

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY of BOOKS on SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS** **(mostly Amazon ... with a focus on Christian Anthropology + Religion & Spirituality)**

**last updated July 12, 2023**

Albarran, Alan (ed.). *The Social Media Industries*. Routledge, 2013.

This volume examines how social media is evolving as an industry—it is an extension of traditional media industries, yet it is distinctly different in its nature and ability to build relationships among users. Examining social media in both descriptive and analytical ways, the chapters included herein present an overview of the social media industries, considering the history, development, and theoretical orientations used to understand social media. Covered are:

- Business models found among the social media industries and social media as a form of marketing.
- Social media as a form of entertainment content, both in terms of digital content, and as a tool in the production of news.
- Discussions of ethics and privacy as applied to the area of social media.
- An examination of audience uses of social media considering differences among Latinos, African-Americans, and people over the age of 35.

Overall, the volume provides a timely and innovative look at the business aspects of social media, and it has much to offer scholars, researchers, and students in media and communication, as well as media practitioners.

Albright, Julie. *Left to Their Own Devices: How Digital Natives Are Reshaping the American Dream*. Prometheus, 2018.

"Digital natives" are hacking the American Dream. Young people brought up with the Internet, smartphones, and social media are quickly rendering old habits and norms a distant memory, creating the greatest generation gap in history. In this eye-opening book, digital sociologist Julie M. Albright looks at our device-obsessed society, and the many ways in which the post World War II American Dream is waning for the Millennial generation.

Albright notes that in the former age of traditional media (dominated by three major TV networks and the national print media), values were more harmonized and time, synchronized. Today, with a deluge of information available 24/7, we are experiencing a sort of digital tribalism, with people coalescing inside of increasingly fragmented informational echo chambers. Digital media allows bad actors to enlarge the rifts between these siloed tribes in divide-and-conquer fashion, frothing up fears by propagating fake news and fake people online.

What are other effects of hyper-connectivity coupled with disconnection from stabilizing social structures? Albright sees both positives and negatives. On the one hand, mobile connectivity has given "digital nomads" the unprecedented opportunity to work or live anywhere. On the other hand, new threats are emerging, including cyberbullying and the ability to radicalize marginalized youth, decreased physical exercise, increased isolation, anxiety and loneliness, ephemeral relationships, fragmented attention spans, lack of participation in community activities and the political process, and detachment from the calm of nature or the refuge of religion.

In this time of rapid, global, technologically driven change, this book offers fresh insights into the effects of always-on devices on the family, community, business, and society at large.

Aljentera, Clarissa Valbuena. *The Parish Guide to Social Media: How social networking can recharge your ministry*. Twenty-Third Publications, 2013.

Alter, Adam. *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked*. Penguin Press, 2017.

Welcome to the age of behavioral addiction—an age in which half of the American population is addicted to at least one behavior. We obsess over our emails, Instagram likes, and Facebook feeds; we binge on TV episodes and YouTube videos; we work longer hours each year; and we spend an average of three hours each day using our smartphones. Half of us would rather suffer a broken bone than a broken phone, and Millennial kids spend so much time in front of screens that they struggle to interact with real, live humans.

In this revolutionary book, Adam Alter, a professor of psychology and marketing at NYU, tracks the rise of behavioral addiction, and explains why so many of today's products are irresistible. Though these miraculous products melt the miles that separate people across the globe, their extraordinary and sometimes damaging magnetism is no accident. The companies that design these products tweak them over time until they become almost impossible to resist.

By reverse engineering behavioral addiction, Alter explains how we can harness addictive products for the good—to improve how we communicate with each other, spend and save our money, and set boundaries between work and play—and how we can mitigate their most damaging effects on our well-being, and the health and happiness of our children.

Arassa, D. , L. Canton, L. Ruiz (eds.). *Religious Internet Communication: Facts, Experiences, and Trends in the Catholic Church*. Roma: Edusc, 2010.

Attrill, A. and C. Fullwood (eds.). *Applied Cyberpsychology: Practical Applications of Cyberpsychology Theory and Research*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2016.

**Babin, Pierre and Angela Ann Zukowski. *The Gospel in Cyberspace: Nurturing Faith in the Internet Age*. Loyola 2001.**

Global culture has gone from the Age of Print, where intellect, doctrine, and the written word ruled, to the Era of the Media, where communication, connection, and experiential immersion are key. This book maps these changes and offers guidance in navigating the new frontier as it relates to the Church.

Authors Pierre Babin and Angela Ann Zukowski draw upon their experience in evangelization, catechesis, and media to lead readers through the new technologies. They insist that, while the message will remain the same, the delivery must change if the Church is to reach and retain an audience. To foster this change, they walk the reader through the shifting paradigm of current catechetical practices to the possibilities of evangelizing in the enriched environment of the Internet Age.

Bailey, Brian and Terry Storch. *The Blogging Church: Sharing the Story of Your Church through Blogs*. Word Publications, 2000.

*The Blogging Church* offers church leaders a field manual for using the social phenomenon of blogs to connect people and build communities in a whole new way. Inside you will find the why, what, and how of blogging in the local church. Filled with illustrative examples and practical advice, the authors answer

key questions learned on the frontlines of ministry: *Is blogging a tool or a toy? What problems will blogging solve? How does it benefit ministry? How do I build a great blog? and Who am I blogging for?*

The book includes contributions from five of the most popular bloggers in the world—Robert Scoble, Dave Winer, Kathy Sierra, Guy Kawasaki, and Merlin Mann, as well as interviews with blogging pastors such as Mark Driscoll, Craig Groeschel, Tony Morgan, Perry Noble, Greg Surratt, Mark Batterson, and many more.

Balick, Aaron. *The Psychodynamics of Social Networking: Connected-Up Instantaneous Culture and the Self*. Karnac Books, 2013.

This is a timely book looking at the enormous impact that social networking has had on our society and how it is profoundly influencing our lives. While there is currently a great deal of thinking about the psychological ramifications of these sorts of changes, there has been little work looking at the psychodynamics of individuals who use and depend upon these social networks, and the consequences for themselves and their important relationships. Popular hubs of social networking such as Facebook and Twitter feature centrally in this text, as well as the impact of the ubiquity of access through smartphones; the nature of this impact on interpersonal relationships and the formation of the “self” is of particular interest.

Psychotherapists encounter the inside story and personal narratives of individuals living more and more of their lives online, hence the psychotherapeutic perspective gives a particularly unique insight into this matter. *The Psychodynamics of Social Networking* uses contemporary psychoanalytic theory to investigate the processes involved particularly in the ways in which individuals engage with each other through social networking, ultimately constructing how individuals perceive themselves both within and outside this context.

**Barron, Robert. *Arguing Religion: A Bishop Speaks at Facebook and Google*. Word on Fire, 2018.**

Every day, millions of people fight about religion. Whether with friends, family, or on social media, we expend lots of energy, lots of sharp words, and lots of strong feelings. But very few know how to have a good religious *argument* a rational, respectful, and productive exchange of differing views.

Bishop Robert Barron, one of the leading Catholic figures in the world and among the most active on social media, has enjoyed thousands of fruitful religious arguments. In this book based on talks delivered at Facebook and Google, he explains why religion at its best opens up the searching mind, and how we all believer and unbeliever alike can share better discussions about God.

Battaglia, Joe. *Unfriended: Finding True Community in a Disconnected Culture*. Broadstreet Publishing, 2018.

We live in a hyperconnected world, and yet we're more disconnected than ever. We spend more time scrolling through Instagram than we do talking with our families. We've never had more "friends", but we have no one to meet for coffee. Joe Battaglia understands that we are wired to have community, and that smartphones cannot meet our needs for love, acceptance, touch, and connection. In *Unfriended*, Battaglia uses research, personal insight, and biblical truths to help you:

- leave behind the anonymity of the Internet and get face-to-face with people.
- go beyond the "like" button and establish meaningful relationships.

- get out from behind your screen and enjoy God's creation.
- avoid toxic social media debates and become a vehicle of change.

**Bauerlein, Mark (ed.). *The Digital Divide: Arguments for and Against Facebook, Google, Texting, and the Age of Social Networking* (TarcherPerigee, 2011).**

This definitive work on the perils and promise of the social-media revolution collects writings by today's best thinkers and cultural commentators, with an all-new introduction by Bauerlein. Twitter, Facebook, e-publishing, blogs, distance-learning and other social media raise some of the most divisive cultural questions of our time. Some see the technological breakthroughs we live with as hopeful and democratic new steps in education, information gathering, and human progress. But others are deeply concerned by the eroding of civility online, declining reading habits, withering attention spans, and the treacherous effects of 24/7 peer pressure on our young. With *The Dumbest Generation*, Mark Bauerlein emerged as the foremost voice against the development of an overwhelming digital social culture. But *The Digital Divide* doesn't take sides. Framing the discussion so that leading voices from across the spectrum, supporters and detractors alike, have the opportunity to weigh in on the profound issues raised by the new media—from questions of reading skills and attention span, to cyber-bullying and the digital playground—Bauerlein's new book takes the debate to a higher ground. The book includes essays by Steven Johnson, Nicholas Carr, Don Tapscott, Douglas Rushkoff, Maggie Jackson, Clay Shirky, Todd Gitlin, and many more. Though these pieces have been previously published, the organization of *The Digital Divide* gives them freshness and new relevancy, making them part of a single document readers can use to truly get a handle on online privacy, the perils of a plugged-in childhood, and other technology-related hot topics. Rather than dividing the book into "pro" and "con" sections, the essays are arranged by subject—"The Brain, the Senses," "Learning in and out of the Classroom," "Social and Personal Life," "The Millennials," "The Fate of Culture," and "The Human (and Political) Impact." Bauerlein incorporates a short headnote and a capsule bio about each contributor, as well as relevant contextual information about the source of the selection. Bauerlein also provides a new introduction that traces the development of the debate, from the initial Digital Age zeal, to a wave of skepticism, and to a third stage of reflection that wavers between criticism and endorsement. Enthusiasms for the Digital Age has cooled with the passage of time and the piling up of real-life examples that prove the risks of an online-focused culture. However, there is still much debate, comprising thousands of commentaries and hundreds of books, about how these technologies are rewriting our futures. Now, readers can finally cut through the clamor, read the the very best writings from each side of *The Digital Divide*, and make more informed decisions about the presence and place of technology in their lives.

**Bauerlein, Mark. *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future (Or, Don't Trust Anyone Under 30)*. Tarcher, May 2008**

This shocking, surprisingly entertaining romp into the intellectual nether regions of today's underthirty set reveals the disturbing and, ultimately, incontrovertible truth: cyberculture is turning us into a society of know-nothings.

*The Dumbest Generation* is a dire report on the intellectual life of young adults and a timely warning of its impact on American democracy and culture.

For decades, concern has been brewing about the dumbed-down popular culture available to young people and the impact it has on their futures. But at the dawn of the digital age, many thought they saw an answer: the internet, email, blogs, and interactive and hyper-realistic video games promised to yield a generation of sharper, more aware, and intellectually sophisticated children. The terms "information superhighway" and "knowledge economy" entered the lexicon, and we assumed that teens would use their knowledge and understanding of technology to set themselves apart as the vanguards of this new digital era.

That was the promise. But the enlightenment didn't happen. The technology that was supposed to make young adults more aware, diversify their tastes, and improve their verbal skills has had the opposite effect. According to recent reports from the National Endowment for the Arts, most young people in the United States do not read literature, visit museums, or vote. They cannot explain basic scientific methods, recount basic American history, name their local political representatives, or locate Iraq or Israel on a map. *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future* is a startling examination of the intellectual life of young adults and a timely warning of its impact on American culture and democracy.

Over the last few decades, how we view adolescence itself has changed, growing from a pitstop on the road to adulthood to its own space in society, wholly separate from adult life. This change in adolescent culture has gone hand in hand with an insidious infantilization of our culture at large; as adolescents continue to disengage from the adult world, they have built their own, acquiring more spending money, steering classrooms and culture towards their own needs and interests, and now using the technology once promoted as the greatest hope for their futures to indulge in diversions, from MySpace to multiplayer video games, 24/7.

Can a nation continue to enjoy political and economic predominance if its citizens refuse to grow up? Drawing upon exhaustive research, personal anecdotes, and historical and social analysis, *The Dumbest Generation* presents a portrait of the young American mind at this critical juncture, and lays out a compelling vision of how we might address its deficiencies. *The Dumbest Generation* pulls no punches as it reveals the true cost of the digital age—and our last chance to fix it.

Baym, Nancy. *Personal Connections in the Digital Age*. Polity, 2010.

The internet and the mobile phone have disrupted many of our conventional understandings of our selves and our relationships, raising anxieties and hopes about their effects on our lives. This timely and vibrant book provides frameworks for thinking critically about the roles of digital media in personal relationships. Rather than providing exuberant accounts or cautionary tales, it offers a data-grounded primer on how to make sense of these important changes in relational life.

The book identifies the core relational issues these media disturb and shows how the ways we talk about them echo historical discussions about earlier communication technologies. Chapters explore how we use mediated language and nonverbal behavior to develop and maintain communities, social networks, new relationships, and to maintain relationships in our everyday lives. It combines research findings with lively examples to address questions such as whether mediated interaction can be warm and personal, whether people are honest about themselves online, whether relationships that start online can work, and whether using these media damages the other relationships in our lives. Throughout, the book argues for approaching these questions with firm understandings of the qualities of media as well as the social and personal contexts in which they are developed and used.

Beasley, Berrin (ed.). *Social Media and the Value of Truth*. Lexington, 2014.

This collection of essays addresses questions raised by social media related to issues such as self-definition and trust. Kathy Richardson argues that a blurring of front-stage and back-stage personas challenges the ability to discern appropriate behavior and information to be shared or kept private. Deni Elliott believes the "real name requirement" raises questions about responsible information distribution and confidentiality. Paul Bloomfield explores "authentic living" via participation in multiplayer online games, and concerns about subjugation of real life to the life of one's avatar. Mitchell Haney argues that the speed of social media threatens the ability of persons to engage in life reflection and deliberation about their choices. Vance Ricks argues that social media gossip contributes to information overload and

"context collapse," preventing seeing information in an appropriate light or for a certain audience. Lee Wilkins discusses "liquid journalism," noting that social media users and journalists bring "emotion" back to the news. Finally, Jane Kirtley discusses "trust" issues and questions concerning the monitoring of blogs and other forms of social media. This book raises significant questions about a phenomenon--social media--that now is central to people's lives and culture. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers.

Beer, David. *The Quirks of Digital Culture*. Emerald Publishing, 2019.

The culture we consume is increasingly delivered to us via various digital on-demand platforms. The last decade has seen platforms like Facebook, Amazon, Netflix, Spotify, Google and the like become massive players in shaping cultural consumption. But how can we understand culture once it moves on to big tech platforms? How can we make sense of the changes this brings to our lives? These platforms have the power to shape our cultural landscape and to use data, algorithms and other technological means to shape our experiences, from what we remember through to what we know and even the speed and accessibility of culture.

This book asks how can we understand the chaos and messiness of on-demand culture? Beer suggests that we focus on the quirks and use these as openings to see inside patterns and dynamics of these new cultural formations. By exploring the strange quirks that typify our new on-demand culture, this book seeks to answer these questions. *The Quirks of Digital Culture* is a guide to understanding the complex and unsettling cultural present, whilst also casting an eye on how our consumption and cultural experiences may unfold in what seems like an unpredictable future.

Benson, Jorge. *Mass Media, Communications, and Communion*. (e-book)

This book presents us with a timely Christian vision of Social Communication:

- an objective and didactic vision of the world of the media of social communication.
- a balanced and inspiring moral analysis.
- a view from theology and pastoral work of what the mass media signify for and can accomplish and promise for the "mission" of the twenty-first century.

We have in the work, in words of the Holy See, "an excellent book...the work of an accomplished and true communicator," which meets well the need of a concise, complete, readable and readily available text for entering within the world of social communication, forming morally correct judgments in its regard, and even raising oneself from the MSC to the contemplation of the Christian mysteries.

Berger, D.O. "Theology in the Brave New World." *Concordia Journal*, 22 (1996):

**Berger, Teresa. *@ Worship: Liturgical Practices in Digital Worlds*. New York: Routledge, 2018.**

A host of both very old and entirely new liturgical practices have arisen in digital mediation, from the live-streaming of worship services and "pray-as-you-go" apps, to digital prayer chapels, virtual choirs and online pilgrimages. Cyberspace now even hosts communities of faith that exist entirely online. These digitally mediated liturgical practices raise challenging questions: Are worshippers in an online chapel really a community at prayer? Do avatars that receive digital bread and wine receive communion? *@ Worship* proposes a nuanced response to these sometimes contentious issues, rooted in familiarity with, and sustained attention to, actual online practices.

Four major thematic lines of inquiry form the structure of the book. After an introductory chapter the following chapters look at digital presence, virtual bodies, and online participation; ecclesial communities in cyberspace; digital materiality, visuality, and soundscapes; and finally the issues of sacramental

mediation online. A concluding chapter brings together the insights from the previous chapters and maps a way forward for reflections on digitally mediated liturgical practices.

*@ Worship* is the first monograph dedicated to exploring online liturgical practices that have emerged since the introduction of Web 2.0. Bringing together the scholarly tools and insights of liturgical studies, constructive theology and digital media theories, it is vital reading for scholars of Theology and Religion with as well as Sociology and Digital Culture more generally.

**Bhatt, Swati. *The Attention Deficit: Unintended Consequences of Digital Connectivity*. Palgrave, 2019.**

Digital technology has enabled connectivity on an unimagined scale. Human beings are social animals and economic activity promotes this socialization. Market transactions are based on optimism about the future, faith that the world is good and trust that growth is organic or coming from within the system. Individuals therefore invest in the future by having children, by extending credit and accepting risk, and by building connections with others in the sincere expectation of this connectivity being reciprocated.

This book explores the unintended consequences of ubiquitous connectivity. The first effect is captured by the sharing model. Technology offers multiple avenues for sharing experiences and personal information, so active engagement with this increased content uses mental effort. Connection inevitably leads to comparisons with other groups and individuals, so despite the benefits of affirmation and group inclusion, these links corrode social networks, leading to depression and mental apathy. The second effect--the result of the commercialization of sharing--is encapsulated in the attention deficit model. Loss of self-worth, driven by the first effect, encourages further connectivity and sharing as buyers seek more comfort and reassurance via social media, paying with time and personal information. The product is digital content and the payment is with time and data. Correspondingly, social media fulfills this demand with exuberance, both via user-generated content and commercially curated content. We are overwhelmed with even more information, paying with increasingly scarce time and attention. Finally, the third and most consequential effect is diminished risk taking. Attention scarcity, as a consequence of the content tsunami, throttles cognitive effort, impairing judgment and decision-making. So the safe bet may be to do nothing . . . take no risks and no gambles.

Weaving together the latest research on economics, psychology, and neuroscience, this book fills a void for readers wanting a smart, clear analysis of communications markets and the commercialization of Internet-inspired connectivity.

**Blum, Andrew. *Tubes: A Journey to the Center of the Internet*. Ecco, 2013.**

**Blum, Christopher and Joshua Hochschild. *A Mind at Peace: Reclaiming an Ordered Soul in the Age of Distraction*. Sophia Institute Press, 2017.**

These past two decades, modern technology has brought into being scores of powerful challenges to our interior peace and well-being. We're experiencing a worldwide crisis of attention in which information overwhelms us, corrodes true communion with others, and leaves us anxious, unsettled, bored, isolated, and lonely.

These pages provide the time-tested antidote that enables you to regain an ordered and peaceful mind in a technologically advanced world. Drawing on the wisdom of the world's greatest thinkers, including Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, and St. Thomas Aquinas, these pages help you identify and show you how to cultivate the qualities of character you need to survive in our media-saturated environment.

This book offers a calm, measured, yet forthright and effective approach to regaining interior peace. Here you'll find no argument for retreat from the modern world; instead these pages provide you with a practical guide to recovering self-mastery and interior peace through wise choices and ordered activity in the midst of the world's communication chaos.

Are you increasingly frustrated and perplexed in this digital age? Do you yearn for a mind that is more focused and a soul able to put down that iPhone and simply rejoice in the good and the true? It's not hard to do. The saints and the wise can show you how; this book makes their counsel available to you.

Boast, Robin. *The Machine in the Ghost: Digitality and Its Consequences*. Reaktion Books, 2017.

We live in a digital age, buy and sell in a digital economy, and consume—oh do we consume—digital media. The digital lies at the heart of our contemporary, information-heavy, media-saturated lives, and although we may talk about the digital as a cultural phenomenon, the thing itself—digitality—is often hidden to us, a technology that someone else has invented and that lives buried inside our computers, tablets, and smartphones. In this book, Robin Boast follows the video streams and social media posts to their headwaters in order to ask: What, exactly, is the digital?

Boast tackles this fundamental question by exploring the origins of the digital and showing how digital technology works. He goes back to 1874, when a French telegraph engineer, Jean-Maurice-Émile Baudot, invented the first means of digital communication, the Baudot code. From this simple 5-bit code, Boast takes us to the first electronic computers, to the earliest uses of graphics and information systems in the 1950s, our interactions with computers through punch cards and programming languages, and the rise of digital media in the 1970s. Via various and sometimes unanticipated historical routes, he reveals the foundations of digitality and how it has flourished in today's explosion of technologies and the forms of communication and media they enable, making real the often intangible force that guides so much of our lives.

Bodinger-deUriarte, Cristina. *Interfacing Ourselves: Living in the Digital Age*. Routledge, 2019.

*Interfacing Ourselves* consists of new work that examines digital life on three levels: individuals and digital identity; relationships routinely intertwining digital and physical connections; and broader institutional and societal realities that define the context of living in the digital age. A key focus is what it means in varied social arenas when most individuals live as *co-present* or *multi-present*—simultaneously engaged in digital and physical space—alone and with others. Topics include how: digital life contributes to well-being; individuals experience digital dependency; a smartphone is more than a smartphone; netiquette reveals social change; some online communities become prosocial salient havens while others reinforce social inequality; Millennials build intimacy; Latinx do *familismo*; and digital surveillance and big data redefine consumerism, advocacy, and civic engagement. Six chapters incorporate insights from hourly journals of Millennials undergoing a period of digital abstinence. Other chapters draw from surveys, digital auto-ethnography, content analysis, and other methods to explore digital life at the level of individual and interactive experience, and at a broader institutional and societal level. Ultimately, the book presents the need for living a mindful digital life by developing greater awareness as an individual, a social being, and a netizen and citizen.

Bollmer, Grant. *Inhuman Networks: Social Media and the Archaeology of Connection*. Bloomsbury, 2016.

Social media's connectivity is often thought to be a manifestation of human nature buried until now, revealed only through the diverse technologies of the participatory internet. Rather than embrace this view, *Inhuman Networks: Social Media and the Archaeology of Connection* argues that the human nature

revealed by social media imagines network technology and data as models for behavior online. Covering a wide range of historical and interdisciplinary subjects, Grant Bollmer examines the emergence of “the network” as a model for relation in the 1700s and 1800s and follows it through marginal, often forgotten articulations of technology, biology, economics, and the social. From this history, Bollmer examines contemporary controversies surrounding social media, extending out to the influence of network models on issues of critical theory, politics, popular science, and neoliberalism. By moving through the past and present of network media, *Inhuman Networks* demonstrates how contemporary network culture unintentionally repeats debates over the limits of Western modernity to provide an idealized future where “the human” is interchangeable with abstract, flowing data connected through well-managed, distributed networks.

**Borgmann, Erik and Stefan van Erp (eds.) *Cyberspace - Cyberethics – Cybertheology. Concilium* 2005/1.**

Brake, David. *Sharing Our Lives Online: Risks and Exposure in Social Media*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Most of us know someone who has inadvertently revealed something shameful or embarrassing online about themselves or someone else. With the growth of social media like Facebook and Twitter, we are heading towards a radically open society. In exploring this phenomenon, David R. Brake first provides an overview of the harms that can be posed by unwary social media use - not just for children but for all of us, young or old. He then draws on in-depth interviews, a range of related theories of human behaviour and a wealth of other studies to analyse why this happens. He explains in detail the social, technological and commercial influences and pressures that keep us posting what we should not and stop us fully appreciating the risks when we do so. This is an invaluable book for students, parents, policy-makers and any social media user.

Brasher, Brenda. *Give Me That Online Religion*. Rutgers University, 2004.

As the Internet and the World Wide Web break down barriers of time and space, religion enjoys an ever-increasing accessibility on a global scale. Inevitably, people online have sought out encounters with the otherworldly, launching religion into cyberspace. In this compelling book, Brenda E. Brasher explores the meaning of electronic faith and the future of traditional religion.

Operating online allows long-established religious communities to reach hearts and minds as never before. Yet more startling is the ease by which anyone with Internet access can create new circles of faith.

Bringing religion online also narrows the gap between pop culture and the sacred. Electronic shrines and kitschy personal Web "altars" idolize living celebrities, just as they honor the memory of religious martyrs. Looking ahead, Brasher envisions a world in which cyber-concepts and -technologies challenge conventional notions about the human condition, while still attempting to realize age-old religious ideals such as transcendence and eternal life.

As the Internet continues its rapid absorption of culture, *Give Me That Online Religion* offers pause for thought about spirituality in the cyber-age. Religion's move to the online world does not mean technology's triumph over faith. Rather, Brasher argues, it assures religion's place in the wired universe, meeting the spiritual demands of Internet generations to come.

**Brockman, John (ed.). *Is the Internet Changing the Way You Think?: The Net's Impact on Our Minds and Future* (Edge Question Series). Harper Perennial, 2011.**

How is the internet changing the way you think? That is one of the dominant questions of our time, one which affects almost every aspect of our life and future. And it's exactly what John Brockman, publisher of Edge.org, posed to more than 150 of the world's most influential minds. Brilliant, farsighted, and fascinating, *Is the Internet Changing the Way You Think?* is an essential guide to the Net-based world.

Burgess, Jean and Alice Marwick and Thomas Poell (eds.). *The SAGE Handbook of Social Media*. Sage Publications, 2017.

Burgess, Jean (ed.) *YouTube: Online Video and Participatory Culture* (Digital Media and Society). Polity Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2017.

YouTube is now firmly established as the dominant platform for online video, and it continues to be a site of both experimentation and conflict among media industries, creators and audiences. First published in 2009, this was the first book to take YouTube seriously as a media and cultural phenomenon. This revised and updated second edition explains how the platform is being used, how it is changing, and why it matters. The new edition reflects YouTube's maturity as a platform and includes more detailed coverage of its institutional and economic contexts, while retaining the discussions of YouTube's relation to wider transformations in culture, society and the economy that made the first edition so valuable. The book critically examines the public debates surrounding the site, demonstrating how it is central to struggles for authority and control in the new media environment. Drawing on a range of theoretical sources and empirical research, the authors discuss how YouTube is being used by the media industries, by audiences and amateur producers, and by particular communities of interest, and the ways in which these uses challenge existing ideas about cultural production and consumption. Rich with concrete examples, the second edition will continue to be essential reading for anyone interested in the contemporary and future implications of online media.

Burns, Kelli. *Social Media: A Reference Handbook* [Contemporary World Issues]. ABC-CLIO, 2016.

Bursch, Douglas. *Posting Peace: Why Social Media Divides Us and What We Can Do About It*. IVP, 2021.

Why is everyone so angry online? The internet seems to have brought the world together only so we can tear each other apart. Social media platforms have become toxic and polarizing environments. Many of us are overwhelmed and disillusioned by the endless online conflict and negativity. How did we get here, and what can we do about it? The internet is changing not only how we communicate but also what we communicate. Pastor and former radio host Douglas Bursch provides a spiritual examination of why social media divides people and how Christians can address polarization through a ministry of peacemaking. He unpacks how technology radically changes the way we communicate—digital media dehumanizes and disembodies us, dulling our ability to know when to speak and when to remain silent. But healthy online communication is possible through a constructive posture of reconciliation. Bursch offers practical examples of how to proactively manage social media and handle online conflict in redemptive, reconciling ways. Change the discourse of online Christian communication. Discover how we can use social media in a positive, Christ-like manner.

Burton, Jeremy. *Manifesto on Social Media Influence*. Kindle Edition (2016)

The Manifesto on Social Media Influence sets the standard for responsible use of the social web. Social media and the web 2.0 has given everyone the ability to share thoughts, ideas and opinions with the world. This is power like no generation before has known. But this begs the question: How do we wield this power responsibly? Jeremy C. Burton sets the stage for the importance of individual influence and outlines 12 standards that everyone should follow when engaging on social media. These principles in this

brief and powerful read, set to rich visuals, will set the bar high and help you rise above the noise to become a social media leader.

Byassee, Jason. *Following: Embodied Discipleship in a Digital Age*. Baker Academic, August 2021.

Offers theological reflection on the impact of technology on Christian discipleship, showing how new technologies and the rise of social media impact the way we interact with each other, ourselves, and the world

**Byers, Andrew. *TheoMedia: The Media of God and the Digital Age*. Wipf & Stock, 2013.**

The church is unsure of itself in the twenty-first century's media culture. Some Christians denounce digital media while others embrace the latest gadgets and apps as soon as they appear. Many of us are stumbling along amidst the tweets, status updates, podcasts, and blog posts, wondering if we have ventured into a realm beyond the scope of biblical wisdom. Though there is such a thing as "new media," Andrew Byers reminds us that the actual concept of media is ancient, theological, and even biblical. In fact, there is such a thing as the media of God. "TheoMedia" are means by which God communicates and reveals himself--creation, divine speech, inspired writings, the visual symbol of the cross, and more. Christians are actually called to media saturation. But the media that are to most prominently saturate our lives are the media of God. If God creates and uses media, then Scripture provides a theological logic by which we can create and use media in the digital age. This book is not an unqualified endorsement of the latest media products or a tirade against media technology. Instead, Byers calls us to rethink our understanding of media in terms of the media of God in the biblical story of redemption.

Campbell, Heidi. *Digital Creatives and the Rethinking of Religious Authority*. Routledge, 2020.

Much speculation was raised in the 1990s, during the first decade of Internet research, about the extent to which online platforms and digital culture might challenge traditional understandings of authority, especially in religious contexts. *Digital Creatives and the Rethinking of Religious Authority* explores the ways in which religiously-inspired digital media experts and influencers online challenge established religious leaders and those who seek to maintain institutional structures in a world where online and offline religious spaces are increasingly intertwined. In the twenty-first century, the question of how digital culture may be re-shaping notions of whom or what constitutes authority is incredibly important. Questions asked include:

- Who truly holds religious power and influence in an age of digital media?
- Is it recognized religious leaders and institutions? Religious digital innovators? Or digital media users?
- What sources, processes and/or structures can and should be considered authoritative online, and offline? Who is really in control of religious technological innovation?

This book reflects on how digital media simultaneously challenges and empowers new and traditional forms of religious authority. It is a gripping read for those with an interest in Communication, Culture Studies, Media Studies, Religion/Religious Studies, Sociology of Religion, Computer-mediated Communication, and Internet/Digital Culture Studies.

**Campbell, Heidi A (2020). *Digital Ecclesiology: A Global Conversation*. Digital Religion Publications. Available electronically from <https://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/188698>.**

**Campbell, Heidi (ed.). *Digital Religion: Understanding Religious Practice in New Media Worlds*. Routledge, 2012.**

*Digital Religion* offers a critical and systematic survey of the study of religion and new media. It covers religious engagement with a wide range of new media forms and highlights examples of new media engagement in all five of the major world religions.

