Life Transitions and Social Media

Each person faces many transitions throughout their life as they develop, age, and change. Yet people often find it difficult to manage where and how to present and discuss major life events and changing identities on social media platforms. As people face changes in their lives, technological systems must adapt with them. In this research study, we will investigate how people’s social media behaviors and networks change as they encounter major life transitions such as gender transition, relationship breakups, health diagnoses, and transition to college. In each of these circumstances, unique and complex challenges occur around disclosure and presentation on social media. By understanding people’s experiences using social media during life changes, we will identify how social technologies can be designed to best suit people’s needs over time as they transition through different identities, networks, and profiles.