

Within the tension between adaptivity and maladaptivity.

Media practices of young people who experienced sexualized violence using digital media

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Due to an increasing mediatization of sexualized violence, those affected face the risk of a medial sharing of sexualized image, video and chat recordings beyond control. Be it the non-consensual sharing of sexualized material either produced consensually or under coercion, or a false linking to sexualized material for humiliating purposes, or records of sexualized acts of violence. If the spiral of violence once escalates, young people are subject to revictimization, retraumatization or victim blaming. Also, the mere knowledge of existing but not yet shared sexualized materials is experienced as seriously threatening. Consequently, the feeling of hopelessness and being trapped becomes stronger. That is probably why young people affected by sexualized violence using digital media (SVUDM) usually report about ambivalences and uncertainties in dealing with digital media. Therefore, we investigate the impact of experiencing SVUDM on the media practices of young people. Using interviews with young people affected by SVUDM, we shed light on their media practices, which are experienced as a tension between adaptivity and maladaptivity. What all the elaborated media practices have in common is that they reflect personal strategies for coping with media-related stresses and fears. At the same time, some media practices might adversely affect young people's wellbeing.