**Part One** Community *Heidi Campbell* Authority *Pauline Cheong* Religion *Greg Grieves* Ritual *Christopher Helland* Identity *Mia Lövheim* Authenticity *Kerstin Radde-Antweiler* **Part Two** Japanese New Religions Online: Hikari no Wa and "Net Religion" *Erica Baffelli* Digital Storytelling and Collective Religious Identity in a Moderate to Progressive Youth Group *Lynn Schofield Clark and Jill Dierberg* Islamizing New Media *Nabil Echchaibi* Charting Frontiers of Online Religious Communities: The Case of Chabad Jews *Oren Golan* Considering Religious Community through Online Churches *Tim Hutchings* "Go Online!< Said My Guardian Angel" The Internet as Platform of Religious Negotiation *Nadja Miczek* The Kosher Cell Phone in Ultra-Orthodox Society: A Technological Ghetto within the Global Village? *Tsuriel Rashi* Hindu Worship Online and Offline *Heinz Scheifinger* Playing Muslim Hero: Constructing Religious Identity in Video Games *Vit Sisler* Formation of a Religious Technorati: Negotiations of Authority Among Australian Emerging Church Blogs *Paul Teusner* The Digital Bricoleur: Authenticity in a Wired World *Rachel Wagner* Virtual Buddhism: Buddhist Ritual in Second Life *Louise Connolly* **Part Three** Theology and the Internet *Stephen Garner* Theoretical Frameworks for Approaching Religion and New Media *Knut Lundby* Ethics in Internet Research *Mark Johns*

**Campbell, Heidi (2020). *The Distanced Church: Reflections on Doing Church Online*. Available electronically from <http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/187891>.**

In March/April 2020 most churches around the world have been forced to close their doors due to the need for social distancing and local lock-downs in order to fight off the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The result was traditional churches had to make an unplanned and swift transition towards technologically-driven forms of gathering. Many church leaders felt out of their comfort zone, while experimenting with doing church online. At the same time, scholars and theologians began studying this new trends in how churches perform worship online. "The Distanced Church" brings together religious leaders and scholar in conversation in this eBook where each group and offer reflection on lessons learned, answer questions that have been raised, and present insights gleaned from researching religion online. Contributors to this eBook come from ten different countries—within North America, Europe, and the Antipodes—and represent 12 different Christian denominations including Mainline, Catholic, and Nondenominational churches.

Campbell, Heidi. *Exploring Religious Community Online*. Peter Lang, 2005.

*Exploring Religious Community Online* is the first comprehensive study of the development and implications of online communities for religious groups. This book investigates religious community online by examining how Christian communities have adopted internet technologies, and looks at how these online practices pose new challenges to offline religious community and culture.

Campbell, Heidi. *When Religion Meets New Media* (Media, Religion and Culture) Routledge, 2010.

This lively book focuses on how different Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities engage with new media. Rather than simply reject or accept new media, religious communities negotiate complex relationships with these technologies in light of their history and beliefs. Heidi Campbell suggests a method for studying these processes she calls the "religious-social shaping of technology" and students are asked to consider four key areas: religious tradition and history; contemporary community values and priorities; negotiation and innovating technology in light of the community; communal discourses applied to justify use.

Acknowledgements Introduction 1. Understanding Religious Communities Responses to Media 2. Religious Communities and the Internet 3. Considering How Religious Communities Construct Technology 4. History & Tradition: How History and Tradition Shape Religious Communities Approach to New Media 5. Core Values: How Community Values Construct a Basis for Responding to Technology 6. Negotiating with New Media: To Accept, Reject or Reconfigure? 7. Communal Discourse: How Religious Communities Talk about new Media 8. Studying the Religious Culturing of New Media: The Case of the Kosher Cell Phone 9. Conclusion

Campbell, Heidi and Wendi Bellar. *Digital Religion: The Basics*. Routledge, 2022.

*Digital Religion: The Basics* explores how digital media and internet platforms are transforming religious practice in a digital age and the impact this has had on religious culture in contemporary society. Through exploring six defining characteristics of how religion is acted out online, including multisite reality, convergence practice, networked community, storied identity, shifting authority, and experiential authenticity, the book considers how digital religion both shapes, and is influenced by, religion offline. Questions asked include: How is religion being performed and reimagined through digital media and cultures? In what ways do the practices of religion online merge or correspond with shifts in perspective taking place in offline religious practice? How do the key findings of religion online reflect broader social, cultural, and structural practices observed within mobile, networked society? With case studies and further readings, *Digital Religion: The Basics* is a must-read for students wanting to come to grips with how religion is changing and experienced through digital media.

**Campbell, Heidi and John Dyer (eds.). *Ecclesiology for a Digital Church: Theological Reflections on a New Normal*. SCM Press, 2022.**

What are the ecclesiological challenges and opportunities raised by technology? How have developments related to the COVID-19 global health crisis impacted churches, forcing a swift move to mediated and online worship? And how will this change the shape churches of theological and programmatic choices for years to come? Drawing together a diverse group of theologians and media scholars, this volume considers the key theological question churches and religious leaders need to engage with as they look towards long term strategies involving church life and technology.

Campbell, Heidi and Stephen Gamer. *Networked Theology: Negotiating Faith in Digital Culture* [Engaging Culture series]. Baker Academic, 2016.

This informed theology of communication and media analyzes how we consume new media and technologies and discusses the impact on our social and religious lives. Combining expertise in religion online, theology, and technology, the authors synthesize scholarly work on religion and the internet for a nonspecialist audience. They show that both media studies and theology offer important resources for helping Christians engage in a thoughtful and faith-based critical evaluation of the effect of new media technologies on society, our lives, and the church.

#### **Contents**

Introduction: When New Media Meets Faith

1. Theology of Technology 101: Understanding the Relationship between Theology and Technology
  2. New Media Theory 101: Understanding New Media and the Network Society
  3. Networked Religion: Considering How Faith Is Lived in a Networked Society
  4. Merging the Network with Theology: Who Is My Neighbor in Digital Culture?
  5. Developing a Faith-Based Community Response to New Media
  6. Reflecting Personally on Appropriate and Theological Engagement with Technology and Media
- Index

Carr, Nicholas. *The Glass Cage: How Our Computers Are Changing Us*. W.W. Norton, 2015.

In *The Glass Cage*, best-selling author Nicholas Carr digs behind the headlines about factory robots and self-driving cars, wearable computers and digitized medicine, as he explores the hidden costs of granting software dominion over our work and our leisure. Even as they bring ease to our lives, these programs are stealing something essential from us. Drawing on psychological and neurological studies that underscore how tightly people's happiness and satisfaction are tied to performing hard work in the real world, Carr reveals something we already suspect: shifting our attention to computer screens can leave us disengaged and discontented. From nineteenth-century textile mills to the cockpits of modern jets, from the frozen hunting grounds of Inuit tribes to the sterile landscapes of GPS maps, *The Glass Cage* explores the impact of automation from a deeply human perspective, examining the personal as well as the economic consequences of our growing dependence on computers. With a characteristic blend of history and philosophy, poetry and science, Carr takes us on a journey from the work and early theory of Adam Smith and Alfred North Whitehead to the latest research into human attention, memory, and happiness, culminating in a moving meditation on how we can use technology to expand the human experience.

Carr, Nicholas. *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*. W.W. Norton & Co., 2011.

"Is Google making us stupid?" When Nicholas Carr posed that question, in a celebrated *Atlantic Monthly* cover story, he tapped into a well of anxiety about how the Internet is changing us. He also crystallized one of the most important debates of our time: As we enjoy the Net's bounties, are we sacrificing our ability to read and think deeply?

Now, Carr expands his argument into the most compelling exploration of the Internet's intellectual and cultural consequences yet published. As he describes how human thought has been shaped through the centuries by "tools of the mind"—from the alphabet to maps, to the printing press, the clock, and the computer—Carr interweaves a fascinating account of recent discoveries in neuroscience by such pioneers as Michael Merzenich and Eric Kandel. Our brains, the historical and scientific evidence reveals, change in response to our experiences. The technologies we use to find, store, and share information can literally reroute our neural pathways.

Building on the insights of thinkers from Plato to McLuhan, Carr makes a convincing case that every information technology carries an intellectual ethic—a set of assumptions about the nature of knowledge and intelligence. He explains how the printed book served to focus our attention, promoting deep and creative thought. In stark contrast, the Internet encourages the rapid, distracted sampling of small bits of information from many sources. Its ethic is that of the industrialist, an ethic of speed and efficiency, of optimized production and consumption—and now the Net is remaking us in its own image. We are becoming ever more adept at scanning and skimming, but what we are losing is our capacity for concentration, contemplation, and reflection.

Part intellectual history, part popular science, and part cultural criticism, *The Shallows* sparkles with memorable vignettes—Friedrich Nietzsche wrestling with a typewriter, Sigmund Freud dissecting the brains of sea creatures, Nathaniel Hawthorne contemplating the thunderous approach of a steam locomotive—even as it plumbs profound questions about the state of our modern psyche. This is a book that will forever alter the way we think about media and our minds.

Challies, Tim. *The Next Story: Life and Faith after the Digital Explosion*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Even the least technical among us are being pressed from all sides by advances in digital technology. We rely upon computers, cell phones, and the Internet for communication, commerce, and entertainment.

Yet even though we live in this 'instant message' culture, many of us feel disconnected, and we question if all this technology is really good for our souls. In a manner that's accessible, thoughtful, and biblical, author Tim Challies addresses questions such as: \* How has life---and faith---changed now that everyone is available all the time through mobile phones? \* How does our constant connection to these digital devices affect our families and our church communities? \* What does it mean that almost two billion humans are connected by the Internet ... with hundreds of millions more coming online each year? Providing the reader with a framework they can apply to any technology, Tim Challies explains how and why our society has become reliant on digital technology, what it means for our lives, and how it impacts the Christian faith.

Chandra, Ravi. *Facebuddha: Transcendence in the Age of Social Networks*. Pacific Heart Books, 2017.

*Facebuddha: Transcendence in the Age of Social Networks* is a rich modern Asian American cross-cultural memoir of relationship online and off, an exploration of psychological research about social media, and an engaging introduction to Buddhism. We are who happens to us, and what we make of that happening. Who do we become when we try to relate online? What happens to our mind and heart? Ravi Chandra is a psychiatrist and Buddhist who values conversation, relationship and their ultimate goals: love and the feeling of society. In these politically charged and divided times, how can we connect? Social media offers many inspiring possibilities. Facebook has become popular because we need belonging, meaning and self-expression. But our time on social media is a bardo, or dream-realm, that has traps for our habitually and unconsciously self-centered egos, which Chandra describes thoughtfully and with humor.

We have a Find my iPhone app - but we need to find our "I". Who am I, and who do I become when I engage on social media? How do I come to myself and my highest, most transcendent possibilities? How do I cultivate wisdom, compassion and love in this shrinking world that threatens to tear itself apart?

Chandra writes, "Social media is not just a medium. It is a new religion. The Tweet is our Call to Prayers. We thumb our Phones like Rosaries. Food Porn is our Communion and our Offering to the Cloud. The Status Update is our Sermon on the Mount. The Selfie our personal Anointment and Beatification. Facebook Messenger is our Messiah. The Apple Store is our modern Cathedral, our Silicon Sanctuary. New Emoji are released to the fanfare of a new Pope." Where is this religion taking us?

Thoughtful, humorous, engaging and enlightening, *Facebuddha* will be a conversation starter for years to come. A journey through the wilds of relationships, from a rooftop in Hanoi to a village in India, from the streets of San Francisco and Japan to the blue Wall of Facebook, culminating in transformative spiritual experience. *Facebuddha* will make you smile, laugh and think differently about the world we share.

Chayko, Mary. *Superconnected: The Internet, Digital Media, and Techno-Social Life*. Sage, 2016.

What does it mean to live in a superconnected society?

*Superconnected: The Internet, Digital Media, and Techno-Social Life* brings together insights about digital technology and society from the many literatures in which author Mary Chayko is immersed: sociology, communication, psychology, media and technology studies. The result is a groundbreaking analysis of contemporary social life as it is influenced by the internet, social media, and mobile devices. Individual chapters explore topics such as how digital technology helped to shape the modern information age; information sharing and surveillance; digital socialization and development of the self; digital inequalities; global impacts; and the impact of the internet and digital media across social institutions. The author's clear non-technical discussions and interdisciplinary synthesis make *Superconnected* an essential text for courses in all departments that examine how social life is affected when information and communication technology enter the picture.

Cheney-Lippold, John. *We Are Data: Algorithms and the Making of Our Digital Selves*. NYU Press, 2018.

Algorithms are everywhere, organizing the near limitless data that exists in our world. Derived from our every search, like, click, and purchase, algorithms determine the news we get, the ads we see, the information accessible to us and even who our friends are. These complex configurations not only form knowledge and social relationships in the digital and physical world, but also determine who we are and who we can be, both on and offline.

Algorithms create and recreate us, using our data to assign and reassign our gender, race, sexuality, and citizenship status. They can recognize us as celebrities or mark us as terrorists. In this era of ubiquitous surveillance, contemporary data collection entails more than gathering information about us. Entities like Google, Facebook, and the NSA also decide what that information means, constructing our worlds and the identities we inhabit in the process. We have little control over who we algorithmically are. Our identities are made useful not for us—but for someone else.

Through a series of entertaining and engaging examples, John Cheney-Lippold draws on the social constructions of identity to advance a new understanding of our algorithmic identities. *We Are Data* will educate and inspire readers who want to wrest back some freedom in our increasingly surveilled and algorithmically-constructed world.

Cheong, Pauline Hope and Peter Fischer-Nielsen and Stefan Gelfgren and Charles Ess (eds.) *Digital Religion, Social Media and Culture* (Digital Formations). Peter Lang, 2012

This anthology—the first of its kind in eight years—collects some of the best and most current research and reflection on the complex interactions between religion and computer-mediated communication (CMC). The contributions cohere around the central question: how will core religious understandings of identity, community and authority shape and be (re)shaped by the communicative possibilities of Web 2.0? The authors gathered here address these questions in three distinct ways: through contemporary empirical research on how diverse traditions across the globe seek to take up the technologies and affordances of contemporary CMC; through investigations that place these contemporary developments in larger historical and theological contexts; and through careful reflection on the theoretical dimensions of research on religion and CMC. In their introductory and concluding essays, the editors uncover and articulate the larger intersections and patterns suggested by individual chapters, including trajectories for future research.

Christian, Sue Ellen. *Everyday Media Literacy: An Analog Guide for Your Digital Life*. Routledge, 2019.

In this graphic guide to media literacy, award-winning educator Sue Ellen Christian offers students an accessible, informed and lively look at how they can consume and create media intentionally and critically.

The straight-talking textbook offers timely examples and relevant activities to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to assess all media, including news and information. Through discussion prompts, writing exercises, key terms, online links and even origami, readers are provided with a framework from which to critically consume and create media in their everyday lives. Chapters examine news literacy, online activism, digital inequality, privacy, social media and identity, global media corporations and beyond, giving readers a nuanced understanding of the key concepts and concerns at the core of media literacy.

Concise, creative and curated, this book highlights the cultural, political and economic dynamics of media in our contemporary society, and how consumers can mindfully navigate their daily media use. *Everyday*

*Media Literacy* is perfect for students (and educators) of media literacy, journalism, education and media effects looking to build their understanding in an engaging way.

Citton, Yves. *The Ecology of Attention*. Polity, 2016.

Information overload, the shallows, weapons of mass distraction, the googlization of minds: countless commentators condemn the flood of images and information, from television to video games and the internet, that dooms us to a pathological attention deficit. In this new book, cultural theorist Yves Citton cuts through the tide of these standard laments to offer a new perspective on the problem of attention in the digital age. Phrases like “paying attention”; or ‘investing one’s attention’ attest to our mistaken belief that attention can be conceptualized in narrow economic terms. We are constantly drawn towards attempts to quantify and commodify attention, even down to counting the number of likes a picture receives on Facebook or a video on YouTube. By contrast, Citton argues that we should conceptualise attention as a kind of ecology. We must see that the many different environments to which we are exposed – from advertising to literature, search engines to performance art – conditions our attention in different ways. We also need to be aware of how the ways that we manage and direct our attention not only affect us on an individual level, but also deeply shape our relations with others.

In a world where the demands on our attention are ever-increasing, this timely and original book will be of great interest to students and scholars in media and communications and in literary and cultural studies, and to anyone concerned about the long-term consequences of the profusion of images and digital content in the age of the internet.

Cobb, Jennifer. *CyberGrace: The Search for God in the Digital World*. Crown, 1998

As computers and artificial intelligence systems become more sophisticated, the question of whether we can find spiritual life in cyberspace is beginning to be asked. *CyberGrace: The Search for God in the Digital World* is a bold, thought-provoking, affirmative answer to one of the most intriguing inquiries of our time.

Until now, an unbridgeable schism has separated the world of the spirit and that of the machine. According to an increasingly compelling concept known as emergence, the gulf may be an imaginary one. Fifty years ago, Jesuit paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin combined his lifelong passions of God and science to predict the emergence of cyberspace, based on his studies of evolution. Using Teilhard's theories as a starting point, Jennifer Cobb asserts that as technical systems become more complex--with simple, predictable mechanisms coalescing into hierarchies of increasing organization--something elegant, inspired, and absolutely unpredictable simply and suddenly "emerges." Many observers today see this "hand of God" showing itself in disparate disciplines, from evolutionary theory to artificial intelligence--and especially in the furthest realms of cyberspace, where brute computation seems to give way to divine inspiration.

*CyberGrace* offers paradoxical evidence that our machines may be conduits to a deeper spirituality. With daily headlines announcing dizzying advances in science and information technology, many people wonder about their--and their children's--ability to lead lives imbued by a sense of the sacred. In the new world, where the search for spirituality may seem scattered and unfocused, Cobb brilliantly uses the most popular and prevalent phenomenon of our times--the computer--to find a world filled with meaning and love.

Cohen, Yuel and Paul Soukup. *The Handbook of Religion and Communication* (Global Handbooks in Media and Communication Research). Wiley-Blackwell, February 2023.

*The Handbook on Religion and Communication* presents a detailed investigation of the complex interaction between media and religion, offering diverse perspectives on how both traditional and new

media sources continue to impact religious belief and practice across multiple faiths around the globe. Contributions from leading international scholars address key themes such as the changing role of religious authority in the digital age, the role of media in cultural shifts away from religious institutions, and the ways modern technologies have transformed how religion is communicated and portrayed. Divided into five parts, the *Handbook* opens with a state-of-the-art overview of the subject's intellectual landscape, introducing the historical background, theoretical foundations, and major academic approaches to communication, media, and religion. Subsequent sections focus on institutional and functional perspectives, theological and cultural approaches, and new approaches in digital technologies. The essays provide insight into a wide range of topics, including religious use of media, religious identity, audience gratification, religious broadcasting, religious content in entertainment, films and religion, news reporting about religion, race and gender, the sex-religion matrix, religious crisis communication, public relations and advertising, televangelism, pastoral ministry, death and the media, online religion, future directions in religious communication, and more.

- Explores the increasing role of media in creating religious identity and communicating religious experience
- Discusses the development and evolution of the communication practices of various religious bodies
- Covers all major media sources including radio, television, film, press, digital online content, and social media platforms
- Presents key empirical research, real-world case studies, and illustrative examples throughout
- Encompasses a variety of perspectives, including individual and institutional actors, academic and theoretical areas, and different forms of communication media
- Explores media and religion in Judeo-Christian traditions, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, religions of Africa, Atheism, and others

*The Handbook on Religion and Communication* is an essential resource for scholars, academic researchers, practical theologians, seminarians, and undergraduate and graduate students taking courses on media and religion.

Cox, Brandon. *Rewired: How Using Today's Technology Can Bring You Back to Deeper Relationships, Real Conversations, and the Age-Old Methods of Sharing God's Love*. Passio, 2014.

There is no going back. Our world is changing at an unprecedented rate. We are connected with people all over the planet through technology that didn't even exist ten years ago. The world around us is having a conversation about life, meaning, culture, and eternity, and we have an amazing opportunity not just to join the conversation but also to lead it.

But too many in the church are struggling to keep up with this cultural shift and failing to use these communication tools to their full advantage. In *Rewired* Brandon Cox demonstrates the real, connecting power in online social networks, showing you how to connect and tell God's story relationally and creatively in our social, digital age.

Because the thing is, social media isn't an escape from the real world. It *is* the real world, whether we are ready for it or not. And this shift we are seeing toward a more mobile, social environment is actually a return to the form we were created for: to be in relationships, to have conversations, and to share our stories--and God's--with each other.

[link to podcast](#) [link to website](#)

Crawford, Hal and Andrew Hunter and Domago Filipovic. *All Your Friends Like This: How Social Networks Took Over News*. Harper, 2017

ALL YOUR FRIENDS LIKE THIS is a topical, punchy and provocative look at how social networks are taking over the news. How do you get your news? Chances are not from a newspaper or the TV - that's so old-school. If you're anything like the rest of us, you get it from Facebook or Twitter. The great power shift from traditional media to social networks is happening right now. This boom means that, for millions of us, our first exposure to information about the world comes from our friends, not news media. But social networks don't do news the old-fashioned way. Because we share stories that make us look good, inspire us and fire us up, the tone and flavour of the news-making process is irrevocably altered. What does this mean for media? For journalists? The audience? Are we better off or worse off because of it? Highly topical, provocative and totally absorbing, ALL YOUR FRIENDS LIKE THIS does for the media what Freakonomics did for economics. If you're interested in the news, in what we read and why we read it then this game-changing book is essential.

Crawford, Terrace. *Going Social: A Practical Guide on Social Media for Church Leaders*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill, 2012.

People around the world are talking. They are connecting each day-online-through social media. Corporations around the world recognize the power of social media and are leveraging it to reach customers through platforms such as blogs, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. Why can't churches do the same thing? Christianity has the greatest message to deliver; yet churches struggle to share it. Terrace Crawford helps uncover reasons ministry leaders may resist the use of social media and dispels some of the myths surrounding it. With short, accessible chapters, *#Going Social: A Practical Guide for Church Leaders* provides a step-by-step guide to getting started, crucial insights to help you develop an effective social media strategy, and gives real-life examples of ministries and leaders who are using media in powerful ways. Reimagine your social media presence and successfully connect with your church and your world. With the help of *#Going Social*, you can create an online community in no time! Reviews' Terrace Crawford gives you an easy-to-understand overview of the social media landscape and how you can leverage social media in your ministry. There are great tips and ideas, even for the most experienced social media aficionado.

Crook, Christina. *The Joy of Missing Out: Finding Balance in a Wired World*. New Society Publishers, 2015.

There's no doubt that technology has overrun our lives. Over the past few decades, the world has embraced "progress" and we're living with the resultant clicking, beeping, anxiety-inducing frenzy. But a creative backlash is gathering steam, helping us cope with the avalanche of data that threatens to overwhelm us daily through our computers, tablets, and smartphones.

*The Joy of Missing Out* considers the technologically focused life, with its impacts on our children, relationships, communities, health, work, and more, and suggests opportunities for those of us longing to cultivate a richer on- and off-line existence. By examining the connected world through the lens of her own internet fast, Christina Crook creates a convincing case for increasing intentionality in our day-to-day lives. Using historical data, typewritten letters, chapter challenges, and personal accounts, she invites us to explore a new way of living, beyond our steady state of distracted connectedness.

Most of us can't throw away our smartphone or cut ourselves off from the internet. But we can all rethink our relationship with the digital world, discovering new ways of introducing balance and discipline to the role of technology in our lives. This book is a must-read for anyone wishing to rediscover quietness of mind and seeking a sense of peace amidst the cacophony of the modern world.

Crosby, Mark. *So Everyone Can Hear: Communicating Church in a Digital Age*. SPCK Publishing, September 2019.

Communication lies at the heart of every healthy community; the church is no exception. In Matthew 11:15, Jesus says, 'Whoever has ears, let them hear'. How do we make sure we are saying things in a way that invites all people - no matter their background - to engage with what it means to be church today? This colourful, engaging and practical book will help leaders and members alike be more mindful of how they 'communicate church' both inside and outside of it within our dynamic and ever-changing digital culture.

Croucher, Stephen and Tina Harris (eds.). *Religion and Communication: An Anthology of Extensions in Theory, Research, and Method*. Peter Lang, 2012.

In this anthology, prominent scholars in the field examine the relationship between religion and communication. Essays discuss the topic from various theoretical, methodological, and communication approaches including health communication, interpersonal communication, intercultural/interracial communication, organizational communication, rhetoric, and media studies. The cutting-edge research gathered here investigates religious ideologies and the role religious beliefs play in public life around the world. The book highlights the extent to which national and international events continue to propel religion into our public discourse, illuminating its critical role in how individuals and institutions see themselves and others. The scope, depth, and richness of the research presented here is critical, in this area of evolving scholarship, to understanding the centrality of religious beliefs and values to the ways we make sense of the world and our experiences in it.

Cumisky, Kathleen and Larissa Hjorth. *Haunting Hands: Mobile Media Practices and Loss* (Studies in Mobile Communication). Oxford University, August 2017.

*Haunting Hands* looks closely at the consequences of digital media's ubiquitous presence in our lives, in particular the representing, sharing, and remembering of loss. From Facebook tribute pages during public disasters to the lingering digital traces on a smartphone of the deceased, the digital is both extending earlier memorial practices and creating new ways in which death and loss manifest themselves. The ubiquity of digital specters is particularly evident in mobile media spanning smartphones, iPads, iPhones, or tablets. Mobile media entangle various forms of social, online and digital media in specific ways that are both intimate and public, and yet the use of mobile media in contexts of loss has been relatively overlooked. *Haunting Hands* seeks to address this growing and important area by helping us to understand the relationship between life, death, and our digital after-lives.

Cyzewski, Ed. *Reconnect: Spiritual Restoration from Digital Distraction*. Herald Press, 2020.

In *Reconnect*, contemplative author and retreat leader Ed Cyzewski investigates the crisis of attention that is leading to mental health challenges and extending to our souls. Yet the Christian contemplative tradition--deeply rooted in the spiritual traditions and practices of the church--offers a way forward, grinding the gears of this frenetic activity and thinking to an unspectacular halt. For all its benefits and promises, technology trains its users to pursue the exact opposite of contemplative prayer practices every day, claims Cyzewski.

Grounded in current research into the impact of technology, *Reconnect* helps Christians rewire their technology addictions and train themselves to be present and aware of God rather than tuned into the constant distractions and deceptions of this digital age. When phones go dark and social media feeds stop scrolling, can we step into a deeper stillness and presence with an always present God?

Daughters of St. Paul. *Millennial Nuns: Reflections on Living a Spiritual Life in a World of Social Media*. Tiller Press, July 2021.

Discover how to engage in a faith-filled life in the era of social media from a group of young, consecrated Catholic sisters. Friend. Artist. Writer. Businesswomen. Advocate. Scholar. The women whose pieces are included in this book hold many different titles. But they all share two important characteristics. First, they are all young women. Second, they are all consecrated religious of the Catholic order the Daughters of Saint Paul. They are millennial nuns. More and more people—especially millennials—are turning to religion as a source of comfort and solace in our increasingly chaotic world. But rather than live a cloistered life of seclusion, the Daughters of Saint Paul actively embrace social media, using platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to evangelize, collectively calling themselves the #MediaNuns. In this collective memoir, eight of these Sisters share their own discernment journeys, struggles and crises of faith that they've overcome, and episodes from their daily lives. Through these reflections, the Sisters also offer practical takeaways and tips for living a more spiritually-fulfilled life, no matter your religious affiliation. In a collection as diverse and varied as the Daughters of Saint Paul themselves, *Millennial Nuns* will appeal to any reader looking to discover more about balancing faith with the modern age.

Davis, Walter Franklin. *Rebooting.Church: The Future of Church - "Digital-Church" - Starts Here!* (The Future of Church Series). Independently published, 2019.

When "Rebooting.Church" (rebooting-dot-church) was first written, there was nothing about "Coronavirus" or "COVID-19" in the news. The world, and our country, were blissfully unaware of how fast life as we knew it then would soon change, and how different our world would become in just a few short months. We just could not have imagined that the world would hang up a "Closed for Business" sign and go home, and that everyone would become susceptible to a deadly new virus strain that would completely alter our day-to-day lives, including how we gather together to worship God. Who would have believed that almost all churches worldwide would cancel their weekly services and activities and essentially close their doors to a world in crisis, all in the space of just a couple of months? No one – that's who! If there is one thing we as Church-Leaders; Clergy, Laity, and all concerned Christians should all be able to agree on, it's that our churches must change – and change fast – if they are to survive and maintain their ability to continue to minister to an extremely anxious world that needs God and His Church now more than ever.

In addition to the current Coronavirus crisis, the "Graying of Church", lower attendance and reduced giving are just a few of the issues that many, if not most churches face in this new digital age they now find themselves a part of. The world has changed and at an exponential pace that many organizations, including our churches, find it difficult to comprehend, much less keep up with them. The Internet, Social-Media, Mobile Computing, Virtual-Reality, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) are just a few of the technological innovations that are rapidly changing the very fabric of our lives and communities. Organizations that can't keep up with these changes stand little chance of being successful in their missions in the 21st-Century, regardless if that mission is making money or saving souls. So, how can our churches avoid becoming "digital roadkill" especially when our church's leaders don't have the technology experience, education or perhaps all too often - the *digital mindsets* - to successfully shepherd their churches in this new digital world? This is why "Rebooting.Church" (rebooting-dot-church) was written!

Rebooting.Church is a primer for Church-Leaders (Clergy, Staff, Laity, Teachers, and all concerned Christians) that explains the major transformational forces at work that are critical for all churches and Church-Leaders to understand. Written in layman's terms, Rebooting.Church offers a positive, optimistic and comprehensive overview of the technologies, processes, and steps each church that each church must make if they are to survive and thrive in this new Christian Epoch of "Digital-Church."

Rebooting.Church is the one book you need to read to discover the issues, information, strategies and solutions required to "future-proof" our churches, make them more relevant to more people, and to help them to attract, engage and retain the "Digital-Natives" of the Millennial and Gen-Z generations that are needed to keep their churches healthy and successful for another hundred years.

The book's author offers numerous unique and valuable insights into how the twin forces of "Exponential Change" and "Digital-Disruption" are effecting every church's future and hope for survival, as well as a better understanding of why technology adoption must become a central and urgent tool in your church's future growth. It also offers concrete ideas and suggestions of how to plan, deploy and integrate technology in order to become more productive, efficient and effective in achieving your church's mission of bringing Christ to an increasingly darker world.

Dawson, Lorne and Douglas Cowan (eds.), *Religion Online: Finding Faith on the Internet*. Routledge, 2004.

Delfanti, Alessandro and Adam Arvidsson. *Introduction to Digital Media*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2019.

This book introduces readers to the vast and rich world of digital media. It provides a strong starting point for understanding digital media's social and political significance to our culture and the culture of others—drawing on an emergent and increasingly rich set of empirical and theoretical studies on the role and development of digital media in contemporary societies. Touching on the core points behind the discipline, the book addresses a wide range of topics, including media economics, online cooperation, open source, social media, software production, globalization, brands, marketing, the cultural industry, labor, and consumption.

Presented in six sections—Media and Digital Technologies; The Information Society; Cultures and Identities; Digital Collaboration; Public Sphere and Power; Digital Economies—the book offers in-depth chapter coverage of new and old media; network infrastructure; networked economy and globalization; the history of information technologies; the evolution of networks; sociality and digital media; media and identity; collaborative media; open source and innovation; politics and democracy; social movements; surveillance and control; digital capitalism; global inequalities and development; and more.

