

## **Announcement of Streams at the ISAAC 2016 Research Symposium (provisional program information)**

Chair of the Symposium: A/Prof Bronwyn Hemsley, The University of Newcastle, NSW Australia  
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Delegates can choose **one** of three options (Short titles, see following pages for full descriptions)

Option A: 1. Designing for Expression, Identity, and Exploration in AAC; OR

Option B: 2. Language - Multicultural/Ethnographic Considerations; OR

Option C: 3. Social Media and AAC (Day 1) and 4. Identifying symbolic AAC for children (Day 2).

### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAM - ISAAC Research Symposium 2016**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016</b>
<b>9.00am</b>	Registration and refreshments	<b>9.00am</b>	Registration and refreshments
<b>9.30am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	Keynote Prof Jeff Higginbotham Plenary panel response: Stream leaders	<b>9.30am</b>	Concurrent streams 1. Design   2. Language   4. Symbols
<b>11.00</b>	Morning tea (and coffee too)	<b>11.00am</b>	Morning tea (and coffee too)
<b>11.30am</b>	Concurrent streams 1. Design   2. Language   3. Social media	<b>11.30am</b>	Concurrent streams 1. Design   2. Language   4. Symbols
<b>1.00pm</b>	Lunch Early/mid career researcher meeting	<b>1.00pm</b>	Lunch Stream leaders' meeting
<b>2.00pm -</b> <b>3.15pm</b>	Concurrent streams 1. Design   2. Language   3. Social media	<b>2.00pm -</b> <b>3.00pm</b>	Closing: Plenary on AAC Research priorities/agenda/outcomes
<b>3.15pm</b>	--- Stretch break ---		
<b>3.30pm</b>	Concurrent streams 1. Design   2. Language   3. Social media		
<b>5.00pm</b>	Pre-dinner drinks/networking		
<b>6.30pm</b>	Dinner at a restaurant near the venue		

#### **Who can attend?**

Anyone! The research symposium warmly welcomes participation by any member of the diverse AAC community. The AAC research symposium will interest people who have a curiosity about AAC research, wish to inform new directions in AAC research, or are already engaged in AAC research. A stronger AAC research community relies on increased engagement with many different people who have a variety of experiences, knowledge, and insights to share. Presenters are aware that delegates may or may not have a background in research and will make their materials meaningful to all present, and will draw upon the expertise of delegates in stream discussions.

#### **What to expect:**

- **Connect and build networks** - Use many opportunities here to meet, talk to, and engage with AAC researchers to strengthen your local and international networks.
- **Keynote** Hear an inspiring keynote from Professor Jeff Higginbotham set to stimulate new directions in AAC design and implementation.
- **Plenary panel** Respond to the keynote, with a panel stimulating audience engagement on addressing barriers to and facilitators to implementing new directions in AAC.
- **Meet** with early/mid career researchers in the field of AAC: All are welcome in support of our emerging researchers and building capacity in AAC research.
- **Stream Sessions** Choose one of the streams to engage with presenters and audience members and inform future directions in AAC research.
- **Final plenary panel** Hear an overview and gain new understandings of AAC research.

**OPTION A: DESIGN (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016)**

**Title:** Designing for Expression, Identity and Exploration in AAC  
**Leader:** Jeff Higginbotham  
**Co Presenters:** Jeff Higginbotham, Rupal Patel, Graham Pullin, and Jutta Treviranus

This 1.5 day symposium brings together four researchers in the AAC area who have been exploring issues of designing for Assistive Technology and AAC throughout most of their careers. Designing for communication represents more than ensuring access to words and utterances, but finding ways to enable individuals to “stay in the timestream”, to “be onself”, and to have an original voice. The symposium will focus on examining contemporary issues and techniques in contemporary design and their application to designing technologies for augmentative communication. Each presentation will address overlaps between our research interests and will be presented in the form of a dialogue, as well as including workshop participants. In addition we plan two sessions: one at midday and one at the end of the day which will focus on participant responses to the presentations.

**voices and tones of voice (Patel & Pullin)**

Voice - giving someone a voice, in the broadest sense - is fundamental to AAC. Device to device, it is now recognised that speech generating devices need a choice of voices, to allow a degree of individuality and also to represent someone’s identity. Wonderful progress has and is being made in voices that represent gender, age, accent, language and other aspects of cultural identity [e.g. VocalID]. Utterance to utterance, advances in speech technology are opening up the possibility of high fidelity speech with more expressive intonation and prosody. Yet how a person using AAC might interact with nuanced tone of voice is still a frontier of AAC design and research [e.g. Tonetable]. What if these were two ends of a spectrum? Conversation to conversation, don’t we typically adopt different voices in different company, contexts and circumstances? [e.g. Speech Hedge] We will explore how taking a broad perspective of the role of the voice in conveying social identity and enabling social interaction might open up new research directions in AAC and beyond.

**inclusive design and research (Treviranus & Pullin)**

Inclusive design is something the field of AAC signs up to in principle (“Nothing about us without us”). But what does it mean in practice? We will explore a landscape of different methodologies and methods, including co-design, participatory design, personas, design ethnography, experience prototyping and critical design [e.g. Finding My Words, How does AAC fit into a broader context of inclusive design? Where is it unrepresented and why? Where is it pioneering practice that could be applied more widely in inclusive design and design in general?

**interaction design for social interaction (Higginbotham, Patel, Pullin, Treviranus)**

Interaction design involves more than the design of user interfaces. It is about our interactions with each other, through technology. We will explore the role of the design of AAC devices and how this influences social interactions: by encouraging co-creation, deferring to eye-to-eye contact and body language, alluding to ubiquitous consumer electronics (and so reducing differentiation and possibly stigma). How can we engage with the temporal dimension of interaction design (where interaction really comes into its own in relation to product design and graphic design)? How might we design for joint attention, communication repair, turntaking, multi-modal communication? Presenters will discuss issues related to using social interaction as the basis for generating design goals and creating technologies to address interaction problems.

