OPEN SEMINAR SERIES

Tuesday 4 November 2014
17:00 – 18:00

L1 Room 7th floor,
L. Sofou Bldg

“Robots and eldercare: the ethical issues”

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ABSTRACT

Globally, human society is aging: the number of frail older people is increasing, and the number of younger people able to look after them is decreasing. As a result, there is a growing interest in the development of robots and robotic technology for use in elder care. In this talk, I will review the robots being developed for eldercare: focussing on (i) assistive robotics (ii) monitoring robots and (iii) companion robots. I will identify and consider the ethical issues associated with these applications, since such technologies will have a real impact on the quality of life of those that encounter them. The issues include concerns about deception, privacy, and loss of human contact, autonomy and dignity. I will also raise and consider the relevance of the Capability Approach (Nussbaum, 2006) as a framework for assessing the possible effects of robot carers and companions on the dignity of older people.

The seminar series is open to all members of staff and students of CITY and to any externals that wish to attend.