**Detweiler, Craig. *iGods: How Technology Shapes Our Spiritual and Social Lives*. Brazos Press, 2013**

Today the world is literally at our fingertips. We can call, text, email, or post our status to friends and family on the go. We can carry countless games, music, and apps in our pocket. Yet it's easy to feel overwhelmed by access to so much information and exhausted from managing our online relationships and selves. Craig Detweiler, a nationally known writer and speaker on media issues, provides needed Christian perspective on navigating today's social media culture. He interacts with major symbols, or "iGods," of our distracted age--Google, Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Pixar, YouTube, and Twitter--to investigate the impact of the technologies and cultural phenomena that drive us. Detweiler offers a historic look at where we've been and a prophetic look at where we're headed, helping us sort out the immediate from the eternal, the digital from the divine.

Diaz-Ortiz, Claire. *Twitter for Good: Changing the World One Tweet at a Time*. Jossey-Bass, August 2011.

As recent events in Japan, the Middle East, and Haiti have shown, Twitter offers a unique platform to connect individuals and influence change in ways that were unthinkable only a short time ago. In *Twitter for Good*, Claire Diaz Ortiz, Twitter's head of corporate social innovation and philanthropy, shares the same strategies she offers to organizations launching cause-based campaigns. Filled with dynamic examples from initiatives around the world, this groundbreaking book offers practical guidelines for harnessing individual activism via Twitter as a force for social change.

- Reveals why every organization needs a dedicated Twitter strategy and explains how to set one

- Introduces the five-step model taught at trainings around the world: T.W.E.E.T. (Target, Write, Engage, Explore, Track)
- Author @claired is the head of corporate social innovation and philanthropy at Twitter, collaborating with organizations like Nike, Pepsi, MTV, the American Red Cross, charity:water, Room to Read, the Gates Foundation, the Skoll Foundation, the Case Foundation, National Wildlife Federation, Kiva, the United Nations, Free the Children, Committee to Protect Journalists, Partners in Health, FEMA, Ushahidi, The Acumen Fund

With more than 200 million users worldwide, Twitter has established itself as a dynamic force, one that every business and nonprofit must understand how to use effectively.

Dixon, Patrick. *Cyberchurch*. Kingsway Publications, 1997.

**Domingues, Filipe. *Selflessness in the Age of Selfies: What Young People Can Teach Us About Social Media's Throw-Away Culture* (Chiesa E Societa, 6). Gregorian University Press, 2021.**

How does social media promote the throw-away culture and what impact does it have on young people and society on the whole? In this book, Dr. Filipe Domingues discusses how social media both feeds and is driven by the throw-away culture - a concept popularized by Pope Francis - and how online activity impacts the moral and psychosocial concerns of young people today. Domingues uses contemporary media theory to identify the root problems of the throw-away culture and how they are manifest in the media. Based on survey of hundreds of young people of faith and of no faith, conducted for the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Youth, Domingues presents insights into young people's understanding and criticism of social media, as well as their concerns about the morality of life online. In this new space, dominated by the ethics of the throw-away culture, Domingues proposes a new ethic - media solidarity - as the way to embrace "selflessness in the age of selfies."

Dotson, Trevor. *Technically Together: Reconstructing Community in a Networked World*. MIT Press, 2017.

If social interaction by social media has become "the modern front porch" (as one sociologist argues), offering richer and more various contexts for community and personal connection, why do we often feel lonelier after checking Facebook? For one thing, as Taylor Dotson writes in *Technically Together*, "Try getting a Facebook status update to help move a couch or stay for dinner." Dotson argues that the experts who assure us that "networked individualism" will only bring us closer together seem to be urging citizens to adapt their social expectations to the current limits of technology and discouraging them from considering how technologies could be refashioned to enable other ways of relating and belonging.

Dotson characterizes different instantiations of community as "thick" or "thin," depending on the facets and manifestations of togetherness that they encompass. Individuating social networks are a form of community, he explains, but relatively thin in regard to several dimensions of communality.

Dotson points out that current technological practices are not foreordained but supported by policies, economic arrangements, and entrenched patterns of thought. He examines a range of systems, organizations, and infrastructures -- from suburban sprawl and smartphones to energy grids and "cry-it-out" sleep training for infants -- and considers whether they contribute to the atomization of social life or to togetherness and community vibrancy. Dotson argues that technology could support multifaceted communities if citizens stopped accepting the technological status quo and instead demanded more from their ever-present devices.

**Doyle, C. Andrew. *Embodied Liturgy: Virtual Reality and Liturgical Theology in Conversation*. Church Publishing, May 2021.**

**Can the 'reality' of the Eucharist be maintained online?** Author C. Andrew Doyle, in a well-researched and thoughtful study of both virtual reality and liturgy, argues that the Eucharist is not a formulaic rehearsal of words and rituals but an embodied and lived experience. This requires a shared place and presence. While the church should not shy away from virtual ministry, we should be wary of using the technological realm for the celebration of the Eucharist, an act that is an outward and visible sign of our spiritual union with God and one another. It brings us closer to friend and stranger for the transformation of individuals into unity in Christ. The context of the ritual-with people, objects, words, and all sorts of nuance-creates intimacy with God and each other. This unique book is especially timely and will be of interest to scholars, liturgists, and those interested in sacramental theology in the digital age.

Drescher, Elizabeth. *Tweet If You Heart Jesus: Practicing Church in the Digital Reformation*. Morehouse, 2011.

Churches everywhere are scrambling to get linked with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. But are they ready for the Digital Reformation: the dramatic global shift in the nature of faith, social consciousness and relationship that these digital social media have ushered in? *Tweet If You Love Jesus* brings the wisdom of ancient and medieval Christianity into conversation with contemporary theories of cultural change and the realities of social media, all to help churches navigate a landscape where faith, leadership and community have taken on new meanings.

Drew, Jesse. *A Social History of Contemporary Democratic Media*. Routledge, 2015.

The last few decades have helped dispel the myth that media should remain driven by high-end professionals and market share. This book puts forward the concept of "communications from below" in contrast to the "globalization from above" that characterizes many new developments in international organization and media practices. By examining the social and technological roots that influence current media evolution, Drew allows readers to understand not only the Youtubes and Facebooks of today, but to anticipate the trajectory of the technologies to come. Beginning with a look at the inherent weaknesses of the U.S. broadcasting model of mass media, Drew outlines the early 1960s and 1970s experiments in grassroots media, where artists and activists began to re-engineer electronic technologies to target local communities and underserved audiences. From these local projects emerged national and international communications projects, creating production models, social networks and citizen expectations that would challenge traditional means of electronic media and cultural production. Drew's perspective puts the social and cultural use of the user at the center, not the particular media form. Thus the structure of the book focuses on the local, the national, and the global desire

Dyer, John. *From the Garden to the City: The Redeeming and Corrupting Power of Technology*. Kregel Publications, June 2011.

Believers and unbelievers alike are saturated with technology, yet most give it little if any thought. Consumers buy and upgrade as fast as they can, largely unaware of technology's subtle yet powerful influence. In a world where technology changes almost daily, many are left to wonder: Should Christians embrace all that is happening? Are there some technologies that we need to avoid? Does the Bible give us any guidance on how to use digital tools and social media?

Eler, Alicia. *The Selfie Generation: How Our Self Images Are Changing Our Notions of Privacy, Sex, Consent, and Culture*. Skyhorse, 2017.

Whether it's Kim Kardashian uploading picture after picture to Instagram or your roommate posting a mid-vacation shot to Facebook, selfies receive mixed reactions. But are selfies more than, as many critics lament, a symptom of a self-absorbed generation?

Digital native Alicia Eler's *The Selfie Generation* is the first book to delve fully into this ubiquitous and much-maligned part of social media, including why people take them in the first place and the ways they can change how we see ourselves. Eler argues that selfies are just one facet of how we can use digital media to create a personal brand in the modern age. More than just a picture, they can be a positive and important part of a conversation.

Eler examines all aspects of selfies and the generation that has grown up with them. She looks at how the boundaries between people's physical and digital lives have blurred with social media; she explores questions of privacy, consent, ownership, and authenticity; and she points out important issues of sexism and double standards wherein women are encouraged to take them but then become subject to criticism and judgment. *The Selfie Generation* is a compelling and fascinating argument for the power of the selfie and a rebuttal to all those who would dismiss them.

Enstedt, Daniel and Gran Larrson and Enzo Pace (eds.). "Religion and Internet." *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion*. Brill Academic, September 2015.

While the churches are emptying, other virtual religious places - as the religious websites - seem to be filling up. The researcher focusing on religion and internet or digital religion as an object of study must seek answers to a number of questions. Is computer-mediated religious communication a particular communication process whose object is what we conventionally call religion? Or is it a modern, independent form of religious expressiveness that finds its new-born status in the web and its particular language? To examine the questions above, and others, the book collects more empirical data, claiming that the Internet will have a specific or novel impact on how religious traditions are interpreted. The blurring of previous boundaries (offline/online, virtual/local, illegitimate/legitimate religion) is another theme common to all the contributions in this volume.

Ess, Charles. *Digital Media Ethics*. Polity, 2020.

The original edition of this accessible and interdisciplinary textbook was the first to consider the ethical issues of digital media from a global, cross-cultural perspective.

This third edition has been thoroughly updated to incorporate the latest research and developments, including the rise of Big Data, AI, and the Internet of Things. The book's case studies and pedagogical material have also been extensively revised and updated to include such watershed events as the Snowden revelations, #Gamergate, the Cambridge Analytica scandal, privacy policy developments, and the emerging Chinese Social Credit System.

New sections include "Death Online," "Slow/Fair Technology", and material on sexbots. The "ethical toolkit" that introduces prevailing ethical theories and their applications to the central issues of privacy, copyright, pornography and violence, and the ethics of cross-cultural communication online, has likewise been revised and expanded. Each topic and theory are interwoven throughout the volume with detailed sets of questions, additional resources, and suggestions for further research and writing. Together, these enable readers to foster careful reflection upon, writing about, and discussion of these issues and their possible resolutions.

Retaining its student- and classroom-friendly approach, *Digital Media Ethics* will continue to be the go-to textbook for anyone getting to grips with this important topic.

Estes, Douglas. *SimChurch: Being the Church in the Virtual World*. Zondervan, 2009.

The meeting place for the church of tomorrow will be a computer screen. Don't laugh, and don't feel alarmed. The real-world church isn't going anywhere until Jesus returns. But the virtual church is already here, and it's poised for explosive growth. SimChurch invites you to explore the vision, the concerns, the challenges, and the remarkable possibilities of building Christ's kingdom online. What is the virtual church, and what different forms might it take? Will it be an extension of a real-world church, or a separate entity? How will it encourage families to worship together? Is it even possible or healthy to "be" the church in the virtual world? If you're passionate about the church and evangelism, and if you feel both excitement and concern over the new virtual world the internet is creating, then these are just some of the vital issues you and other postmillennial followers of Jesus must grapple with. Rich in both biblical and current insight, combining exploration and critique, SimChurch opens a long-overdue discussion you can't afford to miss.

**Eyal, Nir. *Indistractable: How to Control Your Attention and Choose Your Life*. BenBella Books, 2019.**

Felton, D.A. "The unavoidable dialogue: five interfaces between theology and communication." *Media Development* 39 (1989): 17-23.

Flores, Suzana. *Facehooked: How Facebook Affects Our Emotions, Relationships, and Lives*. Reputation Books, 2016.

The number of Facebook users worldwide exceeded one billion in August of 2012. With the increase in Facebook users, psychologists have seen an alarming increase in the number of Facebook related complaints from their clients. Dr. Suzana Flores, clinical psychologist, has interviewed Facebook users of all ages for three years exploring the positive and negative features of Facebook and evaluating the effect it has on our lives. *Facehooked* explores the problems most commonly found on Facebook, including controversial topics such as self-esteem, privacy, peer pressure, stalking, emotional manipulation, among others. Readers are not only provided with practical tools to help identify and avoid unhealthy behaviors, but also suggestions for healthier interaction on Facebook.

Ford, Dennis. *A Theology for a Mediated God: How Media Shapes Our Notions of Divinity*. Routledge, 2015.

*A Theology for a Mediated God* introduces a new way to examine the shaping effects of media on our notions of God and divinity. In contrast to more conventional social-scientific methodologies and conversations about the relationship between religion and media, Dennis Ford argues that the characteristics we ascribe to a medium can be extended and applied metaphorically to the characteristics we ascribe to God—just as earlier generations attempted to comprehend God through the metaphors of father, shepherd, or mother. As a result, his work both challenges and bridges the gap between students of religion and media, and theology.

Fortner, Robert S. *Communication, Media, and Identity: A Christian Theory of Communication* (Communication, Culture, and Religion). Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.

*Communication, Media, and Identity: A Christian Theory of Communication* is the first comprehensive theoretical look at the nature of communication from a biblical Christian perspective. This groundbreaking new work discusses the implications of such a theory for interpersonal relations, use of media, and the development of digital culture in the wake of the computer. It also draws widely from the literature of the secular world, critiquing perspectives where necessary and adopting perspectives that are in line with

Christian anthropology, epistemology, and ontology. Through this unique lens, the reader is able to understand communication as an art, as a tool for evangelism, and as a unique human activity that allows people to have a stake in the creation. It covers both mediated and non-mediated forms of communication, is sensitive to theological differences within the Christian faith, and examines closely the problem of technology, and especially digital technology, for the practice of communication. As the newest book in the Communication, Culture, and Religion Series, Robert Fortner's work illuminates the theological aspects of communication.

**Freitas, Donna. *The Happiness Effect: How Social Media is Driving a Generation to Appear Perfect at Any Cost*. Oxford University Press, 2017.**

Sexting. Cyberbullying. Narcissism. Social media has become the dominant force in young people's lives, and each day seems to bring another shocking tale of private pictures getting into the wrong hands, or a lament that young people feel compelled to share their each and every thought with the entire world. Have smartphones and social media created a generation of self-obsessed egomaniacs?

Absolutely not, Donna Freitas argues in this provocative book. And, she says, these alarmist fears are drawing attention away from the real issues that young adults are facing.

Drawing on a large-scale survey and interviews with students on thirteen college campuses, Freitas finds that what young people are overwhelmingly concerned with--what they really want to talk about--is happiness. They face enormous pressure to look perfect online--not just happy, but blissful, ecstatic, and fabulously successful. Unable to achieve this impossible standard, they are anxious about letting the less-than-perfect parts of themselves become public. Far from wanting to share everything, they are brutally selective when it comes to curating their personal profiles, and worry obsessively that they might unwittingly post something that could come back to haunt them later in life. Through candid conversations with young people from diverse backgrounds, Freitas reveals how even the most well-adjusted individuals can be stricken by self-doubt when they compare their experiences with the vast collective utopia that they see online. And sometimes, as on anonymous platforms like Yik Yak, what they see instead is a depressing cesspool of racism and misogyny. Yet young people are also extremely attached to their smartphones and apps, which sometimes bring them great pleasure. It is very much a love-hate relationship.

While much of the public's attention has been focused on headline-grabbing stories, the everyday struggles and joys of young people have remained under the radar. Freitas brings their feelings to the fore, in the words of young people themselves. *The Happiness Effect* is an eye-opening window into their first-hand experiences of social media and its impact on them.

**Frosh, Paul. *The Poetics of Digital Media*. Polity, 2019.**

Media are poetic forces. They produce and reveal worlds, representing them to our senses and connecting them to our lives. While the poetic powers of media are perceptual, symbolic, social and technical, they are also profoundly moral and existential. They matter for how we reflect upon and act in a shared, everyday world of finite human existence. *The Poetics of Digital Media* explores the poetic work of media in digital culture. Developing an argument through close readings of overlooked or denigrated media objects and practices – screenshots, tagging on social media, selfies, and more – the book reveals how media act as poetic infrastructures, continually populating the world with beings and scenarios to be encountered, while also creating poetic performances, making the world available for apprehension, recognition and reflection. Paul Frosh analyses how media shape the experiential structures of our lives, and enable their revelation through (sometimes shocking) moments of visibility and tangibility. Bringing us face to face with the conditions of our existence, he investigates how the

'given' world we inhabit is given through media. *The Poetics of Digital Media* is important reading for students and scholars of media theory, philosophy of media, visual culture and media aesthetics.

Fuchs, Christian. *Social Media: A Critical Introduction*. SAGE, 2013.

Now more than ever, we need to understand social media - the good as well as the bad. We need critical knowledge that helps us to navigate the controversies and contradictions of this complex digital media landscape. Only then can we make informed judgements about what's happening in our media world, and why. Showing the reader how to ask the right kinds of questions about social media, Christian Fuchs takes us on a journey across social media, delving deep into case studies on Google, Facebook, Twitter, WikiLeaks and Wikipedia. The result lays bare the structures and power relations at the heart of our media landscape. This book is the essential, critical guide for all students of media studies and sociology. Readers will never look at social media the same way again.

**Gan, Eugene. *Infinite Bandwidth: Encountering Christ in the Media*. Steubenville, OH: Emmaus Road, 2010.**

Franciscan University of Steubenville Professor Eugene Gan authors this first-of-its-kind Catholic roadmap for the digital age: *Infinite Bandwidth: Encountering Christ in the Media*. He navigates you faithfully through the digital world, encouraging frustrated parents not to throw out cell phones, ban the Internet, chuck computers, or pitch portable media devices. That would be a mistake and believe it or not would be going against more than seven decades of Catholic teaching. From Church documents on social communications, Gan extracts seven principles or media keys of how to approach and use media. The Church and Gan say that we must enter into the modern day Areopagus, the social and intellectual hub of ancient Athens where Paul preached to pagans, and use the media tools God has given us to make truth known and serve mankind. Cardinal John Patrick Foley says, Frankly, I wish that such a book had existed when I was president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications as a text which I could have recommended. The important thing, however, is that it exists now to provide a text, context, and challenge for those who wish to bring both Christian principles and professional excellence to their work in the media.

Gan offers chapter after chapter of real-life experience of how to assess movies, games, and gadgets for you and your teens. Of how to judge the merits of a film like *Saving Private Ryan*, and what sets it apart from *Nightmare on Elm Street*. Can the one be acceptable viewing and the other not? Definitely. And Gan details why. *Infinite Bandwidth: Encountering Christ in the Media* is way out front of the newest gizmo and will stay there thanks to its timeless principles that can be applied in all digital terrain, now and the future. Parents, educators, and students will put this book down with an entirely different attitude about the relationship between faith and media use.

Gazzaley, Adam. *The Distracted Mind: Ancient Brains in a High-Tech World*. The MIT Press, 2016.

Most of us will freely admit that we are obsessed with our devices. We pride ourselves on our ability to multitask -- read work email, reply to a text, check Facebook, watch a video clip. Talk on the phone, send a text, drive a car. Enjoy family dinner with a glowing smartphone next to our plates. We can do it all, 24/7! Never mind the errors in the email, the near-miss on the road, and the unheard conversation at the table. In *The Distracted Mind*, Adam Gazzaley and Larry Rosen -- a neuroscientist and a psychologist -- explain why our brains aren't built for multitasking, and suggest better ways to live in a high-tech world without giving up our modern technology.

The authors explain that our brains are limited in their ability to pay attention. We don't really multitask but rather switch rapidly between tasks. Distractions and interruptions, often technology-related --

referred to by the authors as "interference" -- collide with our goal-setting abilities. We want to finish this paper/spreadsheet/sentence, but our phone signals an incoming message and we drop everything. Even without an alert, we decide that we "must" check in on social media immediately.

Gazzaley and Rosen offer practical strategies, backed by science, to fight distraction. We can change our brains with meditation, video games, and physical exercise; we can change our behavior by planning our accessibility and recognizing our anxiety about being out of touch even briefly. They don't suggest that we give up our devices, but that we use them in a more balanced way.

George, Susan. *Religion and Technology in the 21st Century: Faith in the E-world*. Hershey, PA: Information Science Publishing, 2006.

Technology has impacted every area of life, including religion. The use of sound systems and computers in public religious expression is just one way technology is being used in religious circles. Yet, what is often overlooked is the way that religion is shaping technology through philosophy and morality. *Religion and Technology in the 21st Century* examines the relationship of the two areas, and provides insight into the impacts religion and technology have on humanity. In examining the dual impact, the book points to a synergy that has traditionally been missed in previous research into technology or religion.

Gerbaudo, Paolo. *Tweets and the Streets: Social Media and Contemporary Activism*. Pluto Press, 2012.

*Tweets and the Streets* analyses the culture of the new protest movements of the 21st century. From the Arab Spring to the 'indignados' protests in Spain and the Occupy movement, Paolo Gerbaudo examines the relationship between the rise of social media and the emergence of new forms of protest. Gerbaudo argues that activists' use of Twitter and Facebook does not fit with the image of a 'cyberspace' detached from physical reality. Instead, social media is used as part of a project of re-appropriation of public space, which involves the assembling of different groups around 'occupied' places such as Cairo's Tahrir Square or New York's Zuccotti Park. An exciting and invigorating journey through the new politics of dissent, *Tweets and the Streets* points both to the creative possibilities and to the risks of political evanescence which new media brings to the contemporary protest experience.

Goggin, Gerard and Larissa Hjorth (eds.). *The Routledge Companion to Mobile Media*. Routledge, 2013.

Introduction: Mobile Media Research — State of the Art *Gerard Goggin and Larissa Hjorth* Part 1: Fields of Mobile Media 1. Observing Multimedia *Ilpo Koskinen* 2. Understanding the Role of Mobile Media in Society: Models and Theories *Leopoldina Fortunati* 3. Theorizing Mobile Communication in the Intimate Sphere *Rich Ling* 4. Localizing Mobile Media: A Philippine Perspective *Raul Pertierra* 5. Mobile Locative Media: The Nexus of Mobile Phones and Social Media *James E. Katz and Chih-Hui Lai*

Part II: Infrastructures, Economies, and Policies 6. Structure of Mobile Telecommunications Markets: Operators *Peter Curwen and Jason Whalley* 7. Next Generation Mobile Networks and Technologies: Impact on Mobile Media *Claudio Feijóo* 8. Mobile Media and Next Generation Broadband: Policy and Markets *Catherine Middleton* 9. The Democratization of Internet Access through Mobile Adoption in Latin America *Judith Mariscal, Lucía Gamboa, and César Rentería Marín* 10. Informal Mobile Economies *Ramon Lobato and Julian Thomas*

Part III: New and Old Media and Entertainment 11. Small, Cheap, and Out of Control: Reflections on the Transistor Radio *Noah Arceneaux* 12. The Production and Consumption of News in an Age of Mobile Media *Oscar Westlund* 13. Mobile Video: Spreading Stories with Mobile Media *Gerard Goggin* 14. A Decade of Mobile Moving-Image Practice *Max Schleser* 15. The Smartphone Apps Economy and Apps

Ecosystems *Ben Goldsmith* 16. Feeding Digital Omnivores: The Impact of Mobile Media in Digital Entertainment *Juan Miguel Aguado and Inmaculada J. Martínez*

Part IV: Arts of Mobile Media 17. Mobile Art: Out of Your Pocket *Mimi Sheller* 18. Arte.mov, Mobilefest and the Emergence of a Mobile Culture in Brazil *Fernanda Duarte and Adriana De Souza e Silva* 19. Genealogy of Mobile Creativity: A Media Archaeological Approach to Literary Practice in Japan *Kyoung-hwa Yonnie Kim* 20. Does Mobile Matter?: The Case of One-Off Reading *Naomi S. Baron* 21. Learning with Mobile Media *Fumitoshi Kato* 22. Mobile Media Photography *Daniel Palmer* 23. Mobile Games: From Tetris to Foursquare *Ingrid Richardson and Larissa Hjorth* 24. Paying Attention to Angry Birds: Rarticulating Hybrid Worlds and Embodied Play through Casual iPhone Games *Brendan Keogh*

Part V: New Social Categories, Identities, and Practices 25. Ageing Mobile Media *Barbara Crow and Kim Sawchuk* 26. The Social in the Mobile: QQ as Cross-Generational Media in China *Larissa Hjorth, Jack Linchuan Qui, Baohua Zhou, and Ding Wei* 27. Children and the Mobile Internet *Leslie Haddon and Kjartan Ólafsson* 28. The Emotional Identity of the Mobile Phone *Jane Vincent and Leopoldina Fortunati* 29. Mobile Media and the Emotion Work of the Household *Lynn Schofield Clark* 30. Bricks, Spies and Shoe Phones: Researching Mobile Media in Work and Professional Life *Justine Humphry* 31. Mobilities and Race *Judith A. Nicholson* 32. Women, 'Double Work' and Mobile Media: The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same *Sun Sun Lim* 33. The Use of Mobile Media and the Struggle for Women's Empowerment *Kathleen M. Cumiskey* 34. Masculinity, Sport and Mobile Phones: A Case Study of Surfing *Clifton Evers* 35. Tactics of Wellbeing: Mobile Media and a New Turn in the Human-Food Relationship *Jaz Hee-jeong Choi* 36. Mobile Sentimental Education: Attachment, Recognition and Modulations of Intimacy *Amparo Lasén*

Part VI: Cultures and Politics 37. Mobile Communication and Civic Life: Implications of Private and Public Uses of the Technology *Scott W. Campbell and Nojin Kwak* 38. Political Communication, the Internet, and the Mobile Media: The Case of *Passion Times* in Hong Kong *Pui-lam Law* 39. Mobile Ensembles: The Uses of Mobile Phones for Social Protest by Spain's Indignados *Arnau Monterde and John Postill* 40. Locating Labor in Mobile Media Studies *Greg de Peuter, Enda Brophy, and Nicole S. Cohen* 41. Pavement Internet: Mobile Media Economies and Ecologies in South Africa *Marion Walton* 42. The Aesthetics of Mobile Money Platforms in Haiti *Erin B. Taylor and Heather A. Horst*

Part VII: Geographies of Mobile Social Media 43. Mobile Phone Usage in Turkana, Kenya *Ichijo Habuchi* 44. The Digital Wayfarer: Reconceptualising Camera Phone Practices In An Age Of Locative Media *Sarah Pink and Larissa Hjorth* 45. Intimate Banalities: The Emotional Currency of Shared Camera Phone Images during the Queensland Flood Disaster *Larissa Hjorth and Jean Burgess* 46. Mobile Media, Place, and Location *Rowan Wilken* 47. Storytelling with Mobile Media: Exploring the Intersection of Site-Specificity, Content, and Materiality *Jason Farman*

**Gould, Meredith. *The Social Media Gospel: Sharing the Good News in New Ways*. Liturgical Press, 2013.**

Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, and a growing number of other social media tools can help you build church, deepen faith, and extend your reach in previously unimaginable ways. In this easy-to-understand, step-by-step guide to digital ministry, church communications professional Meredith Gould goes beyond "how to" and explains "why to" engage your parish in the world of social media.

Social media tools make it possible to share conversations and content with the long-time faithful, disaffected millennials, the homebound, and spiritual seekers within and beyond church-the-building. Inspired by the Gospel and centered on Christ, *The Social Media Gospel* gently guides you and your church leaders and volunteers through the rapidly changing world of social media, helping you preach the Good News in new ways.

Grant, August, F.C. Sturgill, Chiung Hwang Chen, and Daniel A. Stout (eds.). *Religion Online: How Digital Technology Is Changing the Way We Worship and Pray* [2 vols.]. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2019.

Greenhill, Anita and Marie Gillespie and David Herbert. *Social Media, Religion, and Spirituality*. DeGruyter, 2012.

Groothuis, Douglas. *The Soul in Cyberspace*. Wipf & Stock, 1997.

Guzman, Andrea (ed.). *Human-Machine Communication: Rethinking Communication, Technology, and Ourselves*. Peter Lang, 2018.

From virtual assistants to social robots, people are increasingly interacting with intelligent and highly communicative technologies throughout their daily lives. This shift from communicating with people to communicating with people and machines challenges how scholars have theorized and studied communication. *Human-Machine Communication: Rethinking Communication, Technology, and Ourselves* addresses this transition in how people communicate and who, or what, they communicate with and the implications of this evolution for communication research. Geared toward scholars interested in people's interactions with technology, this book serves as an introduction to human-machine communication (HMC) as a specific area of study within communication (encompassing human-computer interaction, human-robot interaction, and human-agent interaction) and to the research possibilities of HMC. This collection includes papers presented as part of a scholarly conference on HMC, along with invited works from noted researchers. Topics include defining HMC, theoretical approaches to HMC, applications of HMC, and the larger implications of HMC for self and society. The research presented here focuses on people's interactions with multiple technologies (artificial intelligence, algorithms, and robots) used within different contexts (home, workplace, education, journalism, and healthcare) from a variety of epistemological and methodological approaches (empirical, rhetorical, and critical/cultural). Overall, *Human-Machine Communication* provides readers with an understanding of HMC in a way that supports and promotes further scholarly inquiry in a growing area of communication research.

Hadden, Jeffrey and Douglas Cowan (eds.) *Religion on the Internet* (Religion and the Social Order, Vol 8). Emerald Group Publishing, 2000.

"Religion on the Internet" is the first systematic inquiry into the nature, scope and content of religion in cyberspace. Contributors to this volume include leading social scientists engaged in systematic studies of how organizations and individuals are presenting religion on the Internet. Their combined efforts provide a conceptual mapping of religion in cyberspace at this moment. The individual papers and collective insights found in this volume add up to a valuable agenda of research that will enrich understanding of this new phenomenon. Among the contributors are the founders of three of the most important scholarly religion web sites on the Internet: American Religion Data Archive, Religious Tolerance, and Religious Movements Homepage. "Religion and the Internet" is essential reading for all who seek to understand how religion is being presented on the Internet and how this topic is likely to unfold in the years ahead.

Han, Byung-Chul. *In the Swarm: Digital Prospects (Untimely Meditations)*. The MIT Press, 2017.

Digital communication and social media have taken over our lives. In this contrarian reflection on digitized life, Byung-Chul Han counters the cheerleaders for Twitter revolutions and Facebook activism by arguing that digital communication is in fact responsible for the disintegration of community and public space and is slowly eroding any possibility for real political action and meaningful political discourse. In the predigital, analog era, by the time an angry letter to the editor had been composed, mailed, and received,

the immediate agitation had passed. Today, digital communication enables instantaneous, impulsive reaction, meant to express and stir up outrage on the spot. “The shitstorm,” writes Han, “represents an authentic phenomenon of digital communication.” Meanwhile, the public, the senders and receivers of these communications have become a digital swarm—not a mass, or a crowd, or Negri and Hardt’s antiquated notion of a “multitude,” but a set of isolated individuals incapable of forming a “we,” incapable of calling dominant power relations into question, incapable of formulating a future because of an obsession with the present. The digital swarm is a fragmented entity that can focus on individual persons only in order to make them an object of scandal. Han, one of the most widely read philosophers in Europe today, describes a society in which information has overrun thought, in which the same algorithms are employed by Facebook, the stock market, and the intelligence services. Democracy is under threat because digital communication has made freedom and control indistinguishable. Big Brother has been succeeded by Big Data.

