

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (21002) - DOMESTIC DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS AND WELL-BEING DURING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Pablo Garcia De Paredes¹

1 - Université Laval

Background and objectives

Households have adapted through almost two years of disruptions to their daily activities (Andrew et al., 2020; Barone Gibbs et al., 2021; Gurney, 2020). We hypothesize (h1) that those with higher digital literacy scores, more resources in available time, living space characteristics, income, and environmental diversity, have fared better than others. Little attention has been given to the role of technology on the literature about the meaning of home (Mallett, 2004). We contend (h2) that domestic digital communications play a role in amplifying or reducing the negative impacts on well-being.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

Departing from a longitudinal sample of 3281 participants (The MAVIPAN project, in Quebec Province), we'll study through statistical analysis the possible correlations between two groups of variables. First, our independent variables; digital communication habits (professional type and screen time before the pandemic) and household characteristics (household size per person, architectural typology, proximity to parks, etc.), and our dependent variables, well-being, and household adaptation. We aim at exploring how our independent variables influenced the participant's representations of home and their adaptation capabilities, resulting in changes to their reported wellbeing.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

Results from other studies have pointed out to the fragmentation of daily activities and the new permeability of public and private activities (Baillly et al., 2021). While changes due to new proxemic codes have emerged, other questions remain: what are the positive and negative aspects of digital communications in the house and how do they mediate adaptation strategies?

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

Our project sheds light on the environmental-psychological impact of digital communications technologies in the ways we read, comprehend, and act upon our domestic environment. The implications are twofold; (1) policy guidelines to enhance the public's knowledge about the possible hazards/benefits of domestic digital communications and (2) create new knowledge about the way virtual and natural environments are translated into behavior within the house.

Palavras-chave : Meaning of Home, Digital communications, Covid-19, Household adaptations