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Keio University

Thesis Abstract

No.

Registration Number	☑ “KOU” □ “OTSU” No. *Office use only	Name	Ximing Shen

Thesis Title

Contextualising Embodied Disability Simulation through the Design and Practice of Dementia Eyes

Thesis Summary

Disability simulation has been a controversial topic in terms of its effectiveness and appropriateness in understanding the disability it simulates. As interactive technologies advance, enabling these activities to transition into digitally mediated formats, it becomes crucial to explore and guide the future usage of such simulation technologies. In this dissertation, I propose the design process and social applications of a dementia visual impairment Augmented Reality (AR) simulation. I identify dementia as an ideal scenario for disability simulation because individuals with dementia (PwD) often experience cognitive decline, which makes it difficult for them to fully articulate or communicate their experiences. By providing an in-depth account of the design process and implementation of two proof-of-concept examples, I demonstrate how an embodied disability simulation, built on the lived experiences of dementia stakeholders, can be applied within a broader user ecosystem, including older adults with cognitive concerns and caregivers, as a tool for self-reflection. The findings from this dissertation aim to inform the future applications of disability simulation activities in healthcare and educational contexts, enhancing self-reflection and the preparation for ageing-related challenges.