CO-DESIGN AND KNOWING (IN) DIGITAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES WITH FUTURE USERS OF ALL AGES

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Abstract:
This panel focuses on co-design in medical and healthcare innovation as a collective knowledge practice. It invites papers concerned with how the participatory development, design and use of mobile health apps and other novel digital health technologies re-structure the relationship between technology, citizens of all ages and their medical staff, their treatment experiences, and related ehealth literacies. We are particularly interested in research exploring ethical, social, and political implications of novel digital applications and how they co-shape daily (work) life and knowledge practices.

Co-design is often described as an inherently productive or successful collective endeavour. Panel contributions are asked to critically reflect upon potential exclusions and limits, frictions as well as troubles of co-design, its methods, and methodologies as well as the academic infrastructures it is embedded into. The main concern here is that participatory processes in design often target the expertise/life experience of potential users without a framework of what it consists of and which skills and health-related literacies are (to be) developed by whom during the project itself. What impact, if any, do co-design and (future) use have on ehealth literacy of all involved collaborators? The panel creates a collaborative space for rethinking digital health technologies, their related collective knowledge-making practices and the power/weakness of participatory methods of co-design. We hope to thereby bring together STS researchers interested in issues of care, medical/health innovation, co-design (as an umbrella term for PD, UI, and other participatory design/innovation processes), and/or collaborative knowledge-making with citizens of all ages.

Discussants (invitation accepted):
Jeannette Pols (UvA/UMC Amsterdam)
Alexander Peine (Utrecht University)
(abstract will be extended, apologies, I thought the word limit was 250, jm)