

Call for abstracts

Workshop of the Reassembling Care for Older People (RECOPE) network:

Critical analyses and debates on the technologisation of care in homes of older persons

Jyväskylä, Finland – May 27th–28th, 2024.

Designers and decision makers tend to view care technologies as transformative to the care field although studies on the impact of the technologisation of care have raised concerns that require critical exploration. In general, the discussions on the digitalisation of health and care often revolve around the mismatch between technological opportunities and ethical threats. Drawing from Science and Technology Studies (STS), the *Reassembling Care for Older People (RECOPE)* network takes a different approach. The network explores how the introduction of digital technologies into older persons' daily lives always reconfigures the basis of care provision itself, the actors involved in care relations and thus what we understand by good and sufficient care.

Through a series of workshops, RECOPE invites participants to join a network of care researchers and stakeholders. The Jyväskylä workshop will be the last in a series of three workshops, following successful workshops in Copenhagen (May 2023) and Reykjavik (September 2023). We bring together stakeholders involved in the digitalisation of care of older persons as well as leading researchers on care technologisation, with a different approach each day. The ultimate goal of the workshop series is to develop an EU funding proposal for the research project, which will address the common challenges related to the reassembling of care.

The RECOPE workshops are two-day events. **On Monday, 27 May, we will hold a stakeholder workshop with non-academic stakeholders.** During this first day, RECOPE will bring together local stakeholders from the care and technology sectors to gain an understanding of the current developments and experiences. Academic participants are welcome to also join on the first day. **On Tuesday, 28 May, we will hold an academic research seminar, based on this call for abstracts for oral presentations.** The second day will start with a keynote speech by Prof. Britt Östlund (Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan, Stockholm) with the following topic: *While waiting for AI! What is new? What have we learnt? History of technology in care settings revisited.* For the rest of the second day, we invite papers from different disciplinary backgrounds on *socio-material perspectives that explore how digitalisation and technologisation affects ideals and practices of care of older persons, with a focus on care taking place in older people's homes.* We aim to advance knowledge about the technologically reassembled home care practices in ongoing care crises, where *ageing in place* and *active ageing* policies increasingly rely on technologised futures.

As the aim is to establish an open and diverse discussion on the topic, we welcome paper abstracts from early career researchers and senior researchers alike. The abstracts may present completed results or they may cover earlier stages of the writing process. The perspectives may include empirical findings, research applying STS perspectives, design ethics, and other critical and theoretical perspectives on care technologisation or methodological issues.

Practical information

Submissions

Please send an abstract of no more than 500 words to the workshop coordinator Sini Tiihonen:
sini.s.p.tiihonen@jyu.fi.

Deadline for abstracts is March 22nd, 2024.

Acceptance information will be sent out by the end of March.

Organizers

The RECOPE network includes Prof. Niels Christian Mossfeldt Nickelsen (University of South-Eastern Norway/Aarhus University), Prof. Hilde Thygesen (University of South-Eastern Norway), Dr. Doris Lydahl (University of Gothenburg), Prof. Kristín Björnsdóttir (University of Iceland), and Prof. Sakari Taipale and M.Soc.Sc. Antti Härmäläinen (University of Jyväskylä).

Venue and location

The workshop will take place on the campus of the University of Jyväskylä, right next to the small city centre of Jyväskylä, which is located in the lake area of central Finland. The weather at the end of May in Finland is usually already summery and beautiful, but the temperature can range between +10 and +25 Celcius. There are several hotels and other accommodation possibilities close to the campus. You will reach Jyväskylä by plane, train or bus from Helsinki (270km away) or Tampere (150 km away). In case you arrive to Jyväskylä by plane, we advise that you book transportation to the city centre in advance (contact: sini.s.p.tiihonen@jyu.fi).

Contact

More practical information will be sent to accepted participants in the Spring.

Any questions can be sent to: sini.s.p.tiihonen@jyu.fi.

We are looking forward to exciting discussions!