

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.



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