**Han, Byung-Chul. *Non-Things: Upheaval in the Life World*. Polity, July 2022.**

We no longer inhabit earth and dwell under the sky: these are being replaced by Google Earth and the Cloud. The terrestrial order is giving way to a digital order, the world of things is being replaced by a world of non-things – a constantly expanding ‘infosphere’ of information and communication which displaces objects and obliterates any stillness and calmness in our lives. Byung-Chul Han’s critique of the infosphere highlights the price we are paying for our growing preoccupation with information and communication. Today we search for more information without gaining any real knowledge. We communicate constantly without participating in a community. We save masses of data without keeping track of our memories. We accumulate friends and followers without encountering other people. This is how information develops a form of life that has no stability or duration. And as we become increasingly absorbed in the infosphere, we lose touch with the magic of things which provide a stable environment for dwelling and give continuity to human life. The infosphere may seem to grant us new freedoms but it creates new forms of control too, and it cuts us off from the kind of freedom that is tied to acting in the world. This new book by one of the most creative cultural theorists writing today will be of interest to a wide readership.

Hanson, Ralph. *YouSeeU for Mass Communication: Living in a Media World*. SAGE Publications, May 2017.

Harley, Dave and Julie Morgan and Hannah Frith. *Cyberpsychology as Everyday Digital Experience across the Lifespan*. Palgrave, 2018.

Digital technologies are deeply embedded in everyday life with opportunities for information access and perpetual social contact now mediating most of our activities and relationships. This book expands the lens of Cyberpsychology to consider how digital experiences play out across the various stages of people’s lives.

Most psychological research has focused on whether human-technology interactions are a ‘good’ or a ‘bad’ thing for humanity. This book offers a distinctive approach to the emergent area of Cyberpsychology, moving beyond these binary dilemmas and considering how popular technologies have come to frame human experience and relationships. In particular the authors explore the role of significant life stages in defining the evolving purpose of digital technologies. They discuss how people’s symbiotic relationship with digital technologies has started to redefine our childhoods, how we experience ourselves, how we make friends, our experience of being alone, how we have sex and form romantic relationships, our capacity for being antisocial as well as the experience of growing older and dying. This interdisciplinary book will be of great interest to scholars and practitioners across psychology, digital technology and media studies as well as anyone interested in how technology influences our behaviour.

Harris, Michael. *The End of Absence: Reclaiming What We've Lost in a World of Constant Connection*. Current Hardcover, August 2014.

"Every revolution in communication technology—from papyrus to the printing press to Twitter—is as much an opportunity to be drawn away from something as it is to be drawn toward something. And yet, as we embrace a technology's gifts, we usually fail to consider what we're giving up in the process. Why would we bother to register the end of solitude, of ignorance, of lack? Why would we care that an absence had disappeared?"

Soon enough, nobody will remember life before the Internet. What does this unavoidable fact mean?

For future generations, it won't mean anything very obvious. They will be so immersed in online life that questions about the Internet's basic purpose or meaning will vanish.

But those of us who have lived both with and without the crowded connectivity of online life have a rare opportunity. We can still recognize the difference between Before and After. We catch ourselves idly reaching for our phones at the bus stop. Or we notice how, mid-conversation, a fumbling friend dives into the perfect recall of Google.

In this eloquent and thought-provoking book, Michael Harris argues that amid all the changes we're experiencing, the most interesting is the one that future generations will find hardest to grasp. That is the end of absence—the loss of lack. The daydreaming silences in our lives are filled; the burning solitudes are extinguished. There's no true "free time" when you carry a smartphone. Today's rarest commodity is the chance to be alone with your own thoughts.

To understand our predicament, and what we should do about it, Harris explores this "loss of lack" in chapters devoted to every corner of our lives, from sex and commerce to memory and attention span. His book is a kind of witness for the "straddle generation"—a burst of empathy for those of us who suspect that our technologies use us as much as we use them.

By placing our situation in a rich historical context, Harris helps us remember which parts of that earlier world we don't want to lose forever. He urges us to look up—even briefly—from our screens. To remain awake to what came before. To again take pleasure in absence.

Harrison, Guy. *Think Before You Like: Social Media's Effect on the Brain and the Tools You Need to Navigate Your Newsfeed*. Prometheus, 2017.

Social media has more than two billion users and continues to grow. Its widespread appeal as a means of staying in touch with friends and keeping up with daily news masks some serious pitfalls-- misinformation, pseudoscience, fraud, and irrational beliefs, for example, often presented in a seductively attractive form. This book will teach you how to resist the psychological and behavioral manipulation of social media and avoid the mistakes that millions have already made and now regret.

Guy P. Harrison, an enthusiastic promoter of critical thinking, presents scientific studies that show why your subconscious mind loves social media and how that can work against your ability to critically evaluate information. Among other things, social media reinforces your biases, clouds your judgment with images that leave a false impression, and fills your brain with anecdotes that become cheap substitutes for objective data. The very nature of the technology keeps you in a bubble; by tracking your preferences it sends only filtered newsfeeds, so that you

rarely see anything that might challenge your set notions.

Harrison explores the implications of having digital "friends" and the effects on mood, self-esteem, and the cultivation of friendship in the real world. He discusses how social media affects attention spans and the ability to consider issues in depth. And he suggests ways to protect yourself against privacy invasion, cyberstalking, catfishing, trolls, misuse of photos, and fake news masquerading as credible journalism.

While making clear that social media is here to stay, Harrison demonstrates how critical thinking can enhance its benefits while giving users the skills to guard against its dangers.

Hart, Archibald and Sylvia Hart Frejd. *The Digital Invasion: How Technology Is Shaping You and Your Relationships*. Baker Books, 2013.

In the world of technology, there are just two kinds of people: digital natives and digital immigrants. Digital natives are those born after the advent of the internet. They are comfortable with swift technological change and take the presence of technology in their lives almost completely for granted. They have "digital DNA" flowing through their bodies. On the other hand, digital immigrants are those born before the advent of the internet. Their comfort level with our technology-soaked world is more variable. But they are affected by the digital invasion just as much as their native children.

With the latest research supporting them, Dr. Archibald Hart and Dr. Sylvia Hart Frejd uncover both the subtle and the dramatic ways digital technology is changing us from within, focusing their exposure on the impact on the spiritual life of individuals. Through insights from neuroscience and psychology, they offer readers therapeutic and biblical strategies for handling the digital invasion in order to become good stewards of their digital lives. Parents, educators, students, counselors, and pastors will especially appreciate this cultural wake-up call.

Hartmann, Maren and Elizabeth Prommer and Karin Deckner and Stephan Gorland (eds.). *Mediated Time: Perspectives on Time in a Digital Age*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

Exploring mediated time, this book contemplates how far (and in what ways) media and time are intertwined from a diverse set of theoretical and empirical angles. It builds from theoretical discussions concerning the question of mediation and the normative framing of time (especially acceleration) and works its way through questions of time for/of one's own, resisting temporalities, polychronicity, in-between-time, simultaneity and other time concepts.

It further examines specific time frames, imaginations of a media future and the past, questions of online journalism and multitasking or liveness. Bringing together authors from diverse backgrounds, this collection presents a rich combination of milestone articles, new empirical research, enriching theoretical work and interviews with leading researchers to bridge sociology, media studies, and science and technology studies in one of the first book-length publications on the emerging field of media and time.

Heimans, Jeremy and Henry Timms. *New Power: How Power Works in Our Hyperconnected World--and How to Make It Work for You*. Doubleday, 2018.

*The definitive guide to spreading ideas, building movements, and leaping ahead in our chaotic, connected age. Get the book New York Times columnist David Brooks calls "the best window I've seen into this new world."*

Why do some leap ahead while others fall behind in our chaotic, connected age? In *New Power*, Jeremy Heimans and Henry Timms confront the biggest stories of our time--the rise of mega-platforms like Facebook and Uber; the out-of-nowhere victories of Obama and Trump; the unexpected emergence of movements like #MeToo--and reveal what's really behind them: the rise of "new power."

For most of human history, the rules of power were clear: power was something to be seized and then jealously guarded. This "old power" was out of reach for the vast majority of people. But our ubiquitous connectivity makes possible a different kind of power. "New power" is made by many. It is open, participatory, and peer-driven. It works like a current, not a currency--and it is most forceful when it surges. The battle between old and new power is determining who governs us, how we work, and even how we think and feel.

*New Power* shines fresh light on the cultural phenomena of our day, from #BlackLivesMatter to the Ice Bucket Challenge to Airbnb, uncovering the new power forces that made them huge. Drawing on examples from business, activism, and pop culture, as well as the study of organizations like Lego, NASA, Reddit, and TED, Heimans and Timms explain how to build new power and channel it successfully. They also explore the dark side of these forces: the way ISIS has co-opted new power to monstrous ends, and the rise of the alt-right's "intensity machine."

Herzfeld, Noreen. *Technology and Religion: Remaining Human in a Co-created World* (Templeton Science and Religion Series) Templeton, 2009.

In order to consider fully a topic as wide as technology, Herzfeld approaches the field from three different angles: technologies of the human body—such as genetic engineering, stem cells, cloning, pharmaceutical technologies, mechanical enhancement and cyborgs; technologies of the human mind—like human and artificial intelligence, virtual reality and cyberspace; and technologies of the external environment—such as nanotechnology, genetically modified crops and new agricultural technologies, and energy technology. She takes a similarly broad approach to the field of religion, focusing on how these issues interface with the three Abrahamic traditions of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Throughout, readers will find nuanced examinations of the moral and ethical issues surrounding new technologies from the perspectives of these faith traditions.

Herring, Hayim and Terri Martinson Elton. *Leading Congregations and Nonprofits in a Connected World: Platforms, People, and Purpose*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

*Leading Congregations and Nonprofits in a Connected World* shares emerging practices for leading and organizing congregations and nonprofits in our increasingly networked lives. Drawing on studies of congregations across denominations, and nonprofits with historic ties to faith communities, Hayim Herring and Terri Elton share practical, research-based guidance for how these organizations can more deeply engage with their communities and advance their impact in a socially connected world.

Heyer, David and Peter Urguhard (eds.). *Communication: Communication in History: Stone Age Symbols to Social Media* (7th edition). Routledge, 2018.

*Communication in History* reveals how media has been influential in both maintaining social order and as powerful agents of change. Thirty-eight contributions from a wide range of voices offer instructors the opportunity to customize their courses while challenging students to build upon their own knowledge and skill sets. From stone-age symbols and early writing to the Internet and social media, readers are introduced to an expansive, intellectually enlivening study of the relationship between human history and communication media.

Hinton, Sam and Larissa Hjorth. *Understanding Social Media*. SAGE, 2013.

Understanding Social Media provides a critical and timely conceptual toolbox for navigating the evolution and practices of social media. Taking an interdisciplinary and intercultural approach, this book provides a clear and concise explanation of the key concepts but also goes beyond specific brands, sites and practices to show readers how to place social media more critically within the changing media and cultural landscape. As an aid to understanding, key concepts in each chapter are illustrated by case studies to give real-world examples of theory in action. Cutting across the many dimensions of social media, from the political, economic and visual, this book explores the industries, ideologies and cultural practices that are increasingly becoming part of global popular culture.

Hipps, Shane. *Flickering Pixels: How Technology Shapes Your Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.

Flickering pixels are the tiny dots of light that make up the screens of life---from TVs to cell phones. They are nearly invisible, but they change us. In this provocative book, author Shane Hipps takes readers beneath the surface of things to see how the technologies we use end up using us. Not all is dire, however, as Hipps shows us that hidden things have far less power to shape us when they aren't hidden anymore. We are only puppets of our technology if we remain asleep. Flickering Pixels will wake us up--- and nothing will look the same again.

Hipps, Shane. *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: Media, Faith, the Gospel, and the Church*. El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties, 2006.

It has been said, 'the future is now.' From cell phones to mp3 players to the Internet, no previous age has seen such profound change manifested so quickly. But these thrilling, dizzying transformations are forcing the church to decide where it fits in all this progress. Shane Hipps presents the promise and peril of the emerging culture and its relationship to the emerging church. Looking beyond the details of what's happening in communities of faith, Hipps analyzes the broader impact of technology and media on the church while engaging readers with questions such as: \* Is media/technology value-neutral? \* How has technology changed the way we think about Scripture, community, and worship? \* What cultural opportunities has the church missed? \* How should the church position itself to take advantage of coming cultural trends? Providing both history and prophecy, *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture* invites us to engage new cultural realities while staying connected to our spiritual heritage.

Højsgaard, M.T. and M. Warburg (eds.). *Religion and Cyberspace*. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Hoffman, Mandy. *#ReformingSocialMedia: Using Social Media to Glorify God Rather than Self*. Amazon Digital, 2014.

Do you ever feel frustrated by all the drama on Facebook? Do you ever feel anxiety over your children and teenagers using social media? Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the many social media options and wonder if it's really worth it? In *#ReformingSocialMedia*, you'll not only explore how to use social media, but also why you should even care about it in the first place. Mandy Hoffman will help you understand social media terms and platforms, and addresses how the Bible can (and should) inform our use of social media. You'll learn how to glorify God through social media, even in difficult situations.

Holt, Jennifer and Kevin Sanson (eds.). *Connected Viewing: Selling, Streaming, and Sharing Media in the Digital Age*. Routledge, 2014.

As patterns of media use become more integrated with mobile technologies and multiple screens, a new mode of viewer engagement has emerged in the form of connected viewing, which allows for an array of new relationships between audiences and media texts in the digital space. This exciting new collection brings together twelve original essays that critically engage with the socially-networked, multi-platform, and cloud-based world of today, examining the connected viewing phenomenon across television, film, video games, and social media.

The result is a wide-ranging analysis of shifting business models, policy matters, technological infrastructure, new forms of user engagement, and other key trends affecting screen media in the digital era. *Connected Viewing* contextualizes the dramatic transformations taking place across both media industries and national contexts, and offers students and scholars alike a diverse set of methods and perspectives for studying this critical moment in media culture.

Hoover, Stewart (ed.). *The Media and Religious Authority*. Penn State University Press, Aug 2017.

As the availability and use of media platforms continue to expand, the cultural visibility of religion is on the rise, leading to questions about religious authority: Where does it come from? How is it established? What might be changing it? The contributors to *The Media and Religious Authority* examine the ways in which new centers of power and influence are emerging as religions seek to “brand” themselves in the media age. Putting their in-depth, incisive studies of particular instances of media production and reception in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and North America into conversation with one another, the volume explores how evolving mediations of religion in various places affect the prospects, aspirations, and durability of religious authority across the globe. An insightful combination of theoretical groundwork and individual case studies, *The Media and Religious Authority* invites us to rethink the relationships among the media, religion, and culture. The contributors are Karina Kosicki Bellotti, Alexandra Boutros, Pauline Hope Cheong, Peter Horsfield, Christine Hoff Kraemer, Joonseong Lee, Alf Linderman, Bahiyyah Maroon, Montréal Aza Missouri, and Emily Zeamer, with an afterword by Lynn Schofield Clark.

Hoover, Stewart M. *Religion in the Media Age* (Media, Religion and Culture) Routledge, 2006

Horsfeld, Peter and Mary Hess and Adan Medrano (eds.). *Belief In Media: Cultural Perspectives On Media And Christianity*. Ashgate, 2004.

Most works on media developments and Christianity approach the subject from the perspective of the implications of new media technologies for traditional Christian practices or how churches can use new media to further their goals. The common framework of analysis is a 'given reality' of traditional institutional Christianity and how it interacts with, affects and is affected by media. Media are treated as a separate cultural reality. This book presents, in an accessible form, the new directions that approach the interaction of media and religion from a cultural perspective, and illustrates these new directions by a number of international and intercultural case studies and explorations. Looking at how global media are constructing cultural forms, structures and processes, the authors show how these have become the life out of which individual and social meaning is created and practiced. Examining how individuals create religious meaning by interacting with media of various kinds, crossing boundaries of traditional religious cultures and contemporary media cultures, this book reveals how Christian institutions are also defined in the process of living culturally within their broader media context.

Howard, Robert Glen. *Digital Jesus: The Making of a New Christian Fundamentalist Community on the Internet* (New and Alternative Religions). NYU Press, 2011

In the 1990s, Marilyn Agee developed one of the most well-known amateur evangelical websites focused on the "End Times", The Bible Prophecy Corner. Around the same time, Lambert Dolphin, a retired Stanford physicist, started the website Lambert's Library to discuss with others online how to experience

the divine. While Marilyn and Lambert did not initially correspond directly, they have shared several correspondents in common. Even as early as 1999 it was clear that they were members of the same online network of Christians, a virtual church built around those who embraced a common ideology. Digital Jesus documents how such like-minded individuals created a large web of religious communication on the Internet, in essence developing a new type of new religious movement—one without a central leader or institution. Based on over a decade of interaction with figures both large and small within this community, Robert Glenn Howard offers the first sustained ethnographic account of the movement as well as a realistic and pragmatic view of how new communication technologies can both empower and disempower the individuals who use them. By tracing the group's origins back to the email lists and "Usenet" groups of the 1980s up to the online forums of today, Digital Jesus also serves as a succinct history of the development of online group communications.

Hrynshyn, Derek. *The Limits of the Digital Revolution: How Mass Media Endures in a Social Media World*. Praeger, 2017

This academic analysis explores social media, specifically examining its influence on the cultural, political, and economic organization of our society and the role capitalism plays within its domain.

- Explores the use of blogs, Facebook, and Twitter in revolutionary political action and the effects of "viral" campaigns on political culture
- Uncovers the truth behind piracy infringements on popular cultural industries
- Reveals the hidden factors driving the rapid expansion of social media
- Discusses how capitalism affects the development of social media
- Examines how social media shares characteristics with and differs from mass media

Hug, Lauren. *Digital Kindness: Being Human in a Hyper-Connected World*. Lauren Collier, 2019.

Our world needs kindness right now. Social media is flooded with anger, frustration, fear, despair, and negativity. Technology allows us to interact instantly, but people feel ignored, unheard, misunderstood, discouraged, alone. What if we choose to change that? What if we use digital media to connect, build relationships, and better understand our fellow human beings? What if we use it to build a better world? This book presents a proactive approach to digital kindness, guiding the reader on a personalized journey toward purposeful digital engagement in a hyper-connected world.

Humphreys, Lee. *The Qualified Self: Social Media and the Accounting of Everyday Life*. MIT, 2018.

How sharing the mundane details of daily life did not start with Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube but with pocket diaries, photo albums, and baby books.

Social critiques argue that social media have made us narcissistic, that Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube are all vehicles for me-promotion. In *The Qualified Self*, Lee Humphreys offers a different view. She shows that sharing the mundane details of our lives—what we ate for lunch, where we went on vacation, who dropped in for a visit—didn't begin with mobile devices and social media. People have used media to catalog and share their lives for several centuries. Pocket diaries, photo albums, and baby books are the predigital precursors of today's digital and mobile platforms for posting text and images. The ability to take selfies has not turned us into needy narcissists; it's part of a longer story about how people account for everyday life.

Humphreys refers to diaries in which eighteenth-century daily life is documented with the brevity and precision of a tweet, and cites a nineteenth-century travel diary in which a young woman complains that her breakfast didn't agree with her. Diaries, Humphreys explains, were often written to be shared with family and friends. Pocket diaries were as mobile as smartphones, allowing the diarist to record life in real time. Humphreys calls this chronicling, in both digital and nondigital forms, media accounting. The sense of self that emerges from media accounting is not the purely statistics-driven "quantified self," but the more well-rounded qualified self. We come to understand ourselves in a new way through the representations of ourselves that we create to be consumed.

Hunsinger, Jeremy and Theresa Senft (eds.). *The Social Media Handbook*. Routledge, 2015.

*The Social Media Handbook* explores how social media are changing disciplinary understandings of the internet and our everyday lives. In addition to person-to-person social networking services like Facebook and Twitter, this volume considers a broad range of networked information services that support in-depth social interaction, community formation, and collaboration in the Web 2.0 era. Rather than considering social media in terms of specific technologies, the chapters in this book engage topics across a range of research, techniques, practices, culture and society, and theories. These broader topics—including community, gender, fandom, disability, and journalism—are entryways through which students and faculty can explore ways of thinking about social media and find new paradigms for analysis.

Hutchings, Tim. *Creating Church Online: Ritual, Community, and New Media*. Routledge 2017.

Online churches are internet-based Christian communities, pursuing worship, discussion, friendship, support, proselytization, and other key religious goals through computer-mediated communication. Hundreds of thousands of people are now involved with online congregations, generating new kinds of ritual, leadership, and community and new networks of global influence.

*Creating Church Online* constructs a rich ethnographic account of the diverse cultures of online churches, from virtual worlds to video streams. This book also outlines the history of online churchgoing, from its origins in the 1980s to the present day, and traces the major themes of academic and Christian debate around this topic. Applying some of the leading current theories in the study of religion, media and culture to this data, Tim Hutchings proposes a new model of religious design in contexts of mediatization, and draws attention to digital networks, transformative third spaces and terrains of existential vulnerability. *Creating Church Online* advances our understanding of the significance and impact of digital media in the religious and social lives of its users, in search of new theoretical frameworks for digital religion.

1. A Brief History of the Online Church and its Commentators 2. The Church of Fools 3. iChurch 4. St. Pixels 5. The Anglican Cathedral of Second Life 6. Lifechurch.tv: Church Online 7. Making Sense of Online Churches 8. The Digital and the Everyday

James, Samuel. *Digital Liturgies: Rediscovering Christian Wisdom in an Online Age*. Crossway, September 2023.

With ample advancement in internet technology, people can answer billions of questions instantly, connect with long-distance family and friends, and discover what is happening worldwide in real time. But can something that seems so good lead to corruption for those pursuing godly wisdom? In *Digital Liturgies*, tech-realist Samuel D. James examines the connection between patterns in technology and human desires. Everyone longs for a glimpse of heaven; James argues they are just looking for it in the wrong place—the internet. This accessible book exposes 5 “digital liturgies” that prohibit people from contemplating big truths, accepting the uncomfortable, and acknowledging God as their Creator. It then

calls readers to live faithfully before Christ, finding wisdom through Scripture and rest in God's perfect design.

- A Biblical View of the Internet and Technology: Readers explore the connection between human desire, the internet, and wisdom through a Christian lens
- Great for College Students, Parents, and Pastors: This book encourages readers to live faithfully for Christ
- Offers a Tech-Realist Perspective: Samuel D. James highlights the inherent dangers of digital technologies, offering wisdom for navigating our internet-saturated world

Jenkins, Henry and Mizuko Ito and Danah Boyd. *Participatory Culture in a Networked Era: A Conversation on Youth, Learning, Commerce, and Politics*. Polity, 2015.

In the last two decades, both the conception and the practice of participatory culture have been transformed by the new affordances enabled by digital, networked, and mobile technologies. This exciting new book explores that transformation by bringing together three leading figures in conversation. Jenkins, Ito and Boyd examine the ways in which our personal and professional lives are shaped by experiences interacting with and around emerging media.

Stressing the social and cultural contexts of participation, the authors describe the process of diversification and mainstreaming that has transformed participatory culture. They advocate a move beyond individualized personal expression and argue for an ethos of "doing it together" in addition to "doing it yourself."

*Participatory Culture in a Networked Era* will interest students and scholars of digital media and their impact on society and will engage readers in a broader dialogue and conversation about their own participatory practices in this digital age.

Jones, Nona. *From Social Media to Social Ministry: A Guide to Digital Discipleship*. Zondervan, 2020.

There are more than 2.3 billion professing Christians in the world and more and more new churches launching globally, yet statistics show that in-person church attendance is declining or plateauing in every nation. Although social technology has been around for more than two decades, church leaders have long bristled at the idea of church online, ranking it as the last concern on their minds in Barna's 2020 state of the church report published February 3, 2020. And then, three weeks later, COVID-19 closed the doors of every church on earth and suddenly forced them entirely online.

Nona Jones, a globally acclaimed thought leader on leveraging technology for ministry, had been leading a movement and sounding the alarm for several years to make digital discipleship a central part of every church's ministry approach. In *From Social Media to Social Ministry*, she outlines her digital discipleship principles and provides practical instruction for how to do it no matter how big or small a local church may be. There are plenty of books to help churches build a social media strategy, but this is the first book of its kind that goes beyond digital marketing to digital ministry.

Kappeler, Warren. *Communication Habits for the Pilgrim Church: Vatican Teaching on Media and Society* (American University Studies. Series VII. Theology and Religion). Peter Lang, 2009.

Communication has become an important theme and heuristic concept in practical theology for Roman Catholics during the ecumenical age. *Communication Habits for the Pilgrim Church* explains why the moral order is given priority in Vatican teaching about communication and the reasons for Catholic social teaching to make moral judgments about these new realities. Attention is given in the book to the

historical context of Vatican Councils I and II. The first chapter shows that behind the pilgrim Church lies an emerging vision of the threefold ecclesial offices of priest, prophet, and king. Chapter two examines the text and context of the Second Vatican Council's pastoral decree «Inter Mirifica». Chapter three provides a documented history of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communication and its teachings. In chapter four we return to the threefold office and examine the contribution of Pope John Paul II. It includes an analysis of how the politics of the Magisterium shapes Catholic social teaching. Chapter five develops major tenets of a critical analysis of the communication of the post-Vatican II Church: attention is given to the discursive aspects of religious authority, argumentation, bureaucratization, and market culture. Chapter six takes a step toward examining the pragmatics of contemporary Vatican teaching. For Roman Catholic moral theology, religious ethics is now deeply concerned with providing moral teaching and guidance on ethical questions raised by the social conditions of globalization and media communication. *Communication Habits for the Pilgrim Church* concludes that there are three basic sociological and theological aspects of the pilgrim Church. These include a ritual approach to religious communication, the generational experience of Catholics and their respective attitudes toward Church teaching, and the important link in the faith's praxis between reflexivity and forming habits of communication.

Karafloqka, Anastasia. *E-Religion: A Critical Appraisal of Religious Discourse on the World Wide Web*. Equinox, 2007.

Katz, James and Mark Aakhus (eds.). *Perpetual Contact: Mobile Communications, Private Talk, Public Performance* (Cambridge University, 2002).

Mobile phones affect every aspect of our personal and professional lives. They have transformed social practices and changed the way we do business, yet surprisingly little serious academic work has been done on them. This book studies the impact of the mobile phone on contemporary society from a social scientific perspective. Providing a comprehensive overview of mobile phones and social interaction, it comprises an introduction covering the key issues, a series of unique national studies and a final section examining specific issues.

Keen Andrew. *The Cult of the Amateur: How blogs, MySpace, YouTube, and the rest of today's user-generated media are destroying our economy, our culture, and our values*. Doubleday, 2008.

In a hard-hitting and provocative polemic, Silicon Valley insider and pundit Andrew Keen exposes the grave consequences of today's new participatory Web 2.0 and reveals how it threatens our values, economy, and ultimately the very innovation and creativity that forms the fabric of American achievement. Our most valued cultural institutions, Keen warns—our professional newspapers, magazines, music, and movies—are being overtaken by an avalanche of amateur, user-generated free content. Advertising revenue is being siphoned off by free classified ads on sites like Craigslist; television networks are under attack from free user-generated programming on YouTube and the like; file-sharing and digital piracy have devastated the multibillion-dollar music business and threaten to undermine our movie industry. Worse, Keen claims, our “cut-and-paste” online culture—in which intellectual property is freely swapped, downloaded, remashed, and aggregated—threatens over 200 years of copyright protection and intellectual property rights, robbing artists, authors, journalists, musicians, editors, and producers of the fruits of their creative labors. In today's self-broadcasting culture, where amateurism is celebrated and anyone with an opinion, however ill-informed, can publish a blog, post a video on YouTube, or change an entry on Wikipedia, the distinction between trained expert and uninformed amateur becomes dangerously blurred. When anonymous bloggers and videographers, unconstrained by professional standards or editorial filters, can alter the public debate and manipulate public opinion, truth becomes a commodity to be bought, sold, packaged, and reinvented. The very anonymity that the Web 2.0 offers calls into question the reliability of the information we receive and creates an environment in

which sexual predators and identity thieves can roam free. While no Luddite—Keen pioneered several Internet startups himself—he urges us to consider the consequences of blindly supporting a culture that endorses plagiarism and piracy and that fundamentally weakens traditional media and creative institutions. Offering concrete solutions on how we can reign in the free-wheeling, narcissistic atmosphere that pervades the Web, *THE CULT OF THE AMATEUR* is a wake-up call to each and every one of us.

Keen, Andrew. *Digital Vertigo: How Today's Online Social Revolution Is Dividing, Diminishing, and Disorienting Us*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2013.

In *Digital Vertigo*, Andrew Keen presents today's social media revolution as the most wrenching cultural transformation since the Industrial Revolution. Fusing a fast-paced historical narrative with front-line stories from today's online networking revolution and critiques of "social" companies like Groupon, Zynga and LinkedIn, Keen argues that the social media transformation is weakening, disorienting and dividing us rather than establishing the dawn of a new egalitarian and communal age. The tragic paradox of life in the social media age, Keen says, is the incompatibility between our internet longings for community and friendship and our equally powerful desire for online individual freedom. By exposing the shallow core of social networks like Facebook, Andrew Keen shows us that the more electronically connected we become, the lonelier and less powerful we seem to be.

Keen, Andrew. *The Internet Is Not the Answer*. Atlantic Monthly Press, Jan 2015.

The Internet, created during the Cold War, has now ushered in one of the greatest shifts in society since the Industrial Revolution. There are many positive ways in which the Internet has contributed to the world, but as a society we are less aware of the Internet's deeply negative effects on our psychology, economy, and culture. In *The Internet Is Not the Answer*, Andrew Keen, a twenty-year veteran of the tech industry, traces the technological and economic history of the internet from its founding in the 1960s through the rise of the big data companies to the increasing attempts to monetize almost every human activity, and investigates how the internet is reconfiguring our world—often at great cost. In this sharp, witty narrative, informed by the work of other writers, academics, and reporters, as well as his own wide-ranging research and interviews, Keen shows us the tech world, warts and all, and investigates what we can do to make sure the choices we make about the reconfiguring of our society do not lead to unpleasant unforeseen aftershocks.

Kellner, Mark. *God on the Internet*. John Wiley & Sons, 1996.

Kennedy, Jenny. *Digital Media, Sharing, and Everyday Life (Routledge Studies in New Media and Cyberculture)*. Routledge, 2019.

Sharing is an important form of communication, and one that is championed in contemporary digital culture. This book asks what is sharing, and what roles do our digital devices and the platforms we use such as Facebook and Twitter play in these practices? Drawing on original empirical data, this timely book reveals detailed descriptions of the symbolic processes of sharing in digital culture and the complexities that arise in them. It draws out the relationship of sharing to privacy and control, the laboured strategies and boundaries of reciprocation, and our relationships with the technologies which mediate sharing practices.

Keymolen, Esther. *Trust on the Line: A Philosophical Exploration of Trust in the Networked Era*. Wolf Legal Publishers, 2016.

Governments, companies, and citizens all think trust is important. Especially today, in the networked era where we make use e-services and increasingly interact and buy online, trust has become a necessary condition for society to thrive. But what do we mean when we talk about trust and how does the rise of the Internet transform the functioning of trust? This book starts off with a thorough conceptual analysis of trust, drawing on insights from philosophy and sociology to sharpen our understanding of the topic. The book explains how the arrival of large systems (such as the internet) has changed the character of trust, which today is no longer based on interpersonal interactions but has become completely mediated by technologies. Based on the layered building plan of the Internet itself, a new conceptual lens called 4Cs is developed to analyze and understand trust in the networked era. The 4Cs refer to the four layers which all have to be taken into account to assess trust online: context, code, codification, and curation. The 4Cs bring together firsthand experiences of the user (context), the type of technology that is used (code), the legal implication (codification) and business interests (curation) in order to get a clear picture of the trust issues that may arise. In the final part of the book, some real-life cases are discussed (digital hotel keys, Airbnb, online personalization) to illustrate how trust-analyzed through the 4Cs lens-might flourish or be challenged in our current networked era. [Subject: Legal Philosophy]

Kidd, Dustin. *Social Media Freaks: Digital Identity in the Network Society*. Hachette, 2017.

