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The App Generation: How Today's Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy, And Imagination In A Digital World
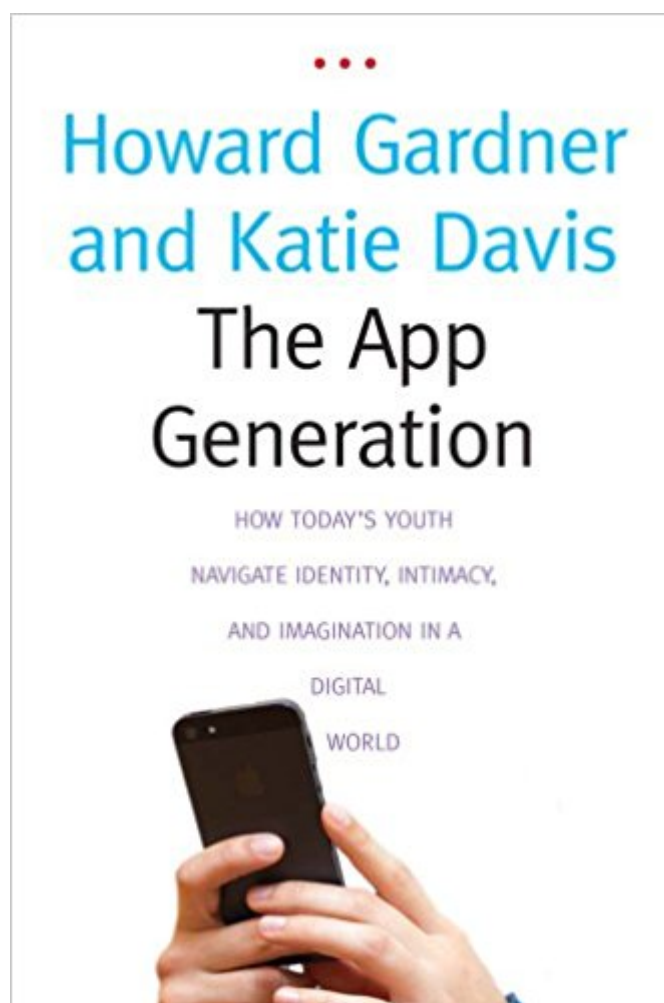
Howard Gardner and Katie Davis

The App Generation

HOW TODAY'S YOUTH

NAVIGATE IDENTITY, INTIMACY,

AND IMAGINATION IN A

DIGITAL

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Synopsis

From the famed Harvard psychologist and an expert on the impact of digital media technologies, a riveting exploration of the power of apps to shape our young peopleÃ¢â ¬â •for better or for worse

No one has failed to notice that the current generation of youth is deeplyÃ¢â ¬â •some would say totallyÃ¢â ¬â •involved with digital media. Professors Howard Gardner and Katie Davis name todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s young people The App Generation, and in this spellbinding book they explore what it means to be Ã¢â ¬Å"app-dependentÃ¢â ¬Â• versus Ã¢â ¬Å"app-enabledÃ¢â ¬Â• and how life for this generation differs from life before the digital era.Ã Â Gardner and Davis are concerned with three vital areas of adolescent life: identity, intimacy, and imagination. Through innovative research, including interviews of young people, focus groups of those who work with them, and a unique comparison ofÃ Â youthful artistic productions before and after the digital revolution, the authors uncover the drawbacks of apps: they may foreclose a sense of identity, encourage superficial relations with others, and stunt creative imagination. On the other hand, the benefits of apps are equally striking: they can promote a strong sense of identity, allow deep relationships, and stimulate creativity. The challenge is to venture beyond the ways that apps are designed to be used, Gardner and Davis conclude, and they suggest how the power of apps can be a springboard to greater creativity and higher aspirations.

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Customer Reviews

"An ambitious and admirable project. . . . Meticulously researched and thoughtful."Ã¢â ¬â •New

