

La cura degli anziani tra libertà e sorveglianza: ambivalenza dell'uso delle Tecnologie Emergenti

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Elderly Care between Freedom and Surveillance: Ambivalence in the Use of Emerging Technologies

Abstract: Demographic ageing is a serious challenge facing health and social systems worldwide. Recently, technology has become an important tool to ensure support in daily activities, also gaining relevance in aged care. A wide range of Emerging Technologies (ET), such as wearable devices and assistive robots, designed specifically for seniors, have appeared on the market, introducing new models of long-term care. The ongoing technological transformations in aged care, in continuity with so-called Aging-in-place, are increasingly hinging on the role of the home as a privileged place of care, postponing institutionalization and enabling the elderly to conduct their daily activities while maintaining their habits and their personal identity. From an ethical point of view, despite the advantages, celebrated by the developers themselves, in the care of elders, it is essential not to underestimate the ambivalence of the use of such devices, the abuse or misuse of which can cause dehumanization of care.

Keywords: Emerging technologies, Aged care, Active aging, Vulnerability.

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