

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project name: *Study of older adults perspectives on future ageing and tech*

Monash University Human Ethics ID:

Research team and contact details:

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You are invited to take part in this study on your perspectives on future technology for older people. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you can contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above, or speak with the research who gives you this explanatory statement.

What does the research involve?

We are researching future technologies for older people and how you anticipate future concerns and challenges. For that, we want to ask people over 65 years old (or 50 if you consider yourself indigenous) how you imagine your future home. We will ask you some questions about your preferred future home that you are free to answer, and we will have a tour around your home to see how you imagine your future place.

This academic study will ensure that your voice is heard by the academic community and other stakeholders, and will provide a new agenda to rethink the roles of the technologies designed for older people.

You should be able to speak English, Spanish, or Russian. The interview will be held in the participant's home, aged care facility, or online, as agreed by the participant, aged care management, and researchers. The interview will last approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, but you are free to withdraw anytime, even after the interview. The interview will contribute voluntarily to the exploration of future smart home and the PhD thesis of Miguel Gomez Hernandez.

If you want, you will not be personally named or identified in any reports that arise from study, and our focus is very much on your experience and your perceptions.

Interviews will be audio-recorded, take place at a time and place convenient to you, and photography or video of materials produced during the interview might be employed if you give consent. In particular, photography or videography might be employed during the interview while we sit and you respond to questions, and during the tour around your preferred places at your home (in which you show the researcher how you imagine your future home). The researcher will ask you to lead the tour while you are asked questions about the future –these interactions might be filmed or photographed. A visible small camera or a smartphone will be the devices held by the researcher, and you can withdraw your consent to be filmed any time before, during, and after the interview.

In addition to the previous audio-visual material, you will be asked to grant permission to share with the team of researchers any sketches, graphics, or annotations produced during the interview. All visual materials will be returned to you via email to edit and accept after the interview. If you do not have an email account, the researcher will meet in person with you to get your permission to use those materials.

Why were you chosen for this research?

The research is focused on older people's imaginations of the future home. Being an older adult means we believe you would have insights to offer the research.

Participant incentives

1. The participation will be voluntary.
2. The participant will be given the possibility to co-design the subsequent research process (and be acknowledged as such) and presented the results of the study once it is finished upon request and convenience of the participant.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

To give your consent, you need to read this form and read and sign the attached consent form, and return to the research staff. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and, if you want, you will not be identified in any of the findings. We are committed to ensuring your participation remains anonymous.

You may withdraw from the study at any stage without any implications of withdrawal. For example, if you say or do something that you regret at any part of the research, you can let research staff know in the moment, or at a later stage and that will not be included in any analysis. This includes skipping over any material you prefer not to discuss during the interview; stopping the interviews after it has started; or deciding after the event that you no longer want some discussions to be included.

Confidentiality

Your participation in the study will be confidential, other than to the research staff -unless you explicitly ask to be acknowledged. Care will also be taken to remove other names (if, for example, your friends or family are mentioned), or specific locations that are mentioned (such as your suburb). For example, in our reports a company name may be replaced with wording like '[my workplace]'.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

The interview will not touch on personal or sensitive topics, since the participant will only be asked to imagine future smart home technology. However, if the participant feels distressed or upset with any of the questions made by the researcher, the participant is fully free to stop the interview or not respond to the question.

Source of funding

This project is not funded. The researchers have no conflict of interest to declare, and again stress that the researchers' interests are in exploring your perceptions and imaginations of future smart home technology, not pursuing political interests or agendas.

Storage of data

Data will be stored according to Monash University's Data Planning guidance. If the participant agrees, data will include digital files (audio-recordings) of interviews, subsequent transcribed texts of these files, and possible pictures or videos of materials produced in the interview. Transcriptions and video materials will be stored and processed only by the team of researchers, and not shared with external parties. Transcripts and audio-visual footage will be stored securely on a password-protected server. Physical documents (such as consent forms) will be stored in secure offices at Monash University. These physical documents and files will be destroyed after the completion of the final publication related to this study. Anonymised data (transcripts) will be password protected and accessible only in secure Monash University office computers, in accordance with Monash data policies.

Results

If the participant wants, research results will be published as a final report or audio-visual publication in academic venues, and/or as a presentation to the participants or social media. The transcription of the interview will be sent to the participant prior to publication if requested.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
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Thank you,

Prof. Sarah Pink, Dr. Melisa Duque, and Mr. Miguel Gomez Hernandez