

## Online privacy for psychologists

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The numbers of people using online networks is on the increase:

1.47 billion daily active users on Facebook

2.23 billion monthly active users on Facebook

562 million users on LinkedIn

191 million Snapchat daily active users

336 million monthly active users on Twitter

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People go online to:

Maintain relationships and build networks

Seek information

Find like-minded others

Entertainment

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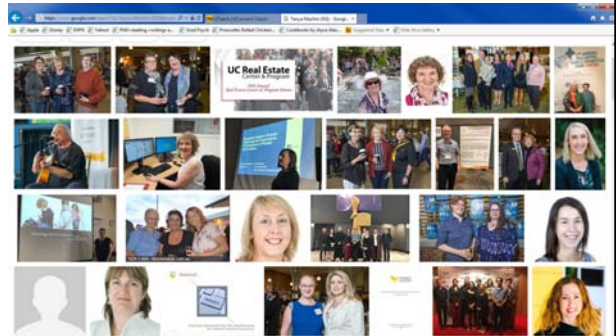


## What about our personal information?

Facestalking is a popular activity

Google anyone that you want

Personal disclosure

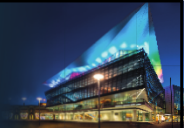


Aim: to explore the understandings and actions that psychologists have regarding online privacy

RQ1: What social media is used?

RQ2: How do psychologists understand online privacy?

RQ3: How do psychologists see it embedded in their professional and social lives?



Qualitative research using a purposive sample of psychologists

Semi-structured interviews

Thematic analysis informed by Braun and Clarke

11 psychologists



Three themes to discuss today:

Never can relax

Blurring of person and professional boundaries

Privacy strategies



## Never can relax

*“I think I have a higher kind of level of what I think is okay, cause I have to uphold that side of it – I’m always still a psychologist”*

*“It’s the to-ing and fro-ing of how depersonal I make myself versus the –I’m going to have a normal life”*

*“psychologists can be quite vocal on social media and that can get them – it can land them in a lot of trouble [story] – he was deregistered. We have a voice and an opinion but social media can be a public platform”*



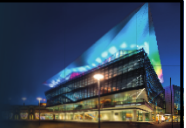
## Blurring of personal and professional boundaries

*“some clients have friend requested me many years after I have seen them as a client – I’ve assessed that on a case-by-case basis”*

*“I think the six degrees of separation idea is something I’m very aware and careful of – I find particularly in [town] that it is even more complicated and that trying to keep these things clear is quite difficult”*

*“He logged into Facebook and I came up as one of his suggested friends because we had a mutual acquaintance”*

*“if people [supervisees/employees] decide to throw a sickie, it’s a bit awkward because I don’t want to see that and it just puts me in a really tough position and then I have to have a conversation with them”*



## Negotiating privacy

Strategies include: *Change name – middle names, phonetic variation, organisation last name; Impersonal photos – dogs; Google search: Check privacy setting regularly; Friend culling; No check-ins, location finders*

Different types of privacy for different social media



There are no easy answers – this is a complex problem that needs thoughtful solutions.

Also not limited to psychologists but to anyone who deals with the public – uni lecturers, teachers, police, etc.



Questions?

Thank you for listening

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