Contents

1 Introduction 1
Three Generations of Digital Technology Users 1
The Structure of the Book 5
References 7

Part I Digital Families

2 What Is a 'Digital Family'? 11
What Makes a Digital Family? 14
Membership and Composition 14
Doing Digital Family 16
The Perception of Family in Three Countries 18
References 21

3 Technological Drivers and Sociocultural Change 25
Tools, Connections, Content 26
The Changing Home, Skills and Family Roles 28
The Equipped and Connected Home 29
Improvements in Digital Skills 32
Changes in Family Roles 34
References 37

4 Beyond Social and Family Generations 41
Social Generations 42
Family Generations 44
Individual Life Courses, Linked Lives 47
Post-Mannheimian Generational Identity 49
References 51

Part II Roles, Responsibilities and Practices

5 Warm Experts 2.0 59
Family Roles: What Has Changed? 60
Changes Across the Life Course 63
Three Types of Warm Experts 65
Knowing Me, Knowing You 67
Rewarding but Challenging 70
References 73

6 Digital Housekeeping 75
Housework Meets Digital Technology 76
Hardware Purchases and Maintenance 77
Software and Application Installations 81
Knowledge Transfer Within the Family 84
References 86

7 The Big Meaning of Small Messages 87
WhatsApp's Growth and Success 88
Family Instant Messaging 89
Reaching the Family 91
A Technology of Middle Reach 94
Short, Fast and Trivial 96
Multimodality Spiced with Playfulness 97
Connecting Distributed Families 98
References 99

8 Intergenerational Solidarity 103
Social Bonding 104
Affectual Relations at Stake 106
In Search of Consensus 107
Functional Help in Technology Use 109
Unshaped Normative Solidarity 110
Enabling and Preventing Factors 112
Solidarity on Display 113
References 113

Part III Conclusions and Implications

9 Technologies of Re-familization 117
From De-familization to Re-familization 118
Technological Aspects of Re-familization 119
References 123

10 Towards a More Balanced Approach to Digital Families 125
From Connections to Caring Relationships 127
The Future of the Digital Family 130
References 131

Appendix 133