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**a.a. 2022-2023**

**Seminario Interclasse**

## **"Transformations of relationship in the age of e-health"**

**Prof. Alain Loute**

**Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgio)**

3-4-5 aprile 2023

### **ABSTRACT DEL SEMINARIO**

This seminar will focus on the development of "e-health". The development of digital technologies in the field of health has often provoked strong and opposite reactions. Some see it as the worst, others as the best. For Vincent Rialle et al., "the fear of dehumanization of the support and care of people losing their autonomy is being expressed simultaneously, and in an increasingly acute manner, with the hope and desire to have at one's disposal, as soon as possible, technological tools of an efficiency that is equal to societal emergencies" (V. Rialle, et al. 2014). The objective of the seminar will be both epistemological and ethical. How can we define the contours of what is called "digital health"? Will digital health "empower" the patient or dehumanize the medical relationship? What ethics for e-health?

Monday, April 3 from 2 to 4pm. Introduction to e-health

In the first session, we will pose some definitions of e-health. We will review several possible uses of digital health. We will insist on the fact that if digital health is already a reality, digital health is also approached as a "future" object. Digital health is presented as a "promising" field: many expectations are formulated towards it. For example, many authorities present digital health as something that will empower the patient, make him/her autonomous. How should we position ourselves in relation to this "promise" (Joly)? What is the ethical position with respect to digital health?



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### Tuesday, April 4, 3 to 6pm. E-health: materiality and spatiality matter

In this second part of the course, we will try to identify some ways to think about the ethics of digital health. We will question the so-called "instrumentalism" posture in technology ethics by demonstrating that values can be embodied in technical objects. We will also show that digital technologies can have the effect of transforming places of care.

### Wednesday, April 5 from 10am to 1pm. Digital labor and experimentation "in" and "with" e-health during Covid-19

In this final part of the course, we will challenge the belief that digital technology will make work disappear. Instead, we will argue that digital can have the effect of expanding "patient work" (Strauss) and lead to additional "digital dirty work." We will conclude by looking back at the rise of digital health during the COVID-19 crisis.

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