

2023 Annual Meeting of the Socio-gerontechnology Network

Theorising Ageing in a Digital World



Programme & Book of Abstracts

Date: **28 & 29 September 2023**
Venue: **Open University of The Netherlands/ Utrecht Campus**
Vondellaan 202
3521 GZ Utrecht
The Netherlands

Hosted by the [Faculty of Humanities/Open University of The Netherlands](#)

Open Universiteit



Theorising Ageing in a Digital World

During the **2023 Annual Meeting**, we want to focus on the cross-pollinations that become relevant at various conceptual, methodological or empirical junctions in the field of Socio-gerontechnology. These junctions may include, but are not limited to, cross-disciplinary encounters between, for instance, social and cultural gerontology, Science and Technology Studies (STS), age studies, sociology, anthropology, human-computer interactions (HCI), media studies, education or critical design studies. The aim is to explore theoretical and methodological innovations that push the limits of existing approaches in Socio-gerontechnology and put in sharp relief the terrain that becomes visible when we intersect empirical work and concepts that think ageing and technology together.

Hotel recommendations

There are many hotels in the city of Utrecht with the representation of all kind of accomodations. You can choose from large international hotel chains to smaller local hotels or hostels. It is possible to choose a hotel nearby the train station or located in the city center. To assist you with the search, we have made a list of some hotel recommendations close to the train station, venue or in the city center.

The Venue

The Utrecht Campus of the Open Universiteit is located in 5 min walking distance from the historical city centre of Utrecht. It is in walking distance from Utrecht Central Station, which is the main railway hub of The Netherlands. Trains from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport take about 30 minutes and ride 4 times an hour. There are also many direct train connections from Germany and Utrecht Central is easily reachable by train from many other European countries.

Programme

This is a preliminary programme and last minute changes are still possible in agreement with presenters.

Day 1: Thursday, September 28, 2023

9.00-9.30	Registration and refreshments	
9.30-9.45	Welcome and Introduction (Room 6/7) <i>Alexander Peine (Open University of the Netherlands)</i>	
9.45-11.00	<p><u>Room 6/7</u> Session chair: Vera Gallistl</p> <p>Paper session 1: Robotics in science, fiction, and the law</p> <p>Applying Actor-Network Theory to explore robots in care and everyday life <i>Lillian Hung (University of British Columbia, Canada), Donna Case, Haopu Ren, Nathan Velazquez, Karen Wong, Olga Petrovskaya</i></p> <p>Social Robots and Older People’s Conceptions of Agency and Autonomy in the Socio-technical Context of Current and Future Digital Consumer Technologies <i>Andrea Slane (Ontario Tech University, Canada), Isabel Pedersen</i></p> <p>Between Science and Fiction – Grounding the Goal of “Ageing in Place” with Robots through Participatory Afternoons <i>Andreas Bischof (TU Chemnitz, Germany), Karola Köpferl, Sascha Kaden</i></p> <p>A tool for Shared Liability Assessment: A socio-legal intervention in developing gerontechnology <i>Christian Djeffal (Technical University of Munich, Germany), Verena Müller</i></p>	<p><u>Room 3/4</u> Session chair: Simone Felding</p> <p>Paper session 2: Technologies with and for migrating and minoritized older adults</p> <p>Anne4Care for Migrant Older Adults: A qualitative study on Users’ Acceptance <i>Marloes Bults (Saxion University of Applied Sciences, NL), Catharina Margaretha van Leersum, Theodorus Johannes Josef Olthuis, Egbert Siebrand, Zohrah Malik, Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Lili Liu, Jan S Jukema, Marjolein Elisabeth Maria den Ouden</i></p> <p>Transnational Care Collectives: Digital technologies for intergenerational care at a distance <i>Tanja Ahlin (University of Amsterdam, NL)</i></p> <p>An Intersectional Lifecourse Lens and Participatory Methods as the Foundations for Co-Designing with and For Minoritised Older Adults <i>Stuart Gray (University of Bristol, UK), Alice Willatt, Helen Manchester, Tot Foster, Tim Senior</i></p> <p>“Digital Kinning”: The Gender Dimensions of ICT-Meditated Transnational eldercare among Chinese Immigrants <i>Jeanny Jiyong Huang (Chinese University of Hong Kong)</i></p>
11.00-11.30	Refreshments	

11.30-12.45	<p><u>Room 6/7</u> Session chair: Outi Jolanki</p> <p>Paper session 3: Artificial Intelligence in ageing research and practice</p> <p>The Co-Constitution of Ageing and Artificial Intelligence – A Research Agenda <i>Vera Gallistl (Karl Landsteiner University, Austria), Muneeb Ul Lateef Banday, Clara Berridge, Alisa Grigorovich, Juliane Jarke, Catharina van Leersum, Ittay Mannheim, Barbara Marshall, Wendy Martin, Tiago Moreira, Barbara Ratzenböck, Alexander Peine</i></p> <p>The multiplicity of eXplainable Artificial Intelligence in long-term care setting <i>Catharina van Leersum (Open University of The Netherlands), Alexander Peine</i></p> <p>Age bias in algorithms and automatic decision-making systems – a new source of inequalities in digitalized society <i>Justyna Stypinska (Weizenbaum Institute Berlin, Germany), Rüya Gökhan Kocer</i></p>	<p><u>Room 3/4</u> Session chair: Helen Manchester</p> <p>Paper session 4: Digital inclusion and design</p> <p>A materialography of social connectedness in later life. Shifting ageing studies approach to materiality from a theoretical deficit to an empirical problem <i>Daniel López- Gómez (Open University of Catalonia), Roser Beneito, Alexander Peine, Israel Rodríguez, Andrea Garcia Santesmases</i></p> <p>Curb your enthusiasm. Towards a more nuanced understanding of the roles that proxies may play in the development of technology for people with dementia <i>Jenny Bergschöld (Sintef, Norway), Lisbeth Dyrendal Høgset, Sverre Bergh, Ingvild Hjorth Feiring</i></p> <p>Co-designing meaningful consent for digital care <i>Celia Brightwell (TU Dresden, Germany)</i></p> <p>Assessment of a digital intervention program with Holocaust survivors <i>Ella Cohn-Schwartz (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel), Ittay Mannheim, Lian Meiry</i></p>
12.45-13.45	Lunch	
13.45-15.00	<p><u>Room 6/7</u> Session chair: Aagie Swinnen</p> <p>Plenary panel 1: Aging in Data – Dilemmas of aging in technology: Data, digital inclusion and media practices (<i>Organised in kind collaboration with the ACT Lab and the Ageing in Data project at Concordia University in Montreal</i>)</p> <p>This session examines the promises and dilemmas of aging in technology, with a set of contributions that tackle aging, and digital inclusions and exclusions through an examination of everyday media practices and commonplace digital devices.</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Nicole Dalmer and Cal Biruk (McMaster University, Canada)</i> <i>Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol (Open University of Catalonia)</i> <i>Galit Nimrod (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)</i></p>	
15.00-15.30	Refreshments	

<p>15.30-17.45</p>	<p><u>Room 6/7</u> <u>Session chair: Aske Juul Larssen</u></p> <p>Paper session 5: Digital users and uses I</p> <p>“I don’t use internet I only read e-mails” – older adults claims about using digital devices and internet <i>Outi Valkama (Tampere University, Finland), Rita Latikka, Anniriikka Rantala, Outi Jolanki</i></p> <p>Main barriers to ICT learning among older people in Lithuania: what solutions can be found? <i>Margarita Gedvilaitė-Kordušienė (Lithuanian Research Centre), Gražina Rapolienė</i></p> <hr/> <p>Short Break</p> <p><u>Room 6/7</u> <u>Session chair: Andreas Bischof</u></p> <p>Paper session 6: Digital users and uses II</p> <p>Reflecting on so many bedridden elderly Japanese: Before introducing digital transformation in real-world care scenarios <i>Yasuko Kawatoko (Daito Bunka University, Japan)</i></p> <p>Surveillance technology in nursing homes: are all voices heard? <i>Daniëlle van Gaans (Tilburg University, NL), Eveline Wouters, Annerieke Stoop</i></p> <p>Internalized ageism a double-edged sword; insights from a Belgian study with older adults <i>Cora van Leeuwen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium), An Jacobs</i></p>	<p><u>Room 3/4</u></p> <p>Workshop: Doing theory in Socio-gerontechnology</p> <p><i>Organized by: Vera Gallistl (Karl Landsteiner University, Austria) Susan van Hees (Utrecht University, NL) Anna Wanka (Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany)</i></p> <p>As a new and developing field, Socio-gerontechnology draws on diverse theories and concepts from various disciplines, most prominently age studies (AS) and science-and-technology studies (STS). While the cross-pollination between these and other fields is undoubtedly fruitful for the conceptual development of Socio-gerontechnology, several conceptual intersections and frictions between these fields have been identified in the past that concern, e.g., the way these two fields think about agency, power or critique. This workshop aims to: (1) further explore theories and concepts that academics working in Socio-gerontechnology use, (2) identify what has proven helpful and what has proven difficult in drawing on these theories when researching ageing in a digitized world, and (3) reflect and work on (imagined) future directions for theorizing at the intersection of AS and STS.</p>
<p>17.45-18.00</p>	<p>Wrap-up Day 1 (Room 6/7)</p>	

Day 2: Friday, September 29, 2023

9.00-9.30	Summary day 1 and Refreshments (Room 6/7)
9.30-10.45	<p><u>Room 6/7</u></p> <p>Plenary panel 2: Theorizing Materiality</p> <p>In recent years, academic interest in ageing and technology has rapidly grown, and led to an emerging body of literature being interested in the role of (digital) materiality in the constitution of age and ageing. In this session, we want to explore the differences and similarities between different approaches to theorizing materiality in age studies. We hence bring together four suggestions on how to theorize materiality in ageing research.</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Michela Cozza (Mälardalen University, Sweden)</i> <i>Wendy Martin (Brunel University, UK)</i> <i>Vera Gallistl (Karl Landsteiner University, Austria)</i> <i>Anna Wanka (Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany)</i> <i>Kim Sawchuk (Concordia University, Canada)</i></p>
10.45-11.15	Refreshments
11.15-12.30	<p><u>Room 6/7</u> Session chair: Anna Wanka</p> <p>Paper session 7: Inclusion and participation in media and digital societies</p> <p>Making public digitalization work: ethnographic insights from sites of digital support <i>Stig Bo Andersen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Sofie Skovbæk Mortensen, Aske Juul Lassen, Astrid Jespersen</i></p> <p>Rebellious voices – participatory media production to challenge ageism and re-discover creativity <i>Tot Foster (University of Bristol, UK), Helen Manchester</i></p> <p>Understanding the role of technological innovations in the mistreatment of older adults: Examples from media and research <i>Mélanie Couture (Université de Sherbrooke, Canada)</i></p> <p>Uncle, please sit: A study of misogynistic speech perpetuated by older men in digital drawing rooms of misogyny <i>Nikita Jha (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay)</i></p>

12.30-13.30	Lunch 12.30-13.00 Hybrid early career event (room 6/7)	
13.30-14.45	<p><u>Room 6/7</u> Session chair: Susan van Hees</p> <p>Paper session 9: Care in times of digitalisation</p> <p>Ageing and technology - Creating a vision of care in times of digitization <i>Anne Meissner (Universität Hildesheim, Germany)</i></p> <p>Prevention apps, the malleable aging body, and cruel optimism <i>Annette Leibing (University of Montreal, Canada)</i></p> <p>Chronic interfacing – How older people manage chronic pain with digital pain technology in the United States <i>Banjamin Lipp (Technical University of Denmark)</i></p> <p>What get lost in translation? Accountable care in data-driven nursing homes in Denmark <i>Mie Winther Christensen (Roskilde University, Denmark), Nete Schwennesen</i></p>	<p><u>Room 3/4</u> Session chair: Louis Neven</p> <p>Paper session 10: Technology and ageism across generations</p> <p>Theorizing the Intersection of Ageism and the Use and Design of Digital Technology – paper presentation <i>Ittay Mannheim (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)</i></p> <p>Silicon Valley Ageism – Ideologies and Practices of Expulsion in the Technology Industry <i>Justyna Stypińska, Andrea Rosales (Open University of Catalonia), Jakob Svensson</i></p> <p>Going beyond ageism? Intergenerational media and technological projects as alternative modes of encounters <i>Marie Poux-Berthe (University of St Gallen, Switzerland)</i></p> <p>Playing Like a Senior? A Dialogue between Critical Studies of Ageing and Game Studies <i>Gabrielle Lavenir (The Seed Crew)</i></p>
14.45-15.15	Refreshments	

15.15-16.30	<p data-bbox="387 204 517 236">Room 6/7</p> <p data-bbox="1659 204 2029 236" style="text-align: right;">Session chair: Alexander Peine</p> <p data-bbox="387 248 2000 316">Plenary panel 3: Ageing in Data - Epistemologies and technologies of measurement (<i>Organised in kind collaboration with the ACT Lab and the Ageing in Data project at Concordia University in Montreal</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="387 368 2047 504">This session investigates the different knowledge systems in play in the development of intellectual tools and procedures that attempt to quantify age and aging and to create replicable systems for the collection of data on age and aging. The papers in this session investigate the different knowledge systems in play in the development of intellectual tools and procedures that attempt to quantify age and aging and to create replicable systems for the collection of data on age and aging that influence the experience of aging.</p> <p data-bbox="387 539 1088 683">Panelists: <i>Unmil Karadkar (University of Graz, Austria)</i> <i>Wendy Martin (Brunel University, UK)</i> <i>Constance Lafontaine and Kim Sawchuk (Concordia University, Canada)</i> <i>Stephan Katz (Trent University, Canada)</i></p>
16.30-17.00	Closing and goodbye (Room 6/7)

During selected times at the conference, there will also be poster pitches. The poster are on display during the whole conference.

