How is family life changing as digital and mobile media create opportunities for both more connection and for more interruption? In this talk that is designed for parents, educators, and policymakers as well as scholars, Professor Lynn Schofield Clark discusses interviews and observations she’s conducted with U.S. parents and children over the past ten years that are discussed in her book, *The Parent App: Understanding Families in a Digital Age*. Drawing upon her research and recent work in the sociology of the family, she discusses the fact that families experience the risks and opportunities associated with new technologies in ways that echo the increasing stratification in the U.S. and the western world along the lines of race, class, and gender. She also considers how emergent patterns of parenting that emphasize flexibility, interconnectedness, and non-hierarchical relationships seem to echo the affordances of these technologies themselves – and may suggest a way forward for our families and for our societies.

Lynn Schofield Clark is Professor in the Department of Media, Film, and Journalism Studies and Director of the Estlow International Center for Journalism and New Media at the University of Denver. In 2014, she is serving as a Visiting Fellow with the Digital Ethnography Research Center at RMIT, and as Visiting Professor at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Clark is author of *The Parent App: Understanding Families in a Digital Age* (Oxford University Press, 2012), *From Angels to Aliens: Teenagers, the Media, and the Supernatural* (Oxford University Press, 2005, winner of the Best Scholarly Book Award from the National Communication Association’s Ethnography division), and co-author of *Media, Home, and Family* (Routledge, 2004). She also edited *Media, Religion, and the Marketplace* (Rutgers U Press, 2007) and co-edited *Practicing Religion in the Age of the Media* (Columbia University Press, 2002) and has served as a guest editor for numerous journal special issues. She also serves as a blogger contributor at *Psychology Today*.

**Date:** 11 March, 2014  
**Time:** 4pm - 6pm  
**Venue:** Lecture Theatre, Design Hub  
Swanston Street Level  
RMIT city campus  
**RSVP:** digitalethnographyrc@gmail.com