



Risky Behaviors in Social Media and Metaverse Use During Adolescence

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

In the rapidly evolving digital era, the lives of young people are increasingly intertwined with virtual platforms, particularly social media and the nascent metaverse. These environments have become significant in shaping their social interactions and psychological development.

However, alongside these opportunities, there are significant risks and challenges that are inherent to these digital landscapes. One of the primary concerns is the potential for exposure to harmful content and interactions, such as cyberbullying, online predation, and exposure to inappropriate content. Moreover, the immersive nature of the metaverse and the pervasive presence of social media can lead to addictive behaviors and overuse, which may disrupt sleep patterns, academic performance, and real-life social interactions.

This Special Issue seeks to explore these multifaceted aspects of adolescent life within the realms of social media and the metaverse. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how these digital environments influence young people's psychological development, social behaviors, and mental health.

