

Biopolitical interferences with active-ageing technologies

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Abstract

This presentation draws on two ethnographic studies conducted with telecare service in Spain (López & Domènech 2009; López and Sánchez-Criado, 2009). I also include a modest analysis of publications on new 3G telecare systems. I discuss how “active ageing” is displacing “ageing in place” as a result of the implementation of technologies that redefine the life of older people in terms of their activity and wellbeing. This contribution has two aims. First it explores the role of assistive technologies in the configuration and realization of this transition from ageing-in-place to active-ageing policies. Second it deals with the practical, material and subjective interferences that the design and implementation of these technologies bring about, particularly in terms of the consequences for older people. My account of the daily frictions with these technologies centres the biopolitical interferences of this transition from ageing-in-place to active ageing.