Social media has been transforming American and global cultural life for over a decade. It has flattened the divide between producer and audience found in other forms of culture while also enriching some massive corporations. At the core of *Social Media Freaks* is the question: Does social media reproduce inequalities or is it a tool for subverting them?

*Social Media Freaks* presents a virtual ethnography of social media, focusing on issues of identity and inequality along five dimensions-race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability. It presents original and secondary findings, while also utilizing social theory to explain the dynamics of social media. It teaches readers how to engage social media as a tool for social activism while also examining the limits of social media's value in the quest for social change.

Knautz, Kathrin and Katsiarnya Baran. *Facets of Facebook: Use and Users (Knowledge and Information)*. De Gruyter, 2016.

Kok, Ayse. *The Web and Faith: Theological Analysis of Cyberspace Technologies (River Publishers Series in Information Science and Technology)*. Rivers Publishers, March 2018.

Computing technology is an indispensable feature of modern life. Our rapid-paced world seems more and more remote from the world narrated in sacred scriptures. However, despite its pervasiveness, there remains a dearth of theological reflection about computer technology and what it means to live as a faithful individual in a digitally - saturated society. *The Web and Faith* provides a brief theology of technology, rooted in the Islamic tradition and oriented around the grand themes of creation, redemption and new creation. The book combines a concise, accessible style with penetrating cultural and theological analysis. Building on the work of Marshall McLuhan and Neil Postman, and drawing from a wide range of enlightened Islamic thinkers, the book situates computer technology within the big picture of the story of creation. Technology is not neutral, but neither is there an exclusively "faith-based" form of technological production and use. Instead, this book guides us to see the digital world as part of a larger creation, which is redeemable according to the law of faith. Responsibly used, technology can become an integral part of religious wisdom world-wide.

Kurlberg, Jonas and Peter Phillips (eds.). *Missio Dei in a Digital Age*. SCM Press, Dec 2020.

An unprecedented technological revolution is sweeping across the world. Every sphere of life from communications, work, economy, leisure, our homes, health care and even religious practice is changing in response to the growth not just of digital technology but of a new world-embracing digital culture. Where is God in all this change? How does God's mission impact digital culture? This volume argues that digitalization is radically changing both the methods and conditions of missions, as well as calling for a re-appraisal of contemporary missiology. In a new culture, mission needs to be rethought, re-contextualised, re-formed for a new world. Featuring chapters by theologians, social scientists, computer scientists and practitioners this volume is a timely exploration of the implications of digitality for *missio Dei* in thought and practice.

**Landry, Scot. *Transforming Parish Communications: Growing the Church Through New Media. Our Sunday Visitor, 2014.***

From the Foreword written by Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston

"In this book, Scot Landry explains why it is critical for parishes, as hubs of the New Evangelization, to embrace new media. He indicates what the essential new media tools are for parishes today, shares practical strategies for how to implement them, and describes how these tools can transform parish communications. I am confident that Scot's practical wisdom, passion for evangelization, and enthusiasm for new media will help parish leaders overcome any hesitancy about embracing these new methods. We would like all parishes to have a program for engaging those on the digital continent and leading them to be transformed by the grace of the Sacraments and the love of the Christian community within the Church."

"Are we still a Church capable of warming hearts? A Church capable of leading people back to Jerusalem? Of bringing them home?" - Pope Francis, Meeting with the Bishops of Brazil, 28 July 2013.

Pope Francis, like his predecessors Benedict XVI and John Paul II, is calling for Catholics to embrace the new evangelization. But there has been ongoing confusion about who is responsible, what it really means and what it looks like in practical application. How can we respond to the Holy Father's call, creating evangelization opportunities that help bring people back to the Church?

By transforming Catholics into digital missionaries - ready and able to take the joy and warmth of the Gospel online via social media to infrequent, inactive, or ex-Catholics around the corner or across the globe.

**Lane, Jeffrey. *The Digital Street*. Oxford University Press, 2018.**

The social impact of the Internet and new digital technologies is irrefutable, especially for adolescents. It is simply no longer possible to understand coming of age in the inner city without an appreciation of both the face-to-face and online relations that structure neighborhood life. *The Digital Street* is the first in-depth exploration of the ways digital social media is changing life in poor, minority communities. Based on five years of ethnographic observations, dozens of interviews, and analyses of social media content, Jeffrey Lane illustrates a new street world where social media transforms how young people experience neighborhood violence and poverty. Lane examines the online migration of the code of the street and its consequences, from encounters between boys and girls, to the relationship between the street and parents, schools, outreach workers, and the police. He reveals not only the risks youths face through surveillance or worsening violence, but also the opportunities digital social media use provides for mitigating danger. Granting access to this new world, Jeffrey Lane shows how age-old problems of living through poverty, especially gangs and violence, are experienced differently for the first generation of teenagers to come of age on the digital street.

**Langan, Thomas. *Surviving the Age of Virtual Reality*. University of Missouri, 2000.**

As the technological phenomenon known as the worldwide web permeates civilization, it creates some cultures and destroys others. In this pioneering book, philosopher Thomas Langan explores "virtual

reality"Can inherently contradictory phrase"and the effects of technology on our very being. In our present-day high- technology environment, making simple, everyday decisions is difficult because the virtual world we've created doesn't necessarily operate according to the old "common sense." To retain our intellectual fitness, we must, Langan argues, consider these essential questions: If virtual reality is, in fact, reality, what is this life that we are caught up in? What is *being* within the context of virtual reality? How can we establish a system for distinguishing truth from fiction?

Although technology minimizes distances between people and makes the information they seek more accessible, it simultaneously blurs the line dividing fact from falsehood and real from virtual. An individual's intellectual survival is threatened as technological advancement challenges our collective understanding of what reality is. Because much of the information that is presented as fact simply works to fulfill a specific agenda, we cannot accept as truth everything that appears on the internet or in the media. To survive, we must learn to manage our lives and resources despite the flood of information we are bombarded with daily.

Addressing the general educated reader, *Surviving the Age of Virtual Reality* expertly interweaves the worlds of technology and philosophy, pushing the analysis of this technological and human phenomenon to new depths.

Lanier, Jaron. *Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now*. Henry Holt, 2018.

You might have trouble imagining life without your social media accounts, but virtual reality pioneer Jaron Lanier insists that we're better off without them. In *Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now*, Lanier, who participates in no social media, offers powerful and personal reasons for all of us to leave these dangerous online platforms.

Lanier's reasons for freeing ourselves from social media's poisonous grip include its tendency to bring out the worst in us, to make politics terrifying, to trick us with illusions of popularity and success, to twist our relationship with the truth, to disconnect us from other people even as we are more "connected" than ever, to rob us of our free will with relentless targeted ads. How can we remain autonomous in a world where we are under continual surveillance and are constantly being prodded by algorithms run by some of the richest corporations in history that have no way of making money other than being paid to manipulate our behavior? How could the benefits of social media possibly outweigh the catastrophic losses to our personal dignity, happiness, and freedom? Lanier remains a tech optimist, so while demonstrating the evil that rules social media business models today, he also envisions a humanistic setting for social networking that can direct us toward a richer and fuller way of living and connecting with our world.

Lanier, Jaron. *You Are Not a Gadget: A Manifesto*. Vintage, 2011.

A programmer, musician, and father of virtual reality technology, Jaron Lanier was a pioneer in digital media, and among the first to predict the revolutionary changes it would bring to our commerce and culture. Now, with the Web influencing virtually every aspect of our lives, he offers this provocative critique of how digital design is shaping society, for better and for worse. Informed by Lanier's experience and expertise as a computer scientist, *You Are Not a Gadget* discusses the technical and cultural problems that have unwittingly risen from programming choices—such as the nature of user identity—that were "locked-in" at the birth of digital media and considers what a future based on current design philosophies will bring. With the proliferation of social networks, cloud-based data storage systems, and Web 2.0 designs that elevate the "wisdom" of mobs and computer algorithms over the intelligence and wisdom of individuals, his message has never been more urgent.

Larrey, Fr. Philip. *Connected World: From Automated Work to Virtual Wars - The Future, by Those Who Are Shaping It*. Portfolio Penguin, 2017.

The world as we know it is changing. Driverless cars, drone deliveries and autonomous weapon systems are no longer the stuff of science fiction. But what's next for technology and business, and how will it impact our society? In *Connected World*, Philip Larrey of the Pontifical Lateran University explores the consequences of the new digital age in conversation with leaders including Sir Martin Sorrell, CEO of WPP, Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google's parent company Alphabet, and Maurice Levy, CEO of Publicis Groupe. Ranging from the death of privacy to the rise of artificial intelligence, *Connected World* asks the existential questions which will come to define our age.

Larsen, Elena. *Cyberfaith: How Americans Pursue Religion Online Pew Internet and American Life Project*, 2001.

Law, Andy. *Upgraded: How the Internet has Modernised the Human Race*. Lid Publishing, 2016.

The realm of the personal is now increasingly touched by technology especially the Internet. For example, sleep is now something we do in between checking our smartphones. Our relationship to food and eating has changed too. Home delivery, restaurant search, table bookings these have all been elevated to a high level skill-set which is part-entertainment, part-electronic processing. And travel is now a finger-clicking exercise with precision timing. This readjustment of our daily routine has had one significant effect: it has taught individuals a range of skills that would normally be in the domain of businesses. Ordinary people now behave as businesses do by using buying strategies to get costs down. We now have expectations of quality and delivery. In fact, we have become so business-like as individuals that marketers need to get rid of the processes of Business-to-Consumer communication, and begin to adopt the rules of Business-to-Business when talking to consumers. Such change of our lives is an explosion of the new new thinking, new business, new relationships, new selling, new buying, new leisure, new humans.

Lazarus, Natchi. *The Connected Church: A Social Media Communication Strategy Guide for Churches, Nonprofits and Individuals in Ministry*. (digital) 2017.

We are in a new era of communication. The internet and social media have changed the way we connect and communicate with each other. As the body of Christ, it is important that we understand these changes, so that we can effectively serve others. Whether you are an established organisation or an individual starting your ministry, this book will help you understand these global, technology-enabled changes and how they impact churches, nonprofits and individuals in ministry. The four-part communication model and the six-step framework presented in this book will help you successfully implement a social media and digital ministry program, laying a strong foundation for the future of your ministry.

Section I - Why the Church should use Social Media: In the first section, the book talks about the importance of using digital, online and social communication medium. The book explores the evolution of a new type of audience – the connected audience and helps the reader learn the biblical basis of social media marketing and its relevance to the Great Commission.

Section II - The Communication Model: In the second section, the book introduces the four-part communication model. The author lays out a broader vision of a smooth, seamless communication within the Church, as one body using social media and technology.

Section III - The Framework for Implementing the Communication Model: In the third section, the book moves from visioning mode to action mode. The author presents a six-step framework as a practical

means to implement the communication model in your ministry. This is a hands-on implementation section that examines management strategies, marketing strategies and operational details.

Section IV - Future Trends that will Impact the Church: In the fourth and final section, the book returns to a visioning mode as the author identifies key future trends and discusses ways in which churches, nonprofits and ministries can prepare themselves for the future.

Levy, David. *Mindful Tech: How to Bring Balance to Our Digital Lives*. Yale University Press, 2017.

Through a series of lucid and engaging exercises, readers are invited to discover healthier and more effective digital practices

From email to smart phones, and from social media to Google searches, digital technologies have transformed the way we learn, entertain ourselves, socialize, and work. Despite their usefulness, these technologies have often led to information overload, stress, and distraction. In recent years many of us have begun to look at the pluses and minuses of our online lives and to ask how we might more skillfully use the tools we've developed.

David M. Levy, who has lived his life between the "fast world" of high tech and the "slow world" of contemplation, offers a welcome guide to being more relaxed, attentive, and emotionally balanced, and more effective, while online. In a series of exercises carefully designed to help readers observe and reflect on their own use, Levy has readers watch themselves closely while emailing and while multitasking, and also to experiment with unplugging for a specified period. Never prescriptive, the book opens up new avenues for self-inquiry and will allow readers—in the workplace, in the classroom, and in the privacy of their homes—to make meaningful and powerful changes.

Levy, David. *Scrolling Forward: Making Sense of Documents in the Digital Age*. Arcade, Jan 2016.

Like Henry Petroski's *The Pencil*, David Levy's *Scrolling Forward* takes a common, everyday object, the document, and illuminates what it reveals about us, both in the past and in the digital age. We are surrounded daily by documents of all kinds—letters and credit card receipts, business memos and books, television images and web pages—yet we rarely stop to reflect on their significance. Now, in this period of digital transition, our written forms as well as our reading and writing habits are being disturbed and transformed by new technologies and practices. An expert on information and written forms, and a former researcher for the document pioneer Xerox, Levy masterfully navigates these concerns, offering reassurance while sharing his own excitement about many of the new kinds of emerging documents. He demonstrates how today's technologies, particularly the personal computer and the World Wide Web, are having analogous effects to past inventions—such as paper, the printing press, writing implements, and typewriters—in shaping how we use documents and the forms those documents take. *Scrolling Forward* lets us see the continuity between the written forms of today and those of the past.

Lines, Caleb. *The Great Digital Commission: Embracing Social Media for Church Growth and Transformation*. Cascade Books, September 2021.

Attendance in US churches continues to sharply decline. As church leaders struggle to identify both root causes and possible responses, they often feel a sense of despair . . . but there is hope! When social media is used intentionally, it is the greatest tool that the church has ever had to fulfill the Great Commission. In our time, we should hear a Great Digital Commission. *The Great Digital Commission* offers a theological reflection on the importance of social media—while acknowledging its shortfalls—and suggests practical steps that can help congregations think about strategies for church growth and transformation. This book is designed to be approachable for pastors, church leaders, and church social media managers, as well as

congregants who want a clearer sense of why social media is important to use within the church and how they can foster healthy social media accounts. The Great Digital Commission has been commanded! We have been called to spread the Good News from our doorsteps to the ends of earth using not only our words, but our posts, our tweets, our memes, our videos, our events, our pins, and our very lives. May it be so.

Lindgren, Simon. *Digital Media and Society*. Sage, 2017.

*What can flame-throwing squirrels tell us about human emotion? Can social media empower political activism? How has the Internet changed the way we form our identities? Do algorithms have a social role? What is digital society?*

In the early 21st century, digital media and the social have become irreversibly intertwined. In this cutting-edge introduction, author Simon Lindgren explores what it means to live in a digital society. Neatly divided into three sections, **Digital Media and Society** expertly leads students through:

- Theories: from social media and cyber-optimism, to online social interaction and social change
- Topics: from emotion, participation and the public sphere, to the impact of data, software and mobile technology
- Tools: from digital ethnography, social network analysis and text-mining, to guidance on digital ethics and mixing methods

With succinct explanations of key concepts and theories, practical exercises to aid understanding and application, and suggested further reading sections to guide students through the literature and enhance their own research, this is a must-have resource for all students of the digital society.

Lines, Caleb. *The Great Digital Commission: Embracing Social Media for Church Growth and Transformation*. Cascade Books, Sept 2021.

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Ling, Richard. *New Tech, New Ties: How Mobile Communication Is Reshaping Social Cohesion* (MIT Press, 2008).

The message of this book is simple: the mobile phone strengthens social bonds among family and friends. With a traditional land-line telephone, we place calls to a location and ask hopefully if someone is "there"; with a mobile phone, we have instant and perpetual access to friends and family regardless of where they are. But when we are engaged in these intimate conversations with absent friends, what happens to our relationship with the people who are actually in the same room with us? In *New Tech, New Ties*, Rich Ling

examines how the mobile telephone affects both kinds of interactions--those mediated by mobile communication and those that are face to face. Ling finds that through the use of various social rituals the mobile telephone strengthens social ties within the circle of friends and family--sometimes at the expense of interaction with those who are physically present--and creates what he calls "bounded solidarity." Ling argues that mobile communication helps to engender and develop social cohesion within the family and the peer group. Drawing on the work of Emile Durkheim, Erving Goffman, and Randall Collins, Ling shows that ritual interaction is a catalyst for the development of social bonding. From this perspective, he examines how mobile communication affects face-to-face ritual situations and how ritual is used in interaction mediated by mobile communication. He looks at the evidence, including interviews and observations from around the world, that documents the effect of mobile communication on social bonding and also examines some of the other possibly problematic issues raised by tighter social cohesion in small groups. Rich Ling is Senior Researcher at the Norwegian telecommunications company Telenor and Adjunct Research Scientist at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *The Mobile Connection: The Cell Phone's Impact on Society*.

Lipschultz, Jeremy Harris. *Social Media Communication: Concepts, Practices, Data, Law and Ethics*. Routledge, 2020<sup>3</sup>.

In *Social Media Communication: Concepts, Practices, Data, Law and Ethics*, Jeremy Harris Lipschultz presents a wide-scale, interdisciplinary analysis and guide to social media. Examining platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Youtube and Vine, the book explores and analyzes journalism, broadcasting, public relations, advertising and marketing. Lipschultz focuses on key concepts, best practices, data analyses, law and ethics—all promoting the critical thinking professionals and students need to use new networking tools effectively and to navigate social and mobile media spaces. Featuring contemporary case studies, essays from some of the industry's leading social media innovators, and a comprehensive glossary, this practical, multipurpose textbook gives readers the resources they'll need to both evaluate and utilize current and future forms of social media.

Updated to include the influence and importance of Instagram, Snapchat, Reddit and more, this second edition presents new case studies, new directions for theory and practice and a fresh look at what defines social media communication today.

Liu, Alan. *Friending the Past: The Sense of History in the Digital Age*. University of Chicago, 2018.

Can today's society, increasingly captivated by a constant flow of information, share a sense of history? How did our media-making forebears balance the tension between the present and the absent, the individual and the collective, the static and the dynamic—and how do our current digital networks disrupt these same balances? Can our social media, with its fleeting nature, even be considered social at all?

In *Friending the Past*, Alan Liu proposes fresh answers to these innovative questions of connection. He explores how we can learn from the relationship between past societies whose media forms fostered a communal and self-aware sense of history—such as prehistorical oral societies with robust storytelling cultures, or the great print works of nineteenth-century historicism—and our own instantaneous present. He concludes with a surprising look at how the sense of history exemplified in today's JavaScript timelines compares to the temporality found in Romantic poetry.

Interlaced among these inquiries, Liu shows how extensive “network archaeologies” can be constructed as novel ways of thinking about our affiliations with time and with each other. These conceptual architectures of period and age are also always media structures, scaffolded with the outlines of what we mean by history. Thinking about our own time, Liu wonders if the digital, networked future can sustain a similar sense of history.

Lockett, Oliver and Michael Casey. *The Social Organism: A Radical Understanding of Social Media to Transform Your Business and Life*. Hachette Books, 2016.

From "tech mogul" (*Los Angeles Times*) Oliver Lockett and MIT Media Lab's Michael Casey, a groundbreaking book that illuminates how social media functions on a global scale, how human culture is evolving with it, and how we can master digital content for good and for profit.

The co-founder of three multi-million dollar start-ups, Oliver Lockett is frequently asked to speak on social media's impact. But how, he used to wonder, could he best describe the interactions of millions of users, a complicated system of human connections? One day, while hiking through Joshua Tree National Park, Lockett had a flashback to his days as a microbiology lab rat--and an epiphany: Social media is an organism, a living, breathing, evolving creature.

Lockett and Casey deliver a revolutionary theory of social networks, showing--to an astonishing degree--how they mimic biological life. By examining cells, viruses, and other microbiological functions, we can master social media in both business and in life.

Luttrell, Regina. *Social Media: How to Engage, Share, and Connect*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2014/2017/2018.

*Social Media: How to Engage, Share, and Connect* will help readers understand and successfully use social media tools through

- a thorough history of social media and pioneers of the field;
- chapters on specific subjects such as photo-sharing, video, networks, and crisis communication, among others;
- discussions on appropriate use of social media in public relations, where the profession stands today and where it is headed in the future;
- and real-world examples of successful social media campaigns.

Mahan, Jeffrey. *Church as Network: Christian Life and Connection in a Digital Culture*. Rowman and Littlefield, December 2021.

Just as the emergence of print and literacy created conditions for vast religious change at the time of the Reformation, the emergence of a digital culture shaped by computers and the internet has led to radically different assumptions about religious identity, how people connect and maintain transformative relationships, and how people follow and give authority to leaders. The central issues concerning this digital culture are not technological but theological and anthropological. Old models of stable religious identity and community seem irrelevant in a culture in which everyone is in motion. The book identifies three profound changes produced by digital culture which challenge existing understandings of church: 1) a shift to seeing Christian identity as an ongoing constructive project, 2) the development of fluid networked forms of community, and 3) the emergence of less hierarchical more conversational forms of leadership.

Mahan, Jeffrey (ed.). *Media, Religion, and Culture*. Routledge, 2014.

Foreword by Stewart M. Hoover **Section One: Religious Identity in Media Cultures** 1. RELATING MEDIA, RELIGION AND CULTURE Consuming Oprah's Products, Consuming Oprah's Spirit - *Kathryn Lofton* Telegraphing as Spirit - *Jeremy Stolow* 2. MAKING AND ARTICULATING RELIGIOUS IDENTITY When Gods

Fall (Off their Bike) - *Pete Ward* Digital Storytelling and Narratives of Identity: Abel's Story - *Lynn Schofield Clark* 3. BELIEVING AND PRACTICING IN A DIGITAL WORLD Mom Blogs and the Religion of Everyday Life - *Deborah Whitehead* Online Puja and Puja Online: Believing and Practicing in a Digital World - *Grace Chiou*  
**Section Two: Religion in the Midst of Change** 4. OLD AND NEW MEDIA Gaming the End Times - *Rachel Wagner* Codex to Kindle - *Michael Hemenway* 5. STABILITY AND CHANGE *Alt-Muslim: Media Spaces for a Modern Muslim Voice* - *Nabil Echchaibi* Religious Tracts in the 18th Century - *David Morgan* 6. ORGANIZED RELIGION IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL MEDIA Wicca and Religious Freedom Networking in the Digital Age - *Sarah Pike* Advertising that "I'm a Mormon" - *Benjamin Thevenin* **Section Three: Ethics and Aesthetics** 7. TO CENSOR, SHAPE, OR ENGAGE MEDIA AND THE ARTS? Koshering the Cell Phone - *Heidi A. Campbell* Muslim Monsters - *Sophia Shafi* 8. READING, LISTENING, WATCHING Creating Mythology through Cinematography - *S. Brent Plate* Katy Perry's *Firework* - *Dan Clanton* 9. CASE STUDIES

**Mandiberg, Michael (ed.). *The Social Media Reader*. NYU Press, 2012.**

With the rise of web 2.0 and social media platforms taking over vast tracts of territory on the internet, the media landscape has shifted drastically in the past 20 years, transforming previously stable relationships between media creators and consumers. The Social Media Reader is the first collection to address the collective transformation with pieces on social media, peer production, copyright politics, and other aspects of contemporary internet culture from all the major thinkers in the field. Culling a broad range and incorporating different styles of scholarship from foundational pieces and published articles to unpublished pieces, journalistic accounts, personal narratives from blogs, and whitepapers, The Social Media Reader promises to be an essential text, with contributions from Lawrence Lessig, Henry Jenkins, Clay Shirky, Tim O'Reilly, Chris Anderson, Yochai Benkler, danah boyd, and Fred von Loehmann, to name a few. It covers a wide-ranging topical terrain, much like the internet itself, with particular emphasis on collaboration and sharing, the politics of social media and social networking, Free Culture and copyright politics, and labour and ownership. Theorizing new models of collaboration, identity, commerce, copyright, ownership, and labour, these essays outline possibilities for cultural democracy that arise when the formerly passive audience becomes active cultural creators, while warning of the dystopian potential of new forms of surveillance and control.

Marche, Stephen. "Is Facebook Making Us Lonely." *The Atlantic*. May 2012

Markham, Tim and Scott Rodgers (eds.). *Conditions of Mediation: Phenomenological Perspectives on Media*. Peter Lang, April 2017.

Phenomenology has become one of the most important philosophical traditions underpinning recent theory and research on new media, whether or not the word is used explicitly. *Conditions of Mediation* brings together, for the first time in a single publication, the diversity of phenomenological media research—from social platforms and wearable media to diasporic identity formation and the ethics of consumer technologies.

The new orthodoxy in media studies emphasizes the experience of media—whether as forms, texts, technics or protocols—marking a departure from traditional approaches preoccupied with media content or its structural contexts. But phenomenologically informed approaches go beyond merely asking what people do with media. They ask a more profound question: what constitutes the conditions of mediated experience in the first place?

Beginning with an accessible introduction, this book invites readers to explore a wide range of phenomenological perspectives on media via two critical dialogues involving key thinkers alongside a series of theoretically sophisticated and empirically grounded chapters. In so doing, interdisciplinary media studies is brought into conversation with the work of philosophers such as Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, as well as phenomenologically-inspired thinkers such as Erving

Goffman, Pierre Bourdieu, Tim Ingold, Henri Lefebvre, Friedrich Kittler, Marshall McLuhan and Bernard Stiegler.

Martin, Chris. *Terms of Service: The Real Cost of Social Media*. B&H Books, Feb 2022.

Do we use social media, or are we being used by it? Social media is brilliant and obscene. It sharpens the mind and dulls it. It brings nations together and tears them apart. It perpetuates, reveals, and repairs injustice. It is an untamed beast upon which we can only hope to ride, but never quite corral.

What is it doing to us? In *Terms of Service*, Chris Martin brings readers his years of expertise and experience from building online brands, coaching authors and speakers about social media use, and thinking theologically about the effects of social media. As you read this book, you will:

- Learn how social media has come to dominate the role the internet plays in your life
- Learn how the “social internet” affects you in ways you may not realize
- Be equipped to push back against the hold the internet has on your mind and your heart

Matthews, Ian. *Hashtag Church: Making the Most of Social Media in Christian Ministry*. Darton, Longman, and Todd, 2015.

Social media has rapidly become our society's most common form of communication. Christian ministries need to have a visible presence in this modern 'marketplace', both for reaching their own members and interacting with the wider community. Hashtag Church provides an accessible introduction for churches and ministries to the wider online community. It demonstrates how social media can be used not just for communicating information but as a genuinely interactive medium to aid the goals of ministry. The book can be used as a planning resource, showing key principles, the importance of clear aims, compelling content and regular interaction. It provides a chapter-by-chapter overview of all the key networks - including Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn and Google+ - with tips and pitfalls for best

McEwan, Bree. *Navigating New Media Networks: Understanding and Managing Communication Challenges in a Networked Society* (Studies in New Media). Lexington Books, March 2017.

*Navigating New Media Networks* examines the changes introduced into society through the increasing use of communication technology. The development of a networked society has allowed individuals to acquire the social resources and support needed to thrive in the modern world, but it has also placed great pressure on the individual to conduct the communication work needed to form and maintain relationships. McEwan explores this issue by delving into topics like identity, privacy, communication competence, online communities, online social support, mediated relational maintenance, and mobile communication. This work will be of interest to scholars of sociology, psychology, and communication

McKeown, Siobhan. *A Life Lived Remotely: Being and Work in the Digital Age*. Repeater, 2018.

What happens when we take our lives online? How are we being changed by immersion in the internet? How do we know the difference between work and life when one seems to blend into the other?

Part memoir, part theory, *A Life Lived Remotely* tells the story of a transition to the digital age. It follows the author's journey through remote work, framing it within the exponential growth of the internet and the rapid spread of neoliberalism. It examines how we are being changed by the internet, how we experience that change, and the anxieties and issues that arise. A moment's pause in a world of fast-paced communication, it provides a critical reflection on what it means to come of age along with the internet.

McMahon, Ciaran. *Psychology and Social Media: Becoming Digital*. Routledge, March 2019.

This book explores and critiques the psychology of social media over the past decade, and analyses treatment of social media within a scientific framework and historical context. In examining the subjective experience of being on social media services by interpreting research from various areas of psychology, this interdisciplinary work addresses psychological, sociological, philosophical, anthropological, and legal implications of social media usage. It predicts future trends and examines how social media as a developing phenomenon will continue to shape our lives, making it an ideal resource for students taking cyberpsychology courses and modules, as well as wider psychology courses.

McMahon, Ciaran. *The Psychology of Social Media (The Psychology of Everything)*. Routledge, 2019.

Are we really being ourselves on social media? Can we benefit from connecting with people we barely know online? Why do some people overshare on social networking sites? *The Psychology of Social Media* explores how so much of our everyday lives is played out online, and how this can impact our identity, wellbeing, and relationships. It looks at how our online profiles, connections, status updates, and sharing of photographs can be a way to express ourselves and form connections, but also highlights the pitfalls of social media including privacy issues. From catfishing to trolling, and from memes to selfies, *The Psychology of Social Media* shows how social media has developed a whole new world of communication, and for better or worse is likely to continue to be an essential part of our modern lifestyles.

Medoff, Norman J. and Barbara Kaye. *Electronic Media: Then, Now, and Later* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Routledge/Focal Press, 2017.

1. Opting in to Today's Media 2. From Marconi to Mobile Listening 3. Television: Big Box to Flat Screen 4. Television Programming 5. The Internet 6. Up Close and Personal: Choosing Your Entertainment and Information Experience 7. Advertising 8. Tapping Into the Audience 9. Social Media: Private Conversations in Public Places 10. The Business of Entertainment and Media Ownership 11. Media Operations: Producing and Distributing Content 12. Film in a New Media World 13. Media Effects

Meikle, Graham. *Media Convergence: Networked Digital Media in Everyday Life*. Palgrave, 2012/

This book focuses on how everyday media such as Facebook, iTunes and Google can be understood in new ways for the 21st century through ideas of convergence. Key chapters explore the development of the internet, the rise of social media and the new opportunities for audiences to create, collaborate upon and share their own media.

Meikle, Graham. *Social Media: Communication, Sharing and Visibility*. Routledge, 2016

Social media platforms have captured the attention and imagination of many millions of people, enabling their users to develop and display their creativity, to empathize with others, and to find connection, communication and communion. But they are also surveillance systems through which those users become complicit in their own commercial exploitation. In this accessible book, Graham Meikle explores the tensions between these two aspects of social media. From Facebook and Twitter to Reddit and YouTube, Meikle examines social media as industries and as central sites for understanding the cultural politics of everyday life. Building on the new forms of communication and citizenship brought about by these platforms, he analyzes the meanings of sharing and privacy, internet memes, remix cultures and citizen journalism. Throughout, *Social Media* engages with questions of visibility, performance, platforms

and users, and demonstrates how networked digital media are adopted and adapted in an environment built around the convergence of personal and public communication.

**Mendoza, Cristian and Lluís Clavell. *Communication Culture in a Digital Age: Being Seriously Relational*. St. Augustine's Press, Jan 2023.**

Why are human beings so attracted to information and communication technologies? Developments in this field have formed new social networks around these technologies and that seem to compete with pre-existing structures in human lives. Cristian Mendoza and Lluís Clavell confront this phenomenon and its effect on human happiness, but have no desire to condemn the trajectory of human reliance on communication technology. Rather, they see an opportunity to explore human nature at greater depths. Only in this way can our use of technology properly support human activity and not sabotage our grasp of reality.

