

4. Género e sexualidades

OC - (23230) - DIGITAL PRACTICES OF RELATING: COVID, GENDERED SEXUALITIES AND DATING APPS

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Covid lockdowns and social distance represented an ongoing 'critical moment' for many women and men: times when relational connectedness and loneliness were more intensely experienced, and when new modes of relating were experimented with or developed. Lockdowns and social distance were also a time where digitally facilitated connections through dating apps seemed to come into their own. This paper draws on a national survey of, and qualitative interviews with, self-identified heterosexuals and LGBTQ+ people in the UK (survey n= 835, 47% heterosexual and 53% LGBTQ+; interviews n = 48 so far), to consider (i) men and women's common and different motivations for dating app use before, during and after covid lockdowns and social distance, (ii) how digital relating practices were structured according to gendered sexualities and (iii) the diverse ways and extent to which dating app use reinscribed or troubled gender norms amongst women and men according to their sexuality. Overall, it asks if 'new' practices and patterns of intimacy emerged via 'the digital' during the Covid crisis era in the UK, the extent to be conceptualised as a personal and social 'goods' or 'bads' with regard to sexuality and gendered power relations, and the ways in which such practices and patterns have been sustained or otherwise.