

Engaging, Explaining – and asking for Advice

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1. Introduction

Co-production at all levels

The SPHERE public engagement strategy recognised at the outset that the entire project would fail if it failed to account for the views of members of the public. This meant giving a voice to members of the public in matters of project governance and strategy, right down to design decisions made about the shapes of sensors and the use of machine learning.



2. Conclusions

Public attitudes to SPHERE could have presented a real risk to project outcomes, but instead they become a strength, a differentiator and a source of publications in their own right. This is unusual for an Engineering research project, and SPHERE itself has shaped EPSRC's own Public Engagement Strategy, and been a finalist in a national award for Public Engagement.

Kennedy MR, Huxtable R, Birchley G, Ives J, Craddock I. "A Question of Trust" and "a Leap of Faith"-Study Participants' Perspectives on Consent, Privacy, and Trust in Smart Home Research: Qualitative Study. JMIR Mhealth Uhealth. 2021



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