New technologies and belonging:

Enhancement and dilemmas

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Overview

- Introduction

- New technologies

- Conceptual problem

- Dilemma's

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Conceptual problem

- The title of the conference is 'art of belonging'

- In order to belong, disabled persons have also to be welcomed by the community and society they are member of

- As the most important functions of new technologies seem to be to compensate, to combine or to eliminate, there is a definite risk that new technologies re-activate a purely 'medical' model of disability

- That would be dramatic, because the 'social' model of disability (even if a bit one-sided) offers a perspective of examining the quality of welcome of the society

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New Technologies

- During the last decennia the partial integration of developments in informationtechnology, biotechnology, nanotechnology en neurosciences made appear a number of unexpected possibilities

- These possibilities range:

  - from very small to quite big (from nano and bio to exo-sceletons)
  - to new combinations, for example brain – computer interactions
  - And can even go beyond the daily reality with virtual reality (for example in case of phobia)
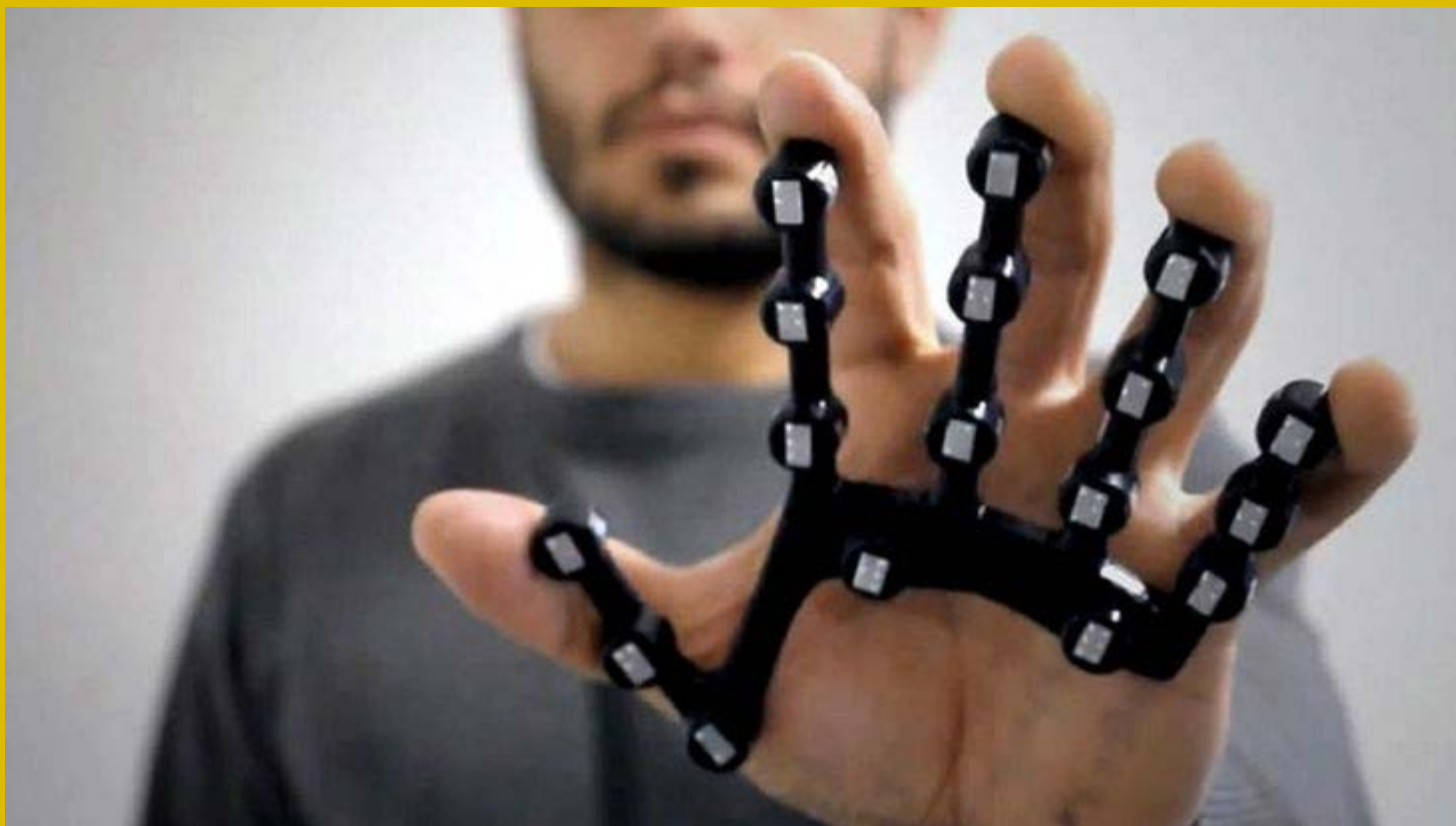
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Some examples

Examples

Examples

Examples

New technologies for whom?

- Most new technologies are designed for people with physical disabilities

- There are very few new technologies for people with psychiatric disabilites (for example therapy apps)

- There are almost no new technologies for people with mental disabilites

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New technologies: what for?

- Compensation: many new technologies compensate limited physical functions, that seems to be the most important function, and can have an effect of enhancement or replacement

- Combine: new technologies can combine former seperate domains, for example brain impulses with exo-sceletons (hands for examples)

- Elimination: with new bio-technologies it becomes possible to eliminate a fetus with Down-syndrome

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Dilemma's

- Risk of increasing inequality: as well internationally as nationally (for example: costs, norms of the welfare state, etc.)

- Security: as more and more components of the products of new technologies are in real-time interaction with internet, there is a risk of unexpected break-downs

- Privacy: to some extent overlap with former point, but now conceived from the perspective of what one wants to share and what not, and whether it is possible not to make everything public

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Dilemma's

- Some new technologies can replace human contact, such as the various types of 'care robots', which is at the limit very problematic

- Finally, there are numerous ethical dilemma's; I limit myself with mentioning here the dilemma of 'eliminating' impairments (Down Syndrome, Deafness, etc.)

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