Whole conference & Tours during the last 30 minutes of the lunch breaks	Poster pitches	
	<u>Tour day 1 (13.15-13.45)</u>	<u>Tour day 2 (13.00-13.30)</u>
	<p>Virtual reality and its use in care homes: a conceptual manual <i>Věra Suhomelová (University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic), Renata Tetourová, Lenka Lhotská, Martin Kotecký, Jan Husák, J. Stejskal</i></p> <p>Senior influencers' power dynamics and changing values on social media <i>Shuman Xie (Durham University, UK), Kimberly Jamie, Tiago Moreira</i></p> <p>Justice for Caregivers in Conflict: A Care-based Approach <i>Ashfaq Ahmed (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay)</i></p> <p>Preconception and isolation: How new media discourse constructs older people's portrait of smart technology adoption and engagement in China <i>Mengxi Zhang (University College London, UK)</i></p>	<p>Untangling the emotionality of digitally-enabled social connectedness in older age <i>Marek Háša (Charles University, Czech Republic)</i></p> <p>Exploring the use of digital technology for physical activity in older people: Lessons learned from the GOALD project (Generating Older Active Lives Digitally) <i>Simone Tomaz (University of Stirling, UK), Ritchie, J., Cooper, L., Bradwell, H., Baxter, R., Hennessy, C., Jones, R., Haynes, R., Ryde, G.C., Whittaker, A.C.</i></p> <p>Community stakeholders' expectations, facilitators, and barriers regarding technology use for aging in place <i>Aline Aboujaoudé (Université de Montréal), Sébastien Piccard, Mélanie Couture, Maxime Lussier, Sylvain Giroux, Nathalie Bier</i></p> <p>Web of Care. Co-creating a film on how new technologies can function as tools for knowledge-making for older adults <i>Marlies Pöschl (University of Arts Linz)</i></p>

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1. Plenary panels and workshops

Plenary panel 1: Aging in Data – Dilemmas of aging in technology: Data, digital inclusion and media practices

Panelists: Nicole Dalmer¹, Cal Biruk¹, Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol² & Galit Nimrod³

1. McMaster University and Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging Cal Biruk, Canada

2. Universitat Oberta de Catalunya / Open University of Catalonia

3. Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

This session examines the promises and dilemmas of aging in technology, with a set of papers that tackle aging, and digital inclusions and exclusions through an examination of everyday media practices and commonplace digital devices. In their paper, Nicole Dalmer and Cal Biruk discuss a pilot project that traced the experiences and understandings of older adults with their digital devices. The project aimed to understand how data objects, production, surveillance, and sharing impact their everyday lives, relationships, and aging experiences. Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol discusses the newly-released edited collection titled “Digital Ageism: How it Operates and Approaches to Tackling it” (Rosales, Fernández-Ardèvol & Svensson, 2023). In particular, she discusses overarching critical questions that are broached in the book relating to the ways in which ageism operates in hyper-digitized societies, as well as to the strategies that can be employed to tackle ageism. Barbara Ratzenböck’s contribution to this panel presents evidence from recent ethnographic work that indicates the ways in which older adults are knowledgeable and critical in their engagement with digital devices, platforms, and algorithms. The author articulates a feminist critique that seeks to reshape the discourse on digital participation from a discourse of divides, incapacities, and ignorance to one of spectrums, capacities, and resistance. Finally, Galit Nimrod and Yael Edan discuss the theory of technology domestication and its application to the adoption, rejection, and use of new technology within households. The approach proposes that a better understanding of the interaction between older adults and technology requires reliance on theory, application of longitudinal research in real-life conditions, simultaneous examination of uses, outcomes, and constraints, and differentiation between users, technologies, and circumstances.

Workshop: Doing theory in socio-gerontechnology – Past, present and futures of socio-gerontechnological theorizing

Organized by: Vera Gallistl¹, Susan van Hees² & Anna Wanka³

1. Karl Landsteiner University for Health Sciences, Austria

2. Utrecht University, NL

3. Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany

As a new and developing field, Sociogerontechnology draws on diverse theories and concepts from various disciplines, most prominently age studies (AS) and science-and-technology studies (STS). While the cross-pollination between these and other fields is undoubtedly fruitful for the conceptual development of Sociogerontechnology, several conceptual intersections and frictions between these fields have been identified in the past that concern, e.g., the way these two fields think about agency, power or critique (Wanka & Gallistl, 2021). This workshop aims to: (1) further explore theories and concepts that academics working in Sociogerontechnology use, (2) identify what has proven helpful and what has proven difficult in drawing on these theories when researching ageing in a digitized world, and (3) reflect and work on (imagined) future directions for theorizing at the intersection of AS and STS. We start from discussions evoked by the Sociogerontechnology book and challenge how we look at and use theories in our field with attention to the two streams of research from which the field emerged: gerontology/age studies and STS. We collect theories and concepts that participants already work with and discuss their potential shortcomings when applied to ageing and digitalization. The central part of the workshop is dedicated to active theorizing – i.e. working out which aspects and

assumptions of which theories we want to keep using and which to get rid of, how to merge them with others aiming for truly transdisciplinary theorizing. The workshop aims to bring forward discussions on doing theory and to dive deep into future opportunities to bring these discussions forward. Participants contribute to further defining the field, i.e. what is Sociogerontechnology for? What are Sociogerontechnological ways of thinking and doing theory? What will stuck over time and will get lost? What would be lost when we lose the theory? What questions should we ask theories? What new life may come from these theories?

Plenary panel 2: Theorizing Materiality

Panelists: Michela Cozza¹, Wendy Martin², Vera Gallistl³, Anna Wanka⁴ & Kim Sawchuk⁵

1. Mälardalen University, Sweden

2. Brunel University, UK

3. Karl Landsteiner University, Austria

4. Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany

5. Concordia University, Canada

In recent years, academic interest in ageing and technology has rapidly grown, and led to an emerging body of literature being interested in the role of (digital) materiality in the constitution of age and ageing. Criticizing existing theories in age studies for focusing primarily on human actors, human actions, and human agency, researchers in the field of material gerontology propose to emphasize the importance of the material world in the constitution of later life. In the recent years, approaches that draw on concept surrounding materiality have vastly diversified in age studies, each drawing on their own theories of materiality, and highlighting different aspects of how materialities shape ageing and later life. In this session, we want to explore the differences and similarities between different approaches to theorizing materiality in age studies. We hence bring together four suggestions on how to theorize materiality in ageing research: In her presentation “Why matter matters to theorizing ageing: the contribution of posthumanism”, Michela Cozza will explore how decentering the human being can open up to interesting avenues for studying ageing. Taking the everyday life as a starting point, Wendy Martin uses the lens of rhythms to explore the ways digital materialities in everyday are experienced, constructed, performed, remembered and imagined. The title of her presentation is “Materiality, ageing and the digital: rhythms, embodiments and everyday life”. Drawing on Karen Barad’s concept of spacetimematter, Vera Gallistl and Anna Wanka explore the materialized temporalities of gerontechnology in the lives of older adults and focus on the ways materiality and temporality are entangled in later life. Finally, Kim Sawchuk will share her insights on materiality and intimacy in her presentation titled “Aging, Intimacy and Digital Intricacy: a microethnographic investigation”.

Plenary panel 3: Aging in Data – Epistemologies and technologies of measurement

Panelists: Unmil Karadkar¹, Wendy Martin², Constance Lafontaine³, Kim Sawchuk³ & Stephan Katz⁴

1. University of Graz, Austria

2. Brunel University, UK

3. Concordia University, Canada

4. Trent University, Canada

This session investigates the different knowledge systems in play in the development of intellectual tools and procedures that attempt to quantify age and aging and to create replicable systems for the collection of data on age and aging. Operating from a critical point of view, the papers address the ways in which the processes of age and aging intersect with the social organization of seemingly objective forms of knowledge that constitute an essential part of the “relations of ruling for contemporary capitalism” (Smith, 1990). The papers in this session investigate the different

knowledge systems in play in the development of intellectual tools and procedures that attempt to quantify age and aging and to create replicable systems for the collection of data on age and aging that influence the experience of aging. In his paper, Unmil Karadkar discusses the EMERALD project, which is adopting a longitudinal data retrieval model to understand the relationship between age and mobile search functions as well as recommendation algorithms. Barbara Marshall and Wendy Martin focus on the ways that data extracted from digital surveillance of aging bodies are rendered actionable through their visualization. In exploring how these data inform predictive analytics, deployed to mitigate risk and optimize management of aging bodies, critical questions are raised around agency and relations of power. Kim Sawchuk and Constance Lafontaine analyze the perspectives of multiple actors, including older adults, on an algorithm being devised to provide older adults remote assessments of risk in relation to their health and wellbeing. Finally, Stephen Katz explores the roles of design (financial, technological, commercial) and datafication (connectivity, metrics, tracking) in configuring new standards of wellbeing across the lifecourse; in particular, the ways in which 'smart' and future aging trajectories are plotted and circulated across bodies, populations, environments, temporalities and communities.

2. Parallel sessions

Session 1: Robotics in science, fiction, and the law

Applying Actor-Network Theory to explore robots in care and everyday life

Lillian Hung, Donna Case, Haopu Ren (Lily)¹, Nathan Velazquez, Karen Wong, Olga Petrovskaya

1. University of British Columbia, Canada

The potential for assistive robots to support older adults' independence and social connections requires careful consideration of their implications in everyday use. This study investigates the use of two assistive robots, Labrador and Double, in older adults, guided by Actor-Network Theory (ANT). Labrador (a delivery robot) assists with medication management, meals, laundry, house cleaning to support independence, while Double (a telepresence robot) enables virtual social visits. ANT offers a way to understand how the robots interact with different actors, such as older adults, family members, staff, and the environment in which they operate. We applied a qualitative approach to explore how users construct meanings, use, and make sense of the robots in their everyday contexts. Semi-structured interviews and ethnographic fieldwork were conducted with participants to generate data. Reflexive thematic analysis was performed, and three themes emerged: (1) the human-robot relationship, (2) the robot's agency, and (3) ethical implications. The findings suggest that having the robots in everyday life is a process of constant negotiation with the people, practice, and the robot. ANT provides helpful insights into the complex network of relationships between the robot, the users, and the environment in which it operates. While there is a fear that assistive robots will dehumanize caring practices, our study shows that they have the potential to foster innovative user-technology relationships, which requires further research.

