

The Don Difference Series
Michelle Drouin

0:00-0:03 (Music)

0:04-0:17 I specialize in the ways that technology is impacting communication, relationships and learning. I have several themes of research, so one of them focuses on the ways in which we're using technology in the classroom for teaching and learning.

0:18-0:38 Another one of them explores the ways that we're using technology to communicate with one another—how it affects communication, relationships, family relationships, romantic relationships, friendships, and how it's specifically related to the development of our sexualities.

0:39-0:59 Some of my more current work is focused on the ways in which sexting is affecting relationships. So a large number of people are engaging in sexting, a large number of young adults. So we're looking at some of the correlates of this behavior. For example, people with insecure attachments, avoidant or anxious attachments with their partners are more likely to be using this type of sexual communication with their partners.

1:00-1:17 So the impact, then, that this is having potentially on relationships, and also further down the line, the impact it might be having on adolescent sexual development and the types of intervention programs we might be able to start with adolescents in order to alert them of the potential pitfalls of sexting and relationships.

1:18-1:46 One of my greatest accomplishments I think is that I've been able to channel some of my work into the popular press so that it's really reached wider audiences than would typically be reached with a journal article. So I'm really proud of the fact that my work has been featured in the Huffington Post, The New York Times, Parenting magazine, ABC News... I've done interviews with news people around the world, and that part of it is actually a really exciting part for me.

1:47-2:30 Working with students is my favorite part of this job. It's the most rewarding on a daily basis. In my research laboratory every semester I have between five and—this semester about 15 students—who work with me on my research projects. I always try to tie the work that I'm teaching about to real-life

situations but it's especially relevant in my research assistants who are going on to future careers and graduate school, and I'm trying to equip them with the skills they need, the experiences that they need, and the confidence that they need to go on and do that work, and to be competitive candidates in the world—whatever world they're going to choose to pursue.

2:32-2:57 And I would love to see doing myself developing more intervention programs, more education guides, modules for people who are introducing topics of not only sexuality and how technology is affecting sexuality, but even in a broader scope a digital footprint, and how to responsibly use social media.

2:58-3:09 So I think it's all of our responsibilities to start educating our children on responsible use of our technology and I would love to play a larger role in that.

3:10-3:14 (Music)

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