"Stay Tuned"

The Role of ICTs in the "Young Elderly" in Italy
Fausto Colombo, Simone Carlo, Piermarco Aroldi
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Objective
To frame the role ICTs play in the life of young elderly: How ICTs are used by elderly? How ICTs and technologies change social and family relationships?

Methodology
Survey based on a group of 900 young elderly (65-74 y/o) in Italy, 20 ethnographic sessions.

Theoretical framework
- Generational approach: the young elderly are here considered by looking at the role played by their generational identity in shaping their media use (Aroldi-Colombo, 2013).
- Domestication: media consumption is spatially and temporally located and media uses and routines are shared within the household (Silverstone-Hirsch, 1992).

Main results
(1) processes of ICTs domestication are basically influenced by personal biography of the elderly (previous job, generational identity, familiar contexts) more than by age or other socio-demographic characteristics (gender, income, education);
(2) ICTs and Internet have a significant impact on elderly-users everyday life and spatio-temporal domestic routines;
(3) ICTs and Internet seems to be a good opportunity for a better and active ageing (e.g. in terms of improvement of social relations, information, entertainment), but even a risk in terms of social isolation inside and outside family.

Contact: simone.carlo@unicatt.it