



Call for Papers: Aging and Technology Use in the Era of Digitization and Automation

JOURNAL: WORK, AGING AND RETIREMENT

SPECIAL ISSUE GUEST CO-EDITORS:

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SCOPE OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE

Technological advancements, including developments in information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, autonomous technologies, and human-robot collaboration, affect aging workers' lives in many ways. Yet older adults' adoption and use of these new technologies and their adaptation to technological changes may follow different patterns and be driven by factors different from those for younger workers.

Understanding older adults' diverse needs, preferences, and technological competence is essential for facilitating the adoption and use of technological devices and tools by older adults and relevant stakeholders (e.g., employers and caregivers). In addition, global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, pose serious challenges for older adults' learning and use of new technologies, likely with lasting impacts that extend beyond the work context. This calls for serious attention and interventions to ensure older workers' access to tangible resources (e.g., products and goods) and intangible resources (e.g., information, services, and social interactions) in this new era of increasing digitization and automation.

Addressing the intersection of aging and technology use requires interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration. With this Special Issue, *Work, Aging and Retirement* reaches beyond its usual focus on work and retirement research, and aims to bring together researchers from a broad range of academic disciplines and fields to address the social, behavioral, organizational, and cultural aspects of aging and technology use. These academic disciplines and fields include but are not limited to:

Anthropology, Communication, Computer Science, Engineering, Geography, Gerontology, Human Development, Information Science, Medicine,

Management, Nursing, Nutritional Science, Pharmacy, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology.

This Special Issue will include 4 broad topic areas: work, health, product/device design, and the impact of COVID-19. Potential topics may include but are not limited to:

- Age differences in perceptions and use of technology for work and life;
- Challenges and opportunities associated with technology use for older adults at work or in other life domains;
- Cross-cultural comparisons of older adults' experiences with technology;
- The diverse information needs and behaviors of older workers in response to new technologies, especially those who are traditionally underserved (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities, older adults with disabilities);
- Potential and realized impacts of emerging technologies on workforce participation of older adults in varying industries;
- Dementia-related health informatics research and applications;
- Older adults' learning and use of technology for decision-making across different life domains (e.g., work and employment, healthcare, transportation);
- Design of inclusive technology (e.g., wearable devices, mobile apps, artificial intelligence tools, autonomous devices) and temporally synchronized systems to meet the diverse needs and preferences of older adults;

- Characterization of interventions designed to promote technology literacy and address digital divides among older adults;
- Privacy and security concerns associated with older adults' interaction with technology;
- Older adults and their family caregivers' needs and preferences for technology in communication, social interaction, care provision, chronic condition self-management, and end-of-life decision making;
- Older workers' interaction with misinformation on various technological platforms (e.g., social media, mobile apps);
- Employment status variation in use and impacts of technology among older adults;
- Intergenerational use of technologies for promoting the health and well-being of both older and younger adults.

Multiple types of manuscripts, including empirical articles, integrative reviews, research reports, and commentaries are welcome.

We strongly encourage participation by women, underrepresented minorities in the sciences including individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and individuals with disabilities.

TIMELINE AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

- May 31, 2021.....Initial manuscript proposals due
- July 1, 2021Proposals evaluated, invitations for full manuscript submission sent to authors
- Dec. 31, 2021.....Full manuscript submission deadline

EXAMPLE REFERENCES

- Li, J., Maharjan, B., Xie, B., & Tao, C. (2020). A personalized voice-based diet assistant for caregivers of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias: System development and validation. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 22(9). doi:10.2196/19897.
- Moore, R. C., & Hancock, J. T. (2020). Older adults, social technologies, and the coronavirus pandemic: Challenges, strengths, and strategies for support. *Social Media + Society*, 6(3). doi:10.1177/2056305120948162
- Morris, M. G., & Venkatesh, V. (2000). Age differences in technology adoption decisions: Implications for a changing work force. *Personnel Psychology*, 53(2), 375-403. doi:10.1111/j.1744-6570.2000.tb00206.x
- Seifert, A., Cotten, S. R., & Xie, B. (2020). A double burden of exclusion? Digital and social exclusion of older adults in times of COVID-19. *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. doi:10.1093/geronb/gbaa098
- Xie, B., Tao, C., Li, J., Hilsabeck, R. C., Aguirre, A. (2020). Artificial intelligence for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias: Systematic literature review. *JMIR Medical Informatics*, 8(8), Article e18189. doi:10.2196/18189
- Xie, B., Charness, N., Fingerma, K., Kaye, J., Kim, M. T., & Khurshid, A. (2020). When going digital becomes a necessity: Ensuring older adults' needs for information, services, and social inclusion during COVID-19. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, 32(4-5), 460-470. doi:10.1080/08959420.2020.1771237
- Xie, B., He, D., Mercer, T., Wang, Y., Wu, D., Fleischmann, K. R., Zhang, Y., Yoder, L. H., Stephens, K. K., Mackert, M., Lee, M. K. (2020). Global health crises are also information crises: A call to action. *The Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 71(12), 1419-1423. doi:10.1002/asi.24357

PROPOSAL PROCESS

Manuscript Proposals

Interested authors should submit a proposal (1,000 words maximum) that describes their intended paper. Proposals are due by May 31, 2021. Proposals will be reviewed by the special issue guest co-editors and evaluated according to the following criteria: (a) responsiveness to the call, (b) degree of potential to enhance understanding of the intersection between age and technology, (c) scientific merit, (d) likelihood of successful completion within timeline, (e) fit with other submissions, and (f) applicability to the journal's mission.

Manuscript proposals should be submitted directly at the following link: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/workar>; select "Research Proposal" as the manuscript type. In the cover letter, please also indicate that it is a proposal submitted to the *Special Issue on Aging and Technology Use in the Era of Digitization and Automation*.

Questions about this special issue can be directed to the special issue guest co-editors: Bo Xie (boxie@utexas.edu), Chu-Hsiang (Daisy) Chang (cchang@msu.edu), and Heng Xu (xu@american.edu).

Full Manuscripts

Full manuscripts will be limited to 60 standard manuscript pages (including all figures, tables, and references; authors may ask for editorial approval of a longer paper if commensurate to its contribution) and will be due by December 31, 2021. Full manuscripts will undergo double-blind peer review.

All full-manuscript submissions should be prepared in accordance with *Work, Aging and Retirement's* author guidelines and be submitted through the journal's submission portal. Contributors should indicate in their cover letter that they would like to have the paper considered for the Special Issue on Aging and Technology Use.