Social robots and older people's conceptions of agency and autonomy in the socio-technical context of current and future digital consumer technologies

Andrea Slane¹, Isabel Pedersen

1. Ontario Tech University, Canada

The importance of socio-historical contextualization to illuminate older people's "moral intuitions" about care robots is developed over the course of a body of work by Vandemeulebroucke et al., where the contextualization they elaborate is mainly focused on social and political discourses that inform and shape how older people think about the role of technology in elder care. In this paper, we extract insights about how autonomy and agency are conceptualized by older people from their work, as well as the broader empirical and care robot ethics literature. We enhance it with qualitative analysis of our own empirical study focused on how older people think about socially assistive robot consumer products (consumer SARs): devices that offer common care robot assistance functions, but that also serve as enhanced humanoid digital assistants (like Alexa or Google Home) and which are marketed directly to older consumers. Our elaboration draws on the insights of the body of work by Gilleard & Higgs regarding the two disparate ways aging is framed in public discourse – a "third age" that is agentic and consumerist, and a "fourth age" that is non-agentic and dependent on assistance. Doing so reveals that older people's ethical reasoning about consumer SARs is informed by a socio-technical discourse that on the one hand does align with common utopian and dystopian cultural imaginaries of aging, but also responds to the socio-technical allocation to individuals of responsibility for protecting their own interests as users of consumer digital technologies. Examining older people's conceptualization of agency from this broader frame is key to understanding how they think about the possible place of consumer SARs in their lives. The paper advances the study of older people's ethical framing of SARs more generally, by integrating ethical discussion of care robots into the discourses that shape the broader consumer technology context.

Between science and fiction – Grounding the goal of “Ageing in place” with robots through participatory afternoons

Andreas Bischof¹, Karola Köpferl, Sascha Kaden

1. Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany

It is well known that home is the center of life in old age and that it influence quality of life. In addition, staying at home for as long as possible is also made an explicit goal by partly neoliberal care policies. With a view to the concrete life worlds, it is most often unclear which ideas of and attitudes towards “ageing in place” older people have. This finding is particularly true when the argument of staying longer is used to motivate and justify the development and funding of specific technologies, such as assistance robots for the home. Our presentation addresses this problem with a participatory approach in shaping science and technology for ageing in place. We report on our three-part field exploration on the topic of robotics in the everyday lives of older people. We invited people to three afternoons of two to three hours length with the focus on:

1. What is a robot? What is a robot for me? Where do I need it, where do I not want it? What would a robot look like for me - paper sketch developed
2. Developing prototypes from paper sketches with the help of Lego bricks feeding them with thoughts and investigations from my own everyday life and needs. including a demonstration and much discussion.
3. Robots for real - with robot arm and ChatGPT

We report on our discussions with our guests, e.g. “How do we think about robots”, or “What does it have to look like to be useful or is it better not to have one?” But also the methods and the environment in which we conducted these discussions: The mutual discussions and the joint tinkering, were central to the participatory afternoons in the “city lab”.

A tool for Shared Liability Assessment: A socio-legal intervention in developing gerontechnology

Christian Djeffal¹, Verena Müller¹

1. Technical University of Munich, Germany

Our paper describes an intervention into assessing legal liability of gerontechnology projects. The tool Shared Liability Assessment is designed to combine legal assessments with participatory exercises. Gerontechnology promises to address the repercussions of demographic change resulting in an aging society with fewer resources for nursing. However, technologies such as robotics bring new issues and questions with them. In many cases, project teams are concerned about legal liability for their products, which safeguard essential interests by establishing responsibility for products and technologies. Since gerontechnology, by its very nature, often interacts closely with patients at a very vulnerable stage of life, malfunctions may quickly result in damages to life and limb. Accordingly, manufacturers must meet high safety standards for product construction. The law only defines abstract and objective duties of care, which must be determined in individual cases with respect to the specific type of product. Future users and stakeholders typically have no say in the development of technologies nor in legal assessments. Our intervention addresses this issue by involving those affected by the technologies as experts regarding the future applications of the technologies to help define aspects of responsibility and liability. Our Shared Liability Assessment Tool breaks down different categories of duties of care with regard to their potential implications for gerontechnology, thus allowing a preliminary liability assessment. Unlike traditional self-assessment approaches, our method enables participation in technology assessment and co-creation of robotic systems by those affected by the technology, not least the elderly themselves and professionals in the medical field. Combining legal and STS approaches and based on ethnographically-inspired observations, our paper critically reflects on the potential and shortcomings of stakeholder participation in liability assessment.

Session 2: Technologies with and for migrating and minoritised older adults

Anne4Care for migrant older adults: A qualitative study on users' acceptance

Marloes Bults¹, Catharina Margaretha van Leersum, Theodorus Johannes Josef Olthuis, Egbert Siebrand, Zohrah Malik, Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Lili Liu, Jan S Jukema, Marjolein Elisabeth Maria den Ouden
1. Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

This study aimed to understand the use of a virtual assistant, called Anne4Care, by migrant older adults in their own home. Standard features include video calling, medication diary, and calendar for appointments. Additional features include a digital album, radio, news and games. In this Citizen Science Study with a qualitative descriptive design (naturalistic inquiry), thirteen older adults participated as co-researchers. After an introduction of Anne4Care, the first interview examined the lives and needs of participants, their expectations, and previous experiences with assistive technology. Four months later, the second interview focused on facilitators and barriers, suggestions for modifications, and the role of care professionals. In addition, four care professionals were interviewed to examine their roles and experiences in the use and implementation of Anne4Care. Content analysis, using NVivo11, with a deductive and inductive approach was performed on all transcripts. All thirteen co-researchers had a migration background (age: 52-83 years). All co-researchers were diagnosed with dementia or acquired brain injury. Six themes emerged from the data analyses: 1) personal situation, 2) care, 3) use of Anne4Care, 4) positive contributions of virtual assistant, 5) challenges with the virtual assistant, and 6) expectations. None of the co-researchers knew assistive technology and they obtained assistance of care professionals and family to explain and set-up technology (i.e. increased burden on care professionals and family). Contributions of Anne4Care included offering companionship, helping with daily tasks and opportunity to use multiple languages. On the other hand, some co-researchers expressed anxiety towards the use of Anne4Care. Furthermore, an internet connection is required at home and Anne4Care cannot be used outside the home. The virtual assistant, Anne4Care, offered companionship for migrant older adults coping with dementia and helped them to perform daily activities. Recommendations of older adults included the option for interactive conversations and use outside of one's home.

Transnational Care Collectives: Digital technologies for intergenerational care at a distance

Tanja Ahlin

University of Amsterdam. The Netherlands

Over the past several decades, technological innovation is on the rise while increasing migration is introducing vast distances among family members. The situation has been additionally complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the requirements of physical distancing, especially for the most vulnerable – older adults. In this presentation, I investigate how digital technologies actively shape elder care when family members become physically separated through international migration. Specifically, I use ethnographic methods to explore how nurses from India who migrate abroad for work integrate mobile phones, smartphones and webcams into caring for their aging parents at a distance.

Drawing on the material semiotic and empirical ethics theoretical approaches from STS care studies, I show how people and technologies together enact care within what I call 'transnational care collectives.' Within these collectives, care is enacted through practices such as frequent calling and spending time together on the webcam. In the process, people and technologies co-create new norms of 'good elder care' and filial duties, which transforms kinship and gender dynamics. Coming from a country in which appropriate elder care is closely associated with co-residence, the families in my study tinkered with smartphones and social media to establish what remote care could be and how it should be done to be considered good. In the process, digital technologists shift some power dynamics in the families. Through the notion of transnational care collectives, I uncover the subtle workings of digital technologies on care across countries and continents when being physically together is not feasible.

An intersectional lifecourse lens and participatory methods as the foundations for co-designing with and for minoritised older adults

Stuart Gray¹, Alice Willatt, Helen Manchester¹, Tot Foster, Tim Senior

1. University of Bristol, UK

The design of digital technologies for older adults is often premised on deficit models of ageing that position older people as a homogenous group and as passive users of technology, with an overwhelming focus on meeting practical needs in older age. In response, a growing number of scholars in HCI and Science and Technology Studies (STS) are engaging with processes of co-design that situate older adults as experts within their own lives and as central to the design process. These scholars highlight how an essential first phase of co-design is understanding and foregrounding the lifeworlds, experiences and expertise of older adults. This paper responds to these calls, alongside the lack of consideration of minoritised older adults in co-design. It draws on the empirical findings from the first phase of the [project name – blank for review] project, which places 18 minoritised older adults who identify as disabled, or racially or socio-economically minoritized, at the center of a digital innovation process. Through a case study approach, we focus on two of the minoritised older adults involved, to demonstrate the value of participatory methods, brought together with an interdisciplinary lifecourse lens. We highlight the power of this approach for understanding minoritised older adults' relationships with technology and how this is shaped by experiences across the lifecourse, for building relationships, and ensuring the agency and voice of older adults underpin the co-design process.

“Digital Kinning”: The gender dimensions of ICT-mediated transnational eldercare among Chinese Immigrants

Jeanny Jiyong Huang

Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The gendered division of domestic labor is a key topic in gender studies and the sociology of the family. Studies show migration as a great equalizer in the gender division of domestic labor regarding women's higher economic status and their absence from the family due to work. Puzzlingly, the revolution towards an equitable division has yet to progress commensurably in different domains, with eldercare lagging behind housework and childcare (Grigoryeva, 2017). While gender roles and division can be reversed in transnational families' households and childcare (Anderson, 2000; Isaksen, Devi, & Hochschild, 2008), less is known about eldercare. Why has the revolution of gender division of labor stalled in transnational eldercare? The "transnational turn" initiated by ethnographers in the 1990s allowed elderly care to be seen as possible in the absence of geographic proximity, which is greatly facilitated by the rapid development of information and communications technology (ICT) in families in this century (Dworkin, Rudi, & Hessel, 2018). Grounded in the theory of social constructionism and the claim of techno-feminists (Wajcman, 2010), the study highlights that ICT is not a neutral artefact. The processes of designing, producing, and using ICT are gendered, which also reproduced and shaped by people's everyday interactions. The gender division of labor in transnational elder care shows a complicated picture of technology mediation in shaping care work. Our ongoing study uses in-depth interviews and digital anthropology in WeChat groups to analyze how male and female Chinese adult children who migrate to Canada, the US, and Singapore care for their parents left behind. Based on the current research findings, the disappearance of geographic proximity greatly intensifies the use of ICT by immigrant women. Thus, (1) ICT's emotional properties reinforce masculinity and femininity, (2) women disproportionately bear the expectations of family "coexistence" enhanced by ICT, and (3) women's media literacy is devalued in digital labor, weakening their bargaining power.

Session 3: Artificial Intelligence in ageing research and practice

The Co-constitution of ageing and Artificial Intelligence – A research agenda

Vera Gallistl¹, Muneeb Ul Lateef Banday², Clara Berridge³, Alisa Grigorovich⁴, Juliane Jarke⁵, Catharina van Leersum⁶, Ittay Mannheim⁷, Barbara Marshall⁸, Wendy Martin⁹, Tiago Moreira¹⁰, Alexander Peine⁶

¹Karl Landsteiner University, Austria; ²Goa Institute of Management, India; ³University of Washington, USA; ⁴Brock University, Canada; ⁵University of Graz, Austria; ⁶Open University of The Netherlands; ⁷Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel; ⁸Trent University, Canada; ⁹Brunel University, UK; ¹⁰Durham University, UK

Artificial intelligence and algorithmic technologies have received increasing attention from gerontological research in the last decade. Framed as “technologies that act”, “computers that think” (Elliot, 2021) or “thinking objects” (Birtchnell, 2021), the overriding hope that guides the development and introduction of AI in gerontology is that it will, through the automated collection and analysis of (big) data support older adults in their wish to live and age autonomously and independently (Rubeis, 2020; Sapci & Sapci, 2019; Chen 2020). While there is much literature that dissects and explores the development, application, and evaluation of AI in various areas that are of interest for gerontology, we want to make a novel contribution by engaging critically with the theorizing that takes place in this growing field of research. Our main argument is that gerontology’s engagement with AI is currently shaped by an interventionist logic that analytically distinguishes technology from ageing. This logic situates AI as a black box (Latour, 2000) which makes the (potentially biased) construction of ageing in their design and the engagements of older adults with algorithmic technologies, invisible. The aim of the presentation and discussion at the Socio-gerontechnology workshop is twofold. First, highlight some of the shortcomings in the current discussion on AI in gerontology by demonstrating how a black-box logic has neglected many aspects of AI as a research topic for gerontology, and discuss the consequences of a black-box logic towards AI in gerontology. Second, we share key insights from the body of work on AI and big data developing at the intersection of Science and Technology Studies (STS) and gerontology. We end the presentation with an outlook on future questions and a research agenda on ageing and AI, that we see as an urgent and emerging topic for scholars in Socio-gerontechnology. Finally, we reflect on the implications of the co-constitution of AI and ageing on gerontological research and practice.

