This presentation draws from a chapter in the forthcoming Handbook of Children and Youth Studies that explores intergenerational relations between mothers and daughters and the intersecting factors that shape gender as embodied subjectivity and as integral to the organization of social life. Its focus is young women and educational and social aspirations, and is based on two case studies drawn from Australian research projects that engage longitudinal, cross-generational and comparative perspectives. Everyday and interpersonal dynamics are explored as sites for understanding gender relations and identity in the making. An account of subjectivity is proposed that acknowledges psycho-social and intergenerational dynamics, and it is argued that the situated, sociological and historical dimensions of gender relations need to be examined alongside the interplay of emotion and desire. This discussion serves as backdrop to an account of a new ‘born-digital’ qualitative longitudinal and cross-generational study of young people and their families, located across three contrasting regions. Methodological and conceptual issues arising in the design and rationale for the study are considered.

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