

## Sexting Web Identity in Youth Relationships

**Giada Serena Perna**

Pegaso International, Malta

giada.perna@virgilio.it

---

### Abstract

*Social networks are the most used and impactful tool in human relationships.*

*A Censis research in February 2020, has recorded a strong surge in internet users: 79.3% of the Italian population is constantly connected. The most popular social networks are YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. The connection percentages that are recorded in social networks have a vital resonance for young teenagers who experience the web as a psycho-digital addiction. Sexting is one of the most debated web distortion phenomena. We wonder about the reasons why the teenager designs his personal, virtual, sexual identity also through the web.*

*The exchange of images, videos, sexual messages exposes the teenager to constant dangers, most of the time in the unawareness that the data disclosed can be the result of serious blackmail exposing the victim to devastating psychological pressure.*

*To these extreme consequences we see a bidirectional response that comes from both psychologists and sociologists, who push the reinforcement of traditional roles such as family and school to support digital education for the construction of personal identity; both by the legislator who has tried to typify and rewrite some conduct related to child pornography to fill a legislative vacuum still difficult to apply and protect today.*

*Many answers and in-depth studies are still needed, however a part of these questions and research on the phenomenon of sexting and personal identity shows that the family assumes a main and predominant role on the distorting effects that the Web continues to generate*

**Keywords:** Sexting, social network, identity, family, criminal offense