

# Psycho Club

Well-being and emotional communication in advanced dementia: The Projet Lumière

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Guest lecture hosted by Prof. Sara Mondini, Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology, University of Padova

June 20th 2025, 11.15 a.m.  
- 12.00 p.m.  
Room 2B  
via Venezia, 12 Padova

Attendance Event

<https://www.psicologia.unipd.it/psycho-club-program>



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People living with a major neurocognitive disorder encounter severe communication difficulties characterized by frequent communication breakdowns, leading to limited exchanges with caregivers, and BPSD. Previous studies in our team show that screen content with positive emotional valence promotes emotional communication, reducing the burden and strengthening empathy in caregivers of persons with dementia. The Projet LUMIÈRE aims (a) to detect markers of emotional communication within a dyad composed of a caregiver and a resident in long-term care. co-viewing film extract. Psychophysiological markers of emotional response to co-viewing were measured using portable devices, while facial expressions with non-invasive cameras and specific software. The results show within the dyad synchronization of heart rate, electrodermal activity, and facial expressions associated with joy, and so throughout the activity. Semi-structured interviews reflect improved communication and socialization and feelings of pleasure and calm within the dyad. These results highlight the potential of co-viewing as a strategy to promote emotional communication, socialization, and quality of life among people living with major neurocognitive disorders and their caregivers. Synchronization between individuals reflects a fundamental mechanism of communication, while emotional synchrony and joy, are known for strengthening empathy and well-being. The LUMIÈRE Project will provide ecological interventions to support communication, improve quality of life, and foster an empathic helping relationship between people living with major neurocognitive disorders in long-term care and their caregivers. Ongoing analyses of screen content will provide further details on the content features associated with the desired effects.

