



This is a peer-reviewed, post-print (final draft post-refereeing) version of the following published document and is licensed under All Rights Reserved license:

**Grist, Hannah and Vale-Costa, Liliana (2017) Ageing in a network society:
An Introduction. Networking Knowledge: Journal of the MeCCSA
Postgraduate Network, 10 (1). pp. 1-4. ISSN 1755-9944**

Official URL: <http://ojs.meccsa.org.uk/index.php/netknow/article/view/499>

EPrint URI: <http://eprints.glos.ac.uk/id/eprint/4463>

Disclaimer

The University of Gloucestershire has obtained warranties from all depositors as to their title in the material deposited and as to their right to deposit such material.

The University of Gloucestershire makes no representation or warranties of commercial utility, title, or fitness for a particular purpose or any other warranty, express or implied in respect of any material deposited.

The University of Gloucestershire makes no representation that the use of the materials will not infringe any patent, copyright, trademark or other property or proprietary rights.

The University of Gloucestershire accepts no liability for any infringement of intellectual property rights in any material deposited but will remove such material from public view pending investigation in the event of an allegation of any such infringement.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR TEXT.

Ageing in a network society: An Introduction

LILIANA VALE COSTA, University of Aveiro
HANNAH GRIST, University of Gloucestershire

Welcome to the special issue ‘Ageing in a network society’ of Networking Knowledge. With

the rapid advancements in digital platforms and the emergence of new trends, greater challenges have been posed by both an increasingly global and network society, demographic challenges and changes in the labour workforce and in the complexity of social interactions (Bond, Peace, Dittmann-Kohli, & Westerhof 2007; Bowling 2005). In the UK alone, projections suggest that the number of older people in society will have nearly doubled to 19 million by 2050.¹

Whilst we have been aware of the main advantages and barriers posed by the introduction of new media over time (Castells 2001), challenges such as intergenerational gaps in the access to information that may affect learning, communication and authority roles, social digital divides, accessibility and difficulty in accessing daily-living services are likely to persist (Costa, & Veloso 2016; Fisk, Rogers, Charness, et al. 2009; Sixsmith & Gutman 2013).

Information and Communication Technologies can play a crucial role in strengthening age identity and encouraging prosocial behaviours, sense of social connectedness and of purposefulness (Costa 2013; Cabrera, & Malanowski 2009; De Schutter & Vanden Abeele 2008; Felsted, & Wright 2014). By exploring the older adults’ needs and their context, their media appropriation, usability and accessibility issues and the development of easy-to-use services and ICT-based products, the papers in this special issue highlight the complexity of the relationship between older adults and the network society in which we live.

Hence, this special issue aims to explore the role of ICTs in encouraging the development of networked older adults. Specifically, the following papers give a noteworthy contribution to the challenges posed by an increasingly ageing and networked society. This special issue is edited by colleagues whose disciplines are not naturally symbiotic – one from Information and Communication studies and the other from Ageing studies. As such, this special issue posed an interesting set of challenges for the editors as they explored their shared understandings of what it means to grow old or be old in a network society. The editors would therefore like to thank the authors for their receptiveness to ageing studies theory and for challenging their own assumptions about what it means to be old. This special issue acts, in some ways, as a stepping stone or a bridge between more information technological based notions of what it is to grow older and cultural gerontological constructions of older age.

¹ www.parliament.uk

The Collection

In “Jumping the digital divide: How do silver surfers and digital immigrants use social media?,” Kaja Fietkiwicz discusses the use of different social media services by different generations – “the silver surfers” (individuals born in the 30s and 40s), “the digital immigrants” (individuals born in the 60s and 70s), “digital natives” (individuals born in the 80s and 90s) and “younger generations” (individuals born in the 90s and millennials).

In “The Elderly’s Media Appropriation as Variable for Target Groups”, Rebeka Haubold and Sonja Guanguin identify a set of classification categories for older adults by means of media appropriation. Supported by their experience in the intergenerational volunteering group of the GAM e.V. (Gesellschaft Alter(n) Medien e.V.) - The ‘Medienclub Leipziger Löwen’ (Media-Club Leipzig’s Lions), they give an important insight into the concept of media appropriation with regards to older adults and its main implications for media practitioners.

In “Older Adults and Email Use: interface redesign’s challenges,” Sónia Ferreira, Óscar Mealha and Ana Isabel Veloso present the results of a cross-country research carried out under the Project SEDUCE (“Senior Citizen Use of Computer-Mediated Communication in Web Ecologies”) in order to determine to what extent the participation of older adults in the development of an email service could influence its usability and to design a simplified interface for this service.

