UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Digital Health Network News

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UCPH Digital Health Network

Launch meeting and first network event

We hosted our first UCPH Digital Health Network event on May 3rd. The event had a large turnout and was very successful gathering researchers from across faculties.
We were privileged to have Stine Lomborg, Professor at Department of Communication, gave a critical and thought-provoking talk exploring the intersection of public healthcare and private tech. Stine is heading the Datafied Living project, which explores self-tracking in everyday life, and in her talk, she presented results from the context of healthcare. She ended with a call for more research exploring the implications of big tech companies increasingly providing digital infrastructure for healthcare practice.

The event also involved mutual introductions among the network members and, within smaller groups, we discussed future plans and potentials for the network.

Best regards,
Organizing committee

We encourage you to stay engaged and active within the Digital Health Network and inform us of relevant upcoming events and publications.

If you haven't been featured on our website yet, please take a moment to complete the registration form available on the website or simply click here.

Photos: Julie Kikkenborg

CALENDER

PhD defence: Rebecca Amy Nourse
Heart failure, self-care, and the potential of digital health
May 28, 2024, 8:30-11:30 AM
Zoom link: Click here

DIKU-Talk by Josie Hamper:
Apps, ads and the digitalization of reproductive work
June 6, 2024, 15:00-16:00 PM

June International Research Partnership Colloquium 2024:
Digital health approaches for supporting self-care in people with cardiovascular disease: Experiences from the joint PhD program between University of Copenhagen and Deakin University
June 11, 2024, 9:00 AM
Zoom link: Click here

Public symposium:
The ends of data: theories, methods, and interventions in critical data and AI studies
June 12, 2024, 11:00 AM -18:00 PM

Continuing Education:
Course: Digital Health
The course covers a wide range of health care products and services such as health and medical websites and platforms; telemedicine and telehealth.
August 12-16, 2024, 9:00-16:30
Registration: May 31, 2024.

Upcoming events

Talk by Josie Hamper, University of Oxford:
Apps, ads and the digitalisation of reproductive work

Thursday, 6 June 2024 at 15:00-16:00
Sigurdsgade 41, 2200, Copenhagen N 2200 København N, Denmark; SCI-DIKU-sigurdsgade-2-03

Abstract: It is well established that phones have been enrolled into the most intimate parts of everyday life. In this presentation, I reflect on ten years of researching the social, cultural and ethical consequences of digitally mediated reproductive technologies and practices. To do this, I draw on material from three research areas: the first explores the content and use of fertility tracking apps in the context of aiding conception; the second explores the content and use of pregnancy apps to follow a pregnancy over time; and the third explores how reproduction (fertility, pregnancy and birth) is visualised in advertisements for reproductive technologies and services on social media. While different, I argue that these phone-based apps and advertisements are intimately involved in the dual intensification and expansion of reproductive work, where women (primarily, but not only) are drawn into an ever-increasing range of self-care activities to protect their assumed reproductive potential. Three conceptual lenses structure my analysis, which centres around bodies, space and time.

Bio: Josie Hamper's research focuses on the embodied experiences, knowledge and practices that emerge at the intersection between new technology, health and medicine. Her published work explores how people engage with health and medical technologies, information and imagery, and how digital visualisations (such as fertility monitoring data or images of embryos and foetuses) travel through people's social worlds. Drawing on her qualitative work with fertility patients, Josie has advised the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and contributed to the Women's Health Strategy for England (2021). https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/staff/jhamper.html

For more information about registration, please contact Sarah Frances Homewood at sfh@di.ku.dk.

Public symposium:
The ends of data: theories, methods, and interventions in critical data and AI studies

Wednesday, 12 June 2024 at 11:00-18:00
Copenhagen University, Karen Blixens Plads 8, Building 15, Room 15A.0.13

What are the ends of data—meaning, which purposes are they created to serve? And what are the ends of data— meaning, when and how are data permitted to expire, be deleted, or die? This symposium investigates the intersection of these two questions within data-intensive social practices and infrastructures, where historical data are consistently integrated into new routines, domains, and frameworks to address novel inquiries.

Non-utilization of data is often identified as a policy challenge, as a “waste” of data or an untapped potentiality. But what unfolds when the presence of data prompts individuals to develop potential purposes that data might begin to serve, purposes that may differ in radical ways from those for which they were collected? When are data allowed to remain idle and who gets to decide which data to resuscitate and which to terminate? What critical decisions and labour go into destroying or repurposing data? And what does it entail to "delete" data in a realm of backups, duplicates, and continual redefinitions of purpose?

Moreover, emergent forms of algorithmic systems also pose epistemological and ontological nature: Can the repercussions of data traces be erased if they have been employed in algorithm training, as currently explored in the field of machine unlearning? Or do data possess an enduring impact on algorithmic processes even after purported deletion? Which ontologies are mobilized to enact the border between data lives, afterlives, and deaths? And how do people and politics navigate and shape uncertainties about data deletion and reactivation?

For more information and registration, please click here.

Latest news

PhD course on Human-Centred AI in Healthcare at DIKU

Tariq Osman Andersen was co-organizer in a successful Phd-course with 24xPhD fellows in Human-computer Interaction and related fields in April at DIKU. The course was co-organized with Francisco Nunes from Fraunhofer Portugal AICOS, Pioneer Centre for AI.

