

Title:

Taking the relational seriously in Design research: humanistic approaches to technological innovation in health and wellbeing

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panel abstract (500 words)

Innovation in health technologies and design research is moving at a fast pace, driven in part narratives of progress, innovation and market opportunity. This is creating a need for both the design and health sectors to build mutual understanding and capacity for working meaningfully together. However, some studies suggest that design research, including Human-Computer Interaction, does not have an overview of the different philosophies and modalities at play in health and wellbeing services, which can affect project management, ethics, and professional and client wellbeing. At the same time, the health and wellbeing sector has variable access to an overview of emerging technologies beyond what is commercially available, and hence to their potential implications for the configuration of the individual at the heart of care practices.

Technology innovation is being rapidly expanded by the rhetoric of the Internet of Things, well beyond the smart phone and tablet, to become embedded in everyday materials and objects. Narratives of disappearing tools and technology, an expanding palette of smart materials and embedded distributed systems, all challenge the implicit behavioural and cognitive models of the human that have traditionally underpinned development. Critical questions are being asked regarding user experience and agency, and the politics and ethics of tangible, embedded and networked technologies are crucial to consider.

The panel conveners have been involved in work attempting to bring relational and dialogical approaches to the design of technologies in the context of third sector mental health, and invite panelists to share how they work across the related fields of Interaction Design, Design Informatics, Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), physical computing, creative technologies, the care professions, Health Technology and Health Informatics.

The panel aims to contribute to the capacity of these sectors to work together by:

- introducing design researchers to key concepts in relational health and wellbeing practices, placing them in the broader landscape of the philosophies of the human
- introducing health and wellbeing researchers and practitioners to developments in design research, especially around participatory methodologies and the drivers of technological innovation
- airing matters of contention in relational approaches to design and care, and investigating the significant implications for research (more broadly) and development (of design technologies more specifically) of taking such approaches seriously

We cordially invite you to contribute a 500 word abstract for inclusion in the panel submission to ECQI 2019, deadline 31st August 2018. Full papers will be due in the form of 15 minute presentations at the panel event during the conference.

Selected papers will be invited for inclusion in a book proposal, currently in preparation with Routledge as part of the Design for Social Responsibility series edited by Rachel Cooper.