

DIGITALISATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Embodied, Embedded, Networked, Empowered through Information, Computation & Cognition!

Gothenburg, Sweden, 15 June 2017

Venue: Chalmers Conference Center

Time: 15.30-17.00 Room: RunAn (449)

Panel on Ageing and Technologies

Organisers: Michela Cozza, Lucia Crevani – Mälardalen University (Sweden)

The booming of the older people population has become a social phenomenon and a challenge to our societies in relation to issues of social security, pensions, long-term care, healthcare, and family systems. Businesses and public institutions are looking at technological advances, such as Assistive Technologies (AT:s), as possible resources to improve quality of life, extend length of community residence, improve physical and mental health status, delay the onset of serious health problems and reduce family and care-giver burden. Such an emphasis on the beneficial diffusion of personal and ubiquitous technologies for (older) people often hides its controversial side effects. In current debates on ageing and technologies, in fact, the ageing individual is rather seen as a person whose deficiencies and limitations must be diagnosed and overcome by means of innovative digital devices. The basic idea is that design and use of special solutions can enable an active and healthy ageing process. Such a focus overlooks challenges and risks in the introduction of age-related technologies, and needs to be complemented by a human-centred perspective foregrounding possible dilemmas concerning the design and development of these technologies.

This panel will bring together different perspectives (applied ethics, caring science, science and technology studies, computer science, design) in order to further reflect on the ambivalence involved in the interaction between ageing and technological innovation. Panelists will offer insight into ethical, societal, and technological matters relevant to the current debate on how to handle the socio-technical complexity of an ageing society.

Panelists:

- Göran Collste, Linköping University, (Sweden)
- Christine Gustafsson, Mälardalens University (Sweden)
- Alexander Peine, Utrecht University (Netherlands)
- Hilda Tellioglu, Vienna University (Austria)

Göran Collste Göran Collste is Professor of Applied Ethics at Linköping University. He has studied the ethical aspects of Information- and Communication Technologies for more than 30 years, in particular, methods for the ethical assessment of ICT, the implications of ICT on privacy and ethical aspects of ICT-based personal health monitoring. He has been involved in a number of EU-funded research projects, including Personal Health Monitoring-Ethics and the SATORI-project on ethical assessment of research and innovation. His most recent publications include two books: Ethics and Communication. Global perspectives, Rowman & Littlefield International, 2016 and Global Rectificatory Justice, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Christine Gustafsson Christine Gustafsson has a background as Registered Nurse and is an associate professor in Caring Science at Mälardalen University in Sweden (Eskilstuna and Västerås). Her research interests are: older people's health and social welfare, with a special focus on welfare technology and everyday life for adults and older people with intellectual disability. Christine is together with professor Lars Asplund creator of the social robot cat, JustoCat©.

Alexander Peine holds a tenured position as Assistant Professor of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STI-Studies) at Utrecht University. He serves as a Vice President of the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP), where he chairs the Active Ageing & Design Committee. He also is on the Societal Advisory Board of the EU's Joint Programming Initiative "More Years, Better Lives" (JPI-MYBL), and he convenes a pan-European commitment on "Active Ageing and the Built Environment" in the European Innovation Partnership Active on and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA). Before joining Utrecht University, Alexander was the laureate of a prestigious Max Weber post-doctoral fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence, and a Principal Investigator at the Centre for Technology and Society at Berlin University of Technology. Alexander's research analyses innovation dynamics in the ICT sectors and the built environment, covering topics like Internet of Things, Smart Homes and Active & Assisted Living (AAL). In this context, he is particularly interested in how new technologies can best serve the quality of life, social engagement and evolving needs of older persons ("Gerontechnology").

Hilda Tellioglu is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Design and Assessment of Technology of TU Wien. Besides more than 140 peer-reviewed publications in the research area of CSCW she was the principle investigator of several (inter)national research projects, among others with the focus on design of usable systems for elderly (kommTUi) and informal care givers (TOPIC).