

Pitch Your Postdoc With Christophe Humbert and Anna Wanka

7th of March, 09.00 am



Dr. Christophe Humbert

Sociologist, Associate Researcher at
LInCS



Dr. Anna Wanka

Sociologist at Goethe University
Frankfurt / Germany

The “Pitch ton Postdoc” session is open to researchers, students in sociology, gerontology, and social work, as well as policymakers involved in aging, long-term care, and digital inclusion. This event is also relevant for professionals in social and public policy, healthcare, and technology for aging, as well as for NGOs focused on aging policies and digital inclusion.

Dr. Christophe Humbert is a sociologist with a background in social work. He is currently a research associate at LInCS in Strasbourg. His “embedded” and “applied” research focuses on providing actionable feedback and recommendations to institutional and professional actors seeking to innovate in the support and care of older adults. Dr. Humbert’s work examines the impact of technological and social innovations on organizations, territories, and stakeholders. His current postdoctoral research questions the deployment of digital tools for the socialization of long-term care facility residents during the pandemic, specifically examining their effects on intra-family ties.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, nursing homes worldwide, including in France, faced particularly dire challenges. Health measures that prioritized the protection of residents led to a drastic reduction in social activities. As a result, digital tools such as videoconferencing were mobilized to maintain family connections between residents and their relatives.

Dr. Humbert’s postdoctoral research explores the impact of these digital mediations on the nature of social ties during the pandemic. Specifically, the research examines how these tools fostered meaningful, reciprocal “2.0 ties” through intra-family connections. Conducted as part of an interdisciplinary consortium (ANR/Grand Est funding), the study involves interviews (N=89) and field notes from 220 hours of participant observation across 9 EHPADs in the Grand Est region of France. The research draws on interviews with 32 residents, 12 psychologists, and their caregivers, investigating the pivotal role caregivers played in facilitating digital communication during the pandemic. The study identifies three ideal types of mediation that emerged: The “One-Way Porthole”, The “Virtual Smoke Screen”, The “Hygiaphone”.

These terms reflect different styles of mediation that varied in their ability to maintain continuity in relational devices despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and residents’ unfamiliarity with digital tools.

The event will be moderated by **Jean-Philippe Viriot Durandal**, Chairholder, with the participation of **Dr. Anna Wanka** is a sociologist and critical gerontologist. She has expertise in both qualitative and quantitative methods and has developed reflexive approaches to mixed-methods research.

The event will take place at the University of Lorraine, Saulcy campus in Metz (**Espace Rabelais, Thesis Room, 2nd floor**).

It is also possible to attend the event via videoconference.

Registration Required :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0Cy1J0IzvQoy0tZMoL7ZRvycXNGEU20mmup9jOvEnE07-3A/viewform?usp=header>