

# TRENDS

in Society and Information Technology

2015-2016 Seminar Series



**MARY BETH ROSSON, Professor, Associate Dean of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, College of Information Sciences and Technology, Pennsylvania State University**

**“Promoting Online Safety for Adolescents: A Developmental Perspective”**

Friday, January 29, 2016

3 to 4 p.m.

6011 Donald Bren Hall

A reception will follow the talk at 4 p.m. in the 5th floor atrium.

Free and open to the public; no RSVP required.

**ABSTRACT** The increasing popularity of the Internet and social media is creating new and unique challenges for parents and teens, regarding what online interactions are normal or acceptable; how teens should handle their own or others’ risky behavior; and what parents or teens can do to promote online safety for young people. In this talk I will share our findings from a series of interleaved investigations of teens and their online behavior, including the role that parents may play in setting boundaries and helping teens to deal with unsafe online situations. Using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, we probed the different understandings that adolescents and their parents have about teens’ online behaviors, assessed normative views on types of online situations that are more or less risky, and studied how teens and their parents perceive and respond to risk events on a week-by-week basis. Drawing from a developmental psychology framework of adolescent resilience, we argue that online interactions are a resource for adolescents to learn how to manage the risks inherent in Internet participation, rather than a source of danger from which young people must be sheltered or protected.

BIO Dr. Mary Beth Rosson is Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, in the College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) at The Pennsylvania State University. Rosson also co-directs the Computer-Supported Collaboration and Learning Lab, where she supervises research projects in technology-mediated education, online privacy-enhancing behavior, smart camera applications for people with visual impairments, co-production of health and wellness among elders, and literacy in computational thinking. Prior to joining Penn State in 2003, she was Professor of Computer Science at Virginia Tech for 10 years, and a Research Staff Member at IBM T. J. Watson Research Center for 11 years. Rosson received her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University of Texas – Austin in 1982. She is internationally known for research and education in human-computer interaction, participatory and scenario-based evaluation and design methods, computer-supported collaborative learning and end-user development. In recognition of her research accomplishments, Dr. Rosson was elected Distinguished Scientist of the Association for Computing Machinery and is a member of the SIGCHI Academy.

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