Mendoza and Clavell's treatment of this topic renders an important philosophical conversation about digital realities and how they can actually make human life more human. This book provides a framework for using human attraction to information and communication tech for human benefit. It can be done! The authors apply the work of old and new masters to help open the new horizons of communication technology wherein human beings can flourish.

**Merrin, William. *Facebook and the Online Self* [Routledge Focus on Digital Culture]. Routledge, 2020.**

Facebook is one of the most important technology and media companies of the 21st century. Over the last decade, it has risen to become a significant force in the everyday life of a huge number of people and it has had a transformative social, cultural, and political impact across the world. Covering topics such as Facebook's acquisitions (Whatsapp, Instagram, Oculus Rift), Facebook games and challenges like Farmville, and privacy and ownership of Facebook profiles and posts, this short student-friendly book will explore the history, business model, cultural impact, and future of the titular social network. Discussion questions and further resources help students to engage critically with the way Facebook impacts everyday life.

**Miller, Vincent. *Understanding Digital Culture*. Sage, 2020.**

From profiling databases and mashups to cybersex and the truth about social networking, Miller's insightful second edition traces the pervasive influence of 'digital culture' throughout contemporary life.

He integrates socio-economic understandings of the 'information society' with the cultural studies approach to production, use, and consumption of digital media and multimedia. Still refreshingly readable and packed with new examples; *Understanding Digital Culture*:

- Includes new and updated material on work and commodity production in digital capitalism, "slacktivism", industrial espionage and major bank hacks, the rise of mobile dating apps, and cyber-bullying alongside trolling.
- Unpacks how the information society is transforming and challenging traditional notions of crime, resistance, war and protest, community, intimacy and belonging.
- Crosses disciplines to give a balanced account of the social, economic and cultural dimensions of the information society.
- Illuminates the increasing importance of mobile, wireless and converged media technologies in everyday life.
- Charts the changing cultural forms associated with new media and its consumption, including music, gaming, microblogging and online identity.
- Illustrates the above through a series of contemporary, in-depth case studies of digital culture.

This is the perfect text for students looking for a full account of the information society, virtual cultures, sociology of the Internet and new media.

Mitchell, Jolyon and Sophia Marriage (eds.) *Mediating Religion: Studies in Media, Religion, and Culture*. Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2003.

This is the first book to bring together many aspects of the interplay between religion, media and culture from around the world in a single comprehensive study. Leading international scholars provide the most up-to-date findings in their fields, and in a readable and accessible way. Some of the topics covered include religion in the media age, popular broadcasting, communication theology, popular piety, film and religion, myth and ritual in cyberspace, music and religion, communication ethics, and the nature of truth in media saturated cultures. The result is not only a wide-ranging resource for scholars and students, but also a unique introduction to this increasingly important phenomenon of modern life.

Moberg, Marcus and Sofia Sjo (eds.). *Digital Media, Young Adults and Religion: An International Perspective*. Routledge, 2020.

It has become increasingly clear that an adequate understanding of the contemporary processes of social, cultural, and religious change is contingent on an appreciation of the growing impact of social media. Utilising results of an unprecedented global study, this volume explores the ways in which young adults in seven different countries engage with digital and social media in religiously significant ways.

Presenting and analysing the findings of the global research project *Young Adults and Religion in a Global Perspective* (YARG), an international panel of contributors shed new light on the impact of social media and its associated technologies on young people's religiosities, worldviews, and values. Case studies from China, Finland, Ghana, Israel, Peru, Poland, and Turkey are used to demonstrate how these developments are progressing, not just in the West, but across the world.

This book is unique in that it presents a truly macroscopic perspective on trends in religion amongst young adults. As such, it will be of great interest to scholars working in religious studies, digital media, communication studies, sociology, cultural studies, theology and youth studies.

Morgan, Ken. *Can You Hear Me? How to Connect with People in a Virtual World*. Harvard Business Review Press, 2018.

Communicating virtually is cool, useful, and ubiquitous. But whenever there's a glitch with the technology or a message is unclear, we're reminded that the quality of human connection we experience in many forms of virtual communication is awful. We've all felt disconnected and bored in a video conference, frustrated that we're not getting through on the phone, or upset when our email is badly misinterpreted. The truth is, virtual communication breeds misunderstanding because it deprives us of the emotional knowledge that helps us understand context.

How can we fix this? In this powerful, practical book, communication expert Nick Morgan outlines five big problems with communication in the virtual world--lack of feedback, lack of empathy, lack of control, lack of emotion, and lack of connection and commitment--sharply highlighting what is lost in our accelerating shift to a more virtual world.

And he provides a clear path forward for helping us connect better with others. Morgan argues that while virtual communication will never be as rich or intuitive as a face-to-face meeting, recent research suggests that what will help--and what we need to learn--is to *consciously* deliver a whole set of cues, both verbal and nonverbal, that we used to deliver *unconsciously* in the pre-virtual era. He explains and guides us

through this important process, providing rules for virtual feedback, an empathy assessment and virtual temperature check, tips for creating trust in a virtual context, and advice for specific digital channels such as email and text, the conference call, Skype, and more.

Whether you're an entrepreneur, an independent professional, or a manager in an organization that has more than one office or customers who aren't nearby, *Can You Hear Me?* is your essential communications manual for twenty-first-century work.

Morozov, Evgeny. *The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom*. Public Affairs, 2012.

"The revolution will be Twittered!" declared journalist Andrew Sullivan after protests erupted in Iran. But as journalist and social commentator Evgeny Morozov argues in *The Net Delusion*, the Internet is a tool that both revolutionaries and authoritarian governments can use. For all of the talk in the West about the power of the Internet to democratize societies, regimes in Iran and China are as stable and repressive as ever. Social media sites have been used there to entrench dictators and threaten dissidents, making it harder—not easier—to promote democracy. Marshalling a compelling set of case studies, *The Net Delusion* shows why the cyber-utopian stance that the Internet is inherently liberating is wrong, and how ambitious and seemingly noble initiatives like the promotion of "Internet freedom" are misguided and, on occasion, harmful.

Morozov, Evgeny. *To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism*. Public Affairs, 2014.

In the very near future, "smart" technologies and "big data" will allow us to make large-scale and sophisticated interventions in politics, culture, and everyday life. Technology will allow us to solve problems in highly original ways and create new incentives to get more people to do the right thing. But how will such "solutionism" affect our society, once deeply political, moral, and irresolvable dilemmas are recast as uncontroversial and easily manageable matters of technological efficiency? What if some such problems are simply vices in disguise? What if some friction in communication is productive and some hypocrisy in politics necessary? The temptation of the digital age is to fix everything—from crime to corruption to pollution to obesity—by digitally quantifying, tracking, or gamifying behavior. But when we change the motivations for our moral, ethical, and civic behavior we may also change the very nature of that behavior. Technology, Evgeny Morozov proposes, can be a force for improvement—but only if we keep solutionism in check and learn to appreciate the imperfections of liberal democracy. Some of those imperfections are not accidental but by design. Arguing that we badly need a new, post-Internet way to debate the moral consequences of digital technologies, *To Save Everything, Click Here* warns against a world of seamless efficiency, where everyone is forced to wear Silicon Valley's digital straitjacket.

Morris, Jeremy and Sarah Murray (eds.). *Appified: Culture in the Age of Apps*. University of Michigan, 2018.

Snapchat. WhatsApp. Ashley Madison. Fitbit. Tinder. Periscope. How do we make sense of how apps like these—and thousands of others—have embedded themselves into our daily routines, permeating the background of ordinary life and standing at-the-ready to be used on our smartphones and tablets? When we look at any single app, it's hard to imagine how such a small piece of software could be particularly notable. But if we look at a collection of them, we see a bigger picture that reveals how the quotidian activities apps encompass are far from banal: connecting with friends (and strangers and enemies), sharing memories (and personally identifying information), making art (and trash), navigating spaces (and reshaping places in the process). While the sheer number of apps is overwhelming, as are the range of activities they address, each one offers an opportunity for us to seek out meaning in the mundane. *Appified* is the first scholarly volume to examine individual apps within the wider historical and cultural

context of media and cultural studies scholarship, attuned to issues of politics and power, identity and the everyday.

Morris, Margaret. *Left to Our Own Devices: Outsmarting Smart Technology to Reclaim Our Relationships, Health, and Focus*. MIT Press, 2018.

We have been warned about the psychological perils of technology: distraction, difficulty empathizing, and loss of the ability (or desire) to carry on a conversation. But our devices and data are woven into our lives. We can't simply reject them. Instead, Margaret Morris argues, we need to adapt technology creatively to our needs and values. In *Left to Our Own Devices*, Morris offers examples of individuals applying technologies in unexpected ways—uses that go beyond those intended by developers and designers. Morris examines these kinds of personalized life hacks, chronicling the ways that people have adapted technology to strengthen social connection, enhance well-being, and affirm identity.

Morris, a clinical psychologist and app creator, shows how people really use technology, drawing on interviews she has conducted as well as computer science and psychology research. She describes how a couple used smart lights to work through conflict; how a woman persuaded herself to eat healthier foods when her photographs of salads garnered “likes” on social media; how a trans woman celebrated her transition with selfies; and how, through augmented reality, a woman changed the way she saw her cancer and herself. These and the many other “off-label” adaptations described by Morris cast technology not just as a temptation that we struggle to resist but as a potential ally as we try to take care of ourselves and others. The stories Morris tells invite us to be more intentional and creative when left to our own devices.

Murthy, Dhiraj. *Twitter: Social Communication in the Twitter Age*. Polity, 2013.

Twitter has become a household name, discussed both for its role in prominent national elections, natural disasters, and political movements, as well as for what some malign as narcissistic “chatter.” This book takes a critical step back from popular discourse and media coverage of Twitter, to present the first balanced, scholarly engagement of this popular medium. In this timely and comprehensive introduction, Murthy not only discusses Twitter’s role in our political, economic, and social lives, but also draws a historical line between the telegraph and Twitter to reflect on changes in social communication over time. The book thoughtfully examines Twitter as an emergent global communications medium and provides a theoretical framework for students, scholars, and tweeters to reflect critically on the impact of Twitter and the contemporary media environment. The book uses case studies including citizen journalism, health, and national disasters to provide empirically rich insights and to help decipher some of the ways in which Twitter and social media more broadly may be shaping contemporary life.

Nassar, Nadim. *iJesus: The Culture of God in a Digital World*. Sacristy Press, February 2023.

Every aspect of life in today's world is affected by digital technology, be it the way we communicate, travel, or shop, or even how we identify ourselves. Christians, believing that we are created by a living personal God who revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and came to us in Jesus Christ, try to make sense of their faith in this digital jungle. *iJesus* explores the relationship between the culture of God as Trinity in relation to our highly complex digital cultures and reflects on how we as followers and disciples of Jesus Christ can live in a world shaped by digital communication, connectivity and artificial intelligence. In the culture of the Trinity, we see a God who is the source of hospitality and generosity in everything he does and in every way that he reacts with His creation. Nadim Nassar gives a prophetic vision of our faith interacting and being lived out in the changing cultures around us and shows how God can make himself known and understood in a digital age.

Naughton, John. *From Gutenberg to Zuckerberg: Disruptive Innovation in the Age of the Internet*. Quercus, Jan 2015.

From Gutenberg to Zuckerberg is a clear-eyed history of one of the most central, and yet most taken-for-granted, features of modern life: the internet. Once a technological novelty and now the very plumbing of the Information Age, the internet is something we have learned to take largely for granted. So, how exactly has our society become so dependent upon a utility it barely understands? And what does it say about us that this is so? While explaining in highly engaging language the way the internet works and how it got to be the way it is, technologist John Naughton has distilled the noisy chatter surrounding the technology's relentless evolution into nine essential areas of understanding. In doing so, he affords readers deeper insight into the information economy and supplies the requisite knowledge to make better use of the technologies and networks around us, highlighting some of their fascinating and far-reaching implications along the way.

Neuman, W. Russell. *The Digital Difference: Media Technology and the Theory of Communication Effects*. Harvard University, 2018.

*The Digital Difference* examines how the transition from the industrial-era media of one-way publishing and broadcasting to the two-way digital era of online search and social media has affected the dynamics of public life.

In the digital age, fundamental beliefs about privacy and identity are subject to change, as is the formal legal basis of freedom of expression. Will it be possible to maintain a vibrant and open marketplace of ideas? In W. Russell Neuman's analysis, the marketplace metaphor does not signal that money buys influence, but rather just the opposite—that the digital commons must be open to all ideas so that the most powerful ideas win public attention on their merits rather than on the taken-for-granted authority of their authorship.

Noor Al-Deen, Hana and John Allen Hendricks (eds.). *Social Media and Strategic Communications*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

*Social Media and Strategic Communications* provides comprehensive and original scholarly research that exhibits the strategic implementation of social media in both advertising and public relations. Policies, codes of ethics, and recommendations set by business organizations for best practices are also examined. Various research methodologies are employed to analyze the communication strategies applied by advertisers and public relations practitioners who have embraced social media as an integral part of their operations in order to develop and maintain strong and lasting relationships with customers and the public.

**O'Loughlin, Michael. *The Tweetable Pope: A Spiritual Revolution in 140 Characters*. HarperOne, 2015.**

*Boston Globe* journalist and Catholic commentator Michael O'Loughlin opens a wonderful window into the heart and revolutionary mission of Pope Francis by examining his extensive and revelatory use of social media—published to coincide with the pontiff's visit to the United States in September 2015.

Michael O'Loughlin uses Pope Francis's almost daily "tweets" to his six million followers to explain why this pope has captured the world's imagination and to explore his strategy and vision for the Catholic Church. Grouped by the Pope's most pressing concerns—forgiveness, mercy, injustice, poverty, war, joy, the environment, and more—*The Tweetable Pope* uses Francis' pithy 140-character (or fewer) missives as

a prism to view the biographical, historical, and spiritual context of his messages and how each is part of a larger vision.

O'Loughlin contends that these seemingly simple communications provide a direct line to the Pope's heart, illuminating a peaceful, loving, and courageous visionary committed to restoring the church to the original Christian tenets of its founder, Jesus Christ—love, mercy, grace, and compassion—and reshaping it as a force for change to help the most needy. A thoughtful and enlightening examination of how the pope is using this exciting and fascinating new medium to communicate directly to his flock, *The Tweetable Pope* is an inspiring and moving testimony of how we, too, can be more centered on what matters most to God.

Ong, Walter J. "Communication Media and the State of Theology," *Cross Currents* 19 (1969):20-35.

Pace, Enzo. *Religion as Communication*. Ashgate, 2011.

Why do Gods persist in contemporary society? Religious revival and vitality all over the world contradict the vision of continuing declining of belief. This linear process of eclipse of the sacred in modern society has been proved wrong. Religion indeed is an expert system competent in ultimate meanings of human being and social order. Enzo Pace argues that religion persists as symbolic symbol because of its intrinsic power of communication, in its will to wield the power to dominate the event of death, and to build a bridge between the visible and the invisible. The crucial passage from living word to holy scripture is a fundamental device in the construction of a system of religious belief. This book provides an insight on a new approach to religious studies, drawing from systems theory to consider religion as a means of communication, and offering a critical alternative to the secularization theory to explain why religion persists in modernity.

Palfry, John and Urs Gasser. *Born Digital: Understanding the First Generation of Digital Natives*. Basic Books, 2010

**Pang, Alex Soojung-Kim. *The Distraction Addiction: Getting the Information You Need and the Communication You Want, Without Enraging Your Family, Annoying Your Colleagues, and Destroying Your Soul*. Little, Brown & Co., 2013.**

Phillips, Peter. *The Bible, Social Media and Digital Culture* (Routledge Focus on Religion). Routledge, March 2021.

This book centres on the use of the Bible within contemporary digital social media culture and gives an overview of its use online with examples from brand-new research from the CODEC Research Centre at Durham University, UK. It examines the shift from a propositional to a therapeutic approach to faith from a sociological standpoint. The book covers two research projects in particular: the Twitter Gospels and Online Moralistic Therapeutic Deism. It explores the data as they relate to Abby Day's concept of performative belief, picking up on Mia Lövhelm's challenge to see how this concept works out in digital culture and social media. It also compares the data to various construals of contemporary approaches to faith performative faith, including Christian Smith and Melissa Lundquist Denton's concept of moralistic therapeutic deism. Other research is also compared to the findings of these projects, including a micro-project on Celebrities and the Bible, to give a wider perspective on these issues in both the UK and the USA. As a sociological exploration of Digital Millennial culture and its relationship to sacred texts, this will be of keen interest to scholars of Biblical studies, religion and digital media, and contemporary lived religion.

**Poe, Marshall T. *A History of Communications: Media and Society from the Evolution of Speech to the Internet*. Cambridge University Press, 2011.**

Power, Andrew and Grainne Kirwan (eds.). *Cyberpsychology and New Media: A Thematic Reader*. Psychology Press, 2014.

Cyberpsychology is the study of human interactions with the internet, mobile computing and telephony, games consoles, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and other contemporary electronic technologies. The field has grown substantially over the past few years and this book surveys how researchers are tackling the impact of new technology on human behaviour and how people interact with this technology. Examining topics as diverse as online dating, social networking, online communications, artificial intelligence, health-information seeking behaviour, education online, online therapies and cybercrime, *Cyberpsychology and New Media* book provides an in-depth overview of this burgeoning field, and allows those with little previous knowledge to gain an appreciation of the diversity of the research being undertaken in the area. Arranged thematically and structured for accessibility, *Cyberpsychology and New Media* will be essential reading for researchers and students in Social Psychology and Cyberpsychology, and in Communication and Media Studies.

Preface. *Andrew Power and Grainne Kirwan Acknowledgements*

## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

1: What Is Cyberpsychology? *Grainne Kirwan and Andrew Power*

## **SECTION 2: COMMUNICATION**

2: Blogs: A Study Into Current Uses And Perceptions In Society. *Sinéad Cochrane, Hannah Barton*

3: The Motivations And Personality Traits That Influence Facebook Usage. *Graham Gilbert, Hannah Barton*

4: Mobile Phone Separation And Anxiety. *Mark Siggins, Cliona Flood*

5: A Cross-Cultural Comparison Of Deception In Online Dating Profiles Using Language Analysis. *Nicola Fox Hamilton, Gráinne Kirwan*

6: The Influence Of Gendered Web Design On Female Science Career Motivation. *Donna McCabe, Olivia Hurley, Cliona Flood*

## **SECTION 3: PERSONALITY AND INTERNET USE**

7: Virtual Assistants: Trust And Adoption In Telecommunication Customer Support. *Phelim May, Grainne Kirwan*

8: Gender-Bending In Virtual Worlds: Investigating 'Need for Achievement' Between Goal-Orientated And Non Goal-Orientated Environments. *Eily Coghlan, Grainne Kirwan*

9: Exploring Psychological Factors For Contributing To Online Recommendation Sites. *Mary O'Brien, John Greaney, Hannah Barton*

10: Online Identity Theft: An Investigation Of The Differences Between Victims And Non-Victims With Regard To Anxiety, Precautions And Uses Of The Internet. *Karen Reilly, Gráinne Kirwan*

11: Personality Caught In The Social Net: Facebook Phishing. *Kelly Price, Grainne Kirwan*

#### **SECTION 4: INTERNET INTERVENTIONS AND THERAPIES**

12: Protection Motivation Theory And Online Activities. *Richard O'Connell, Grainne Kirwan*

13: Establishing An Online Counselling Service For Substance Use: An Exploratory Study. *Andy Osborn, Cliona Flood*

14: The Psychology Of Cyberchondria And "Cyberchondria By Proxy". *Mary Aiken, Grainne Kirwan*

15: Attitudes To Computerised Psychotherapy: A Survey Of Psychotherapists. *Dean McDonnell, Brendan Rooney, Cliona Flood*

#### **SECTION 5: INTERNET AND EDUCATION**

16: Capturing Lectures: Using Multimedia Lecture Captures To Promote Learning. *Genevieve Dalton, Irene Connolly, Marion Palmer*

17: Participation, Interaction And Learner Satisfaction In A Professional Practice Wiki For Teachers. *Rory Tierney, Marion Palmer*

18: Social Bits: Personality And Learning Style Profiling Via The Social Web. *Kostas Mavropalias And Ellen Brady*

19: The Future of Cyberpsychology. *Andrew Power and Grainne Kirwan*

**Powers, William. *Hamlet's BlackBerry: Building a Good Life in the Digital Age*. (HarperPerennial, 2011).**

A crisp, passionately argued answer to the question that everyone who's grown dependent on digital devices is asking: Where's the rest of my life? *Hamlet's BlackBerry* challenges the widely held assumption that the more we connect through technology, the better. It's time to strike a new balance, William Powers argues, and discover why it's also important to disconnect. Part memoir, part intellectual journey, the book draws on the technological past and great thinkers such as Shakespeare and Thoreau. "Connectedness" has been considered from an organizational and economic standpoint—from *Here Comes Everybody* to *Wikinomics*—but Powers examines it on a deep interpersonal, psychological, and emotional level. Readers of Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point* and *Outliers* will relish *Hamlet's BlackBerry*.

**Pariser, Eli. *The Filter Bubble: How the New Personalized Web Is Changing What We Read and How We Think*. Penguin Books, 2012.**

**Pettman, Dominic. *Infinite Distraction (Theory Redux)*. Polity, 2016**

It is often argued that contemporary media homogenize our thoughts and actions, without us being fully aware of the restrictions they impose. But what if the problem is not that we are all

synchronized to the same motions or moments, but rather dispersed into countless different emotional micro-experiences? What if the effect of so-called social media is to calibrate the interactive spectacle so that we never fully feel the same way as other potential allies at the same time? While one person is fuming about economic injustice or climate change denial, another is giggling at a cute cat video. And, two hours later, vice versa. The nebulous indignation which constitutes the very fuel of true social change can be redirected safely around the network, avoiding any dangerous surges of radical activity. In this short and provocative book, Dominic Pettman examines the deliberate deployment of what he calls “hypermulation,” as a key strategy encoded into the contemporary media environment. His account challenges the various narratives that portray social media as a sinister space of synchronized attention, in which we are busily “clicking ourselves to death.” This critical reflection on the unprecedented power of the Internet requires us to rethink the potential for infinite distraction that our latest technologies now allow.

Phillips, Peter. *The Bible, Social Media, and Digital Culture* [Routledge Focus on Religion]. Routledge, 2019.

This book centres on the use of the Bible within contemporary digital social media culture and gives an overview of its use online with examples from brand-new research from the CODEC Research Centre at Durham University, UK. It examines the shift from a propositional to a therapeutic approach to faith from a sociological standpoint.

The book covers two research projects in particular: the Twitter Gospels and Online Moralistic Therapeutic Deism. It explores the data as they relate to Abby Day’s concept of performative belief, picking up on Mia Lövhelm’s challenge to see how this concept works out in digital culture and social media. It also compares the data to various construals of contemporary approaches to faith performative faith, including Christian Smith and Melissa Lundquist Denton’s concept of moralistic therapeutic deism. Other research is also compared to the findings of these projects, including a micro-project on Celebrities and the Bible, to give a wider perspective on these issues in both the UK and the USA.

As a sociological exploration of Digital Millennial culture and its relationship to sacred texts, this will be of keen interest to scholars of Biblical studies, religion and digital media, and contemporary lived religion.

Phillips, Whitney. *This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things: Mapping the Relationship Between Online Trolling and Mainstream Culture*. MIT Press, 2016.

Internet trolls live to upset as many people as possible, using all the technical and psychological tools at their disposal. They gleefully whip the media into a frenzy over a fake teen drug crisis; they post offensive messages on Facebook memorial pages, traumatizing grief-stricken friends and family; they use unabashedly racist language and images. They take pleasure in ruining a complete stranger's day and find amusement in their victim's anguish. In short, trolling is the obstacle to a kinder, gentler Internet. To quote a famous Internet meme, trolling is why we can't have nice things online. Or at least that's what we have been led to believe. In this provocative book, Whitney Phillips argues that trolling, widely condemned as obscene and deviant, actually fits comfortably within the contemporary media landscape. Trolling may be obscene, but, Phillips argues, it isn't all that deviant. Trolls' actions are born of and fueled by culturally sanctioned impulses -- which are just as damaging as the trolls' most disruptive behaviors. Phillips describes, for example, the relationship between trolling and sensationalist corporate media -- pointing out that for trolls, exploitation is a leisure activity; for media, it's a business strategy. She shows how trolls, "the grimacing poster children for a socially networked world," align with social media. And she documents how trolls, in addition to parroting media tropes, also offer a grotesque pantomime of

dominant cultural tropes, including gendered notions of dominance and success and an ideology of entitlement. We don't just have a trolling problem, Phillips argues; we have a culture problem. *This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things* isn't only about trolls; it's about a culture in which trolls thrive.

Pinner, Richard. *Augmented Communication: The Effect of Digital Devices on Face-to-Face Interactions*. Palgrave, 2018.

This book explores the ways in which handheld networked devices can be used to enhance and augment interpersonal communication. The author examines in depth how the addition of visual and multimodal input, access to online search engines and the inclusion of participants from distant geographical locations (either synchronously or asynchronously) affects our face to face interactions. Presenting research data from several years of autoethnographic observation, this balanced work reveals the consequences, both positive and negative, of technology-dependent forms of discourse. In doing so, this sociolinguistic perspective fills a gap in the current literature and indicates possible future directions for the study of augmented communication. It will appeal in particular to students and scholars of sociolinguistics, applied linguistics and digital humanities.

Poe, Marshall. *A History of Communications: Media and Society from the Evolution of Speech to the Internet*. Cambridge, 2010.

Prado, C.G. *Social Media and Your Brain: Web-Based Communication Is Changing How We Think and Express Ourselves*. Praeger, 2016.

While society has widely condemned the effects on preteens and teens' natural social maturation of digitally enabled communication, such as texting and messaging, and of social media apps, such as Facebook, Instagram, and SnapChat, these forms of communication are adversely affecting everyone, including adults. This book examines how social media and modern communication methods are isolating users socially, jeopardizing their intellectual habits, and, as a result, decreasing their chances of achieving social and professional success.

- Focuses on the effects of the Internet and social media overall on the specific groups most affected: 'tweens, teens, and college students, individuals who take to the use of such modern communication methods naturally but who are also ill-equipped to use self-control to resist the instant gratification, constant distraction, and addictive behaviors that come with social media
- Alerts readers to consequences of social media and Internet use of which they are likely unaware
- Identifies practical solutions that can serve to counter the wide-reaching negative effects of excessive use of and reliance on social media

Purcell, Patrick (ed.). *Networked Neighbourhoods: The Connected Community in Context* (Springer, 2006).

**Rainie, Lee and Barry Wellman. *Networked: The New Social Operating System*. MIT Press, 2014.**

Daily life is connected life, its rhythms driven by endless email pings and responses, the chimes and beeps of continually arriving text messages, tweets and retweets, Facebook updates, pictures and videos to post and discuss. Our perpetual connectedness gives us endless opportunities to be part of the give-and-take of networking. Some worry that this new environment makes us isolated and lonely. But in *Networked*, Lee Rainie and Barry Wellman show how the large, loosely knit social circles of networked individuals expand opportunities for learning, problem solving, decision making, and personal interaction. The new

social operating system of "networked individualism" liberates us from the restrictions of tightly knit groups; it also requires us to develop networking skills and strategies, work on maintaining ties, and balance multiple overlapping networks. Rainie and Wellman outline the "triple revolution" that has brought on this transformation: the rise of social networking, the capacity of the Internet to empower individuals, and the always-on connectivity of mobile devices. Drawing on extensive evidence, they examine how the move to networked individualism has expanded personal relationships beyond households and neighborhoods; transformed work into less hierarchical, more team-driven enterprises; encouraged individuals to create and share content; and changed the way people obtain information. Rainie and Wellman guide us through the challenges and opportunities of living in the evolving world of networked individuals.

Reed, T.V. *Digitized Lives: Culture, Power, and Social Change in the Internet Era*. Routledge, 2014. 2nd edition, 2018.

In chapters examining a broad range of issues—including digitized identities, sexuality, politics in the post-truth era, digital games and education, race and gender relations, e-waste, and social protest movements—*Digitized Lives* argues that making sense of digitized culture means looking past the glossy surface of techno gear to ask deeper questions about how we can utilize technology to create a more socially, politically, and economically just world. This second edition includes important updates on mobile and social media, examining how new platforms and devices have altered how we interact with digital technologies.

A companion website ([www.culturalpolitics.net/digital\\_cultures](http://www.culturalpolitics.net/digital_cultures)) includes links to online articles and useful web sites, as well as a bibliography of offline resources, and more.

Preface: Why Buy this Book? 1. How Do People Make Sense of Digitizing Cultures? The Culture-Technology Matrix *Does Technology Make Us More than We Make Technology?* \* *Components of Digital Culture Analysis* \* *Is There a Virtual World/Real World Divide?* \* *Terminal Confusion?* \* *What's in a Name? New Media/Cyber/Digital Culture/Etc. Studies* 2. How is the Digital World Made? The Dreamers/Workers/Users Production Cycle *The Internet's Weird History* \* *From Dreamers to Reality: Producing Digital Stuff* \* *Producing through Consuming? Prosumers and Interactive Identity* \* *Clean Rooms and/or 'Dark Satanic Mills'? Toxic Production, E-Waste and Environmental Justice* 3. Who Are We Online? Digital Masquerade, Privacy, Anonymity, Community and Cyborg dis/Embodiment *Is Life Online a Masquerade?* \* *Has the Net Killed Privacy?* \* *Are We Becoming Posthuman Cyborgs?* \* *Anonymity, Disinhibition and Trolls, Oh My!* \* *Are Virtual Communities for Real?* \* *How Much Online Life Is Good for Us?* \* *Hegemony, Cultural Imperialism and/or Digital Diversity?* 4. Is Everybody Equal Online? Digitizing Gender, Ethnicity and Dis/Ability *The Default Subject Position* \* *Is the Internet a Guy? Engendering Cyberspaces* \* *Is the Internet Color Blind? E-racializations* \* *Who Is Dis/Abled by Cyberspaces? Enabling and Disabling Technologies* 5. Digitizing Desire? Sexploration and/or Sexploitation *Real Virtual Sex Education* \* *Digital Diddling: Varieties of Cybersex* \* *The "Mainstreaming" of Porn* \* *Digitized Sex Trafficking* \* *How Queer are Cyberspaces? Alternative Sexualities* 6. Does the Internet Have a Political Bias? E-Democracy, Networked Authoritarianism and Online Activism *Citizen Cyborgs? E-Voting, Online Politicking, and Participatory Democracy* \* *Can Social Media Overthrow Governments?* \* *Netroots Activism or Just Slacktivism?* \* *Hacking, Wiki-Leaking, and Cyberterrorism* \* *Digitizing the Arts of Protest* 7. Are Digital Games Making Us Violent and Sex-crazed, or Will They Save the World? Virtual Play, Real Impact *What's in a Game? Playing Theories* \* *What Do Games Teach?* \* *Do Games Make Players Violent?* \* *Digitized 'Militainment'?* \* *Gender Games, Race Games* \* *Can Games Save the World?* 8. Are Kids Getting Dumber as Their Phones Get Smarter? E-Learning, 'Edutainment' and the Future of Knowledge Sharing *'Is Our Children Learning' Digitally?* \* *What is Technology Doing in the Classroom?* \* *Is Knowledge a Commodity or a Human Right? MOOCs, Information Feudalism and Scholarly Publishing* 9. Who in the World is Online? Digital Inclusions and Exclusions *The World Wide Web Isn't* \* *Who Needs the Internet?* \*

*From Digital Divides to Technologies for Social Inclusion \* Should Everyone and Everything Be Online? \* Why Digitizing Matters* 10. Conclusion: Hype, Hope, and Possible Digitized Futures

**Reinke, Tony. *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You*. Crossway, 2017.**

Within a few years of its unveiling, the smartphone had become part of us, fully integrated into the daily patterns of our lives. Never offline, always within reach, we now wield in our hands a magic wand of technological power we have only begun to grasp. But it raises new enigmas, too. Never more connected, we seem to be growing more distant. Never more efficient, we have never been more distracted.

