Why do communication technologies matter?

Myria Georgiou
The headlines I:
Why do refugees use smart phones?

• Luxury
• Toy
• Lifestyle
• Withdrawal tool
• Tool for deviance
The headlines II: Why do refugees use smart phones?

- Lifeline
- Information resource
- Memory carrier
- Witnessing mechanism
- Companion
Why do communication technologies matter: Beyond the headlines

I. Informational value
II. Identity
III. Integration
Informational value
Communication technologies as a basic need?

• A portal to local, national and transnational information and knowledge

• Long distance relations and intimate surveillance (Archambault 2011)
Identity

Technologies of ontological security?

• Supporting well-being? Connecting subjectivity with past and future against isolation and trauma

• Images and sounds of intimacy supporting emotional and psychological needs

• Containing anxieties and supporting affective connections at times of extensive risks (Giddens 1990, Silverstone 1994; Georgiou 2012).
Integration
A mediator of capacities and skills?

• A familiar tool supporting the development of skills and capacities to deal with new legal, economic, social, and cultural relations and demands.
• Media literacy as skill
• The double translation capacity
The challenges for policy

• Technology Vs communication
• Information precarity (Wall, Campbell and Janbek 2015).
• Human rights
• Integration/participation
• Surveillance
• Respect