

The Value of Privacy in Technical Assistance for People with Dementia: an Empirically Informed Ethical Analysis

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Background

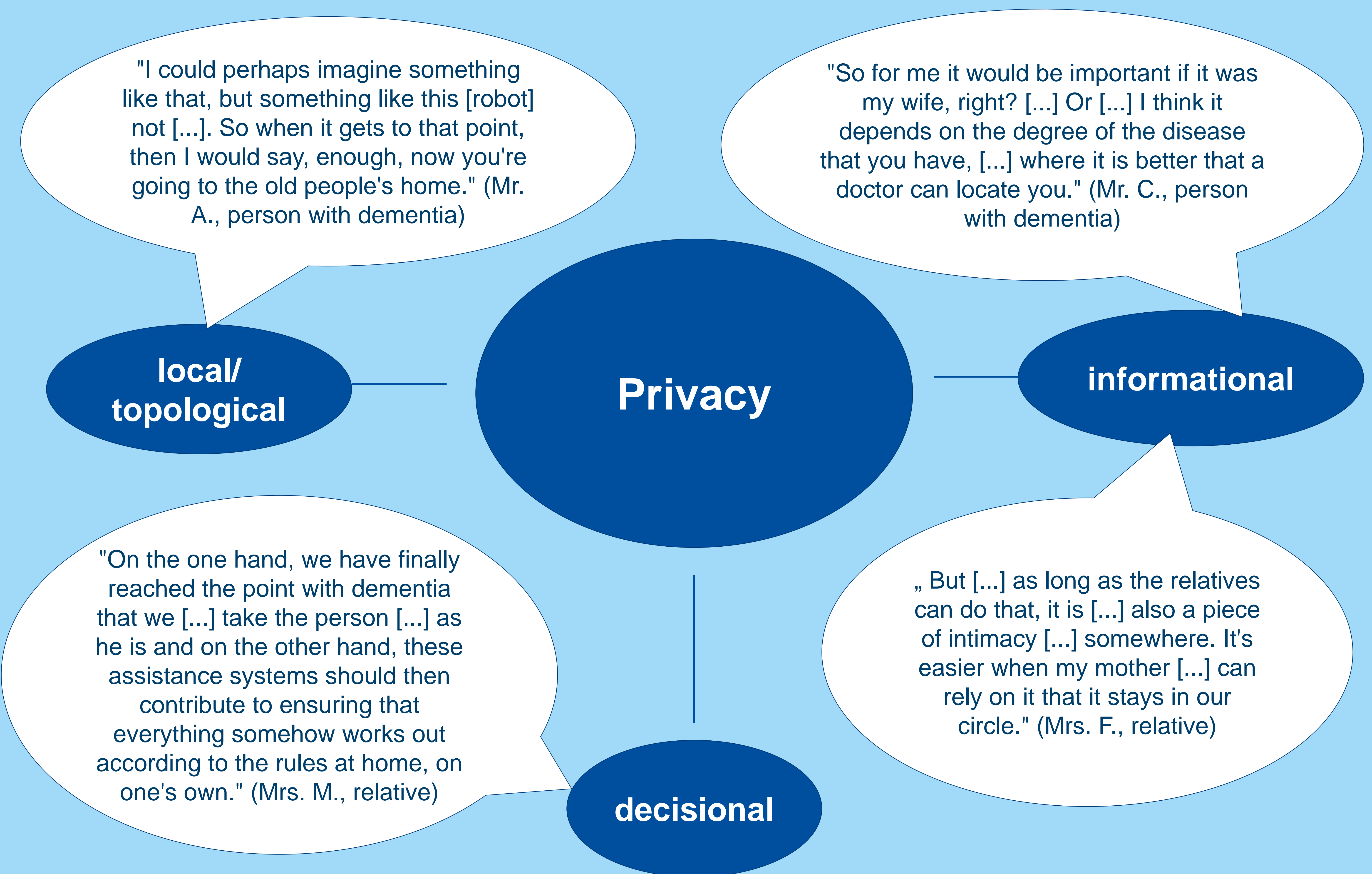
- Increasing use of technical assistance (TA) systems in the care and nursing of people with dementia.
- TA to increase user independence, self-efficacy and relieve caregiver burden
- Discussion in general care- and technology-ethical debate from the point of view of privacy

Problem and Questioning

- Privacy as the right to actively and consciously control one's own informational, local, and decisional concerns.
- Progression of cognitive impairment is associated with loss of ability to actively and consciously control
- How do people with dementia and family caregivers explicate the value of privacy in the context of TA?

Method

- Semistructured guided interviews with people with dementia and family caregivers (n=27).
- Representation of TA through illustrated case vignettes.
- Qualitative content analysis according to Mayring (2015)



Results

- Interpretation of privacy independent of autonomy by people with dementia and their family caregivers.
- Presence of TA as intrusion into local privacy in the sense of perception of one's own home
- Interference of TA in (everyday) action processes as a violation of decisional privacy - independent of the presence of autonomy ability
- Emphasis on relational dimension of informational privacy: individual control less in focus than social and medical contextual conditions

Literature:

- Rössler, Beate (2001): Der Wert des Privaten. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp.
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- Mayring, Philipp (2015): Qualitative Inhaltsanalyse. Grundlagen und Techniken. Weinheim: Beltz



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