Male, Female, E-Mail: The Struggle for Relatedness in a Paranoid Society [Review]

Drew Harrington
Pacific University

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Description

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Male, Female, E-Mail: The Struggle for Relatedness in a Paranoid Society

Posted on December 1, 2001 by Editor

by Michael A. Civin

Review by Drew Harrington <harrington@pacificu.edu>
University Librarian, Pacific University

There is something appealingly voyeuristic about reading psychological case studies—a sort of sanctioned snooping. In Male, Female, e-mail, author Michael Civin (Adelphi University & practicing psychoanalyst) uses engrossing case studies to illustrate his investigation of human relationship on the Internet.

From a therapist’s perspective, Civin concentrates on the private side of his clients’ lives, including the assumption of alternate cyber-identities, Internet sexuality, and electronic stalking, as well as relatively tame electronic-relationships. There are no take-away pocket summaries, pro or con about the impact of the Internet on human relationships—people and relationships, on-line or off, are complicated. For some, Internet relationships can play a developmental, transitional role, allowing them to “try-on” alternate selves. Civin draws on the 1995 works by Sherry Turkle, and Allucquere Rosanne Stone who investigated the phenomena of assumed, on-line identities. His findings are less consistent than theirs, showing cases of positive personal growth through assumed identities, but also cases where people experienced increased fragmentation and only short-lived escape from unsatisfying lives.

For some, Internet relationships appear to create ever-deepening disconnections from humanity and to produce paranoid-schizophrenic behavior. Still others seem to experience Internet-based relationships in much the same way as they do face-to-face connections, though frequently with decreased emotional responses. It seems that relationships struck up on-line, may be less enduring than relationships based in the physical realm.
The Internet’s impact on professional relationships is also covered, but in less depth. In the work world there is little doubt that e-mail increases efficiency and productivity, but it is equally clear that there is some loss in the relationship between employees and organizations.

Civin’s book is academic in tone, but he is careful to explain psychological lingo, making it accessible to the professional and layperson alike. As a relatively early entry in what is bound to be an expanding field of psychology, Civin’s book on human, on-line relationship is enjoyable, informative and provocative.

Drew Harrington can be reached at harrington@pacificu.edu.

This entry was posted in Uncategorized by Editor. Bookmark the permalink [http://bcis.pacificu.edu/interface/?p=2292].

13 THOUGHTS ON “MALE, FEMALE, E-MAIL: THE STRUGGLE FOR RELATEDNESS IN A PARANOID SOCIETY”

natural testosterone Supplement  
on January 30, 2014 at 6:30 PM said:

Hello! I could have sworn I’ve been to this website before but after reading through some of the post I realized it’s new to me. Anyhow, I’m definitely glad I found it and I’ll be bookmarking and checking back often!

wow-imdeadagain.com  
on February 2, 2014 at 7:38 AM said:

Hi there all, here every person is sharing these kinds of familiarity, thus it’s fastidious to read this webpage, and I used to go to see this blog everyday.

otc testosterone  
on February 3, 2014 at 4:22 AM said:

Wonderful goods from you, man. I have understand your stuff prior to and you are just too excellent. I actually like
what you have acquired right here, really like what you are stating and the best way
in which you assert it. You’re making it entertaining and
you continue to take care of to stay it smart. I can’t wait to
read much more from you. That is really a tremendous site.

**Online HOme Careers University Review**
on **February 3, 2014 at 6:56 AM** said:

Hi there every one, here every one is sharing such know-how, therefore it’s nice to read
this blog, and
I used to go to see this webpage all the time.

**http://www.accessiblerealestate.com/**
on **February 3, 2014 at 7:45 PM** said:

When I originally commented I clicked the “Notify me when new comments are added”
checkbox and now each time a comment is added I get three
e-mails with the same comment. Is there any way you
can remove people from that service? Thanks!

**ของเล่นเด็ก**
on **February 4, 2014 at 6:47 AM** said:

Write more, thats all I have to say. Literally, it seems
as though you relied on the video to make your point.
You definitely know what you’re talking about, why waste your intelligence on just posting
videos
to your site when you could be giving us something informative to read?

**[Whitney Houston Songs|whitney houston lyrics|whitney houston greatest hits]**
on **February 4, 2014 at 6:47 AM** said:
Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston give Mike Tyson a run for his money in the Jack up your life in the 90s contest. The singer cum actress also shared her view on marrying Bobby Brown and having children, ‘In a sense, because he allowed me to be me. Subscribe to Houston Gospel Examiner by clicking the subscribe link at the top of the page to get instant e-mail updates on gospel music news.

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**skinfood**

on February 4, 2014 at 8:50 PM said:

This is a really good tip especially to those new to the blogosphere. Brief but very precise info... Thank you for sharing this one.
A must read post!

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**skinfood**

on February 5, 2014 at 8:46 PM said:

you’re in reality a excellent webmaster. The web site loading pace is incredible. It seems that you are doing any distinctive trick. Moreover, The contents are masterwork. you’ve done a great activity in this matter!

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**เยงสระผมเก**

on February 6, 2014 at 5:32 AM said:

I’m gone to convey my little brother, that he should also go to see this weblog on regular basis to take updated from most recent news update.

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**เยงสระผมเก**

on February 6, 2014 at 8:00 AM said:
My brother suggested I might like this blog.
He was entirely right. This post actually made my day. You can’t imagine simply how much time I had spent for this information!
Thanks!

เดียงสรรพ
on February 6, 2014 at 9:18 AM said:

I’ve been browsing online more than three hours today, yet I never found any interesting article like yours.
It is pretty worth enough for me. In my view, if all webmasters and bloggers made good content as you did, the web will be much more useful than ever before.

Eyeliner Bisous Bisous
on February 6, 2014 at 10:44 AM said:

I am really loving the theme/design of your weblog.
Do you ever run into any web browser compatibility problems?
A handful of my blog readers have complained about my blog not working correctly in Explorer but looks great in Firefox.
Do you have any solutions to help fix this issue?