In “Seniors, iTV and content about Social Services: clarifying the relationship,” Telmo Silva and Mariana Carlos propose a set of principles for the development of social services for iTV, taking into account its potential and the limitations of older adult viewers.

Similarly, in “Communicating Public and Social Services through iTv: a user-centred approach,” David Campelo, Jorge de Abreu and Telmo Silva describe the implementation of an iTV system dedicated to the older adult population.

Finally, we would like to thank you, the authors and readers, who contributed to this Special Issue. Our acknowledgment is also extended to the following external reviewers for their time and effort:

Editors

Liliana Vale Costa – University of Aveiro, Portugal
Hannah Grist – University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom

Reviewers

Andréa Posnar, Politecnico di Milano, Italy;
Anne Fédé - L’École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, France;
Elena De Sacco - University of Liverpool, United Kingdom;
Feyza Akinerdem - Istanbul Şehir University, Turkey;

Jonathan Albright - Elon University, USA;
Laura Avadar - Galatasaray University, Turkey;
Maricel Oro Piqueras - University of Lleida, Spain;
Mário Antunes - University of Aveiro, Portugal;
Rafal Zaborowski - London School of Economics, United Kingdom;
Ricardo Gonçalves - University of Aveiro, Portugal;
Rosalina Costa – University of Évora, Portugal;
Steve Connolly - University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom;
Theodora Bowering – University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

References

- Bond, J., Peace, S., Dittmann-Kohli, F., & Westerhof, G. J. (2007). *Ageing in society: European perspectives on gerontology*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.
- Bowling, A. (2005). *Ageing well: Quality of life in old age*. Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill International (UK) Ltd.
- Cabrera, M., & Malanowski, N. (Eds.). (2009). *Information and communication technologies for active ageing: Opportunities and challenges for the European union (Vol.23)*. The Netherlands: IOS Press.
- Castells, M. (2001). *The Internet galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, business, and society*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, Inc. Doi: [10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199255771.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199255771.001.0001)
- Costa (2013). *Networked video games for older adults*. Master's thesis. Aveiro: University of Aveiro. Retrieved from <http://goo.gl/XytV1n>
- Costa, L., & Veloso, A. (2016). Being (Grand) Players: Review of Digital Games and their Potential to Enhance Intergenerational Interactions. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 14(1), 43-59. Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15350770.2016.1138273>
- De Schutter, & Vanden Abeele (2008). *Meaningful Play in Elderly Life*. Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association. Ed.58. Canada: Montreal
- Felsted, K. F., & Wright, S. D. (2014). *Toward Post Ageing: Technology in an Ageing Society (Vol. 1)*. Heidelberg: Springer International Publishing
- Fisk, A. D., Rogers, W. A., Charness, N., Czaja, S. J., & Sharit, J. (2009). *Designing for older adults: Principles and creative human factors approaches*. Florida, USA: CRC press.
- Sixsmith, A., & Gutman, G. M. (2013). *Technologies for Active Aging*. New York: Springer. Doi: [10.1007/978-1-4419-8348-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4419-8348-0)

Liliana Costa is a Ph.D. student in Information and Communication in Digital Platforms at the University of Aveiro. She holds a M.A degree in Multimedia Communication and a BsC in New Technologies of Communication. She has been a collaborator of the research centre DIGIMEDIA – Digital Media and Interaction at the University of Aveiro. Her interests are wide-ranging, including universal design, digital games, design thinking, active ageing, virtual communities, three-dimensional environments, human-computer interaction, natural interfaces, eHealth, and digital inclusion.

Email: lilianavale@ua.pt

Researchgate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Liliana_Costa5

Academia.edu: <https://aveiro.academia.edu/lilianavale>

Hannah Grist is a Subject Teacher for the Art, Design and Media pathway at INTO and a part-time Lecturer in the School of Media, Art and Technology at the University of Gloucestershire. She completed a BA in History at the University of Nottingham in 2009, and a Masters in History was completed at the University of Bristol in 2011. Her PhD was awarded in February 2015. Her publications focus on a range of topics, including research methods, film studies, ageing studies, and television as heritage. She is currently working on a range of projects for future publication which stem from her PhD thesis, and continues to work collaboratively with the Centre for Women, Ageing and Media in her role as Research Assistant and co-editor of the Postgraduate Journal of Women, Ageing and Media.

Email: hgrist@glos.ac.uk

Researchgate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Hannah_Grist/

Academia.edu: <https://glos.academia.edu/HannahGrist>