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(Dis)Empowering research(ers) through co-creation? Reconfiguring Researcher Identity

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PROJECT AIM

'RED Framework – Cocreating Rights Enabled by Design [RED] for IoT in Intellectual Disability'

Addresses How **'The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' (CRPD)** can be integrated into ***design practices*** and the ***Internet of Things*** (IoT), focusing specifically on applications in ***intellectual disability*** (ID).

TEAM

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Project Collaborators:
University College Cork, Queens University Belfast and 'Praxis Care'.

Why the 'RED FRAMEWORK' Project?

IoT is TRANSFORMATIONAL for People with Intellectual Disability yet…

- **Digital Technology Design for IoT overlooks People with Intellectual Disability** (Egard & Hansson, 2021)
- **Technology Designers lack Knowledge + Skillsets in integrating the 'CRPD' into design**

OBJECTIVE

Help Researchers who Design Technologies for IoT to be Inclusive to People with ID

Methodology + Methods

- **Participatory Design**

Co-Creation Workshops Involving:

- **Research Team:** Co-Researchers with ID, STEM + Social Science Researchers.
- **Participants:** STEM + Social Science Researchers.
- **Participants:** People with ID.

Empowering research(ers) through Co-Creation?

Participatory Design Is Inclusive

"Users, designers, and researchers collaborate toward shared goals"

(Bødker et al., 2021. p.3)



Commitment to Democracy | **Empowerment Concern** | **Emancipatory Practices** | **All humans Skilful & Resourceful**

(Bødker et al., 2021)

Address Research(ers) Power Imbalances

- **Academic Cultural Shift:** Researchers with ID contribute to be ***abstract*** tasks (e.g. theory building) along with practical. (Stevenson (2014) in Di Lorito, et al., 2018)
- **Facilitating and empowering researchers with ID may be difficult** as people with ID can be accustomed to cultures **unsupportive of their independent thinking** (Di Lorito, et al., 2018)
- To empower and accommodate co-researchers with ID, and benefit stakeholders, there is a need for **adequate infrastructure** (Di Lorito et al, 2018)
- Empowering co-researchers with ID surrounding their **control of the process of research and findings reporting** can be problematic. Complying with co-researcher **choices and interests** can be beneficial (e.g. research location, problems & participants). (Cwirynkało et al.,2024)
- A need for increased focus upon how **co-researchers with ID voices** can be heard within the context of formal academia. (Strnadová and Walmsley, 2018)

Expected Outputs

- **Novel Framework** Mapping Inclusive Design Practice to 'CRPD'
- **Learning Module/Toolkit** Inclusive Design for IoT technology
- **Seal of Quality Tool** Designers self-assess their Practice
- **Methodological Innovation** In Co-Creation Methods

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Inclusion

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