Drawing from the insights of numerous thinkers, published studies, and his own research, writer Tony Reinke identifies twelve potent ways our smartphones have changed us—for good and bad. Reinke calls us to cultivate wise thinking and healthy habits in the digital age, encouraging us to maximize the many blessings, to avoid the various pitfalls, and to wisely wield the most powerful gadget of human connection ever unleashed.

**Reinke, Tony. *Competing Spectacles: Treasuring Christ in the Media Age*. Crossway, 2019.**

*What images should I feed my eyes?*

We often leave this question unanswered— because we don't ask it. Maybe we don't want to ask it. But viral videos, digital images, and other spectacles surround us in every direction—competing for our time, our attention, our lust, and our money. So we let our lazy eyes feed on whatever comes our way. As a result, we never stop to consider the consequences of our visual diet on our habits, desires, and longings.

Journalist Tony Reinke asked these hard questions himself—critiquing his own habits—and now invites us along to see what he discovered as he investigated the possibilities and the pitfalls of our image-centered world. In the end, he shares the beauty of a Greater Spectacle—capable of centering our souls, filling our hearts, and stabilizing our gaze in this age of the digital spectacle.

**Remery, Michael. *Tweeting with God*. Ignatius Press 2015.**

If you are curious, you ask questions - even about difficult topics. Can Catholic teaching provide answers relevant to your life today? In this book you will find 200 daring questions from young people about God, faith, prayer and morality. Fr. Michel Remery thoughtfully answers them all in Tweets of 140 characters or less, and provides expanded explanations based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible.

Fr. Remery shows how faith is logical, even in the 21st century! He introduces you to Jesus, shows you how to pray, and explains the sacraments. He explores some of the more difficult chapters of Church history, and helps you to discover what it means to live a good and purposeful life.

This book is ideal for:

- young men and women who are curious about the Catholic faith
- new Catholics and current catechumens
- anyone who wants to share his faith or freshen up his knowledge of the faith
- those who want to speak with others about the faith

**Rice, Jesse. *The Church of Facebook: How the Hyperconnected Are Redefining Community*. David C. Cook, 2009.**

This timely release explores the community-altering phenomenon of social networking sites and what it reveals about friendship, God, and our own hearts. With hundreds of millions of users, social networks are changing how we form relationships, perceive others, and shape our identity. Yet at its core, this movement reflects our need for community. Our longing for intimacy, connection, and a place to belong has never been a secret, but social networking offers us a new perspective on the way we engage our community. How do these networks impact our relationships? In what ways are they shaping the way we think of ourselves? And how might this phenomenon subtly reflect a God who longs to connect with each one of us? *The Church of Facebook* explores these ideas and much more, offering a revealing look at the wildly popular world of online social networking.

**Ripatrazone, Nick. *Digital Communion: Marshall McLuhan's Spiritual Vision for a Virtual Age*. Fortress Press, 2022.**

Marshall McLuhan was the greatest prophet of the digital age. In the 1960s, McLuhan, a Canadian literary theorist reared on Elizabethan satire and the labyrinthine novels of James Joyce, turned his attention toward the budding and befuddling electronic age. Like most prophets, McLuhan became one through a fascination with God. Prophets divine their wisdom from a source, and *Digital Communion* shows that McLuhan's was his own Catholic faith. In other words, the greatest prophet of the digital age was an ardent Christian. A reconsideration of his vision can change the way we view the online world. A Catholic convert, McLuhan foretold a digital age full of blessings and sins: a world where information was a phone call or keystroke away, but where our new global village could also bring out the worst in us. For him, mass media was a form of Mass. McLuhan thought that while the print world was visual, the electric world--especially television--was a medium of touch. It enveloped us. For McLuhan, God was everywhere, including in the electric light. *Digital Communion* considers the religious history of mass communication, from the Gutenberg Bible to James Joyce's literary forerunners of hypertextual language to McLuhan's vision of the electronic world as a place of potential spiritual exchange, in order to reveal how we can cultivate a more spiritual vision of the internet--a vision we need now more than ever.

**Robertson Huff, Sadie. *Who Are You Following?: Pursuing Jesus in a Social-Media Obsessed World*. Thomas Nelson (February 2022).**

**If influencers have power over us, who are you allowing to influence you?** In an online world obsessed with follows and likes, it's important to consider what you're really searching for. When you follow someone, it's typically because you want to be like them or live like they do--but who have you placed as your role models? In *Who Are You Following?* bestselling author and social media personality Sadie Robertson Huff dives deep into exploring who we are allowing to influence our daily thoughts and actions. With an excellent grasp of scriptural truths, using current research, surveys, and personal and biblical stories, Sadie draws on her own experience as a social media influencer and addresses topics such as

- how to go from being liked to being truly loved
- our true motives for fame
- being seen from the outside versus being known
- comparing ourselves to others
- questioning *why did I post that?!*
- how to respond to cancel culture
- wondering *does God still love me?*

This book is perfect for young Christians wondering how they can live a vibrant, bold, and uncompromising life of faith in God by following the Messiah--the ultimate influencer. Discover the love, purpose, and fulfillment that is found only in Jesus.

**Robinson, Brett. *Appletopia: Media Technology and the Religious Imagination of Steve Jobs*. Baylor University Press, July 2013.**

Steve Jobs knew what he was doing. Long before others understood the potential of the personal computer, he saw its true power. But it was his visionary use of media to explain technology to a hungry culture that revealed his singular genius. In *Appletopia*, media and culture critic Brett T. Robinson reconstructs Steve Jobs' imagination for digital innovation in transcendent terms. From Zen Buddhism and Catholicism to dystopian and futurist thought, religion defined and branded Jobs' design methodology. Robinson resurrects Jobs' uncanny ability to integrate philosophical and religious thought with technological genius, laying the groundwork for Apple's ubiquity today. As it turns out, culture was eager to find meaning in the burgeoning technological revolution, naming Jobs as its prophet and Apple's advertising as its gospel.

Romele, Alberto and Enrico Terrone. *Towards a Philosophy of Digital Media*. Palgrave, 2018.

This book uses the conceptual tools of philosophy to shed light on digital media and on the way in which they bear upon our existence. At the turn of the century, the rise of digital media significantly changed our world. The digitizing of traditional media has extraordinarily increased the circulation of texts, sound, and images. Digital media have also widened our horizons and altered our relationship with others and with ourselves. Information production and communication are still undoubtedly significant aspects of digital media and life. Recently, however, recording, registration and keeping track have taken the upper hand in both online practices and the imaginaries related to them. The essays in this book therefore focus primarily on the idea that digital media involve a significant overlapping between communication and recording.

Rosen, Larry. *iDisorder: Understanding Our Obsession with Technology and Overcoming Its Hold on Us* (St. Martin's Press, 2012)

*iDisorder*: changes to your brain's ability to process information and your ability to relate to the world due to your daily use of media and technology resulting in signs and symptoms of psychological disorders - such as stress, sleeplessness, and a compulsive need to check in with all of your technology. Based on decades of research and expertise in the "psychology of technology," Dr. Larry Rosen offers clear, down-to-earth explanations for why many of us are suffering from an "iDisorder." Rosen offers solid, proven strategies to help us overcome the iDisorder we all feel in our lives while still making use of all that technology offers. Our world is not going to change, and technology will continue to penetrate society even deeper leaving us little chance to react to the seemingly daily additions to our lives. Rosen teaches us how to stay human in an increasingly technological world.

Rosen, Larry. *Rewired: Understanding the iGeneration and the Way They Learn*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2010.

Look around at today's youth and you can see how technology has changed their lives. They lie on their beds and study while listening to mp3 players, texting and chatting online with friends, and reading and posting Facebook messages. How does the new, charged-up, multitasking generation respond to traditional textbooks and lectures? Are we effectively reaching today's technologically advanced youth? *Rewired* is the first book to help educators and parents teach to this new generation's radically different learning styles and needs. This book will also help parents learn what to expect from their "techie" children concerning school, homework, and even socialization. In short, it is a book that exposes the impact of generational differences on learning while providing strategies for engaging students at school and at home.

Rozzi, Zane. *Social Media Depression: Causes, Effects, and Cures* (Kindle).

Social Media Depression discusses the communication trends unique to social media and the effects those trends could be having upon people. Social media use creates a new set of behaviour patterns, unspoken rules, and expectations that both you and others must measure up to. The first issue discussed in Social Media Depression is social comparison. We feel good when we're doing as well as, or better than, others. We feel bad when we aren't. Social media provides a constant stream of other people's accomplishments to compare ourselves to. We take others' posts at face value, but they are highly embellished. People take pictures from the perfect angle and exaggerate when writing descriptions. People want to look good to others. Their exaggerations skew our comparisons. We use social media to kill time while we're bored. As a result, we automatically compare our most boring moments to the exaggerated best moments posted by other people. The result: Our lives look boring in comparison and depression can set in. Exaggerated social comparison is the first of many issues discussed in Social Media Depression. The book doesn't discourage social media use. Instead, it teaches social media users how to avoid any negative effects.

Sawyer, Sam. "Eating the Apple," *America*, August 26-September 2, 2013

**Schmidt, Katherine. *Virtual Communion: Theology of the Internet and the Catholic Sacramental Imagination*. Fortress Academic, 2020.**

*Virtual Communion: Theology of the Internet and the Catholic Sacramental Imagination* provides a theological account of the internet from a Catholic perspective. It engages digital culture by providing a context for media and mediation within the Catholic tradition, specifically focusing on the ecclesiology and sacramentality of the church. Katherine G. Schmidt argues that the Catholic imagination is inherently consonant with the idea of the "virtual," understood as the creative space between presence and absence, bringing the fields of media studies, internet studies, sociology, history, and theology together in order to give a theological account of the social realities of American Catholicism in light of digital culture. Overall, Schmidt argues that the social possibilities of the internet afford the church great opportunity for building a social context that allows the living out of Eucharistic logic learned in properly liturgical moments.

Shaw, Russell. *Nothing to Hide: Secrecy, Communication, and Communion in the Catholic Church*. Ignatius Press, 2008.

Shaw, widely known Catholic writer, speaker and former communications director for the U S Bishops, discusses the abuse of secrecy in the Church, the scandals it has caused and the serious problem of mistrust that exists in the credibility of the Church. Not concerned with the legitimate secrecy that is necessary to protect confidentiality and people's reputations, Shaw is rather concerned here with the stifling, deadening misuse of secrecy that has done immense harm to communion and community in the Church in America.

Shaw shows the secrecy issue is a theological as well as practical problem that raises such questions as: What kind of Church do we want our Church to be, open or closed? What kind of Church should it be? And how much secrecy is compatible with having such a Church? As Pope Benedict XVI has stated, "The consequence is clear: we cannot communicate with the Lord if we do not communicate with one another."

The Church is a communion, not a political democracy, and thus openness and accountability are even more crucial for the life of the Church than they are in a democracy. In a talk he gave many years before he became the current Pope, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had this to say about the reality of ecclesial communion: "Fellowship in the Body of Christ and receiving the Body of Christ means fellowship with one

another. This of its very nature includes mutual acceptance, giving and receiving on both sides, and readiness to share one's goods . . . In this sense, the social question is given quite a central place in the theological heart of the concept of communion."

This is a beautiful vision of the Church. Shaw's aim in his book is to make a contribution to realizing this vision in the concrete circumstances of the present day, by helping to end the culture of secrecy, especially within American Catholicism, and replacing the destructive culture with an open, accountable community of faith.

Schultze, Quentin. *Communicating with Grace and Virtue*. Baker Academic, 2020.

Communications expert Quentin Schultze offers an engaging and practical guide to help Christians interact effectively at home, work, church, school, and beyond. Based on solid biblical principles and drawn from Schultze's own remarkable experiences, this book shows how to practice "servant communication" for a rich and rewarding life. Topics include how to overcome common mistakes, be a more grateful and virtuous communicator, tell stories effectively, reduce conflicts, overcome fears, and communicate well in a high-tech world. Helpful sidebars and text boxes are included.

**Schultze, Quentin. *Habits of the High-Tech Heart: Living Virtuously in the Information Age*. Baker Academic, 2004.**

The Internet is everywhere. Chat rooms and instant email messages have taken the place of letters and phone calls. The Internet has changed the way we do business, shop, communicate, and even meet people. In many ways our lives are easier and more convenient. But what price do we pay for this convenience? *Habits of the HighTech Heart* addresses the major drawbacks to the network computerization of our society and the growing tendency to substitute technology and innovation for morality and virtue. Quentin Schultze argues that the cyber revolution is a mythology of progress that is fueled by informationism, a quasi-religious faith that falsely assumes information itself can improve our lives. Cyberculture assumes a technical solution to every problem. It breeds individualism at the cost of community and values speed, efficiency, and convenience over quality, morality, and virtue. The solution, Schultze argues, is not to dismantle our growing technologies but to pay more attention to the "habits of the heart" as described by Alexis de Tocqueville and made popular by Robert Bellah and his colleagues in *Habits of the Heart* (discernment, moderation, wisdom, humility, authenticity, and diversity). These habits, which embody the wisdom of the past and the virtue and morality of the JudeoChristian tradition, must reshape our understanding of digital technology. Greatly influenced by the insights of Václav Havel, Schultze calls for a renewal of community and offers readers ways to live by habits of the heart in the information age. *Habits of the HighTech Heart* is a provocative and engaging book that will foster dialogue among philosophers, theologians, technology experts, and all those concerned with the impact technology has had on our society. And while it is both comprehensive and scholarly, *Habits of the HighTech Heart* is engaging and accessible enough for the thoughtful lay reader.

Schultze, Quentin and Robert Herbert Woods (eds.). *Understanding Evangelical Media: The Changing Face of Christian Communication*. IVP Academic, 2008.

Schuurman, Derek. *Shaping a Digital World: Faith, Culture, and Computer Technology*. IVP Academic, 2013.

Digital technology has become a ubiquitous feature of modern life. Our increasingly fast-paced world seems more and more remote from the world narrated in Scripture. But despite its pervasiveness, there remains a dearth of theological reflection about computer technology and what it means to live as a faithful Christian in a digitally-saturated society. In this thoughtful and timely book, Derek Schuurman

provides a brief theology of technology, rooted in the Reformed tradition and oriented around the grand themes of creation, fall, redemption and new creation. He combines a concise, accessible style with penetrating cultural and theological analysis. Building on the work of Jacques Ellul, Marshall McLuhan and Neil Postman, and drawing from a wide range of Reformed thinkers, Schuurman situates computer technology within the big picture of the biblical story. Technology is not neutral, but neither is there an exclusively "Christian" form of technological production and use. Instead, Schuurman guides us to see the digital world as part of God's good creation, fallen yet redeemable according to the law of God. Responsibly used, technology can become an integral part of God's shalom for the earth.

Shaked, Spier. *Collective Action 2.0: The Impact of Social Media on Collective Action* (Chandos Information Professional Series). Chandos Publishing, 2017.

*Collective Action 2.0: The Impact of Social Media on Collective Action* provides a balanced look into how ICTs leverage and interact with collective action through avoiding technological determinism, utopianism, and fundamentalism, which impacts the current discourse. Recent events in different authoritarian regimes, such as Iran and Egypt, have drawn global attention to a developing phenomenon in collective action: people tend to organize through different social media platforms for political protest and resistance. This phenomenon describes a change in social structure and behavior tied to Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Social media platforms have been used to leverage collective action, which, in some cases, has arguable led to political revolution. The phenomenon also indicates that the way information is organized affects the organization of social structures with which it interacts. The phenomenon also has another side, namely the use of social media for activist suppression, state surveillance, or for the mobilization of collective action towards undesirable ends.

- Analyzes social media and collective action in a deep and balanced manner
- Presents an account avoiding technological determinism, utopianism, and fundamentalism
- Considers the underlying theory behind quick-paced social media
- Takes an interdisciplinary approach that will resonate with all those interested in social media and collective action, regardless of field specialty

Sheldon, Pavica. *Social Media: Principles and Applications*. Lexington Books, March 2017.

*Social Media: Principles and Applications* examines social media in interpersonal, mass-mediated, educational, organizational, and political settings. Social media technologies take on many different forms, including social network sites like Facebook and Twitter, blogs, wikis, online video and photo-sharing sites (e.g., Pinterest), rating and social bookmarking sites, and video/text chatting sites (e.g., Skype). Beginning with the principles of social media, Sheldon disassembles applications of social media in a variety of settings to understand who is using social media, how they develop meaningful relationships, and how they use social media during major events. Sheldon also delves into the political, educational, commercial, and privacy issues of social media use, making this an excellent resource for communication, psychology, and social media scholars.

Silverman, Jacob. *Terms of Service: Social Media and the Price of Constant Connection*. Harper, March 2015.

A brilliant young literary and cultural critic joins the ranks of such stellar commentators as Evgeny Morozov and Nicholas Carr with this incisive commentary on social media culture and its impact on how we view ourselves, each other, and our world—an ambitious, perceptive, and illuminating manifesto that exposes the costs of our online connections. Social networking is a staple of modern life, but its

continued evolution is becoming increasingly detrimental to our lives. Shifts in communication, identity, and privacy are affecting us more than we realize or understand. *Terms of Service* crystalizes the current moment in technology and contemplates what is to come: the identity-validating pleasures and perils of online visibility; our newly adopted view of daily life through the lens of what's share-worthy; and the surveillance state operated by social media platforms—Facebook, Google, Twitter, and more—to mine our personal data for advertising revenue: an invasion of our lives that is as pervasive as government spying. Jacob Silverman calls for social media users to take back ownership of their digital lives from the Silicon Valley corporations who claim to know what's best for them. Integrating politics, sociology, national security, pop culture, and technology, he explores the surprising conformity at the heart of Internet culture, explaining how social media companies engineer their products to encourage shallow engagement and discourage dissent, and reflects on the implications of the collapsed barriers between our private and public lives. Illuminating the new era of social media as never before, Silverman brings into focus the inner conflict we feel when deciding what to share and what to “like,” and explains how we can take the steps we need to free ourselves.

Simanowski, Roberto. *Facebook Society: Losing Ourselves in Sharing Ourselves*. Columbia University, 2018.

Facebook claims that it is building a "global community." Whether this sounds utopian, dystopian, or simply self-promotional, there is no denying that social-media platforms have altered social interaction, political life, and outlooks on the world, even for people who do not regularly use them. In this book, Roberto Simanowski takes Facebook as a starting point to investigate our social-media society and its insidious consequences for our concept of the self.

Simanowski contends that while they are often denounced as outlets for narcissism and self-branding, social networks and the practices they cultivate in fact remake the self in their image. Sharing is the outsourcing of one's experiences, encouraging unreflective self-narration rather than conscious self-determination. *Facebook Society* describes how we let our lives become episodic autobiographies whose real author is the algorithm lurking behind the interface. As we go about accumulating more material for the network to arrange for us, our sense of self becomes diminished and Facebook shapes the kind of subject who no longer minds. Social-media companies' relentless pursuit of personal data for advertising purposes presents users with increasingly targeted, customized information, attenuating cultural memory and collective identity in an emergent digital nation. Instead of experiencing the present, we are stuck ceaselessly documenting and archiving it. Presenting a creative, philosophically informed perspective that wields its erudition to speak to a shared reality, *Facebook Society* asks us to come to terms with the networked world for our own sake and for all those with whom we share it.

Singh, M. Peter. *Cybertheology*. Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2014.

This is a pioneering work. It tackles a topic that hardly existed few years ago. This may be the first attempt to systematically incorporate information technology (IT) into theology. The background information on IT is comprehensive and presented with clarity. The researcher's strength lies in the presentation of theories. His overview of mass communication theories is publishable, and so is his chapter on research methodologies. The four themes discussed here (cybercotent, cyberrelations, cybercommunities and cyberhope) are theologically and ethically of direct relevance to the theme of the thesis. Both negative and positive aspects are presented in a fair way.

Smith, Nils. *Social Media Guide for Ministry*. Group Publishing, 2013.

Social Media can feel a little overwhelming to a busy pastor or ministry leader. You've probably thought, "I know I should be using it for my church, but I don't know where to start!" This compact guide can help! You will learn:

- What the most popular social media platforms are,
- how to utilize them,
- and the difference social media can make in your ministry.

Fun to read, easy to understand and filled with practical how-to's and real-life stories of ministry impact, this guide will help you navigate the waters of social media and learn how to make it work for you.

If you've wanted to learn more about Facebook, Twitter or any number of other social media platforms, this is the book for you!

Smith, Pam. *Online Mission and Ministry: A Theological and Practical Guide*. SPCK, 2015.

Many clergy and churches are now taking to the internet and social media to promote their churches or ministries, but few have thought through some of the difficult pastoral and theological issues that may arise. 'Virtual vicar' Revd Pam Smith guides both new and experienced practitioners through setting up online ministries and considers some of the issues that may arise, such as: Are relationships online as valid as those offline? Is it possible to participate in a 'virtual' communion service? How do you deal with 'trolls' in a Christian way? What is it appropriate for a clergyperson to say on social media?

Soukup, Paul and Philip Rossi (eds.). *Mass Media and Moral Imagination*. Sheed & Ward, 1994.

**Soukup, Paul (ed.). *Media, Culture and Catholicism*. [Communication, Culture & Theology]. Kansas City: Sheed & Ward, 1996.**

**Soukup, Paul. *A Media Ecology of Theology: Communicating Faith throughout the Christian Tradition*. Baylor University, Sept. 2022.**

In the Christian tradition, the faithful *do* theology—defined in Anselm's phrase as "faith seeking understanding"—in different media. The contemporary emphasis on written or academic theology obscures the long history in which people sought to understand and express their faith by way of various outlets and formats. Because historical Christianity has embraced every communication medium, the media ecology approach to communication study offers a powerful tool to examine that history and the affordances of the media for theological expression. Just so, the history of theology offers a variety of test cases to illustrate media ecology at work.

In *A Media Ecology of Theology* Paul Soukup invites us to explore the interaction between communication media, broadly defined, and the Christian theological heritage. Soukup follows a media ecology methodology, moving from a description of a communication medium to an examination of its affordances to a discussion of how those affordances shape the faith-seeking-understanding practiced in each. He shows that, in some cases, different media support different theological conclusions, and different theological stances shape media. The case studies range from the first to the twenty-first centuries, with a limitation imposed by selection, language, and culture.

As an introductory work, *A Media Ecology of Theology* addresses communication scholars and students, theological scholars and students (primarily those interested in the history of theology or in practical theology), and those with an interest in various media (art, architecture, etc.). With an interdisciplinary

focus and a willingness to argue for a wider theological ecosystem—one in which the medium influences both content and selection of ideas—Soukup creates new vistas for understanding the life of faith, and how societies and communities express their most cherished ideas.

Soukup, Paul. *Communication and Theology: Introduction and Review of the Literature*. London: World Association for Christian Communication, 1983.

Southerland, Joel. *Digital Witness: A Social Media Primer for Churches*. St. Paul Press, 2014.

**Spadaro, Antonio. *Cybergrace: Spirituality in the Era of the Internet*. 40K, 2013.**

**Spadaro, Antonio. *Cybertheology: Thinking Christianity in the Era of the Internet*. Fordham, 2014.**

This book, written by Antonio Spadaro, S.J., the Editor of *La Civiltà Cattolica*, has been translated by Maria Way, who specializes in topics relating to media and religion. The author suggests that since the Internet has changed, and is changing, the ways in which we think and act, it must also be changing the ways in which we think Christianity and its theology. To develop this theme, he uses the term 'Cybertheology'. Through the theoretical works of a variety of authors, e.g., Marshall McLuhan, Peter Lévy and Teilhard de Chardin, he associates the concepts of theology with theories that have been expounded on the internet. His sources come from media studies and anthropology, as well as theology. Spadaro also considers the hacker ethic in relation to Cybertheology. How has the internet changed our notion of theology? Has the internet had similar effects on the thinking of Christianity that were experienced after the development of other media technologies? The book aims to clarify just how thinking has changed or remained the same in an era which is often seen as one in which the media's changes have speeded up. It considers both the positives and negatives that may be associated with the internet in relation to Christianity and its theology.

Speake, Wendy. *The 40-Day Social Media Fast: Exchange Your Online Distractions for Real-Life Devotion*. Baker Books, 2020.

Are you addicted to your phone? Do you find yourself engaging online but unengaged at home with the people right in front of you? Do you spend hours scrolling through Facebook, Instagram, newsfeeds, and YouTube videos? Have your devices become divisive--dividing you from family and friends and, most importantly, God? What would happen if you took some time to fast from social media in order to get social with God and others once more?

In the pattern of her popular 40-Day Sugar Fast, Wendy Speake offers you *The 40-Day Social Media Fast*. This "screen sabbatical" is designed to help you become fully conscious of your dependence on social media so you can purposefully unplug from screens and plug into real life with the help of a very real God. Take a break from everyone and everything you follow online. Disconnect in order to reconnect with the only One who said "follow me."

Stewart, Daxton (ed.). *Social Media and the Law: A Guidebook for Communication Students and Professionals*. Routledge, 2012, <sup>2</sup>2017.

Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, and Flickr allow users to connect with one another and share information with the click of a mouse or a tap on a touchscreen—and have become vital tools for professionals in the news and strategic communication fields. But as rapidly as these services have grown in popularity, their legal ramifications aren't widely understood. To what

extent do communicators put themselves at risk for defamation and privacy lawsuits when they use these tools, and what rights do communicators have when other users talk about them on social networks? How can an entity maintain control of intellectual property issues—such as posting copyrighted videos and photographs—consistent with the developing law in this area? How and when can journalists and publicists use these tools to do their jobs without endangering their employers or clients? Including two new chapters that examine First Amendment issues and ownership of social media accounts and content, *Social Media and the Law* brings together thirteen media law scholars to address these questions and more, including current issues like copyright, online impersonation, anonymity, cyberbullying, sexting, and WikiLeaks. Students and professional communicators alike need to be aware of laws relating to defamation, privacy, intellectual property, and government regulation—and this guidebook is here to help them navigate the tricky legal terrain of social media.

Stig, Prof Hjarvard. *The Mediatization of Culture and Society*. Routledge, 2013.

Mediatization has emerged as a key concept to reconsider old, yet fundamental questions about the role and influence of media in culture and society. In particular the theory of mediatization has proved fruitful for the analysis of how media spread to, become intertwined with, and influence other social institutions and cultural phenomena like politics, play and religion.

This book presents a major contribution to the theoretical understanding of the mediatization of culture and society. This is supplemented by in-depth studies of:

- The mediatization of politics: From party press to opinion industry;
- The mediatization of religion: From the faith of the church to the enchantment of the media;
- The mediatization of play: From bricks to bytes;
- The mediatization of habitus: The social character of a new individualism.

Mediatization represents a new social condition in which the media have emerged as an important institution in society at the same time as they have become integrated into the very fabric of social and cultural life. Making use of a broad conception of the media as technologies, institutions and aesthetic forms, Stig Hjarvard considers how characteristics of both old and new media come to influence human interaction, social institutions and cultural imaginations.

Storr, Will. *Selfie: How We Became So Self-Obsessed and What It's Doing to Us*. Picador, 2017

We live in the age of the individual. Every day, we're bombarded with depictions of the beautiful, successful, slim, socially conscious, and extroverted individual that our culture has decided is the perfect self, and we berate ourselves when we don't measure up. This model of the perfect self and the impossibly high standards it sets can be extremely dangerous. People are suffering under the torture of this impossible fantasy, and unprecedented social pressure is leading to increases in depression and suicide. Journalist and novelist Will Storr began to wonder about this perfect self that torments so many of us: Where does this ideal come from? Why is it so powerful? Is there any way to break its spell? To answer these questions, Storr takes the reader on a journey from the shores of Ancient Greece, through the Christian Middle Ages, to the self-esteem evangelists of 1980s California, the rise of narcissism and the "selfie" generation, and right up to the era of hyper-individualism in which we live now. *Selfie* tells the epic tale of the person we all know so intimately—because it's us.

Sutherland, Joel. *Digital Witness: A Social Media Primer for Churches*. St. Paul Press, 2014.

*Digital Witness* helps churches get started with Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for ministry. It identifies simple, strategic practices a church can implement immediately to move into the digital world.

**Suler, John.** *The Psychology of Cyberspace.* [hyper-text](#)

Suler, John. *Psychology of the Digital Age: Humans Become Electric.* Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Based on two decades of participant-observation field research in diverse online environments, this engaging book offers insights for improving lifestyles and enhancing wellbeing in the digital age. John R. Suler, a founder of the field of cyberpsychology, explains its fundamental principles across a wide variety of topics, including online identity management, disinhibition, communication via text and photographs, intimacy and misunderstandings in online relationships, conflicting attitudes toward social media, addiction, deviant behavior, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and media overload. He provides a new framework, the 'Eight Dimensions of Cyberpsychology Architecture', which researchers, students, and general readers interested in cyberpsychology can apply as a valuable tool for creating and understanding different digital realms. *Psychology of the Digital Age* focuses on the individual, shedding new light on our conscious as well as subconscious reactions to online experiences and our intrinsic human need to self-actualize.

**Standage, Tom.** *Writing on the Wall: Social Media – the First 2,000 Years.* Bloomsbury, 2014.

Social media is anything but a new phenomenon. From the papyrus letters that Cicero and other Roman statesmen used to exchange news, to the hand-printed tracts of the Reformation and the pamphlets that spread propaganda during the American and French revolutions, the ways people shared information with their peers in the past are echoed in the present. After decades of newspapers, radio, and television dominating in dissemination of information, the Internet has spawned a reemergence of social media as a powerful new way for individuals to share information with their friends, driving public discourse in new ways. Standage reminds us how historical social networks have much in common with modern social media. The Catholic Church's dilemmas in responding to Martin Luther's attacks are similar to those of today's large institutions in responding to criticism on the Internet, for example, and seventeenth-century complaints about the distractions of coffeehouses mirror modern concerns about social media. Invoking figures from Thomas Paine to Vinton Cerf, co-inventor of the Internet, Standage explores themes that have long been debated, from the tension between freedom of expression and censorship to social media's role in spurring innovation and fomenting revolution. *Writing on the Wall* draws on history to cast provocative new light on today's social media and encourages debate and discussion about how we'll communicate in the future.

**Stypinska, Diana.** *Social Media, Truth and the Care of the Self: On the Digital Technologies of the Subject.* Palgrave MacMillan, Nov 2022.

This book explores the relationship between (post)truth and subjectivity by focusing on social media as a site of digital subjectification. These days, truth is cheap. Anyone can claim it. Indeed, most do – impudently and without any recourse to facts or objective reality. Truth-claims today are nothing but power grabs, employed in the permanent popularity contest that our culture and politics have become. Correspondingly, our very sense of reality is perpetually uprooted. Post-truth sets us adrift. Navigating by smartphones, we pursue endless mirages, coming to wonder whether the shoreline itself is a myth. The book examines the ways in which different digital practices – such as influencing, trolling and digital activism – operate as technologies of the subject, shaping how we relate to ourselves, others and the world. It argues that social media facilitates the progressive eclipsing of our subjective (dis)positions by the economic imperative. Positioning post-truth as the outcome of unbridled economicization, it exposes the true costs of its supremacy. The critical reflections on the relationship between digital subjectification and the social offered by this book will be of relevance to academics and students working in the fields of sociology, media and cultural studies, politics, and philosophy.

