

2025-2026 PhD Subject Proposition

Proposition de Sujet de Thèse 2025-2026

TITLE

Connected Devices and Experiential knowledge in the management of chronic illness.

Artificial Intelligence Meets Human Experience in the Face of Illness

Titre

Dispositifs connectés et savoirs expérientiels dans l'accompagnement des maladies chroniques.

L'intelligence artificielle à la rencontre de l'expérience humaine face à la maladie.

Doctoral School: Doctoral School in Societies, Humanities, Arts and Literature (ED SHAL)

Thesis supervisor: Arnaud Halloy (MCF HDR in anthropology)

Host laboratory: LAPCOS

Subject description:

This thesis looks at how connected devices in three chronic illnesses (type 1 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and asthma/ chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) are changing the relationship to illness and care in the daily lives of people with chronic illnesses. Three axes of study will be privileged in order to document and analyse the changes brought about by the introduction of connected devices : 1) How do connected devices transform user's relationship to *autonomy*, with regard to the evolution of symptoms and knowledge of his or her own body?; 2) how connected devices reinforce, modify, modulate or even replace other *forms of knowledge* (tacit knowledge, formal knowledge, experiential knowledge)?; 3) how circulation of technologies produce transfer of knowledge between the patient's world, the medical world and the world of technological innovation in health ? In a multi-situated fieldwork (hospital with integrated digital devices linked to AI, Mutual-Support Groups and the daily lives of users), this thesis in anthropology will develop ethnographic methods such as *in situ* observation of practices and uses, biographical and in-depth semi- directive interviews and micro-phenomenological/elicitation interviews. Such qualitative methods enable fine-grained descriptions and a deeper understanding of *actual* and *real* uses in relation to how connected devices are *expected* to or *should* be used. They also have the significant advantage of describing *contextual* factors contributing or not to the connected devices' adoption, opening up the black box of the social and cultural obstacles and facilitators which are most of the time neglected in acceptability studies.

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