

ORAL SESSION 1: TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTH

Supporting caring activities among older people to decrease loneliness: Exploring the Give & Take peer-to-peer platform

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Purpose While facing growing concerns for the consequences of loneliness, the growing number of older people also challenge current care systems and modes of providing care (Christensen, Doblhammer, Rau & Vaupel, 2009). European care and welfare systems promote a higher degree of user-involvement and there is a growing interest in community-level efforts to strengthen already existing networks of informal care (Cribb & Gewirtz, 2012; Jegermalm & Grassman, 2012). New social technologies are suggested as means promising to support existing networks and activities of caring among older people (Bruggencate, Luijckx & Sturm, 2018; Brandt, Mortensen, Malmborg, Binder & Sokole, 2012). While we see a lot of investment in developing technology for older people, there is a lack of studies enhancing our understanding for how technology may contribute to and condition caring relationships among older people in different settings, and thereby combat the deleterious effects of loneliness. To develop this understanding, we empirically explore a specific technology; a peer-to-peer platform named Give&Take aimed to connect older people, and one context in which the platform was introduced. Our aim is to identify how use of technology co-constitutes and shapes caring activities among older people and affect their experience of involuntary loneliness. We apply a practice-oriented perspective (Hui, Schatzki & Shove, 2017; Orlikowski & Scott, 2008; Mol, Moser & Pols, 2010) which emphasize the interaction and relationality between technology and users. Thereby we may open up for studying unexpected potentials or constraints which emerge as a person engage with technology. **Method** We adopt an ethnographic approach (Emerson, 2011) to gather information on older people's use of the platform including observations, individual interviews, and written and visual information on development of the Give&Take platform. **Results and Discussion** Preliminary findings show that the platform shaped the caring relationships that emerged between the users, by e.g. forming caring roles among the users. Something that contributed to tensions among the users concerning expectations and responsibility related to care activities. In accordance, we conclude that both the use of the platform, and its influence on care activities, diverged in un-anticipated ways.

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