**OPTION B: LANGUAGE (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016)**

**Title: Multicultural and wider social contexts that frame AAC parent perspectives: what professionals need to consider. (1.5 days, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> August)**

**Leaders: Stephen von Tetzchner, Judith Oxley**

**Co-Presenters: Claire Penn, Kathryn Drager, Nimisha Muttiah, Xueyun Su, Monica Kaniamattam, Kristine Stadskleiv, Debora Deliberato, and Juan Bornman**

This symposium includes several AAC researchers and practitioners leading and presenting on ethnographic considerations affecting AAC implementation and research. A person with complex communication needs develops and lives within a family unit, a community, and a wider society. Despite commonalities in the human experience, there remain important differences arising from particular social circumstances. Numerous professionally-driven AAC research and training initiatives facilitate a deeper understanding of what it means to be a parent or caregiver to someone with complex communication needs and how this role is shaped by wider social and cultural beliefs and circumstances. While AAC is seen as important and primary by many stakeholders, including professionals, it is but one of many needs in the lives of families across the world. What is needed is a clearer understanding of the individual and family members' perspectives and priorities, and how issues beyond AAC itself shape them.

Anthropological approaches are particularly well-suited to studying these issues and also the way clusters of issues interconnect and influence people at the level of society and the family. Without these insights, professionals may miss what is important to families, and fail to develop and deliver language assessment and training programs relevant to the local society. In the long run, the people with complex communication needs may lose the most when opportunities for communication are missed. Through this symposium, both senior and early career researchers will share different research techniques, with a focus on anthropological findings, to enrich the AAC research community and establish wider collaboration among all delegates. This 1.5 day symposium comprises presentations from eight AAC researchers, each delivering ethnographic considerations affecting AAC implementation and research globally. The facilitators Stephen von Tetzchner and Judith Oxley will moderate the presentations and discussions, to draw the several strands of meaning offered in the presentations together. Each of the short presentations will include 30 minutes discussion with delegates, so that by the end of the symposium important conclusions can be drawn into the overarching 'ethnographic research' theme, to guide future AAC research.

1. Claire Penn [To Be Confirmed] (South Africa) AAC and culture.
2. Kathryn Drager (United States) Partner training: addressing critical needs of individuals with CCN in low & middle income countries [Authors: Kathryn Drager & Nimisha Muttiah]
3. Xueyun Su (China) [To Be Confirmed] Parents' attitude and needs toward using AAC in China
4. Monica Kaniamattam (India) Relocation for rehabilitation: the lived experiences of parents of children with complex communication needs
5. Kristine Stadskleiv (Norway) Experiences from a Norwegian support group for families of preschool children in the expressive AAC user group
6. Debora Deliberato (Brazil) Brazilian parents' attitudes and use of augmentative and alternative communication systems
7. Juan Bornman (South Africa) Stopping the violence against people with disabilities: an international perspective.
8. Suresh Poovathinal. (India). [To be confirmed]. Augmentative and Alternative Communication in children with developmental disabilities through parental training: A multidisciplinary approach.

**OPTION C (Social Media ; Symbols)**

**3. Title: Symposium on AAC Social Media Research (1 day, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016)**  
**Leader: Bronwyn Hemsley**  
**Co-Presenters: Bronwyn Hemsley, Helen Paterson, Amanda Hynan**

To date, social media research in the field of AAC has primarily focused upon the views and experiences of people who use AAC in relation to social media use, and ways to support people who use AAC in learning to use social media. Very little AAC research has (a) explored what occurs in social media spaces and AAC communities online, (b) actively utilized public or private social media data in examining how people who use AAC use social media, or (c) used public social media data to explore other AAC research questions. Therefore, in AAC research to date there is an over-reliance on people's reporting of AAC and social media use, and an under-utilisation of evidence about that use which is available in the social media data. In this symposium, the audience will be engaged in considering aspects of 'publicity' and 'privacy' for people engaged in online interactions, that impact on the ethical conduct of research in social media in the field of AAC. The audience will consider a range of research questions, in the context of various data collection and analysis methodologies that might be applied in developing AAC research, and their legal and ethical implications.

**4. Title: Identifying appropriate symbol communication aids for children: enhancing clinical decision-making (1/2 day symposium, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016)**  
**Leader: Janice Murray**  
**Co-presenters: Janice Murray, Liz Moulam, Martine Smith**

This symposium will present and discuss rationale, design, and implementation issues regarding to a research project underway in the United Kingdom on the prescription of symbol communication systems for children. This 3 year study investigates clinical decision making when prescribing symbol communication aids for children. The output of the research will be evidence-based best-practice resources and a decision-making heuristic for professionals and families involved in future assessment and provision processes. As well as hearing about how the presenters' research project developed (rationale, design, expected outcomes), delegates will learn about the state of the science on (i) speech and language development (ii) communication aid attributes and (iii) clinical decision making and prescription. These interlinked reviews of current AAC evidence will be used to stimulate small group discussions on future AAC research involving children, adults, and families. Presenters and delegates will also consider the project's expected outcomes and explore potential implications and application of the results to policy and practice. The symposium discussions will be used to check the strength and triangulate findings of the systematic reviews, and that all appropriate methodologies are considered for the research to be undertaken with children and adults who use AAC and their families. Delegates will obtain helpful insights on building a rationale for funding of AAC research that delivers benefits to policy and practice in AAC.