The multiplicity of eXplainable Artificial Intelligence in long-term care setting

Catharina van Leersum¹, Alexander Peine¹

1. Open University of The Netherlands

The number of older adults living independently at home is expanding, which is often said to bring the need for more technological assistance. Residences for older adults are being closed in the Netherlands, and government policy aims to allow older adults to remain living at home as long as possible. In such policies, the use of technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as personalized health advice, is often assumed to support ageing in place. However, without user understanding of AI, it might not be trusted and used properly. Being able to explain the decisions made by AI systems is needed before implementation in sensitive domains, such as care of older adults. The research field of eXplainable AI (XAI) has originated from the advancements in AI; XAI should assist users of AI in understanding the underlying logic of the decision-making process, and give the possibility to identify where the AI system makes mistakes. It aims to map an opaque ‘black-box’ into an interpretable ‘white-box’ twin. However, what “explainability” is depends on the context in which it is enacted. This makes it challenging to develop “one-size-fits-all” techniques to demystify the ‘black-box’ and create comprehensible explanations. We present an investigation of different versions of explainability as they are present in the ecosystem of AI and XAI in the Dutch health and long-term care system. By bringing out this “multiplicity” of XAI through empirical research, we will investigate how explainable AI could be achieved in care. This paper aims to describe ‘what is XAI’, based on different versions of it in the stakeholder network. Follow-up on this research might include investigation of the desired degree of XAI in long-term care. How would XAI satisfy stakeholders and which explanatory information leads to a better ‘white box’.

Age bias in algorithms and automatic decision-making systems – a new source of inequalities in digitalized society

Justyna Stypińska¹, Rüya Gökhan Kocer

1. WZB Berlin & Weizenbaum Institute for Networked Society, Germany

Over the last few years, the power of algorithms has become a pressing issue discussed in society, media, business and in the social sciences. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) systems are perceived as capable of outpacing humans in many cognitive tasks. In a wide range of decision-making processes in finance, medicine, or justice the use of AI began to be perceived as a way of increasing the efficiency and profitability. On the other hand, gradually it has also been realised that algorithms may generate bias against some groups of people on the basis of their known and unknown sensitive characteristics. Initially, due to highly publicised cases, gender, ethnicity and race appeared to be particularly at danger to such algorithmic bias. Increasingly however, researchers have pointed out that age might also be vulnerable to algorithmic bias. Moreover, the research, indicates that algorithmic bias is a more sophisticated problem, not only it may exacerbate the existing injustices by reinforcing the known forms of discrimination, but it may also create unprecedented forms of injustice by generating new forms of discrimination. Indeed, age in itself, or in interaction with some other traits may render people quite vulnerable for injustices that may result from algorithmic bias. Against this background, there are three closely related but still sufficiently distinctive types of ‘injustices’ or ‘inequalities’ that may occur as AI algorithms are deployed in crucial decision making processes: re-creation of existing inequalities; denial of expected exceptions; and the emergence of hitherto unknown vulnerabilities. In this paper we will outline all three sources of AI-induced age inequality empirically through examples of algorithms and show the actions that need to be taken to tackle them substantively not just formally. In order to clarify these conceptual elaborations, the three algorithmic discrimination types will be demonstrated in a simulated ‘small world’ through application of several machine learning algorithms. In this heuristic (but still empirical) example we reveal the way in which age may appear as a feature that render people vulnerable to existing and unprecedented forms of algorithmic bias, and we also show the extent to which different degrees of algorithmic power may in itself enhance the discrimination patterns.

Chatting with Artificial Intelligence about ageing: exploring the ageing discourse emerging from human-machine interaction

Alessandro Caliandro¹, Emma Garavaglia, Francesco Diodati, Alessandra Gaia

1. University of Pavia, Italy

Mühlhoff (2020) identifies two kinds of Artificial Intelligence (AI): simulative AI (where the intelligence is located within the machine and meant to enhance the social - e.g., caring robots) and cybernetic AI (where the intelligence is located outside the machine and extracted from the social - e.g., ChatGPT). While simulative AI has been largely explored by ageing studies, especially regarding its applications in healthcare services addressed to older adults, studies on cybernetic AI and ageing are still scarce. The present contribution aims at exploring the role of AI in producing and circulating discourses on ageing, and more specifically on old age identities. Drawing on Human–Machine Communication’s theory (Guzman & Lewis, 2020), we explore the relational dimension of AI, intended as a process in which humans and machines collaborate in producing meanings. To do so, we develop an innovative study in which we use AI as both an object and method of research. Specifically, we asked 10 volunteers to engage in conversations with ChatGPT (an artificial intelligence chatbot owned by Microsoft), about ageing-related ‘hot’ topics, such as active ageing, old age public expenditure, social inclusion in old age etc. We analysed the conversational outputs employing a mix of narrative and automated text analysis. We know a lot about how digital technologies (e.g., social media, big

data, platforms) mediate and structure discourses on ageing, but the role of AI is rarely debated in this regard. Knowing that AI is not a technology mediating communication, but doing communication, with this study we contribute to kick-start a discussion around its role in the production of social knowledge on old age and ageing processes. Moreover, the study contributes to the discussion around the implications of the use of AI applications both as a source of data and a research method in ageing studies.

Session 4: Digital Inclusion and Design

A materialography of social connectedness in later life. Shifting ageing studies approach to materiality from a theoretical deficit to an empirical problem

Daniel López Gómez¹, Roser Beneito¹, Alexander Peine², Israel Rodríguez¹, Andrea Garcia Santesmases³
1. Open University of Catalonia; 2. Open University of the Netherlands; 3. National University of Distance Education, Spain

We aim to demonstrate that the lack of empirical attention to the conceptualizations of materiality in aging studies is more pressing than the theoretical deficit pointed by Critical Studies of Aging and Technology or Material Gerontology. We suggest that such empirical attention is necessary to foreground problematic understandings of social connectedness in old age. Inspired by the notion of ontography by Michael Lynch (2013), we propose a materialography of social connectedness in later life. Based on a critical narrative review of 279 scientific papers published between 2000-2020, we explore the understandings and approaches to materiality in studies of social connectedness in later life, mainly when the focus is on two materialities: ICT and physical environments. The main results of this analysis are: firstly, studies of ICT present ICT as agentic and transformative but seldom explore their material doings and tend to ignore the socio-material and situated arrangements of ICT use, including the role of place. Consequently, they mostly consider social connectedness in later life in cognitive and economic terms and not situated. It is usually conceptualized as social capital: something that individuals acquire from interacting with other individuals and that provides health or social benefits. Studies of place, in contrast, do not present environments as agentic and transformative as ICT but pay closer attention to the material doings of physical environments in enabling or disabling social connectedness. As a result, social connectedness is not only approached in cognitive and economic terms. It is also considered a situated and collective engagement beyond the interaction of individuals, which makes ideas of participation and belonging in later life more salient. But as these latter studies focus on bodily engagement with places they seem to disregard older people's digital practices in place. As a result, they contribute to portraying old people's daily life as disconnected from technology-mediated social connectedness and ICT as a threat to social connectedness because it deprives older people of real human (bodily) relations. As a result, and this is the later finding, these approaches to ICT and place materialities led to disconsider the intersection between older people's digital and bodily practices in place, as well as online and offline environments, in the socio-material configuration of social connectedness in later life.

Curb your enthusiasm. Towards a more nuanced understanding of the roles that proxies may play in the development of technology for people with dementia

Jenny M Bergschöld¹, Lisbeth Dyrendal Høgset, Sverre Bergh, Ingvild Hjorth Feiring
1. SINTEF, Norway

In the context of demographic ageing, older people are increasingly ageing in place including persons with dementia. Older users frequently reject gerontechnology that they find stigmatizing or fail to match their needs, and it has become common practice to involve older people as co-designers to ensure a good fit between technology and users' needs. Still, the active involvement of people with dementia remains the exception. Instead, user acceptability is often assessed via proxy report, where next of kin or care givers act as validators of research findings or even surrogates. This is a jarring

contrast to more inclusive narratives about people with dementia as co-creators in their own right. The feasibility of which has been well illustrated in studies where researchers and designers have built strong co-creational relationships with participants with dementia. Nevertheless, including multiple user perspectives in the development of technology for people who age in place with dementia is likely to be particularly useful. Such technology typically acts as link between the person with dementia and their formal and informal circles of care and must satisfy the perspectives of all. Against this background, there is a need for further methodological reflection on the roles that proxies may play in the development of technology for people with dementia and how the perspectives from multiple stakeholders may be carefully integrated without the voices of people with dementia becoming overshadowed. This presentation contributes to the debate by illustrating what conflicting perspectives between people with dementia and other stakeholders may look like, and to reflect on how they may be purposively and carefully integrated in the process of identifying user needs. These results are part of a user study with people with dementia and their next of kin in SMILE, an ongoing RIA project funded by Horizon 2020 that develops smart living environments for older people.

Co-designing meaningful consent for digital care

Celia Brightwell

Dresden University of Technology, Germany

This paper addresses the ideological and practical conditions necessary to present older people with the opportunity to provide meaningful consent to share personal data in digital health interactions. Ideological conditions include an awareness of the 'politics and possibilities' of data sharing (Jethani 2021). Practical conditions include those necessary to make digital screens usable for older people (Yifrah 2020). Accessibility barriers (Sand et al. 2012:67), power asymmetries and vested interests (Pollach 2005:222), and potential 'consent fatigue' following the cognitive load of GDPR consent requests (Machuletz & Böhme, 2020:485) pose barriers to presenting older people with meaningful data consent opportunities. Building on this reflection, I present examples of how interactive screens should be presented in a user journey for older people. My approach is developed through a human-centered design practice that approaches consent screens as a critical moment for older people to enact personal agency: to opt for meaningful consent or dissent based on an informed decision.

Assessment of a digital intervention program with Holocaust survivors

Ella Cohn-Schwartz¹, Ittay Mannheim¹, Lian Meiry

1. Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

The intersection of digital interventions with older persons with a traumatic past (such as Holocaust survivors) poses unique opportunities and challenges. The goal of this study was to evaluate a digital intervention program with aging Holocaust survivors. Participant received a tablet device and were coupled with a volunteer who assisted them to use the tablet. Volunteers went through organized training before the program and met with the survivor once a week for a period of 4 months. Information was collected by telephone interviews from 91 survivors before and 62 after participating in the program. We combined this data with digital usage data from the tablets and questionnaires filled by 113 volunteers at baseline. The Holocaust survivors expressed high satisfaction with the program and most of them plan to continue using the tablet. They increased their frequency of using digital communication technologies - text correspondence such as WhatsApp and video chats with friends and family. Regression models examined what are the characteristics of Holocaust survivors that improved their frequency of using digital communication technologies (as indicated by self-reports and by usage data from the tablets) during the intervention. They were characterized at the start of the intervention by having less post-traumatic stress symptoms, having higher levels of flourishing being lonelier and satisfied with their social ties. Higher usage of digital communication technologies was also associated with younger chronological and subjective age of the volunteer. To sum, the program benefited mostly survivors who were in better mental health, but also those who

were lonelier and perhaps had a higher need to increase their social contacts. Aspects of theorizing and doing research in a messy data environment of real-world evaluation studies are discussed.

Session 5: Digital users and uses I

“I don’t use internet I only read e-mails” – older adults claims about using digital devices and internet

Outi Valkama¹, Rita Latikka, Anniriikka Rantala, Outi Jolanki

1. Tampere University, Finland

In highly digitized countries, such as Finland using internet and digital devices has become important aspect of everyday life. This study focuses on analysing older adults’ arguments on the role of digital devices and internet use in their daily life. The study draws on theoretical framework of social exclusion. Data come from qualitative interviews with 19 older adults aged 57-96 years (AISOLA-project, 2021-2022). Most of the participants were female (84,2%). The Stephen Toulmin’s argumentation model provided analytical tool for the data analysis. The analysis focused on the participants’ claims about IT-use/non-use and grounding and warranting the claims. The claim that they did not use digital devices and internet, was grounded by saying that their use of devices was not ‘right kind of use’, they rarely used any devices, or they were the ‘receiving’ party (video calls, e-mails, newspapers). Argument that old people not being able to use/or need to use IT and internet served as a warrant to non-use. Claim that they used digital devices and internet was grounded by their competence and knowledge and warranted by their skills to use digital devices for different purposes. The participants qualified their claims of being competent and skillful users by noting that most older people did not use nor were able to use digital devices or internet. The results show how IT-use and internet use can be understood in different ways. The results show also that images about old age play a role in justifying use or non-use. In conclusion, to have reliable data on self-reported use/non-use of technology the meaning of these categories needs to be clarified. Second, in explaining social exclusion caused by digitalization it needs to be noted that negative images of old age are used as evidence of older adults’ incompetence to use IT and digital devices.

