Contents

Acknowledgments | ix
Transcription Conventions | xi

Introduction | 3
1 New Social Scenarios | 13
    Looking for the “Where” and “Who” of Our Communications 13 | Delocalization 32
    Multilocalization 17 | From Identity to Identification 18 | The Chronic Symptoms of Our Time 19
    Wasting Time to Save Time 20 | Technologies in the Rear-View Mirror 21
    Synchrony, Asynchrony, Polychrony 22 | The Death of Silence? 32

2 Speaking Objects, Acting Words: New Communication Practices | 32
    Technologies and Everyday Construction of Culture 32 | Technologies as Statements: The Performative Force of Social Objects 36
    Technologies That Make Us Do 40 | The Contemporary “Nutcracker”: The Cascade Effect and the Interrelation of Technologies 42
    Reflexivity at Play: The Interaction between Technology and Culture 44 | The Discursive Origin of the Meaning of Things 46
    Common Sense, Technologies, and Daily Life 47 | Doing with Words: Language, Interaction, and Culture 50
    Individual Sense-Making and Dominant Discourse 52 | Discourse on Technologies as a Meaning-Making Device 54

3 Life Stories of Technologies in Everyday Life | 58
    How to Domesticate Technology 60 | Life Stories of Technological Objects 61
    Geographically Migrating Technologies 63 | Unexpected Uses: When New Technologies Perform Old Functions 66
    A Cascade of Adoptions and a Cascade of Communications 69 | From Communicating Something Urgent to the Urgency of Communicating: Reasons for Adoption and Anticipated Uses 71
4 Now Playing: Mobiles, Discourses, and Advertising  |  78
   Discourses of the Past and Simple Future 79  |  Type and Stereotype 81
   Kitsch and Discriminatory Humour 84  |  Talk Young, Talk Ads 88  |  And Elsewhere 89  |  Communicating at Any Price and All Cost 90  |  All Included, Even Friends? 93  |  Differences in Similarity 94  |  Mobile for Every Situation 97

5 Language, Interaction, and Mobile Culture: Field Research among Teenagers  |  102
   New Rites of Passage: Technology Ownership as Symbolic Threshold 103

6 Displaying Identities in Urban Space: How Do Young People Talk on Mobile Phones?  |  122
   Telephone Conversations as Linguistic Patchworks 122  |  Speaking “Teenager” 123
   “Bad” Language and New Technologies: An Identity-Producing Synergy 125
   Crossing Linguistic Boundaries: Cultural Identity on the Mobile 128  |  Cultural References in Teenagers' Mobile Conversations 136  |  Belonging to a Community of Practices: Geek Language and Culture 138  |  Crossing Words and Cultures by Mobile Phone 140

7 Mobile Culture in Everyday Life: Teenagers Talking on Their Mobiles  |  142
   Making Sense of Space: Where Do Young People Talk on Their Mobile Phones? 142
   Repertoire of Cultural Reasons: Technologies and Teenagers' Laziness 144
   Domesticating Technologies: Vegging, Doing Nothing, and Talking on the Mobile 148
   Breaking the Rules: The Implicit Logic of Mobile Phone Use 150  |  “Being a Couple”: Maps of Everyday Life and Simulacra of Proximity 153  |  Live Narrating of Everyday Life: Storytelling on the Mobile Phone 157  |  Mobile Phone Use as a Friendship-Building Activity 159  |  Guess Where I Am: Delocalization as a Social Game 163