Themes included conceptualizing, designing and implementing and evaluating. An online pre-course was built up from talks on papers included in a special issue in TOCHI on the topic: Introduction to the Special Issue on Human-Centred AI in Healthcare: Challenges Appearing in the Wild.

By Tariq Osman Andersen

PhD defence at DIKU: Hubert Dariusz Zając

Hubert Zając had defended his PhD thesis: "It takes a village to raise clinical AI. Towards clinical usefulness of AI in healthcare."

The thesis is part of the AI4XRAY project (2020-2025), and explores the design and development of AI-based systems useful for medical professionals. Employing a combination of literature review, ethnographic research, and design work, and investigates the clinical usefulness of AI-based tools, focusing on chest X-ray support for radiologists in Denmark and Kenya.

Photo: Tariq Osman Andersen

From student paper to journal article: UCPH student publishing on digital health

Bachelor projects and master's theses often produce unique and important knowledge, which unfortunately often remains unpublished. We should consider whether this network could create a repository for the many exciting projects that do not get published. Let us know if you want to support and contribute to such a repository!

Fortunately, more than four papers have been published from Health Informatics students in the last year, with the two most recent ones from the last few months, which can be seen here:

A new article by Dons et al., which explores how technological tools impact the dynamics and environment of rehabilitation consultations for cancer survivors. It uncovers both the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing new technology in health consultations and how this affects the relationship between healthcare professionals and patients: Perspective of Health Care Professionals and Cancer Survivors on Usage of Technology in Consultations

A new article by Kikkenborg et al., which explores the technological knowledge and skills of older adults at risk of falls, along-side their self-management, social context and perception and mindset, and how these factors influence nutritional intake and physical activity. It contributes insights into the utilization and development of eHealth to support and motivate better health behaviors aimed at reducing fall risk among older adults: Knowledge, Skills, and Experience With Technology in Relation to Nutritional Intake and Physical Activity Among Older Adults at Risk of Falls: Semistructured Interview Study

If anyone wants to know more about the process and particularly the barriers for turning students' papers into journal articles, please contact Lars Kayser at lk@sund.ku.dk.

New UCPH Publications in Digital Health

Medical specialists' use and opinion of video consultations in Denmark: a survey study

The authors conducted a nationwide survey and found a relatively low current use of video consultation among medical specialists in private practice with the exception of psychiatrists. Half of the respondents did not find video consultation relevant to their medical specialty. According to the specialists, video consultation was most suitable for follow-up consultations and simple medical issues, and it provided better access for the patients and fewer cancellations. IT problems were reported as obstacles hindering optimal use of video consultation. The political aspiration to digitization in healthcare systems should be rooted in professionals' and patients' perceptions and experiences with video consultation which emphasize that it is not a standard tool for all consultations.

*Møller, O.M., Vange, S.S., Borsch, A.S. et al (2024). Medical specialists' use and opinion of video consultation in Denmark: a survey study. BMC Health Serv Res**24**, 516 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-024-10868-6*

By Oliva Mandal Møller

The video window: How video consultation technology reveals and redefines the art of medicine in Danish specialist practice

As a part of the *Afskærmet?*-project on video consultations in Danish specialist practice, Anja, Signe, Sif and I have published an article in Social Science & Medicine.
Taking the notion of 'the art of medicine' as an analytical frame, and drawing on interviews with medical specialists as well as participant observation of video consultations with patients, the article explores how video consultation technology changes the practices of medical specialists in the Danish healthcare system. We find that the virtual consultation room requires a reevaluation of the authoritative nature of the clinic, emphasizing the need for negotiating and staging the clinical space online. While video consultations limit doctors' ability to rely on non-verbal cues such as body language, they offer glimpses into patients' home environments, exposing the influence of social preconceptions on medical evaluations. Furthermore, the adoption of video consultations introduces new conditions for doctors' sensory work. We develop the metaphor of 'the video window' to encapsulate tensions between distance and closeness in video consultations, pointing to how the technology simultaneously portrays patients as fragmented and socially situated.

Borsch AS, Jensen AMB, Vange SS, Jervelund SS. The video window: How video consultation technology reveals and redefines the art of medicine in Danish specialist practice. Soc Sci Med. juni 2024;351:116965.

By Anne Sofie Børsch

Other relevant new publications:

New article on the use of AI in healthcare by Iben Gjødsbøl and colleagues
The robot butler: How and why should we study predictive algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare?

New publication on technology use during chronic fatigue syndrome just published at the CHI '24: Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems by Léa Paymal and Sarah Homewood
Good Days, Bad Days: Understanding the Trajectories of Technology Use During Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Klaus Høyer and colleagues' article, which is part of a larger EU funded project: DataSpace, explores what is driving the establishment of cross-border health-data infrastructures, which types of infrastructures are being established, with which implications for whom
Health in data space: Formative and experiential dimensions of cross-border health data sharing

New paper on the #datawork entailed in the context of a health-tech company developing an algorithmically driven platform that aims to match patients with clinical trials by Natalia Avlona and Irina Shklovski
Torquing patients into data: enactments of care about, for and through medical data in algorithmic systems

Digital Health Network News

Please visit our homepage – https://digitalhealth.ku.dk

Editor: Henriette Langstrup and Julie Kikkenborg – Including members of Digital Health Network. Questions about the newsletter, more detailed information, as well as submissions for the next issue of UCPH-DH news, should be made by contacting our mailbox: ucphdh@sund.ku.dk.