Main barriers to ICT learning among older people in Lithuania: what solutions can be found?

Margarita Gedvilaitė-Kordušienė¹, Gražina Rapoliene

1. Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania

Lithuania is known as a country where the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector is developing very quickly. For example, it has very fast internet and a favorable tax system that attracts entrepreneurs from other countries. Thanks to these factors, the world's most famous companies in the fields of software and games development, artificial intelligence solutions and fintech industries settled in Lithuania. However, if we look at the numbers, digital inclusion is not very beneficial for some groups of ICT end-users. Although ownership and use of ICT among the Lithuanian population has increased, there is still a significant generation gap when it comes to digital inclusion. In 2022, only a third (34.5%) of elderly (65-74) used a smartphone compared to the younger population (16-34), of whom the vast majority (98-99.8%) were equipped with these devices. Likewise, in 2022, the vast majority (over 99%) of the youngest age groups (16-34) used the internet. Based on the findings of qualitative study that allowed indicating specific obstacles to use ICT, the paper focuses on the predominant barriers in the learning process between elderly population in Lithuania. Data from a non-representative online survey (N=280) of older adults suggests that the most common barriers were technical language comprehension and lack of English proficiency (over 60%), lack of mentoring for technical assistance, or to show how to use the technology, not having own technological device, difficulties to understand the principles of system functioning (between 40-50 percent). Findings from the open question on strategies for overcoming barriers are used to propose effective

recommendations for action in the learning process. The paper is prepared in the framework of the project of the project “Digital inclusion of older people” (S-MIP-21-58), funded by the Research Council of Lithuania.

Older adults’ knowledge, awareness, and opinions on practices of data extraction and exploitation by digital platforms. A case study on Italy

Emma Garavaglia¹, Alessandro Caliendo, Alessandra Gaia

1. Politecnico di Milano, Italy

The economic logic dominating contemporary western societies is based on the unilateral extraction of huge amounts of data from citizens - who are constantly connected to the internet through a multiplicity of digital devices. Digital platforms - which are the very protagonists of such a form of socio-technical organization that Zuboff defines surveillance capitalism - use these data for a variety of scopes, such as perfecting algorithms, investing in the development of artificial intelligence, selling targeted advertising spaces etc.. In other words, data extracted from citizens is the primary source of profit for digital platforms. Despite the pervasiveness of data extraction and exploitation practices, the logics behind them are often obscure. Recently, the phenomenon of surveillance capitalism has been explored from a variety of perspectives. Nevertheless, issues related to the degree of awareness of citizens about the extraction and exploitation of digital data by platforms, and their opinion about this are still scarcely explored - especially in the Italian context. Our work focuses on older adults (+65) living in Italy, and it aims at exploring: i. the degree of knowledge and awareness of older adults about how and to which aims digital data are exploited and the economic value they produce; ii. Their attitudes and opinions towards processes of digital data exploitation for business and non-business purposes; iii. Their degree of trust in actors that manage platforms extracting digital data; iv. Their rational and emotional reactions while exposed to dynamics of digital data extraction and exploitation. In order to address our research aims we use primary data collected within the survey Citizens and Value of Digital Data, conducted in 2022. Older technology users attribute certain meanings to the use of digital media and contribute to the construction of specific digital cultures. Exploring their attitudes towards digital data extraction and exploitation is a key step towards the construction of a more balanced relation between older citizens and surveillance capitalism processes, but also to bring older technology users at the core of debates from which they are often excluded (precisely because of age-related stereotypes).

Session 6: Digital users and uses II

Reflecting on so many bedridden elderly Japanese: Before introducing digital transformation in real-world care scenarios

Yasuko Kawatoko

Daito Bunka University, Japan

It is estimated that 20 percent of the Japanese population will be over 75 years of age by 2040. Those involved in health care have long pointed out the need for more nurses and care workers. Digital technologies work toward the development of devices in an attempt to make care operations more efficient. Unfortunately, these devices have not yet been used in real-world care scenarios. However, the most problematic issue in Japan is long-term hospitalization. Elderly patients are kept in the hospital for a long time and eventually become bedridden. The rate of bedridden elderly Japanese is extremely high. A long hospital stay causes muscle power decline, which is the cause of the elderly’s failure to stand up and walk by themselves. And what is worse, it takes away elderly’s ‘agency’ of achieving something such as walking by her/himself. Agency refers to volitional actions to pursue the possibility of doing something, obtaining something that is perceived to be missing, or enacting a plan to achieve goals that are formed by interacting with sociotechnical arrangements of people, artifacts, and machinery. This paper focuses on an 87-year-old woman who transformed her agency from

willingness to stay in bed all day long to willingness to improve her movement and stand up by herself. It presents the process of the collective formation and transformation of her agency shaped by hybridization between the elderly woman herself, members of her care community, and sociotechnical arrangements, including mobility exercises. It explores what she wished and what she tried to do constituted by many other agencies, such as the agency of care nurses who wanted her to become free from her bed. It also suggests that some technologies can participate in forming new types of agencies.

Surveillance technology in nursing homes: are all voices heard?

Daniëlle van Gaans¹, Eveline Wouters¹, Annerieke Stoop

1. Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Background: Due to loss of insight into their impairment and less self-regulating capacity often residents with dementia are no longer able to adequately indicate when they need help. This is associated with concerns about residents' safety and meeting their individual needs and preferences. In the context of ageing, complexity of care and staff shortages, increased attention is paid to the application of surveillance technologies in dementia care in nursing homes, such as advanced visual and auditory monitoring. To comply with individualized care and legislations with requirements for privacy, subsidiarity, proportionality and expediency several stakeholders need to be involved. In practice, stakeholders have different perspectives related to privacy, dignity, self-management and safety. Knowledge about the stage and extent to which these stakeholders should be involved is still limited though. We therefore conducted a scoping review in order to examine which stakeholders are described in scientific literature in relation to surveillance technologies for people with dementia in nursing homes. Method: A literature search was conducted in databases Medline, CINAHL, PsychInfo, ACM and IEEE. 4116 potentially relevant articles were identified of which 30 articles were included in this study. Results: Sixteen stakeholder groups were identified. Residents, informal caregivers and formal caregivers were most often mentioned. Main themes included acceptance, privacy, dignity, safety, freedom of movement, person-centered care, feeling or being involved, quality of care, quality of life and (ethical) concerns. In addition, a few articles describe the importance of stakeholder involvement as well as the relevance of recognizing differing values and interests. Conclusion: Although in practice many stakeholders are involved in surveillance technologies, only a small selection is frequently described in literature. To apply surveillance technologies successful for residents in nursing homes, attention should be paid to the involvement of all relevant stakeholders as well as to awareness of the different perspectives.

Internalized ageism a double-edged sword; insights from a Belgian study with older adults

Cora van Leeuwen¹, An Jacobs

1. Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Older adults have received additional attention to ensure their digital inclusion, however they are still more vulnerable to digital exclusion. Discrimination based on age has been theorized to have an impact on the digital inclusion of older adults. Internalized ageism manifests in ageist stereotypes and behaviours by older adults themselves that reflect the ageist views of society as they apply these on their own perception of ageing. To further understand this phenomenon our article answers the question: how does internalized ageism impact the use of digital technology of older adults in Belgium? An empirical analysis of 76 interviews with older adults found that internalized ageism could be both a motivator and deterrent for digital technology use. For our older 'pro-users' were motivated by an urgency to avoid a more negatively perceived non-digital ageing experience and therefore used their acquired skills and knowledge to maintain their digital inclusion. While others utilized ageist terminology to explain their own lack of digital technology engagement. Within the data it became evident that participants with some form of use have a different and preferred ageing experience

when they compare themselves to non-users. Furthermore, the internalized ageism was not only aimed at older adults, our data also shows that the younger generations are seen as more capable in digital technology use, and our participants ascribe them an expertise that is not proven in scientific research. This is a form of ageism as well. Our findings show that ageism is insidious and can have negative effects on the self-perception of the older adult, however it also highlights that older adults obtain temporary or precarious privileges from internalized ageism in the form of a digital ageing experience. The precarity of this experience lies in the question ‘will I be able to keep up?’

Session 7: Inclusion and participation in media and digital societies

Making public digitalization work: ethnographic insights from sites of digital support

Stig Bo Andersen¹, Sofie Skovbæk Mortensen, Aske Juul Lassen¹, Astrid Jespersen¹

1. University of Copenhagen, Denmark

The UN has appointed Denmark as the world champion of public digitalization. As such, communication with public authorities in Denmark is digital *per default*. Several organizations representing marginalized groups have criticized this development prompting the government to recognize that digital support is needed. In this paper, we describe how senior citizens are finding ways of *making public digitalization work*. Based on an ethnographic study on how senior citizens in Denmark engage in diverse channels of formal and informal digital support in order to enable themselves as digital citizens, we argue that the amplification of Danish public digitalization mobilizes support communities in subtle and unforeseen ways. We find that digital inclusion is enacted through various and heterogenous social channels, ranging from formal support at municipal citizen centers to non-formal support through NGOs to unformal support from friends, family, neighbors etc. In a policy framework, the aim of public digital self-service solutions is to make administrative and communicative tasks between the citizen and the public authorities individualized, safe and effective. In contrast, we highlight the shared and distributed social practices of *making digitalization work*. Through ethnographic insights from community-led initiatives of digital support, we explore how senior citizens find collective socio-technical ways of managing digital obligations. In order to comply, senior citizens become embedded in new kinds of socio-material networks where agency is distributed between their digital identity, their peers’ digital skills, help from volunteers, and the (un)willingness of IT-support officers at citizen service centers. These insights tell of parts of the often-hidden infrastructures that make the Danish digitalization strategy work, and where digital citizenship is a constant struggle fringing on the limits of illegal digital practices.

Aging in a digital society- sociotechnical imaginaries of digitalization in Sweden

Magdalena Kania-Lundholm

Dalarna University, Sweden

This presentation is part of an ongoing planning for a research project about digitalization and digital inclusion in Sweden. More specifically, it departs from the concept of *sociotechnical imaginaries* (Jasanoff&Kim, 2009, 2015) defined as “collectively held, institutionally stabilized and practically performed visions of desirable futures, animated by shared understandings of forms of social life and social order attainable through, and supportive of, advances in science and technology” (2015:4). In other words, they are collectively held, durable, temporally situated and culturally particular naturalized visions and beliefs of how society functions where imagination serves as a “crucial reservoir of power and action” (2015:7). Empirically, sociotechnical imaginaries have been studied in relation to questions of energy and energy futures (Chateau et al., 2021, Rudek, 2022) but also critical perspectives on old age and ageing (Peine et. al, 2021). This project departs from digitalization, and more specifically public discourses, ideas, and policy about e-health, datafication and welfare technologies in Sweden, as a sociotechnical imaginary tackling the problems and challenges related to old age and aging. Sweden is often considered to be at the forefront internationally when it comes to

technological innovation, progressive policymaking, regulation, and internet freedom. Digitalization has been on the public agenda in Sweden for, at least, three decades now. It has long been considered a major drive behind innovation and change as well as technological, economic, and social development. The question of old age and digital participation/inclusion in the Swedish context has often been discussed in the context of healthcare and welfare provision. Using the case of regional digitalization strategies and challenges in their implementation, this presentation aims to discuss and shed light on digitalization as a sociotechnical imaginary for aging digital society, a strategy and political vision but also as a matter of social transformation and development.

