

## SSPARC

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#### Presentation

Access and use of ICT among the Italian young elderly

#### Speaker

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#### Abstract

This paper aims to tackle some issues related to the use of ICT during the so-called Third Age, namely the stage of life in which people are still fully active and, even though usually working less (or being retired), wanting to be socially integrated (Rossi et al, 2014).

Our research aims to investigate the relationship between the young elderly (65-74 year-olds) and use of technologies (Selwyn, 2004), and to explore active ageing and the role played by media and ICT in building a friendly and positively domestic environment for the elderly in their everyday life (Loos, 2008).

The research project, lasting one year, is based on:

- an in-depth theoretical study about ageing
- a preliminary survey with a representative sample of the Italian young elderly about ICTs equipment and usage (N=900)
- a field-work which consists of 20 family interviews in the Milan area.

The paper outlines the preliminary results which show that:

- processes of ICT domestication are basically influenced by personal biography of the elderly (previous job, intra- and inter-generational relationship, familiar contexts) and not only by age or other socio-demographic characteristics (gender, income, education)
- ICT and internet have a significant impact on elderly everyday life and spatio-temporal domestic routines
- ICT and internet can be a good opportunity for a better and active ageing (eg. in terms of improvement of social relations, information, entertainment), but do present a risk in terms of social isolation inside and outside family.