

Media, Technology, & Society | Speaker Series 2017-2018**VIKKI KATZ**

Rutgers University - Communication

MONDAY - OCT 23 - 12:00 PM**Frances Searle Building****Room 3-220**

Connecting with Technology:
Moving beyond the individual to
understand digital inequality and
engagement in lower-income
families

Drawing on a decade of studies, Vikki Katz will demonstrate how digital inequality research benefits from moving beyond the traditional focus on individuals, to examining the social connections around digital connectivity. She will show how parents, children, and siblings in lower-income and immigrant families engage each other to learn about, and with, technology. Drawing on ethnographic, large-scale interview, and national survey data, she will trace how her research on children's "brokering" of language, culture, and media and technology for their immigrant parents led to a more holistic effort to understand inter- and intra-generational technology engagement and its outcomes in lower-income families of all backgrounds. Her findings offer insights into how family members respond, individually and collectively, to the digital inequalities they experience—and to more entrenched educational, health, and other social disparities often exacerbated by digital inequality. She will discuss the implications of her work for policy, practice, and future research on social inequality and children, families, and technology.

Vikki Katz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, and Affiliate Graduate Faculty in the Department of Sociology, at Rutgers University. Her research on low-income and immigrant families has been funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Urban Initiative, and the Russell Sage Foundation, where she was also a Visiting Scholar in 2016-2017. She is the author of *Kids in the Middle: How Children of Immigrants Negotiate Community Interactions for their Families* (Rutgers U Press, 2014) and co-author of *Understanding Ethnic Media: Producers, Consumers, and Societies* (Sage, 2011). She holds a B.A. from UCLA, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. You can learn more about her work at: www.vikkikatz.com and www.digitalequityforlearning.org