The co-constitution of ageing, technology, and space in authoritarian urban policy agendas

Prabhir Vishnu Poruthiyil

Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay, India

Cities are sites where the mediation of technology in the relations between citizens and the state are the most vivid and intense. The simultaneous urbanization and demographic ageing of cities and the increasing reliance on technology as an interface for delivering social services jointly impinges on the type of urban policies. Recent contributions in socio-gerontechnology draw attention to the *space* within which technology interferes with ageing and structures the relationship between older persons and the state (Urban, 2021; Lafontaine and Sawchuk, 2021; van Hees et al., 2021). However, scholars are yet to engage in such urban settings where democratic decline is rapid (Haggard and Kaufman, 2021). The role of technology in strengthening the control authoritarian regimes wield over urban spaces is significant (Koch, 2022). With the demographic shift, groups mobilizing for and against democratic and civil rights are increasingly constituted by older citizens wielding technology. Therefore analysis of the co-constitution of older persons in cities through technology becomes intertwined with the defence of democracy. This paper attempts demonstrate how authoritarian technology-infused imaginations of fast-paced urban spaces that invisibilizes or exploits older persons' vulnerabilities can be countered with a socio-gerontechnological perspective wherein defending the personhood of older persons is non-negotiable. Socio-gerontechnology can, for instance, expose the limitations in using higher intensity of technology uses by older persons - GPS tracking, counting wifi spots, analysing taxi-route data, and studying aerial images of night-time lights - as a proxy for quality of social life without acknowledging (1) the diminishing capacities with ageing to use technology, and (2) the authoritarian contexts in which these cities are being governed (Poruthiyil and Purandare, 2023). Critical urban perspectives, such as those that conceptualize spatial structures as a "medium through which social relations are produced and reproduced" (Gregory and Urry, 1985, p.3), can contribute the ongoing discussions on the co-constitutions of technology, ageing, and space (Urban, 2021) and use them to influence agenda-setting in urban policymaking.

Rebellious voices – participatory media production to challenge ageism and re-discover creativity

Tot Foster¹, Helen Manchester¹, and the Connecting through Culture co-researcher group from the university of Bristol

1. University of Bristol, UK

Participatory media studies often explore the role of digital technologies in enhancing the abilities of young people to express themselves, challenge stereotypes and develop a civic voice (Jenkins *et al*, 2016). There has been less research exploring the potential for digital technologies to support creativity, voice and expression of identities as we age (Reuter and Liddle, 2020). This paper and video screening stems from the Connecting Through Culture As We Age (CTC) project at Bristol University, UK. In autumn 2022, ten older minoritised co-researchers, none of whom had been involved in filmmaking before, collaborated with the research team to produce films publicly screened as 'Rebellious Voices; mini-movies by our elders'; a title chosen by members of the group. The aim was an exploration of voice and personal creativity. Methodologically, the filmmaking process emerged

from pre-existing relationships and lifecourse research undertaken as part of the wider CTC project. Production was aligned with models of participatory video focusing on personal interests and co-researchers could choose to be involved in any practicalities of production. Editorial conversations focused on visibility: What would the filmmakers like to tell people? Who would they like to be in public? This paper offers findings around the process and practice of participatory filmmaking with older adults. We found that being, and being seen, as culturally active and innovative offered the filmmakers agency and voice in expressing their identities. The finished films challenge ageism directly through their content, but also confound expectations about who owns the short DIY video form. This paper suggests the potential power of participatory media in increasing the creative voices of older adults in societies where ageism is prevalent and older voices seldom heard. It asks critical questions around the kind of support that enables these voices to multiply and be heard.

Uncle, please sit: A study of misogynistic speech perpetuated by older men in digital drawing rooms of misogyny

Nikita Jha

IIT Bombay, India

Social media permeates the lives of older adults. It is driven by algorithms that optimize profit. Due to its all pervasive nature, the world of social media does not just reflect culture but it creates culture. So when misogynistic speech is perpetuated in the form of sharing of spouse-centric jokes; where the wife is endlessly ridiculed or belittled, her cooking skills or facial features are made fun of, comparisons with the neighbor's wives are made on older men whatsapp groups, the culture of misogyny is reinforced in both the digital and physical space. Such language of misogyny grabs eyeballs and helps in generating immense profit for social media platforms but it hurts women of all ages from different castes, religions, regions, income groups etc by pushing them through verbal violence. When older influential men like Harsh Goenka or Rishi Kapoor shame or ridicule vocal women on Twitter India, we witness the transformation of digital spaces into drawing rooms of misogyny where men sit and laugh poking fun at women doing unpaid labor for them. Older adults with low rates of digital literacy fall prey to fake news and misinformation and also end up spreading content that is both hateful and untrue. This study will investigate why and how social media platforms are becoming the breeding ground of hate against women through the participation of older men and what are the reasons and motivations behind this. I would like to combine an ethnographic study with analysis of misogynistic content created and circulated particularly by older men to understand this phenomenon using AI/NLP tools. I also aim to search for possible overlaps between misogyny and radicalization. Hence work will be a comprehensive analysis of misogyny perpetuated by older men in the digital space.

Session 8: Infrastructures, agency, play and mistreatment

Playing like a senior? A dialogue between critical studies of ageing and game studies

Gabrielle Lavenir

The Seed Crew

The past decades have seen an increasing academic, institutional and media interest in older adults who play video games (De Schutter & Vanden Abeele 2015). This paper examines what is at stake in older adults' video game play and explores the stimulating intersection of STS, the sociology of ageing, and game studies. The paper presents the results of my doctoral research and draws on fieldwork conducted in 2019-2020 in France, including interviews with 16 video game players over sixty and the observation of 30 video game workshops for older adults in nursing homes. The study creates a dialogue between the literature on the co-constitution of ageing and technology (Peine et al. 2021) and critical research on video games as spaces of exclusion, discipline, and resistance (Kirkpatrick 2013). Drawing on the combination of those perspectives, I explore a question that preoccupies designers, researchers, and older players alike: do older adults play video games in an original, age-specific way? If so, what does it tell us about the experience of ageing? I make the argument that older adults have a distinctive experience of video games – not as a result of age-related biological determinism, but as a consequence of the social and cultural status of old age. Older adults' digital play features specific patterns: a heightened self-awareness, an emphasis on discreet or even hidden play, play habits that remain exceptionally stable over time, and careful time management to avoid playing "too much". These patterns reflect the contemporary experience of old age at the margins of society. Older players find themselves isolated and excluded, but also paradoxically liberated by their invisibility in gaming cultures. In digital play, they find resources to conduct aging work (Mallon 2007) and maintain a sense of self that is not reduced to their age. As such, older adults' digital play presents us with renewed opportunities to think about the tension between individual agency and structural constraints in old age (Wanka & Gallistl 2018).

A piña colada for breakfast? An analysis of agency and power in enactments of 'good ageing'

Carla Greubel

Utrecht University, The Netherlands

'Agency' has been described as one of the frictions between Age Studies (AS) and Science and Technology Studies, where the similarities and differences in how both fields conceptualize agency can provide fruitful ground for the further development of Socio-gerontechnology. This presentation explores agency in relation to the question of how some enactments of 'good ageing' come to matter more than others. The analysis is informed by the STS understanding of agency as something that is shared, relational, and distributed across networks of humans, non-humans, discourses and materialities and therefore requires empirical investigation. The empirical material stems from 7 months of ethnographic fieldwork across three health and social care initiatives for older adults in Europe, that all deploy digital technologies with the aim to facilitate good or better ageing. The focus of the fieldwork was to explore how humans, technologies and others implicated in the socio-material networks of these initiatives (e.g. technology developers, algorithms, the community organisations running the initiatives, policy discourses, the older adults who participate as users), do 'good ageing', and how among these ideas and enactments of good ageing, some come to (temporarily) dominate across contexts and over time. In order to think about the question of mattering more, I add to the analysis of agency an analysis of power. Here the AS literature with its explicit interest in the effects of power structures, inequalities or exclusions for older adults and ageing, can complement STS conceptualizations of power. This is because the latter tend to focus on how power is established and maintained, and less on its effects. The presentation ends with a reflection on these cross-pollinations between STS and AS analyses of agency and power, and what they may offer to the field of Socio-gerontechnology.

Understanding the role of technological innovations in the mistreatment of older adults: Examples from media and research

Mélanie Couture

Université de Sherbrooke, Canada

To support aging in place, older adults want trusted organizations and people to help them find affordable home support technologies relevant to their needs, manage privacy risks, and provide technical support. The increase in use of technologies in the context of home support for seniors has brought its share of problematic situations including technology-facilitated mistreatment situations. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2002), older adult mistreatment is an important public health problem and is defined as: "a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring in any relationship where a relationship of trust is expected to cause harm or distress to an older person". In Canada, it has been estimated that close to 10% of older adults living at home have experienced mistreatment in the last year (Burnes et al., 2022). Multiple actors are involved in developing, implementing, and sustaining technologies in the homes of older adults, namely private companies, community organizations, social and health care professionals, and family members. Technology can be used by any of these actors to mistreat older adults, for example, through financial exploitation, violation of privacy, social isolation, and other forms of mistreatment. The aim of this presentation is to better understand this new phenomenon of technology-facilitated older adult mistreatment by presenting cases brought forth by the media and through research data exploring the perspectives of multiple stakeholders regarding the development, implementation and use of technologies promoting aging in place. It is important to identify risks of mistreatment related to the use of technology to find ways of preventing and identifying these types of situations. In addition, existing laws and policies can apply, but new ones may be necessary to address this emerging problem.

"Then I just speak to it more harshly" – Digital voice assistants and sonic-affective infrastructures in older peoples smart homes

Signe Louise Yndigeegn¹, Marie Ertner

1. IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Digital voice assistants (DVA) have been celebrated as a breakthrough in eldercare. Mainstream discourses emphasize voice-based technology as practical assistants, and thus figure voice as a practical means to achieve certain ends. But there is more to voice interactions than merely distributing messages and articulating commands. Voice-based interactions create sonic-affective environments and enact cultural categories, likes and dislikes. In this paper we explore the phenomenon of DVA's in older people's smart homes. Through ethnographic interviews we study how older people use DVA's and with what effects for their experiences of the sonic-affective environment in their homes. We combine the concept from Science and Technology Studies of infrastructure with a cultural anthropological view on voice. Based on this, we see voice-based interactions as infrastructures that link the realms of the technical, cultural and sociopolitical to the level of the individual, creating sites where shared discourses and values, affect, and aesthetics are made manifest in and contested through embodied and material practice. The paper analyzes interactions between voices, technologies, and homes, to exemplify some of the infrastructural and affective effects of voice-based technologies. We find that the use of DVA's results in changes in the affective environments of the home, such as by creating uncertainty, harshness and intervening in cultural and temporal enactments of politeness. Moreover, their ability to make voices travel beyond the material confines of the home, renders its boundaries more permeable, thus creating a sense of disempowerment both towards technology and the management of the privacy of the home. We propose the phenomenon of voice and DVA's in older people's smart homes as an interesting topic for socio-gerontechnology research.

Session 9: Care in times of digitalization

Ageing and technology - Creating a vision of care in times of digitization

Anne Meissner

Universität Hildesheim, Germany

There is evidence that Technological innovations can contribute to a good later life. However, it is still rare to find good matches between the technology and needs, and many potentially useful technical solutions do not find their way to those who could benefit. The underlying project investigated the use of technological innovations in the area of ageing and care across a range of European countries: Eight member states of the JPI MYBL (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden) volunteered to nominate and fund experts to create a vision of care in times of digitization under the lead of Germany. The process was initially set up by two workshops involving national experts from the participating countries, who then wrote a national report on an agreed structure. While all national experts participated in the workshops, only six countries remained to write the final reports. The findings from these reports were afterwards presented to a group of stakeholders, who challenged and fine-tuned them. It turned out that all of the participating countries face similar demographic, epidemiologic, and societal challenges, although the details differ. Technical innovations are unanimously considered to offer a high potential to address the change from traditional to new care and support arrangements. At the same time, all agree that technology has limits that should not be exceeded. However, as the national reports show, different countries have taken different approaches to exploiting this potential. The project established clearly that a common international approach to this topic is possible. The reasons for success or failure of technologies in care are comparable if not the same in the participating countries, and all the national policy pointers follow a similar direction. A synthesis of the main findings will be presented.