York Times Book Review "[The App Generation] possesses an interesting insight. 'Young people growing up in our time are not only immersed in apps, . . . they've come to think of the world as an ensemble of apps, to see their lives as a string of ordered apps, or perhaps, in many cases, a single, extended, cradle-to-grave app.'"—Dwight Garner, New York Times "Many of the observations . . . are illuminated with careful thought and research [and] offer a readable and intelligent summary of where we are today."—Josh Glancy, The Sunday Times "Gardner is a renowned psychologist who has long decried box-ticking behaviourist approaches to education . . . he and Davis . . . build a strong case that a dependency on apps is having a reductive effect on young people."—Gautam Malkani, The Financial Times "Provocative . . . Provides useful frameworks for future research."—Publishers Weekly "Elevates the discussion beyond knee-jerk complaints about 'those #@#!! kids who are on their phones all day.'"—Mindful Magazine "Gardner and Davis have offered a challenging and thought-provoking book: particularly rewarding for educators who are interested in thinking about how young people are changing, and how we might preserve the best practices of our profession while adapting the tools that define a generation."—Education Week's EdTech Researcher "This compelling book explores what it's like to be 'app-dependent' and what life was like before the power of apps on our society. Howard Gardner, the renowned father of the multiple intelligence theory, along with co-writer Kate Davis, offers readers an in-depth look at the benefits and drawbacks of apps, and how the power of these apps can lead to greater creativity."—Top Books for Educators, About.com "A thoughtful overview of how digital media and applications have contributed to a pervasive app mentality among youth. . . . The combination of conversational style and scholarly annotations makes the book rewarding for a broad audience, including parents and educators. . . . Highly recommended. All Readers."—Choice "Here we have a serious consideration that a generation has grown up with an emotional aesthetic as instrumental as their technology. That is, this generation approaches intimacy, identity, and imagination through the prism of the apps that have surrounded them. Gardner and Davis further consider the proposition that 'What can't be an app doesn't matter.' But the authors do more than this. They approach their subject in a constructive spirit, providing analytical tools to distinguish among apps, the ones that will stifle and the ones that will nurture. In the end, they see a way forward: We are responsible, individually and in our communities and families to use technology in ways that open up the world rather that close it down. The App Generation is not anti-technology; it simply puts technology in its place."—Sherry Turkle, author of Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology

and Less from Each Other "The App Generation deals with a crucial issue for our future, and it is a pioneering and prophetic work in its genre."Ã¢â ¬â •Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, author ofÃ Â Flow: The Psychology of Optimal ExperienceÃ Â "This book is must reading for parents, teachers and policy makers. It presents a portrait of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s young people, not in terms of the traditional historical events of their lives, but instead the digital technology that shaped this generation. It compellingly and powerfully examines the impact, consequences, and implications for their and societyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s future."Ã¢â ¬â •Arthur Levine, President of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation & former President of Teachers College, Columbia UniversityÃ Â "Most discussions about youth and technology tilt toward one extreme (digital wonder-kids!) or the other (perpetual distractions!). In The App Generation, Howard Gardner and Katie Davis combine academic research with personal reflections to provide a more nuanced perspective on both the challenges and opportunities for young people as they navigate the dynamic digital currents in todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s society."Ã¢â ¬â •Mitchel Resnick, LEGO Papert Professor of Learning Research and head of the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media LabÃ Â "Howard Gardner is one of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most celebrated developmental psychologists and public intellectuals. His latest work is always worth reading."Ã¢â ¬â •Robert Putnam, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

A conversation with Howard Gardner and Katie Davis . . . Q:Ã Â Have digital media shifted the way we form and maintain personal relationships? A:Ã Â Social media have made it incredibly easy to keep in touch with friends and acquaintances. But there is considerable concern that the effort we put into maintaining our weaker social ties may crowd out the sustained attention needed to nurture deeper relationships. Even so, our research suggests that most ofÃ Â todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s young people seek traditional qualities in theirÃ Â online relationships: empathy, trust, reciprocity, and self-disclosure. Q:Ã Â How can we help young peopleÃ Â to use appsÃ Â positively? A:Ã Â Parents and teachers can encourage imaginative exploration, beyond the letter of the app.Ã Â But part of the burden also falls on those who devise apps. Too many educational apps are just digital versions of "drill-and-kill." We need apps that open up new possibilities and then allow the user to explore, imagine, expand, and, on occasion, toss aside the digital device and “go it alone.Ã¢â ¬Â• Q:Ã Â How does an older person,Ã Â a nondigital native, recognize theÃ Â harmful uses ofÃ Â digital technology? Ã Â A:Ã Â We would beÃ Â concerned if any young person spent too much time in the digital world, at the cost of face-to-face contact or time to relax, reflect, rest.Ã Â And of course, one has to be on the lookout for frankly damaging

behavior—bullying, invasion of anotherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s privacy, sexting, and so on. But by the time a child is 12 or 16, adults have difficulty knowing, let alone controlling, what the young person does. That is why both co-exploration when the child is young and learning enough so that you are not completely a digital immigrant are very important for adults of any generation. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mr. Gardner and Ms. Davis have put together a very interesting book that describes some of the impacts of personal web enabled devices and social media have on our youngsters.My good friend, Fred Stein, divides the US population into: digital natives, digital immigrants, and digital fossils. Fred and I are both avid technologistics, but age and background wise we are dangerously close to being in the antediluvian category. :-)The book also looks at and in most cases tries to dispel some of the negative myths surrounding youth use and immersion with these devices.The book is clearly well researched, and it is an interesting read. The science and math behind the assertions is documented and appears accurate.I need to cogitate on some of the implications that the book makes and then write an addendum to this review sometime in the next couple of months.I have some lingering anxiety about the book. The book feels a smidgen overly ebullient about the purely positive affect that social media and web devices have. While I see much of the potential good, I am not sure that I buy into all of the benefits described.One particular story comes to mind, a student from a third tier medical school recently told me that the students there were allowed to use their i-devices, Androids, etc. on tests. While I am not in favor of causing undue stress and hazing that comes with memorization, I also know that there are certain learning benefits that come from having certain facts in your own personal recall space. I would hate to be at a crash site just out of cell tower range and have one of the graduates of that program stand between me and death's door. Brrrrrrrrrrr.More to come ...

