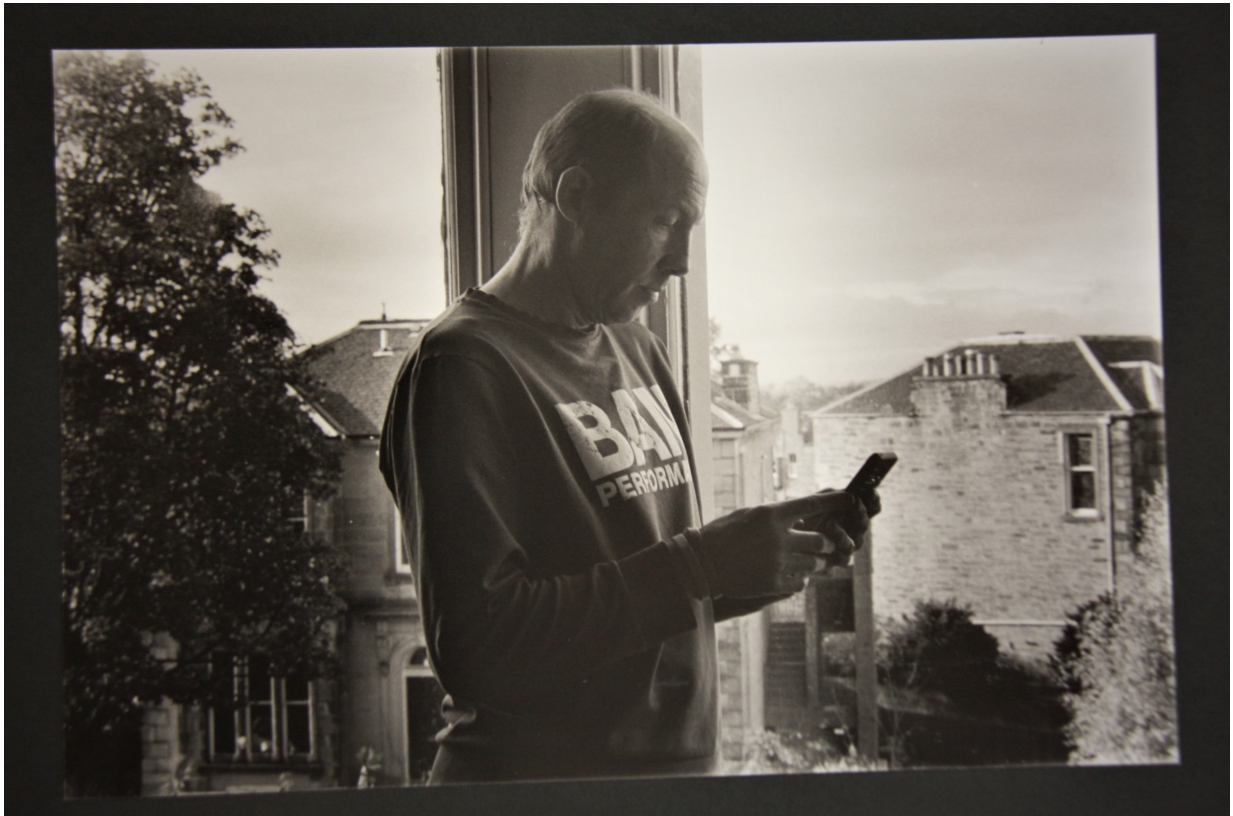
Abstract

Mobile phone use and social media have become the norm in modern societies around the world. In an attempt to connect with the world out there, people sometimes neglect present time and immediate environments. For some, this is a way 'in' and for others a way 'out'. This photographic ethnography investigates the contradiction between connection and disconnection in people's desire to maintain relationships, stay informed or be entertained.

Keywords: Technology, social media, relations, connection, disconnection



A photographic ethnography about the effects of the use of mobile devices on the individual and the social environment. People get caught in a contradiction between the connection and what's not there, while at the same time they disconnect from their surroundings. Mobile phone use, mostly for social media, allows for relationships to be constantly in motion but this also leads to isolation and avoidance.



"...I should be working on this new contract but I can't help checking out the news today. I will be able to get back to work once I finish reading this article. That's what I said to myself an hour ago..." - Mark, Marketing Consultant



"...I'll have a quick look at my messages while I have the chance; my boyfriend will be in the toilet for at least two minutes. I don't like letting people wait for my response. It is rude, isn't it?..." - Sheela



"...We always spend our time between lectures together, but somehow each of us ends up somewhere else. I don't think any of us is really bothered, talking can sometimes be hard work..." - Edinburgh College of Art students



"...I always look at my phone in public places, especially bus stops. I find it really annoying when people look at me and I'm aware of it, or even worse when they try to say something like 'good morning'..." - Dorian, Apprentice



"...I'm so bored, I'm so bored. A couple of videos should make the time go much quicker. Unless I pick up that book that my friend gave me last month that's still in my bag... maybe not" - Crystal



"...the weather outside is crap so we're staying in today for some family time. That's after we all have some 'me' time first..." - Morningside family