Prevention apps, the malleable aging body, and cruel optimism

Annette Leibing

University of Montreal, Canada

This paper is about technologies - mostly online apps - conceived for preventing dementia within the context of the recent “preventive turn” in dementia research. Interviews with Canadian experts (n=26) revealed great optimism by those directly involved with tech developments. I want to call this ‘gerontechnological optimism’ and define it as a positive stance (and its emotional correlates like, among others, certainty, enthusiasm, hope, but also skepticism) towards technologies with the objective of combating or relativizing finitude and the decline of ageing bodies. Because all respondents relativized their optimism – at least partially – as the interviews unfolded, I am especially interested in how convictions and doubts are articulated, sustained and, in this way, become more ambiguous. Despite the hope for progress in dementia prevention through preventive technologies, experts point to the uncertainty of the impact of individual interventions, the importance of environmental factors and public health policies, and the danger of an excessive focus on individual interventions and behavioral prevention. Without questioning the positive impact such technologies can have on many people, I claim that ambiguity reveals a deeper concern, a kind of ‘cruel optimism’ (Berlant 2011) that in Canada is based on a fantasy of ‘supported autonomy’.

Chronic interfacing – How older people manage chronic pain with digital pain technology in the United States

Benjamin Lipp

Technical University of Denmark

Chronic pain is one of the most common causes of disability and especially prevalent among older adults. Its management denotes a crucial aspect of older people’s “chronic living” (Wahlberg et al.

2021). The ability of doing so has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which impeded in-person care, as well as the ongoing opioid crisis in the United States, which has curtailed people's access to medication or spurred experimentation with non-pharmacological alternatives. In this context, digital pain technologies are increasingly promoted as a way for people living with chronic pain to self-manage while avoiding the side-effects of analgesic drugs. Such devices combine electrical stimulation with sensing capabilities collecting data for both self-monitoring purposes and for regulating the neuro-modulatory intervention. Many older people use such technologies to manage pain but also to track their pain and how it interferes with their everyday life, including sleep and mental health. This contribution presents first results of a diary study with older adults in the United States that use such devices in their pain management. From tracing the everyday strategies of how older people use digital pain technologies, I conceptualize these strategies as chronic interfacing. Considering the work and effort that older people invest in continuously aligning their pain, life, and technology, this prototypical notion emphasizes how older adults' use patterns oscillate between more intermittent forms of using a given technology and continuously living with it. This echoes recent debates in user research, where wearable and implanted technology is seen as challenging the traditional notion of use and the user (Oudshoorn 2020, Dalibert 2016) as well as of intervention and the patient (Lindner 2020). Conceptualizing the interface of chronic illness and digital technology in later life, thus contributes to the effort of theorizing ageing in a digital world.

What get lost in translation? Accountable care in data-driven nursing homes in Denmark

Mie Winther Christensen¹, Nete Schwennesen¹

1. Roskilde University, Denmark

Practices of storing and archiving data about care, has for long been part of professional care work. However, while records previously were kept in close cabinets, and seen as means to protect professional judgements and decisions from political involvement, in the contemporary welfare state, data about care has become a means to control and surveil professional care workers and a regulatory tool to ensure quality of care and accountability. In STS research it is well known that datafication processes both illuminates and hide aspects of the phenomenon they are supposed to capture (Kitchin 2014; Barad 2007) and involves processes of translation where sudden practices are made visible and made to matter, whereas other practices are made invisible (Kan 2015; Flyverbom 2019). Hence, although data may seem objective, they are never unbiased, neutral or raw and entails choices, judgements and epistemic notions of what care is (Schwennesen 2019). Building on ethnographic fieldwork at a nursing home in Denmark, this paper investigates the forms of care that are made accountable in such processes of translation, and asks; what are the forms of care that are valued and made visible in translational process, and what are the forms of care that escapes datafication?

Session 10: Technology and ageism across generations

Theorizing the intersection of ageism and the use and design of digital technology – paper presentation

Ittay Mannheim

Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Ageism is currently defined as a main societal challenge for successful ageing. Concurrently, the vast development of digital technology in the last decades highlights a newly under-researched intersection of ageism and the use and design of digital technology. Older age is plainly and commonly described as a barrier to technology acceptance (e.g., in the prominently used TAM and UTAUT models). Additional recent models point out the iterative interplay between use, design worlds, and images of ageing (e.g., the Co-constitution of ageing and technology model). However, a theoretical model explicating how ageism may influence the use and design of technology is currently missing.

Using a mixed-methods approach combining findings from five studies of a doctoral dissertation, a proposed model is suggested. An integrated analysis identified manifestations of ageism in stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination regarding the use and design of technology, appearing explicitly and implicitly, mainly in a negative context and on different levels (micro-individual, meso-social interaction, and macro-design and policy). Use and design of technology were found to be entangled together. Importantly, two main paradoxes are highlighted. First, the fixation on designing care and healthcare technologies, stereotypically disregarding the diversity of other needs of older persons. While important stakeholders (e.g., healthcare professionals) paradoxically have little belief in the ability of older persons to use such technology. A second paradox was found in the discrepancy between acknowledging the “ideal” practice of involving older persons throughout the whole design process, and the actual practice of limited involvement, biases in the design process, and exclusion of older persons from designing technologies they are intended to eventually use. Consequently, emerging technologies often have low adoption rates, which may further fuel the negative perspective that older persons are incompetent in relation to digital technology. Implications of the model for policy and future research are discussed.

Silicon Valley ageism – Ideologies and practices of expulsion in the technology industry

Justyna Stypińska¹, Andrea Rosales², Jakob Svensson

1. WZB Berlin, Germany; 2. Open University of Catalonia

Silicon Valley is the US centre for innovative technology and home to 2000 technology companies, the densest concentration in the world. Even more important, most of these companies are also industry leaders in areas that include robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), social media and other uses of the internet. Silicon Valley sets standards for others as companies worldwide look up to the technology giants to incorporate their business models and management styles. Yet, these companies show rampant signs of various types of systematic biases and prejudice, ageism being one of them. This paper zooms in on the Silicon Valley and its “toxic culture” of age discrimination and ageism. Inspired by the terminology of Saskia Sassen (2014), the paper analyses how the technology industry has created a system of multiple modes of expulsions of “older” workers - from work relations, workspaces, ideologies and values, as well as digital products and services. The main purpose is to propose a theoretical framework guiding future empirical and critical research into the phenomenon of ageism, as well as other systems of oppression and discrimination in the technology industry. In this paper, we propose a concept of “Silicon Valley Ageism” which is understood as negative attitudes, beliefs and behaviours towards adults perceived as ‘older’ and manifested in interpersonal relations and institutional practices, as well as their narratives. This type of ageism affects people as early as in their early 30’s and is prevalent in tech industry. The aim of the paper is to explain 1) what narratives of “older” age are constructed in Silicon Valley, 2) how this relates to workplace practices in the Valley, and 3) how this has a bearing on the products and services coming out of Silicon Valley.

The cultural context of the co-constitution of ageing and technology

Louis Neven¹, Alexander Peine²

1. HAN university of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands; 2. Open University of the Netherlands

In a number of earlier publications we have discussed a model that describes the relationship between the production and use arenas of technologies for older people or in other terms the co-constitution of ageing and technology (CAT). The focus of the model has so far mostly been on the analysis of the micro-level practices of the production of gerontechnologies in mostly corporate contexts, the use of these technologies by older people and others in their use contexts and the transfer between these arenas by means of scripts and user representations. We have paid less attention to the ways in which cultural ideas and conceptualisations of ageing and technology feed into the CAT cycle and how in turn the production of ageing and technology reshapes our cultural ideas of ageing and technology. As one aim of our model is also to explore how conceptual and theoretical perspectives from Science

and Technology Studies and social, cultural and critical Gerontology can reinforce each other to refine our ideas of the co-shaping of ageing and technology it is pertinent to explore this cultural element. In this paper we will thus provide an overview of the CAT model and highlight in particular how cultural input already figures in the model. We will then explore what it would mean to see this model through the lenses of culture, focusing in particular on how the idea of scripts works when intersected with a cultural lens, and how the world of technology designers and the world of end users both incorporate and produce culture. We will end by sketching some avenues for future research on digital cultures and ageing/gerontology.

Going beyond ageism? Intergenerational media and technological projects as alternative modes of encounters

Marie Poux-Berthe

University of St Gallen, Switzerland

This paper explores how intergenerational media projects, in France, can be analyzed as alternative *modes of encounters* between generations, media and society. In other words, it asks how specific media or technological assemblages can allow and affect encounters between generations. It aims at exploring how we can re-think intergenerational relations drawing on feminist STS, age studies and media studies (Haraway, 1988; Ahmed, 2002; Puig de la Bellacasa, 2017). Being critical about how ageing and digital technologies can relate is fundamental. In this regard, scholars have addressed the risks posed by assuming a straightforward and solutionist relation between the needs of older adults and tech products and services (Gallist et al, 2021; Lipp and Maasen, 2022). Others have alerted on how ageist representations of older adults remain prominent in the imaginaries of developers designing new technologies for older adults and how they can be re-enacted through these products (Oudshoorn et al., 2016). However, it is equally important to examine alternative and *careful* ways in which ageing and technology can relate (Peine et al., 2021). This understanding is informed by feminist epistemological works which pose how doing *careful* research asks to address the invisible entanglements constitutive of a matter of care but also to reflect on its possible multiple futures. This paper thus presents the analysis of eight intergenerational media and technological projects identified along a two-year digital ethnography on ageing and technology in France. I ask to what extent entrepreneurs' varied initiatives to foster a dialogue with older adults can be understood as an attempt to 'inhabit the distance between' generations and how their media and technological choices are constitutive of such endeavor. This paper contributes to a feminist theoretical exploration on ageing and technologies. It aims at promoting research that generates care for intergenerational relations through nuanced critique.

3. Posters

The information and communication technology use in promoting healthcare access for the elderly living in the community: A mixed method systematic review

Niu Mengyuan¹, Chen Sihui

1. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Due to the advantages of remote consultation, travel-cost savings, and the decrease of infection risk, adopting Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for healthcare has become a new solution for reducing healthcare pressures worldwide after the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The elderly, however, mostly use ICT for social contact, referred it as cell phones. The accessibility and usage of varied types of ICTs among the elderly need further evaluation for promoting healthcare access.

This study aims to explore elderly ICTs use in accessing healthcare resources following COVID-19's spread. Specifically, this research will target the elderly living in communities where they have the most access. Based on this, this research first summarizes the types of ICTs that have been implemented for elderly healthcare access after the pandemic outbreak. Secondly, this research explores the barriers to elderly ICTs adoption from both individual and social factors. Lastly, this research examines methodologies employed in previous empirical research testing ICTs efficiency, which contributes to future studies in terms of effectiveness of large-scale adoption of ICTs between aging and technology.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) for literature quality assessment and selection will be adopted for this research. Types and accessibility of ICTs, barriers, and methodologies across countries, cultures, different ages, and health conditions of aging are under consideration and incorporated into further analysis. This research will significantly contribute to understanding the development and adoption of ICT in communities after the worldwide pandemic outbreak; and secondly, to further solve the problems of unequal healthcare access in a digital world, with a special inspection of access barriers and challenges to shorten the digital divide.

Quality of life of older adults living with Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and challenges of designing VR and AR technologies for them

Sol Martinez Demarco¹, Ella Gierß

1. University of Tübingen, Germany

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of visual impairment in the elderly in industrialised countries (Pondorfer et al., 2019). In Germany, more than 1.5 million people are already living with this disease (Berufsverband der Augenärzte Deutschlands e.V. n/d). As the population ages, the incidence and prevalence of AMD will be on the rise. As a result, the demand for health and social care services, as will the need for cost-effective therapies. In this context, research into the application of technologies such as virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) to aid early detection, treatment and the performance of everyday activities offers a promising opportunity to improve the quality of life of people with AMD. However, as with any technology, there are several challenges to need to be addressed. This paper builds on the debate about what constitutes 'Quality of Life' and focuses on the subjective experience of older adults living with AMD, as well as on the emotional and psychological aspects of this condition. This in turn is combined with desk-based research on ethical and social issues related to the more general use of VR and AR to identify ethical, social, and subjective aspects that should be considered throughout the development process of such technologies. These include ethical values such as self-determination and independence, (data) privacy, confidentiality, safety, and security and justice are included (Carter & Egliston, 2020). With regard to the subjective perspective of older adults, six domains of quality of life are distinguished which are valuable for aligning technology developments with their needs and expectations: health perceptions; autonomy;

roles, relationships, and activities; attitudes and adaptation; emotional comfort and feeling at home; and financial security (van Leeuwen et al., 2019).