I have read quite a few editorials, books chapters, even listened to podcasts that condemned or bemoaned the state of "today's youth" especially when the effects of wide spread technology and education are being discussed. As a 26 year old university graduate, I can nod my head and acknowledge that there are "issues" with both my generation and my much younger siblings' generation, however, I am often left feeling out in the cold, as if the older generation writing the piece is simple whining and getting on his/her soap box without understanding the context or having ever logged into a social media sight themselves.Not so with Howard and Katie, as they refer to themselves in The App Generation. They come to the issues of the "app" generation with an open,

academic, yet sympathetically human mind and access actual data and information given in a variety of studies and their own investigations. Three distinct generations, Howard's, the grandfather age generation, Katie's, middle age or parent generation and Katie's daughter, the youth generation are present fully in the pages of the book and used as the starting point of a useful and clearly well consider contribution to the conversations of today on of education, generation gaps, and technology.I recommend this read to people of all generations, especially parents and young adults. If you're looking for something to bash over someone's head, you will not find it here, but if you're looking for something well thought out and fuel to start conversations, this is a good point of departure.

I used this text in an undergraduate class on social media and communication ethics. The authors provided some key insights on what they call "The App Generation." I often return to their distinction between digital natives and digital immigrants in my work on social media. Yet nuggets such as these proved too often buried under layers of unnecessary diversions that failed to support their thesis. I expected a text called "The App Generation" to contain a clear definition of an "app" as opposed to a platform such as "Facebook

Reads more like a textbook than a narrative. The authors explain the procedures and results of their study on how technology has affected youth development, including creativity, interpersonal communication, and relationships. Commentary was a bit verbose and cumbersome at times, specifically the authors' personal opinions. Way more explanation was given than necessary at times. It was an easy read and informative for my youth development grad school course, but my book club (who I convinced to read it) didn't like it and most wouldn't finish it.

APPS: The Ultimate Beginners Guide for App Programming and Development (App Development- App Marketing- App Design- App Empire- App for PC- Mobile App Business- Android- IOS) The App Generation: How Today's Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy, and Imagination in a Digital World A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate TodayÃ¢â¬â„¢s World Marriage: How To Save Your Marriage And Rebuild Connection, Intimacy and Trust By Understanding It Better (Marriage Help, Marriage Counseling, Intimacy Advice, Relationship Communication Book 1) Marriage: Save Your Marriage- The Secret to Intimacy and Communication Skills (marriage, relationships, save your marriage, divorce, love, communication, intimacy) Youth with Gender Issues: Seeking an Identity (Helping Youth with Mental, Physical, and Social Challenges) Practicing

Discernment with Youth: A Transformative Youth Ministry Approach (Youth Ministry Alternatives) The New Generation Breast Cancer Book: How to Navigate Your Diagnosis and Treatment Options-and Remain Optimistic-in an Age of Information Overload The New Puberty: How to Navigate Early Development in Today's Girls The Parent App: Understanding Families in the Digital Age An Introduction to the Old Testament, Second Edition: The Canon and Christian Imagination (Canon & Christian Imagination) Sculpting from the Imagination: ZBrush (Sketching from the Imagination) Imagination Station Books 3-Pack: The Redcoats Are Coming! / Captured on the High Seas / Surprise at Yorktown (AIO Imagination Station Books) Imagination Station Special Pack: Books 1-6 (AIO Imagination Station Books) Imagination Station Books 3-Pack: Challenge on the Hill of Fire / Hunt for the Devil's Dragon / Danger on a Silent Night (AIO Imagination Station Books) Bitcoin Basics: Cryptocurrency, Blockchain And The New Digital Economy (Digital currency, Cryptocurrency, Blockchain, Digital Economy) Photography: DSLR Photography Secrets and Tips to Taking Beautiful Digital Pictures (Photography, DSLR, cameras, digital photography, digital pictures, portrait photography, landscape photography) Youth with Conduct Disorder: In Trouble with the World (Helping Youth with Mental, Physical, & Social Disabilities) Photography: Complete Guide to Taking Stunning,Beautiful Digital Pictures (photography, stunning digital, great pictures, digital photography, portrait ... landscape photography, good pictures) Matthew: The Gospel of Identity (The Biblical Imagination Series)