How would you design a social robot?

A year-long co-design methodology designing with (not for) older adults

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Why?
As more and more robotic systems are being developed for the home, we must understand how users desire to interact with robots.

So what?
We’ve heard a…
◈ desire to be involved in programming robots, and
◈ need for methods that support emotional engagement

Older adults desired the following capabilities:
◈ reminders & suggestions
◈ cognitive support
◈ message & video chatting
◈ personalization
◈ robot relationship
◈ autonomy & transparency
◈ security & privacy

Older adults highlighted the following applications:
◈ positive psychology
◈ lifelong learning

The how
28 older adults engaged in all 7 stages of the study incorporating several methodologies promotes multiple levels of engagement from participants

1. initial interviews
   storytelling
   decision modelling
   binary choices

1. reflection interview

2. design art-based session

3. robot hosting

4. robot debrief

5. rapid robot prototyping

6. design guideline generation session

7. work with older adults as co-designers, generating guidelines along side researchers

Work with older adults to program robots to embody desired functions

28 older adults engaged in all 7 stages of the study

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