



**UNIVERSITÄT  
BIELEFELD**

Faculty of Sociology

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# **Digital communication in the lives of transnational families**

**Ringvorlesung im SoSe 2024**

**Aktuelle mediensoziologische  
Forschungen (300730)**

**10.06.2024 – 16:00 – 18:00 Uhr  
X-E0-234**

Digital technology is playing an increasing role in the dynamics of family relationships in general, but for those families whose members live in different countries it has become an especially reliable ally.

In this meeting we will discuss the role the virtual world plays in the lives of transnational families. Transnational communication mediated by technology plays a vital role in maintaining relationships within these families, sometimes even creating new families. Further, digital platforms are used by family members in various forms to support vulnerable members such as

children and the elderly.

An important focus of the discussion will be the agency of vulnerable members in this virtual relationship. We will discuss the advantages of such virtual relationships as well as its limitations.

The presentation will focus in particular on transnational families in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, but remains open to diverse contexts.