

01 **Demographic change, ICT and community research**

- ❖ Demographic & social change processes come with ageing societies and a demand for socio-technical solutions promoting ageing at home with social inclusion and individual well-being.
- ❖ Community-based participatory research is and Caring Communities are methods and concepts to ageing at home in a socio-cultural context, and to explore individual life styles and considering diversity and heterogeneity in older adults.
- ❖ Digital community platforms may offer support for older adults – but many are not being used
- ❖ We explored social and digital practices of a local Community in a Swiss village to better understand (digitally-supported) community practices in older age.

02 **Methods and data**

- ❖ Approaches and frameworks: **Participatory Action Research (PAR), Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), Caring Community, and Living Lab.**
- ❖ Citizen-based Cooperative Research: 3 universities (Uni Siegen, FH Bern, Careum Zürich) and 15 local community members/**co-researchers.**
- ❖ Data: 20 interviews, 1 focus group (30 (older) adults: 19 woman/11 men), joint analysis, documentation & presentation
- ❖ CareConnection, based on the results of the analysis, is further designed with 2 co-researchers focusing on **overcoming barriers of ‘asking for, accepting and giving help’.**

03 **Findings**

- ❖ **Manifold spectrum of barriers to asking for, accepting & giving help: physical, mental, social; varieties in time, space, structure & personality.**
- ❖ Focus of the MuC shortpaper: various facets of **shame** and their possible impact on the design of the digital and socio-technical features.
- ❖ It considers **challenges like mistrust, technology ownership & media literacy.**
- ❖ Participatory and ethnography-bases research (Grounded Design) is key to better understand such community-based appropriation processes and to find suitable solutions.

**CareConnection**  
a platform addressing the barriers of ‘asking for, accepting & giving help’

**CareConnection – A Digital Caring Community Platform to Overcome Barriers of ‘Asking for, Accepting and Giving Help’**

Objectives

Community-based support for older adults aging at home.  
Digital community platforms: there are many – but many not being used, esp. not by older adults.

Design implications

Focus on overcoming barriers to ask for, accept & give help as well as physical and mental limitations to enable social encounters and foster relationships which are key aspects of health and well-being in older adults lives.

