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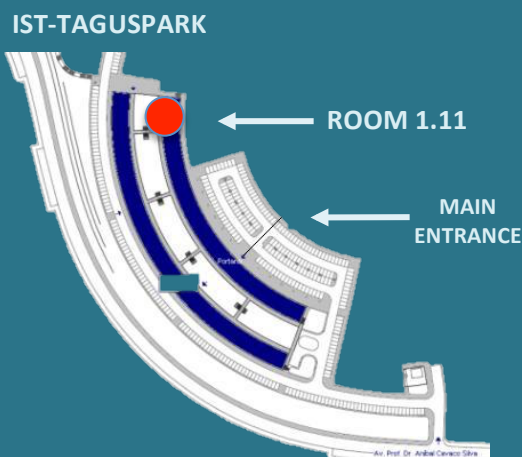DE ENGENHARIA E GESTÃO
TÉCNICO LISBOA

SEMINAR / OPEN LECTURE

Technology Usage among Older Adults

João Mariano
(ISCTE-IUL)

24 November | Friday | 13:30h

@ Room 1.11 | IST TagusPark

IST-TAGUSPARK

← ROOM 1.11

← MAIN ENTRANCE

Technology Usage among Older Adults

Abstract

Older adults use information and communication technologies (ICT) to a lesser extent than younger age groups, preventing them from taking advantage of their benefits. Research suggests that age-related declines and attitudinal factors are relevant predictors of older adults' limited ICT use. Innovatively, our research work aims to explore whether a previously overlooked factor – age stereotypes – influence ICT use by older individuals. We hypothesize that older people underuse ICT due to concerns about confirming negative stereotypes about their technological competence, an effect known as stereotype threat. This research topic has important practical implications, since age stereotypes may undermine the adoption of new technological innovations by current and future older individuals, thus contributing to perpetuate the digital divide between younger and older generations.

Profile description

João Mariano received his master's degree in Applied Social Cognition from the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Lisbon in 2013. He worked as a research assistant at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) in several European projects in the ageing field, including *OLA – Organization Life Assistant for future active ageing*, which aimed to develop technological solutions to support older adults and their caregivers, and *SIforAGE – Social Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing*, with the ultimate goal of promoting a society for all ages. He is currently a PhD student at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) as part of *LiSP – Lisbon PhD in Social Psychology* and his research work focuses on how age stereotypes influence technology use by older adults.