

The Digital Divide And Cognition In Latin American Aging

#10785



I P S I B A T



**Calidad de vida
y salud mental**
de las personas mayores
en la ciudad de Mar del Plata

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Rapid digitalization creates significant functional barriers for older adults in Latin America, particularly for those with cognitive impairment. Instead of forcing vulnerable users to adapt to rigid systems, characterizing the regional digital phenotype allows us to transform everyday technology interactions into an objective neurocognitive marker, thereby facilitating the design of precise, user-centered clinical interventions.

Digitalization of Daily Life: A Compensatory Tool or a Functional Barrier for Older People?



- **Occupational Justice**

"My right to do what matters to me, digitally or in person" (Woman, 75 years old)

- **Digital Exclusion**

"The technology is too expensive to buy and too complicated to learn." (Man, 66 years old)

- **Cognitive Vulnerability**

"My brain doesn't work like it used to, and this [app] expects me to remember everything." (Man, 87 years old diagnosed with MCI)

What impact does digital literacy have on cognitive reserve and prevention in Latin America?

Can these technologies become reliable measurement tools where inequality prevails?

Accelerated
Digitalization

The Mismatch

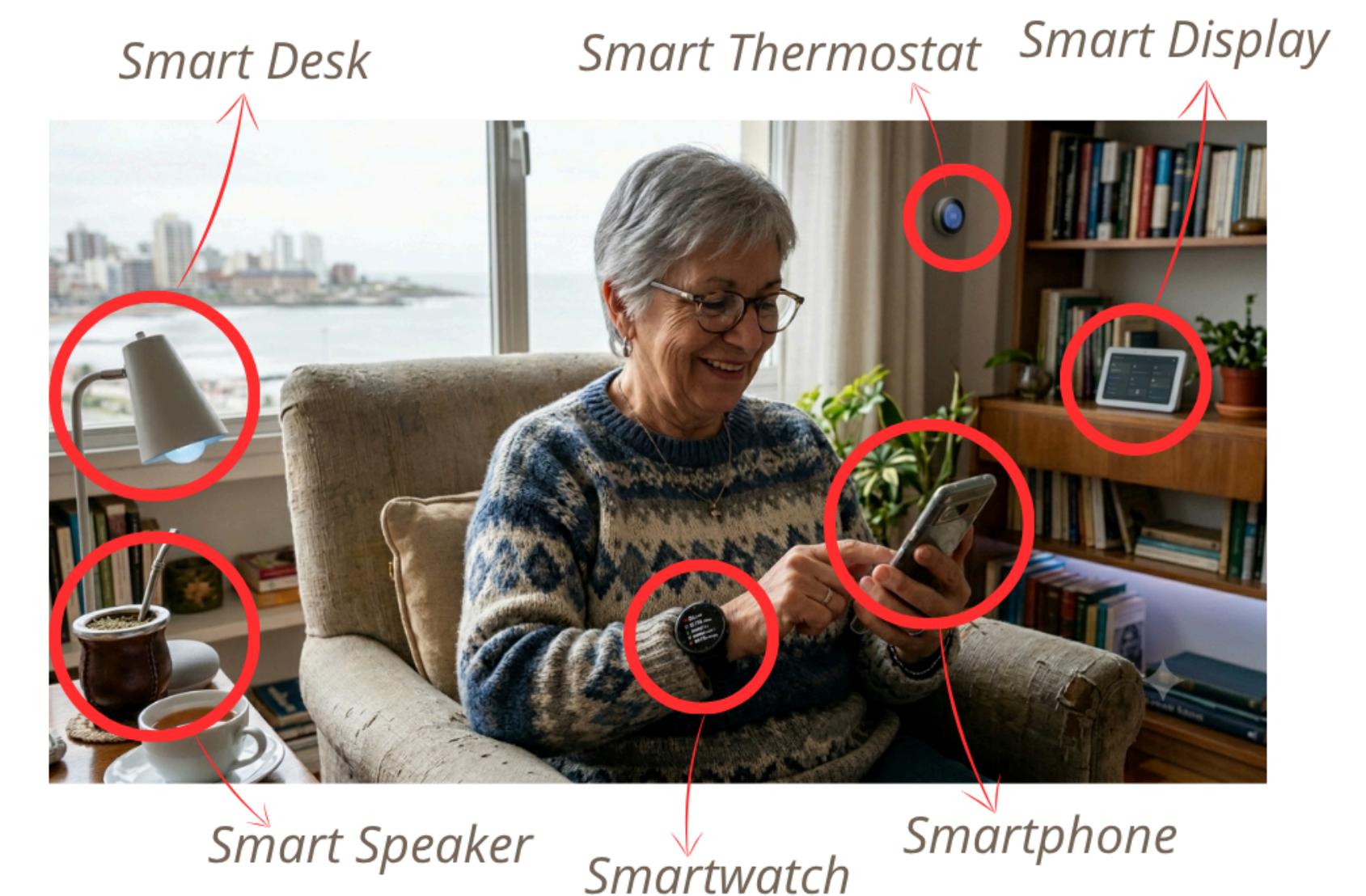
Functional and
Cognitive
Barriers

Forced virtual
transition
vs.
Functional
independence



The Latin American context is characterized by structural obstacles and material inequality.

Passive data collection is promising but exclusive? Digital Phenotype in LatAm



Characterizing behavior, usage patterns, and brain health allows us to map the interaction between technology use, cognitive variables, and functional status. This holds promise for detecting early changes associated with dementia and will enable us to design better interventions.



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