Sweet, Leonard. *Viral: How Social Networking Is Poised to Ignite Revival*. Waterbook Press, March 2012.

The gospel is nothing without relationship. And no one gets it like the Google Generation. God came to earth to invite us, personally, into a relationship. And while Christians at times downplay relationships, the social-media generation is completely sold on the idea. In *Viral*, Leonard Sweet says Christians need to learn about connecting with others from the experts—those who can't seem to stop texting, IM-ing, tweeting, and updating their Facebook statuses. What would happen, he asks, if Christians devoted less attention to strategies and statistics and paid more attention to pursuing relationships? The current generation is driven by a God-given desire to know others and to be known by others. Most of them, in seeking to connect in meaningful ways, have found a place of belonging that is outside the organized church. Why not bring the two together? Those who are sold out to relationships can teach Christians how to be better friends to people who need God. At the same time, members of the social-media generation can learn how to follow their desire for belonging, straight into the arms of God. It's time for relationship to be restored to the heart of the gospel. And when that happens, can revival be far behind?

End-of-Chapter Interactives Included

Sweety, Helen Chukka (ed.). *Ecclesiology in the Cyber Age*. Papers presented at Young Theologians Conclave: ERC-UTC Bangalore, June 26-27, 2014. Christian World Imprints, 2016.

1. Ecclesiologies in Different Biblical Ages : Discerning Insights for the Church in the Cyber Age / Roger Gaikwad
2. Towards an Ecclesiology of the Internet and its Age : Squaring a Circle with a Triangle? / Michael Jackson
3. Cybertheology in the Cyber age / M. Peter Singh
4. Freedom in the Cyber Age : Towards Life in Fellowship / Prasuna Gnana Nelavala
5. Power and Authority in Church "Cyber Exousia" / K. James Cecil Victor
6. Relevant Theologies in the Cyber Age / Jerry Kurian
7. From Oral Text to Print Texts to Cyber Texts : Textual Textures in the Terrian of Texting Interrogating Issues of Cyber-hermeneutics / Raj Bharath Patta
8. Elkanas' Split Filial Affinity : Challenges to Cyber Ergonomics / Vinod Victor
9. Churches Responding to Conflict in Cyber Age / Canon Dr. Leslie Nathaniel
10. Rural Implications in the Cyber Age / Caesar David and Sunil Raj Philip
11. Digital Harmony in Cyber Communication : Zeitgeist of Ecclesial Communication / Anilal M. Jose and Gnana D. Hans

Taylor, Mark. *About Religion: Economies of Faith in Virtual Culture* (Religion and Postmodernism). University of Chicago, 1999.

Traveling from high culture to pop culture and back again, *About Religion* approaches cyberspace and Las Vegas through Hegel and Kant and reads Melville's *The Confidence-Man* through the film *Wall Street*. As astonishing juxtapositions and associations proliferate, formerly uncharted territories of virtual culture disclose theological vestiges, showing that faith in contemporary culture is as unavoidable as it is elusive.

Thacker, Jason. *Following Jesus in a Digital Age*. B&H Books, August 2022.

We were told technology would make our lives easier and more convenient, but technology just seems to have made it more complicated and confusing. As Christians, what does our faith have to do with these pressing issues of life in a digital age? In *Following Jesus in a Digital Age*, you will not only be challenged on how technology is shaping your walk with Christ, but you will also be equipped with biblical wisdom to navigate the most difficult aspects of our digital culture—including the rise of misinformation, conspiracy theories, social media, digital privacy, and polarization. God calls his people to step into the challenges of

the digital age from a place of hope and discernment, grounded in His Word. How will you follow Him in the digital age?

Thomas, Adam. *Digital Disciple: Real Christianity in a Virtual World*. Abingdon, 2011.

This time in our society is unlike any other. People communicate daily without ever having to speak face to face, news breaks around the world in a matter of seconds, and favorite TV shows can be viewed at our convenience. We are, simultaneously, a people of connection and isolation. As Christians, how do we view our faith and personal ministry in this culture? Adam Thomas invites you to explore this question using his unique, personal, and often humorous insight. Thomas notes, "[The Internet] has added a new dimension to our lives; we are physical, emotional, spiritual, and now virtual people. But I believe that God continues to move through every facet of our existence, and that makes us new kinds of followers. We are digital disciples."

Thompson, Deanna. *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World*. Abingdon Press, November 2016.

We live in a wired world where 24/7 digital connectivity is increasingly the norm. Christian megachurch communities often embrace this reality wholeheartedly while more traditional churches often seem hesitant and overwhelmed by the need for an interactive website, a Facebook page and a twitter feed. This book accepts digital connectivity as our reality, but presents a vision of how faith communities can utilize technology to better be the body of Christ to those who are hurting while also helping followers of Christ think critically about the limits of our digital attachments.

This book begins with a conversion story of a non-cell phone owning, non-Facebook using religion professor judgmental of the ability of digital tools to enhance relationships. A stage IV cancer diagnosis later, in the midst of being held up by virtual communities of support, a conversion occurs: this religion professor benefits in embodied ways from virtual sources and wants to convert others to the reality that the body of Christ can and does exist virtually and makes embodied difference in the lives of those who are hurting.

The book neither uncritically embraces nor rejects the constant digital connectivity present in our lives. Rather it calls on the church to a) recognize ways in which digital social networks already enact the virtual body of Christ; b) tap into and expand how Christ is being experienced virtually; c) embrace thoughtfully the material effects of our new augmented reality, and c) influence utilization of technology that minimizes distraction and maximizes attentiveness toward God and the world God loves.

Tippet, Sammy. *Multiplying Disciples: Social Media and the New Roman Road*. Iron Steam Books, Oct 2020.

Most of us love technology. Social media keeps us connected. New apps and technological advancements provide more opportunities for personal and business use. But did you ever stop to think about how technology may be the modern-day equivalent of the Roman roads during the early church growth? In this timely and ministry-boosting book, international evangelist and speaker Sammy Tippet will inspire you to embrace technology as the crossroad of man's invention with God's intent. Much like the Roman roads served as a tool for commerce and information, Tippet shows believers and churches how today's technology can be a powerful ministry tool to advance the kingdom of God. Highlighting how our thought processes about technology may need to be challenged, Tippet inspires believers and ministry leaders to prayerfully consider how they can best use technology to teach the Bible to youth in Afghanistan, disciple a group in Kenya, or simply engage someone in your neighborhood.

Treener, Laura. *Church Online: social media* (Reach Out: Church Communications). BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship), 2017.

'Those who have already rejected Christianity are highly unlikely to be reached by traditional church. But the sceptical, the antagonistic, the antireligious, may spend the UK average of 20 hours on the internet each week. This presents an amazing opportunity for those who know how to use it wisely.' Combining missional vision with practical advice, this resource gives you the tools and checklists to consider your approach to social media as a church. Ideal for church teams who want to reach their communities effectively, and a perfect gift for church leaders and volunteers who are short on time but need fast relevant advice. Whether you're looking for a crash course, a brief refresher or a reference toolkit, you'll find what you need. Advice you can read and apply, from people you can trust.

Treener, Laura. *Church Online: websites* (Reach Out: Church Communications). BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship), 2017.

'47% of visitors will immediately disregard a church if the website design is poor. Money spent on a church website doesn't belong in the administration budget. It belongs in the evangelism budget! It is outreach, pure and simple.' Combining missional vision with practical advice, this resource gives you the tools you need to transform a church website, or create one for the first time. Ideal for church teams who want to reach their communities effectively, and a perfect gift for church leaders and volunteers who are short on time but need fast relevant advice. Whether you're looking for a crash course, a brief refresher or a reference toolkit, you'll find what you need. Advice you can read and apply, from people you can trust.

Trimble, Guy. *The Virtual Missionary: The Power of Your Digital Testimony*. Cedar Fort, 2017.

Trottier, Daniel. *Social Media as Surveillance: Rethinking Visibility in a Converging World*. Ashgate, 2014.

While there is a lot of popular and academic interest in social media, this is the first academic work which addresses its growing presence in the surveillance of everyday life. Some scholars have considered its impact on privacy, but these efforts overlook the broader risks for users. Commonsense recommendations of care and vigilance are not enough, as attempts to manage an individual presence are complicated by the features which make social media 'social'. Facebook friends routinely expose each other, and this information leaks from one context to another. This book develops a surveillance studies approach to social media by presenting first hand ethnographic research with a variety of personal and professional social media users. Using Facebook as a case-study, it describes growing monitoring practices that involve social media. What makes this study unique is that it not only considers social media surveillance as multi-purpose, but also shows how these different purposes augment one another, leading to a rapid spread of surveillance and visibility. Individual, institutional, market-based, security and intelligence forms of surveillance therefore co-exist with each other on the same site. Not only are they drawing from the same interface and information, but these practices also augment each other. This groundbreaking research considers the rapid growth and volatility of social media technology by treating these aspects as central to social media surveillance.

Tsekeris, Charalambos (ed.). *The Social Dynamics of Web 2.0: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Routledge, 2015.

Within only a few years, Facebook, Wikipedia, Twitter, You Tube and other social media have become an intimate part of everyday life. Web 2.0, the collective term for all forms of interactive online

communication, is characterized by the overwhelming ability of users to collaboratively create content. The implications of Web 2.0 have become a central focus for interdisciplinary social science research.

This book comprehensively addresses the profound impact of Web 2.0 on contemporary society and its dynamics in a multiplicity of fields. The chapters, authored by world-leading experts, vividly demonstrate that Web 2.0 is a dynamic basis for collective action and an unlimited source of societal destabilisation and revolutionary change, for better or for worse. Various aspects of the radical transformative potential of Web 2.0 are imaginatively and critically discussed in the analytical context of quantitative approaches, qualitative works and case studies. This book provides key insights into the wide-reaching implications of recent technological developments, casting new light into an area which may potentially contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable future.

**Turkle, Sherry. *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*. Basic Books, 2012.**

Technology has become the architect of our intimacies. Online, we fall prey to the illusion of companionship, gathering thousands of Twitter and Facebook friends and confusing tweets and wall posts with authentic communication. But, as MIT technology and society specialist Sherry Turkle argues, this relentless connection leads to a new solitude. As technology ramps up, our emotional lives ramp down. *Alone Together* is the result of Turkle's nearly fifteen-year exploration of our lives on the digital terrain. Based on hundreds of interviews, it describes new unsettling relationships between friends, lovers, parents, and children, and new instabilities in how we understand privacy and community, intimacy, and solitude.

**Twenge, Jean M. *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy--and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood--and What That Means for the Rest of Us*. Atria Books, 2017.**

A highly readable and entertaining first look at how today's members of iGen—the children, teens, and young adults born in the mid-1990s and later—are vastly different from their Millennial predecessors, and from any other generation, from the renowned psychologist and author of *Generation Me*.

With generational divides wider than ever, parents, educators, and employers have an urgent need to understand today's rising generation of teens and young adults. Born in the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s and later, iGen is the first generation to spend their entire adolescence in the age of the smartphone. With social media and texting replacing other activities, iGen spends less time with their friends in person—perhaps why they are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

But technology is not the only thing that makes iGen distinct from every generation before them; they are also different in how they spend their time, how they behave, and in their attitudes toward religion, sexuality, and politics. They socialize in completely new ways, reject once sacred social taboos, and want different things from their lives and careers. More than previous generations, they are obsessed with safety, focused on tolerance, and have no patience for inequality. iGen is also growing up more slowly than previous generations: eighteen-year-olds look and act like fifteen-year-olds used to.

As this new group of young people grows into adulthood, we all need to understand them: Friends and family need to look out for them; businesses must figure out how to recruit them and sell to them; colleges and universities must know how to educate and guide them. And members of iGen also need to understand themselves as they communicate with their elders and explain their views to their older peers. Because where iGen goes, so goes our nation—and the world.

Ullman, Brett. *Media.Faith.Culture*. Word Alive Press, 2011.

media: Our World calls to us through our ipods, magazines, movies and television sets. Our Faith suggests our lives ought to reflect values and sentiments that often conflict with popular culture. Our God wants us to fit in, to share His love with others. Given that we are constantly bombarded by images of sexuality, substance abuse, cutting & violence, how are we internalizing these media messages and what potential impact do they have on our lives? faith: What is Faith? What impact does our Faith have on our daily lives? Are we guided by Faith, or is Faith an afterthought, a subjective notion defined not by reality but by feeling? Challenging Christians to delve deeper into their understanding of Godly living, Brett examines common spiritual practices, their heritage and how a strong Faith can more dynamically shape the heart of a young Christian. culture: What is North American culture and how does it affect us? More importantly, are we engaged in affecting it? Are our Faith and our culture in conflict with one another? In this discussion, Brett facilitates a dialog on the Christian world-view and how we, by Faith, can begin to engage the culture around us through the lens of a knowledgeable and discerning Christian.

Valkenburg, Patti and Jessica Taylor Piotrowski. *Plugged In: How Media Attract and Affect Youth*. Yale University Press, April 2017.

Now, as never before, young people are surrounded by media—thanks to the sophistication and portability of the technology that puts it literally in the palms of their hands. Drawing on data and empirical research that cross many fields and continents, authors Valkenburg and Piotrowski examine the role of media in the lives of children from birth through adolescence, addressing the complex issues of how media affect the young and what adults can do to encourage responsible use in an age of selfies, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

This important study looks at both the sunny and the dark side of media use by today's youth, including why and how their preferences change throughout childhood, whether digital gaming is harmful or helpful, the effects of placing tablets and smartphones in the hands of toddlers, the susceptibility of young people to online advertising, the legitimacy of parental concerns about media multitasking, and more.

**Vallor, Shannon. *Technology and the Virtues: A Philosophical Guide to a Future Worth Wanting*. Oxford University Press, 2016.**

The 21st century offers a dizzying array of new technological developments: robots smart enough to take white collar jobs, social media tools that manage our most important relationships, ordinary objects that track, record, analyze and share every detail of our daily lives, and biomedical techniques with the potential to transform and enhance human minds and bodies to an unprecedented degree.

Emerging technologies are reshaping our habits, practices, institutions, cultures and environments in increasingly rapid, complex and unpredictable ways that create profound risks and opportunities for human flourishing on a global scale. How can our future be protected in such challenging and uncertain conditions? How can we possibly improve the chances that the human family will not only live, but live well, into the 21st century and beyond?

This book locates a key to that future in the distant past: specifically, in the philosophical traditions of virtue ethics developed by classical thinkers from Aristotle and Confucius to the Buddha. Each developed a way of seeking the good life that equips human beings with the moral and intellectual character to flourish even in the most unpredictable, complex and unstable situations—precisely where we find ourselves today.

Through an examination of the many risks and opportunities presented by rapidly changing technosocial conditions, Vallor makes the case that if we are to have any real hope of securing a future worth wanting, then we will need more than just better technologies. We will also need better humans.

*Technology and the Virtues* develops a practical framework for seeking that goal by means of the deliberate cultivation of *technomoral virtues*: specific skills and strengths of character, adapted to the unique challenges of 21st century life, that offer the human family our best chance of learning to live wisely and well with emerging technologies.

van Dijck, Jose. *The Culture of Connectivity: A Critical History of Social Media*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Social media penetrate our lives: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and many other platforms define daily habits of communication and creative production. This book studies the rise of social media, providing both a historical and a critical analysis of the emergence of major platforms in the context of a rapidly changing ecosystem of connective media. Author José van Dijck offers an analytical prism that can be used to view techno-cultural as well as socio-economic aspects of this transformation as well as to examine shared ideological principles between major social media platforms. This fascinating study will appeal to all readers interested in social media.

Veith, Gene E. and Christopher Stamper. *Christians in a .com World: Getting Connected without Being Consumed*. Crossway Books, 2000.

In the Internet we are facing the biggest information revolution since the printing press. This technology presents new challenges to our culture as a whole, making it essential that we as Christians be "plugged in." And while millions are online, you, like many, may be simultaneously uneasy about where this new medium is leading us. Noted culture critic Gene Veith and Chris Stamper, a leading voice in modern technology, want to help you understand the significance cyberculture has for us as Christians. The authors tackle the current controversies, including censorship, the possible demise of print, and how it all ties into postmodernism. As they challenge the myths, probe the weaknesses, and reveal the possibilities of this new and continually developing medium, you will become an informed and discerning traveler on the information highway. One who understands the cultural and worldview implications of the Internet and who knows how to be wired to it but not entangled by it.

Vitak, Jessica Marie. Facebook "Friends": How Online Identities Impact Offline Relationships. M.A. thesis, Georgetown University, 22 April 2008.

**Vogt, Brandon (ed.). *The Church and New Media: Blogging Converts, Online Activities, and Bishops Who Tweet*. Huntingdon, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2011.**

Wagner, Rachel. *Godwired: Religion, Ritual and Virtual Reality* (Media, Religion and Culture) Routledge, 2011.

*Godwired* offers an engaging exploration of religious practice in the digital age. It considers how virtual experiences, like stories, games and rituals, are forms of world-building or "cosmos construction" that serve as a means of making sense of our own world. Such creative and interactive activity is, arguably, patently religious.

1. Walkthrough 2. The Stories We Play: Interactivity And Religious Narrative 3. The Games We Pray: What Is This Ritual-Game-Story Thing? 4. The Other Right Here: In Search of the Virtual Sacred 5. Me, Myself

and Ipad: Hybrid, Wired and Plural Selves 6. God-Mobs: Virtually Religious Community 7. What You Play is What You Do? Procedural Evil and Videogame Violence 8. Xbox Apocalypse: Video Games, Interactivity and Revelatory Literature 9. Making Belief: Transmedia and the Hunger for the Real 10. Expansion Pack

Warren, Michael. *Seeing Through the Media: A Religious View of Communications and Cultural Analysis*. T&T Clark, 1997.

Michael Warren seeks in this book to develop strategies to counteract the Christian church's loss of cultural influence in an age of electronic media. While Christianity should offer a vision of things shaped by its own patterns of communal living, it is often stymied in the process of religious formation by the powerful influence of the messages the electronic media convey. Part of the religious leaders task, therefore, is to break the uncritical view of film and television and to introduce reasoned judgment about what Christians should either value or condemn in them. *Seeing Through the Media* attempts to put basic skills of cultural analysis into the hands of ordinary persons, particularly those who gather with others guided by a religious tradition to worship God. These skills include: a rethinking of the word culture itself; finding the usually anonymous names and faces behind any electronic communication; understanding how culture is produced; skill in decoding the iconic images we see and the metaphoric images by which we see; the ability to evaluate what we see and hear; and new forms of personal and communal agency.

Wertheim, Margaret. *The Pearly Gates of Cyberspace: A History of Space from Dante to the Internet*. W.W. Norton, 2000.

Cyberspace may seem an unlikely gateway for the soul. But as science commentator Margaret Wertheim argues in this "marvelously provocative" (*Kirkus Reviews*) book, cyberspace has in recent years become a repository for immense spiritual yearning. Wertheim explores the mapping of spiritual desire onto digitized space and suggests that the modem today has become a metaphysical escape-hatch from a materialism that many people find increasingly dissatisfying. Cyberspace opens up a collective space beyond the laws of physics—a space where mind rather than matter reigns. This strange refuge returns us to an almost medieval dualism between a physical space of body and an immaterial space of mind and psyche. Illustrations

White, James Emery. *Hybrid Church: Rethinking the Church for a Post-Christian Digital Age*. Zondervan, Feb 2023.

This is only the third time in the history of the church that both the mission field and the way we communicate with that mission field have changed. This age has not been the only significant cultural development of our day. In terms of communicating to our mission field, there has also been a digital revolution. When the early Christian movement burst onto the scene, the culture was pre-Christian in orientation and communication was largely oral in nature. The first manifestation of the church, Church 1.0, was largely oriented toward this context. With the conversion of Constantine and the subsequent fall of Rome (leaving the church as the only social glue), Christianity loomed large over the world coupled with communication moving toward a written form and eventually mechanized. Church 2.0 met that challenge. We now live in a post-Christian world that has simultaneously gone through a digital revolution in communication. This calls for Church 3.0, a hybrid church that is both physical and digital, for the believer and for the non-Christian. In *Hybrid Church*, James Emery White addresses the post-pandemic church in the US. Because of COVID-19, nearly every church in the US was forced to adapt to a quarantine and adopt new ministry strategies, including digital technologies they may have avoided before. White asks churches to see this as a positive and keep a dual physical and digital strategy to reach a post-Christian culture in a digital age. It is almost universally agreed that the future of the church is to be "hybrid" in nature, meaning both physical and digital, for the believer yet reaching out to a post-Christian

world. With *Hybrid Church*, James Emery White casts the vision and draws the roadmap for ministry in a post-Christian digital world.

Whitehead, Neil and Michael Wesch (eds.). *Human No More: Digital Subjectivities, Unhuman Subjects, and the End of Anthropology*. University Press of Colorado. August 2012

Turning an anthropological eye toward cyberspace, *Human No More* explores how conditions of the online world shape identity, place, culture, and death within virtual communities. Online worlds have recently thrown into question the traditional anthropological conception of place-based ethnography. They break definitions, blur distinctions, and force us to rethink the notion of the "subject." *Human No More* asks how digital cultures can be integrated and how the ethnography of both the "unhuman" and the "digital" could lead to possible reconfiguring the notion of the "human." This provocative and groundbreaking work challenges fundamental assumptions about the entire field of anthropology. Cross-disciplinary research from well-respected contributors makes this volume vital to the understanding of contemporary human interaction. It will be of interest not only to anthropologists but also to students and scholars of media, communication, popular culture, identity, and technology.

**Wiesinger, Susan with Ralph Beliveau. *Digital Literacy: A Primer on Media, Identity, and the Evolution of Technology*. Peter Lang, 2016.**

The Internet, World Wide Web, and digital devices have fundamentally changed the way people communicate, affecting everything from business, to school, to family, to religion, to democracy. This textbook takes a well-rounded view of the evolution from media literacy to digital literacy to help students better understand the digitally filtered world in which they live.

The text explores digital literacy through three lenses:

- Historical: reviews snapshots of time and space to delineate how things were in order to lend context to how they are;
- Cultural: explores how values and ideals are constructed and conveyed within a given cultural context – how humans absorb and share the informal rules and norms that make up a society;
- Critical: illuminates how social changes – particularly rapid ones – can put certain people at a disadvantage.

All three angles are helpful for better understanding the myriad ways in which our identities and relationships are being altered by technology, and what it means to be a citizen in a society that has become individualized and is in constant flux.

Written in a conversational and approachable style, the text is easy to navigate, with short chapters, short paragraphs, and bullet points. Comics and images illustrate complex topics and add visual interest. The text is ideal for media literacy, digital information literacy, and technology courses that seek to integrate human impact into the mix. It is also a good starting point for anyone wanting to know more about the impact of communication technologies on our lives.

Wilson, Len and Jason Moore. *Digital Storytellers: The Art of Communicating the Gospel*. Abingdon, 2002.

Assists church leaders in moving past a dated multimedia or audio-visual mentality when producing media for worship. The digital culture values story and experience, which means that producers of eWorship in congregations will learn how to represent the Word as image and art in the production of digital eWorship media. New models for worship are offered, and tactics for change are proposed so that timid congregations, as well as small and medium sized congregations can become digital storytellers.

Wilson, Len. *The Wired Church: Making Media Ministry*. Abingdon Press, 1999.

The Wired Church: Making Media Ministry is a methodological ("how-to") book plus CD-ROM for church staff and volunteers who implement multimedia digital technology in worship services and in Christian education curricula. Wilson's book is a text for staff and volunteers who implement the media ministry. Key Features: \* Discusses methodological implementation for operating a media ministry at a church \* Explains how to design eye-popping media \* Provides guidance for building a championship team \* Includes a description of the tools for and the costs of media ministry \* Explains the shifts required in the rhetoric of church communication \* CD-ROM provides a portfolio of eye-popping media, techniques, and recruiting tools Key Benefits: \* Written in the style of the "dummies" book genre, Wired Church contains nuggets, tips, and fun metaphors. \* Helps the media minister understand technology choices and focus on the right tools, at a thrifty price, for doing the job. \* Helps the media minister recruit and retain volunteers into this exciting shift in local church communications. \* Practical, how-to guide for starting a media ministry in any size church. \* System Requirements: \* 486 PC or higher \* Windows 95 or higher \* 16MB RAM \* 12MB free hard disk space \* CD-ROM drive CONTENTS Part1: Developing the Mission A. The Language of the Culture B. Integration C. Excellence D. Media Literacy Part 2: Designing Eye-Popping Media A. The AV Mentality B. The Metaphor C. Building Visual Elements--Basic Guidelines D. Other Important Details Part 3: Building a Championship Team A. Establishing a Game Plan B. Developing a Roster C. A Guide to Developing All-Pro Players Part 4: Buying the Tools A. The Phasing Plan B. Techno-heaven (or hell, depending on your point of view) Part 5: Appendix

Wilson, Len and Jason Moore. *The Wired Church 2.0*. Abingdon Press, 2008.

Wise, Justin. *The Social Church: A Theology of Digital Communication*. Moody, 2014.

Did you know that you can see reviews of a church on Google Maps or Yelp? Have you considered what new people might find your church through a friend's social media? How often have you talked about "reaching people where they are" -and realized that much of the time, they are on the internet? This book is for Christians who are advocates of social media and who want to learn better about how to use these new technologies to further the Kingdom of God. Justin Wise speaks about social media as this generation's printing press-a revolutionary technology that can spread the gospel further and faster than we can imagine. Are we ready to think theologically about our digital age and reach people for Christ in a new way?

[link to podcast](#) [link to website](#)

Wolf, Mark. *Virtual Morality: Morals, Ethics, and New Media*. Peter Lang, 2003.

New technologies continue to shape communication and how we think about and relate to the world around us. What is rarely examined is how these new media relate to morals and ethics in society and culture. In a series of twelve essays, written from a variety of viewpoints including philosophy, communication, media and art, and situating its arguments around the three poles of technology, community, and religion, this collection examines the relationship between morals and ethics and new media, ranging from the ways in which new communication technologies are employed to their effects on the messages communicated and those who use them.

Woolgar, Steve. *Virtual Society? Get Real!: Technology, Cyberbole, Reality*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

Wright, Michelle (ed.). *Identity, Sexuality, and Relationships Among Emerging Adults in the Digital Age* (Advances in Human and Social Aspects of Technology). Information Science Reference, 2016.

Technology has become ubiquitous to everyday life in modern society, and particularly in various social aspects. This has significant impacts on adolescents as they develop and make their way into adulthood. *Identity, Sexuality, and Relationships among Emerging Adults in the Digital Age* is a pivotal reference source for the latest research on the role of digital media and its impact on identity development, behavioral formations, and the inter-personal relationships of young adults. Featuring extensive coverage across a range of relevant perspectives and topics, such as self-comparison, virtual communities, and online dating, this book is ideally designed for academicians, researchers and professionals seeking current research on the use and impact of online social forums among progressing adults.

Wu Song, Felicia. *Restless Devices: Recovering Personhood, Presence, and Place in the Digital Age*. IVP Academic, Nov 2021.

We're being formed by our devices. Today's digital technologies are designed to captivate our attention and encroach on our boundaries, shaping how we relate to time and space, to ourselves and others, even to God. Our natural longing for relationship makes us vulnerable to the "industrializing" effects of social media. While we enjoy the benefits of digital tech, many of us feel troubled with its power and exhausted by its demands for permanent connectivity. Yet even as we grow disenchanted, attempting to resist the digital "powers that be" might seem like a losing battle.

Sociologist Felicia Wu Song has spent years considering the personal and collective dynamics of digital ecosystems. She combines psychological, neurological, and sociological insights with theological reflection to explore two major questions: What kind of people are we becoming with personal technologies in hand? And who do we really want to be?

Song unpacks the soft tyranny of the digital age, including the values embedded in our apps and the economic systems that drive our habits. She then explores pathways of meaningful resistance that can be found in Christian tradition—especially counter-narratives about human worth, embodiment, relationality, and time—and offers practical experiments for individual and communal change.

In our current digital ecologies, small behavioral shifts are not enough to give us freedom. We need a sober and motivating vision of our prospects to help us imagine what kind of life we hope to live—and how we can get there.

Wytsma, Ken and A.J. Swoboda. *Redeeming How We Talk: Discover How Communication Fuels Our Growth, Shapes Our Relationships, and Changes Our Lives*. Moody Publishers, 2018.

Technology has made it easier than ever before to share just about everything: pictures, ideas, even the ups and downs of your morning errand run. Yet all our talking doesn't seem to be connecting us the way it promised to. That's because we don't need to talk more, we need to talk better. *Redeeming How We Talk* explores what the Bible has to say about that central aspect of life and relationships--conversation. The Scriptures show us that words have remarkable power--to create, to bless, to encourage, to forgive. Imagine how we could spark change in our families, churches, and communities if we learned to use words like Jesus did. By weaving together theology, history, and philosophy, Ken Wytsma and A. J. Swoboda help us reclaim the holiness of human speech and the relevance of meaningful conversation in our culture today.

Zaleski, Jeffrey. *The Soul of Cyberspace: How New Technology Is Changing Our Spiritual Lives* HarperCollins, 1997.

In a pioneering journey to faith's new frontier--cyberspace, where traditional religions are reinvented and new ones are created--the acclaimed coauthor of "Transformations: Awakening to the Sacred in Ourselves" charts technology's radical impact on the ways in which the world prays, worships, preaches, and believes.

de Zengotita, Thomas. *Mediated: How the Media Shapes Your World and the Way You Live in It*. Bloomsbury, 2006.

In this utterly original look at our modern "culture of performance," de Zengotita shows how media are creating self-reflective environments, custom made for each of us. From Princess Diana's funeral to the prospect of mass terror, from oral sex in the Oval Office to cowboy politics in distant lands, from high school cliques to marital therapy, from blogs to reality TV to the Weather Channel, *Mediated* takes us on an original and astonishing tour of every department of our media-saturated society. The implications are personal and far-reaching at the same time.

**Zsupan-Jerome, Daniella. *Connected Toward Communion: The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age*. Michael Glazier, 2014.**

We are living in a cultural shift: digital communication has reshaped the way we interact with one another, form and maintain relationships, and gain knowledge and understanding. How might we go about communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ in the midst of these changes to an emerging culture shaped by digital media? This question addresses the whole church, from the baptized faithful to pastoral ministers and the institutional structures that serve the church locally and globally. In *Connected toward Communion*, Daniella Zsupan-Jerome traces the Roman Catholic Church's contemporary thought and practice of social communication, from *Inter Mirifica* of the Second Vatican Council to the church's approach to communicating faith through social networking today. Throughout, a key question forms a common thread: how might we form pastoral ministers today for serving the church in the digital age and beyond?

Zuckerman, Ethan. *Digital Cosmopolitans: Why We Think the Internet Connects Us, Why It Doesn't, and How to Rewire It*. W.W. Norton, 2014.

As the Internet expands, we assume that our ability to communicate with others, our social connections, increase likewise. In *Digital Cosmopolitans*, Ethan Zuckerman draws on current trends and the latest research to show us how this hasn't always been the case—and how we can use the Internet to create a more truly connected world.