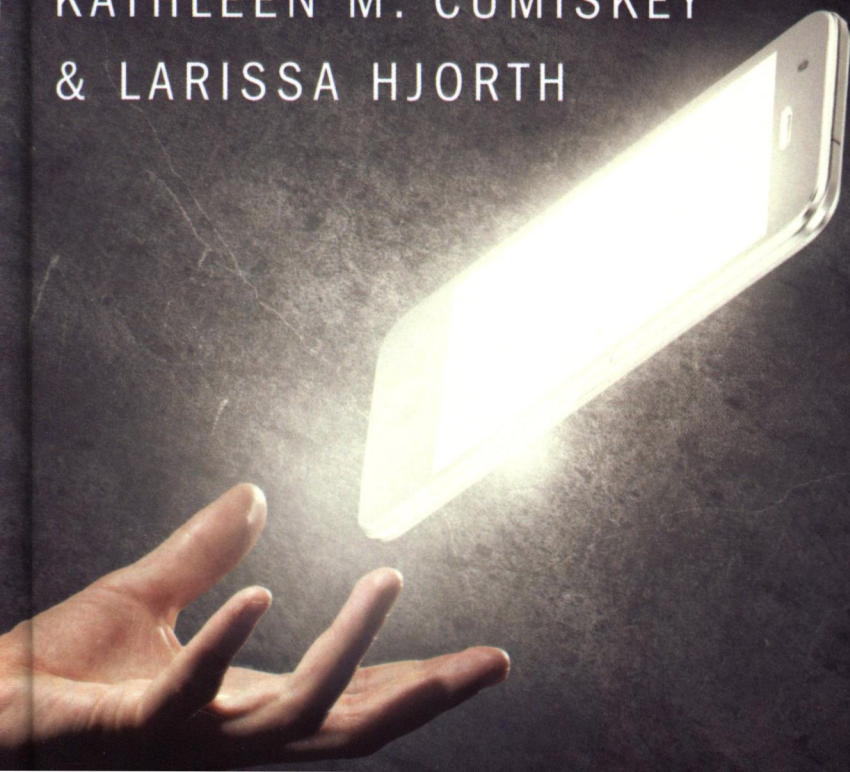


[ STUDIES IN MOBILE COMMUNICATION \_

# HAUNTING HANDS\_

Mobile Media Practices  
and Loss

KATHLEEN M. CUMISKEY  
& LARISSA HJORTH



"Cumiskey and Hjorth paint a rich picture in prose, showing how the latest advances in communication technology are deployed to deal with the most ancient of human emotions: anger, loss and grief."

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"The significance of mobile media is marked not by their ubiquity but by their deep embedding in everyday life, and evolving practices of mortality, memory, and memorialization make this vividly clear. We could not hope for better guides to this complicated topic than Kathleen Cumiskey and Larissa Hjorth. Subtle and sophisticated, *Haunting Hands* shows in intimate detail how media connect us—and shape our experience at the same time."

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"We are slowly realizing just how much mobile technology is transforming our lives together. In the simple act of purchasing a cell-phone you enter a new way of living. In this fascinating work, Cumiskey and Hjorth open whole new vistas of understanding. In the mobile world, death is not death. This is an eye-opening exploration of the ways in which mobile technologies now transfigure the rituals, memories, and the experience of death and mourning."

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*Beyond the Individual and Community*

**FROM SMARTPHONES TO TABLETS**, mobile media is increasingly playing a central role in the representation, sharing and experience of events public and private, formal and informal. Drawing on cross-cultural fieldwork, *Haunting Hands* considers the role mobile media practices and rituals provide as fundamental insights into contemporary notions of life, death, and loss.

**KATHLEEN M. CUMISKEY** is Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the College of Staten Island–City University of New York.

**LARISSA HJORTH** is an artist, digital ethnographer and Professor in the School of Media & Communication at RMIT University.

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## HAUNTING HANDS

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Studies in Mobile Communication focuses on the social consequences of mobile communication in society.

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*Haunting Hands: Mobile Media Practices and Loss*

Kathleen M. Cumiskey and Larissa Hjorth

*Life changes in the instant. The ordinary instant.*

—Joan Didion, *The Year of Magical Thinking*





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# GLOSSARY

ADC	after-death communication
AR	augmented reality
IM	instant messaging
MMS	Multimedia Message Service
mobile media	mobile phones and tablets
SNS	social networking sites
STS	science and technology studies
UCC	user-created content



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