Aging and algorithms: A critical reading of primary literature on Mild Cognitive Impairment Diagnosis (MCI)

Christos Koutsospyros¹, Katerina Vlantonis, Aristotle Tympas

1. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Since the mid-20th century, aging has emerged as a major political and scientific issue in most industrialized countries of the western world. Most of scientific research on aging is focused on the prevention and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases associated with aging, such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease, which is the most common form of dementia. Despite significant research funding on the biological basis of Alzheimer's disease and the genetic factors associated with the degeneration of cognitive functions and memory loss, which are the main symptoms, therapeutic results are weak and little progress has been made in the field. Recently, there was a shift in Alzheimer's research, through the use of digital technologies based on artificial intelligence, algorithms and big data, from the search of genetic causes of the disease to the search of biomarkers and risk factors, before the onset of disease symptoms. The aim is to intervene at an early stage and prevent the Alzheimer's progression, since there is no cure. Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is a predementia condition considered the major risk of Alzheimer, and as such its diagnosis has become a primary opportunity in research for prevention and intervention, but is also a disputable category as it falls in the boundaries between normal and pathological aging. Digital biomarkers and digital phenotyping, which fall within the narrative of precision medicine, promise to make MCI's diagnosis more accurate and objective through the detection of patterns. Such patterns, are considered to be early signs of Alzheimer, such as gait, speech, voice, sleep disturbances etc. of the elderly who complain of memory loss and thus replace the subjective judgement of the doctor. Our goal is to critically examine these technological innovations, as they are captured in the primary literature published in the following journals: *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*, *Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience*, *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring*, *Neurocomputing*, *Computers in Biology and Medicine* etc. From an STS perspective, we examine the scientific discourse on the ways these new technologies solidify categories such as MCI as undisputable information and how they reinstate historically controversial diagnostic criteria of Alzheimer as elements of new, data-driven, algorithmically generalised classification schemes. Our first findings indicate that researchers often rely on naive assumptions about a single cause of a disease and superficially perceive the genotype-phenotype relationship out of social context, perceived as noise in an engineering rhetoric. Our goal is to analyze the ways the social determinants of health and their complex measurement are shaped in the algorithmic era.

Senior influencers' power dynamics and changing values on social media

Shuman Xie¹, Kimberly Jamie, Tiago Moreira¹

1. Durham University, UK

As social media becomes a part of daily life, older adults are increasingly using these platforms and some have even become senior influencers, challenging stereotypes and giving voice to their generation. According to data from Chinese TikTok 2020 report, older users' amount, posts, plays and interactions have all increased by more than 300% compared to previous years, however, research on this group is limited. The purpose of this study is to examine the power dynamics of senior influencers within social media networks. Specifically, it aims to investigate whether senior influencers are capable of generating stable and long-lasting networks within social media, and whether they are able to maintain their original values in long-term online interactions. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of senior influencers. To achieve this, this study will address two research

questions: 1 Can senior influencers gain power on social media? 2 Can senior influencers maintain their original values on social media? This study aims to collect data from Chinese TikTok using an API to map controversies through Gephi. A controversial hashtag topic that many senior influencers participating and has been discussed over a long period of time will be selected. Data on users involved in the topic will be collected to construct a topic-centred network. The senior influencers involved in the topic discussion will then be used as the nodes of the secondary network to collect data on their likes, comments, and followers, creating user-centric networks. Furthermore, data on the selected topic will be collected on the first day of each month for the past two years, and controversy maps will be plotted separately to observe how the network changes over time to investigate the stability and extent of senior influencers' networks, and analyse changes in senior influencers' views over time.

Justice for caregivers in conflict: A care-based approach

Ashfaq Ahmed

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India

This paper explores the relationship between older adults, their caregivers, and the state in Kashmir, the world's most militarized zone using Eva Kittay's care ethics framework. Both the older adults (cared-for) and care-givers in conflict are vulnerable. In Kashmir, the primary caregivers include relatives, local communities and the hospital staff. The armed conflict impacts the lives of caregivers. There is no institutional protection and support given to caregivers; instead, under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the lives of older adults and their caregivers are at stake. Dependency, according to Kittay, varies from temporary to permanent and extreme to non-extreme. The older adults (dependents) have to rely on someone who cares for them to satisfy their basic needs. Often the caregiver's interests and autonomy are subsumed in this dependency equation. The caregiver is not as free as the other individuals in society. Their interest might contradict the interests of the dependent; they are also the victims of conflict. Since the caregivers are usually the relatives, their safety and security is not ensured in conflict. Kittay has a solution to this problem called the *Doula Principle* of justice. This principle is based on cooperation and not on reciprocity. Kittay's dependency critique asks us to revisit the relationship between the state and the caregivers in conflict from the point of view of older adults who may require special care and attention by acknowledging and not downplaying their vulnerability. These caregivers of older adults need to be provided with proper remuneration, safety and dignity so that they may be able to take care of the vulnerable and not become dependent themselves.

Preconception and isolation: How new media discourse constructs older people's portrait of smart technology adoption and engagement in China

Mengxi Zhang

University College London, UK

Public attitudes and engagement with technology have been studied extensively for decades, but older people were rarely the focus of researchers and they were often seen as laggards in innovation adoption in the Chinese context. With the coexistence of digitalisation and population ageing, how older people think of and use smart technology has gradually attracted the attention of new media. This article analysed the discourse of older people using and participating in smart technology on the top three new media platforms in China (WeChat, Weibo and Tik Tok), and it is found that there are three main modes of constructing the discourse: digital divide, digital interaction and digital participation. Older people are widely described as a disadvantaged group in the sociotechnical system, while there are also a small number of samples introducing the possibility of older adults being participants in technology. Compared with STS scholarship, these discourse patterns are biased to a certain extent, which may relate to the issues about "context in media" and "media as context".

Virtual reality and its use in care homes: a conceptual manual

Věra Suchomelová¹, Renata Tetourová, Lenka Lhotská, Martin Kotek, Jan Husák, J. Stejskal

1. University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic

The use of virtual reality (VR) applications has grown during the last decade and they have become almost standard tools in many areas. In recent years, many VR applications have been developed directly for older adults. The importance of using new technologies for long-term care increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and the related increased loneliness of older adults. The financial availability of VR experiences and devices, as well as the growing digital literacy of the elderly end-users, allows many care homes to offer VR as an alternative to traditional activities. According to many current studies, when technology is used properly, it may be an effective means to keep older persons active, avoid their depressive states, or stimulate their mental and physical activity. This paper presents a conceptual manual for using VR with older adults in care homes. The manual includes several areas that need to be taken into account in the implementation of VR in care homes, based on several studies, functional testing, and continuous collaboration with a care home activity team within the VIREAS project. These are as follows: the technical aspects of VR including design and quality aspects of the virtual experience, spatial and technical requirements for the facility and the specifics of VR in the case of various health issues; the content and form of the virtual experience including aspects of the quality and attractiveness of the virtual experiences; the communication between the activity worker and the older user including all stages of the virtual session and finally, the ethical principles of using VR and necessary competencies of the activity worker.

Untangling the emotionality of digitally-enabled social connectedness in older age

Marek Háša

Charles University, Czech Republic

When an older person affected by loneliness embarks on the journey of adopting a new digital communication technology to keep up with a family group chat or find a new friend online, what are the changes that may occur in her everyday reality? And how does she herself perceive and reflect on such developments, especially in regard to her own (senior) identity and emotional wellbeing?

The lack of human interaction and perceived social presence poses a serious public health challenge to our rapidly aging population. Both formal and informal interventions utilizing digital communication means such as text and voice messages, video calls, or interactive social games offer a vast potential for addressing this threat. However, while a plethora of objectivistic findings have been published on the design and effectiveness of specific digital media-based solutions to the problem of widespread loneliness in older adults, our understanding of the highly complex impact such digital interactions may have on this fragile population's everyday realities and identities remains rather shallow. In an attempt to bridge this gap, I took a non-media centric, human-first, empathy-driven perspective when inspecting the process of introducing digitally mediated interpersonal communication into older adults' lives. In my dissertation study, I paired 15 younger volunteers with 15 older adults who were all impacted by loneliness to varying degrees. These dyads were encouraged to gradually build a digitally mediated friendship with their counterpart over the course of one month. I collected rich multimodal data through observations during home visits, two rounds of in-depth phenomenological interviews, phone check-ups, tablet usage records, and participants' activity logs. As part of my hermeneutic circle with and in the data, I progressed from a preliminary thematic analysis of interview transcripts to a multi-perspectival, narrative-based approach with the objective to produce in-depth, highly contextualized insights into the emotionality of adopting new communication technologies as means of increasing or maintaining one's level of social integration and agency. By depicting the stories of older individuals and their accomplishments and struggles with digitally mediated friendships and family relationships, the proposed poster will unravel the highly sensitive dynamics

between one's identity, mental wellness, and the perceived control and agency within the age of deep mediatization (Couldry & Hepp, 2017). Readers will be invited to form their own interpretations of the meaning-making processes behind an older man accepting the control of digital media as a prerequisite for a socially saturated life or an older woman's self-perception severely suffering from common minor technological difficulties with her smartphone. The ultimate goal of this poster and pitch is to inform future research and loneliness-addressing interventions with both methodological and ethical insights in order to prevent any (unexpected) negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the vulnerable population of older adults living with loneliness.

Exploring the use of digital technology for physical activity in older people: Lessons learned from the GOALD project (Generating Older Active Lives Digitally)

Tomaz, S.A.¹, Ritchie, J., Cooper, L., Bradwell, H., Baxter, R., Hennessy, C., Jones, R., Haynes, R., Ryde, G.C., Whittaker, A.C., on behalf of the GOALD Research Team

1. University of Stirling, UK

Physical activity is an important contributor to happy and healthy ageing. The use of digital technology for the purpose of supporting and/or increasing physical activity in older people has increased in recent years. The GOALD team have been working with a range of collaborating organisations and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to appraise, and ultimately co-design digital technologies that support physical activity, social connectedness, and sports-based reminiscence in older people. This presentation will focus on the GOALD project's work with physical activity technologies. Between June 2022 and May 2023, participants in both care home settings and independent living situations (recruited through community groups) were invited to appraise six different technologies for the purpose of physical activity. The technology ranged from basic (e.g., online dance classes, android tablets) to more complex (e.g., virtual reality headset with omni-directional treadmill). Although each technology focussed on physical activity, the intended outcome/goal for each technology differed, from purposeful rehabilitation to structured exercise. At the time of writing this abstract, data collection is ongoing. This presentation will report on preliminary findings, specifically regarding: 1) Initial feedback on each technology according to themes, including enjoyment, user experience, and safety; 2) Barriers identified by older people in using technology for physical activity; and lastly 3) Considerations and opportunities for using technology to support physical activity in older people.

Community stakeholders' expectations, facilitators, and barriers regarding technology use for aging in place

Aline Aboujaoudé¹, Sébastien Piccard, Mélanie Couture, Maxime Lussier, Sylvain Giroux, Nathalie Bier
1. Centre de recherche de l'Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Context: The use of different types of technology (e.g., eHealth, smart homes) to enable older adults to age in place has become increasingly popular. However, the differing needs and expectations of various stakeholders for technology to support aging in the community can render its adoption difficult. Understanding the perspectives of all stakeholders can help guide technology development and improve uptake and adoption.

Objective: We aimed to understand the perspectives of stakeholders from various community settings regarding the use of technology to support aging in the community, as well as the potential facilitators and barriers.

Methodology: An inductive qualitative analysis of 18 focus groups, conducted in four different community settings in the province of Quebec (Canada), was completed using the approach of Miles, Huberman, and Saldana. Five stakeholder groups were represented, namely 1) Older adults and Caregivers, 2) City officials and their staff, 3) Public social and health care workers, 4) Senior's residence workers, and 5) Representatives of community organizations.

Results: Stakeholders perspectives on technology in the context of aging in the community converge around the notions that technology should promote autonomy, safety, social connection, and access

to services. It should be customizable and gradually implemented, with help during the set-up. Most barriers named are older adult related factors (e.g., low digital literacy). However, a lack of staff resources and proper infrastructure at the city and seniors' residences level were also identified as a barrier to supporting technology use by older adults.

Conclusion: Knowledge on the common vision of all stakeholders in the community will allow for better technology design and improve technology adoption rate.