

SSPARC

Annual Festival of Social Science 2015

Presentation

Technology, care and a sense of home

Speaker

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Abstract

This abstract was submitted for oral presentation in the area of technologies (domestication theory framework) and how they mediate and shape care in person and care at a distance.

This presentation discussed the theoretical framework that guides the research (domestication theory), the methods being used and some very early reflections on the data collected so far. An ethnographic approach will be chosen to investigate how older people experience new care technologies and how telecare changes the meaning and experience of home and care for older people. The aim was to interview participants and observe them in their own homes. Ten individuals were identified; they were aged over 60, living in Brighton & Hove on their own, using one or more telecare devices provided by CareLink Plus telecare alarm system service, were not being affected by severe cognitive impairment, nor too ill or distressed to take part in the study. To date, only four individuals belonging to the above criteria, were interviewed and observed in their own home. However, relevant topics such as human care experiences as well as experiences of home were already raised during first, meaningful and flexible home visit times. Due to the low response rates, participants were enlisted and identified in two separate recruitment attempts, spaced approximately one and a half month apart. Participants were recruited through the Telecare Manager Adult Social Care Brighton & Hove, UK and CareLink Plus Telecare Alarm Services, a 24-hour, seven-day community alarm service based in Brighton & Hove. Data will be analysed using thematic analysis. The project is expected to make a significant contribution to the understanding of how care and a sense of home may be modified by remote technologies.