

Forlizzi readings' Questions

This includes Forsythe, Johnston and Forlizzi documents

After reading the papers, I have decided to cover the Forsythe and Forlizzi papers with questions specifically. Please answer both:

(1) From Forsythe. Forsythe describes and reacts against common misconceptions regarding ethnography. Given what you've learned about ethnography in this paper, let's take a case study—specifically, consider the Elevator, a modern technological product. Suppose that we are going to use robotic perceptual technologies to imbue elevators with more sensing capabilities and also possibly more actuation/output possibilities. You're in charge of this project. Describe the right way to use ethnography as you begin to design your next-generation elevator. Who does the ethnography, what do you study in how people use elevators today, and what features do you think you might end up adding to elevators because of this broad-minded approach?

(2) From Forlizzi. When you read this excellent article, you will feel (I did anyway) like you have learned much more about the plight of the elderly—just what is hard for them. I am going to ask you to design a robotic device for the home of the elderly. But, I want you to do it subject to the guidelines in section 4.1. Here's the specific idea for you to start with. You want a camera system that is easily installed in the home- just plug it in and put it on the table- that allows the son or daughter of the elderly person to check in on them at home. You may add anything you want to this initial idea (speakers, arms, etc....). Explain more concretely what you would design and explain especially how it maintains the values of independence and dignity.

