

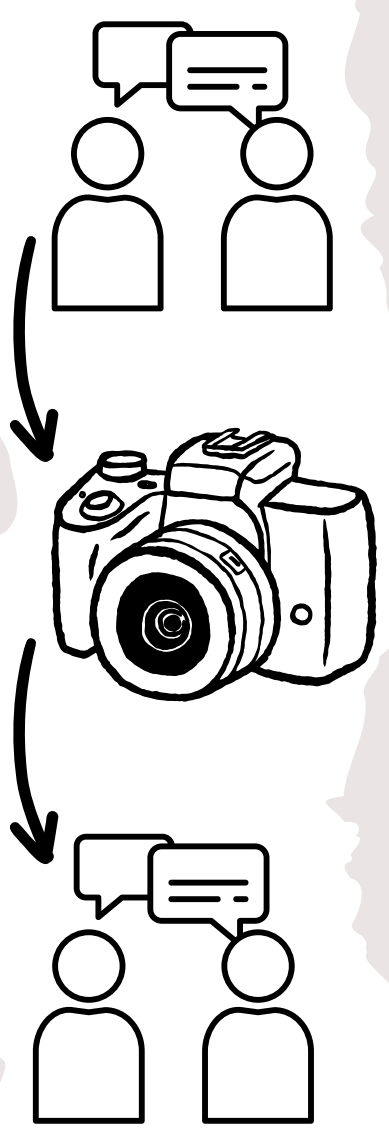
Using creative methods to explore the technology experiences of people living with dementia.

Background

- ★ Dementia research has often been situated in positivism leaving little space for research creativity and innovation.
- ★ However, creative methods of data collection and analysis provide new ways of understanding dementia experiences.
- ★ This poster reflects on some of the benefits I gained by using creative methods to study the **daily technology experiences of people living with dementia.**

Methods

Photo-elicitation Interviews



- ★ Briefing interviews (60mins)
Meet with participant to discuss study, check eligibility and capacity, sign consent, and problem solve challenges.
- ★ Take photographs (3days- 2months)
Participants take a maximum of 10 images representing their experiences of using technology.
- ★ Photo-elicitation interview (90mins)
Interview participants about their photographs

Analysis

- ★ Reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke)
Familiarisation through poetry (Glense, 1997) & reflexive journaling, coding, generating initial themes, reviewing and develop themes, refining & name themes.
- ★ Explore relationships within and between photographs and generated themes.

Poetic Transcription

Participant 1 "The IT Guy: Sonnet"

I'm the IT guy, proud of my domain,
In technology's realm, I reign supreme,
Fluent in dialect, my brain sustained,
Creating, coding, a digital dream.
Entertain, challenge, or let me escape,
I seek connections, narratives to share.
Independence preserved, my mind in shape,
In the best quality I've come to care.
Cast off your tinfoil, fear has no place here,
I offer guidance, rescue from the grey.
With newfound skills, the potential is clear,
Technology's wonders can light your way.
I'm the IT guy, my worth not a sham,
I am enabled to be who I am.

Reflexive journal extract:

There are times when I meet with participants and I feel like crying because it feels so unfair that these people - all of whom have been so enthusiastic about life, warm, engaging, and interested in my work are living with a condition that will ultimately take all of them away...

Benefits

- ✓ Photo-elicitation allowed participants some control over what technology experiences they wanted to share.
- ✓ Photo-elicitation supported communication, orientated, and helped participants stay focused on abstract topics of conversation.
- ✓ Photo-elicitation allowed me to explore technology experiences in multiple contexts which would not have been possible using other data collection methods.
- ✓ Photo-elicitation reduced participants levels of stress as they did not need to accurately recall their technology use.
- ✓ Poetry transcription deepened the 'fullness' of my analysis meaning I was representing people, not words.
- ✓ Poetry transcription allowed me to present data in a way that captures participants emotional energy.
- ✓ Reflexive journaling allowed me to be more aware of how I influenced the analytical decisions.

I struggle to keep up with it. Honestly because it's taken off...I struggle to use them. I'm finding things that interest me and that kind of thing and being in contact with people. I'd be lost without technology I think.

All this AI going on where you think you're talking to a person, but you're not, you're just talking to a robot...it's scary because there's nothing like a person.

Conclusion

- ★ Photo-elicitation interviews work well to optimise communication to create better quality and trustworthy data.
- ★ Poetry transcription is an effective way to familiarise yourself with data without reducing transcripts to just words on a page.
- ★ Creative methods improve your ability to be reflexive and encourage deeper analytical thinking by helping you understand how your own feelings and position influence your decisions.

Interested?

Contact me:

Annabel Ditton
ad919@exeter.ac.uk



University of Exeter

