

Information about the research project

Thank you for showing interest in this research project!

I am Caroline and I am doing research in the field Ethics of Technology. We reflect on the impact of (new) technologies on the world, our life, the environment etc. Technologies can change our life for better or worse, or both at the same time! My work is part of a big program funded by the NWO (for more information about this program visit www.esdit.nl).

The project I am working on focusses on Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) Technologies. I am interested in how AAC technologies can be empowering but perhaps also be limiting. And how they can promote empathy and connection, but also perhaps cause stigmatization and “othering”. Central to this investigation is the first-hand knowledge of AAC technology users. That is why am conducting interviews to listen to and learn from actual daily life experiences relating to this research topic.

Project goals

1. Learn how AAC technologies (can) change daily life, relationships and one’s position in society (for better and/or worse)
2. Pinpoint areas for improvement in the design and implementation of AAC technologies, to make their impact as positive as can be

What to expect as a participant

Procedure

This project involves individual interviews that will happen digitally. The interviews will be asynchronous, which means that you don’t have to answer to questions in the moment, but you can reply when it suits you.

Step 1. If you decide to participate, you will receive a list of questions about your experiences with AAC technologies. You can take your time to respond. After two weeks I’ll send a gentle reminder. If this is too long or too short for you, please let me know your preferences!

Step 2. To make sure I understand you properly, I might send follow up questions.

Step 3. After analysis of the answers I will come back to you again to check whether you agree with the main themes I found in my interpretations of your answers (which is called “member-check”).

At any point you can decide you no longer would like to participate in the research, and/or would like me to remove all your data and not use them for research.

What would be expected of you

Your answers can be as short and long as you want. They can be broad and general, but can also include specific anecdotes, interaction with an object etc. The preferred languages are English and Dutch. You

can, but don't have to, use written language to express your experiences exclusively. So if desired, you are free to add pictures, videos, paintings, music etc.

You don't have to answer all the questions right away. You can answer a few right away and leave some for later, for example. If there is a question you'd rather not answer, that is completely fine! Please indicate your preference, so that I won't send you a reminder because I thought you had forgotten or overlooked a question. If you change your mind and want to answer the question at a later stage after all, that is also completely fine.

Data protection

You can choose to either share your answers with me by uploading them to a protected SURFdrive folder that I will set up for you, or by directly responding to my e-mails. If you want to send them by e-mail, please note that your e-mail provider (such as gmail, hotmail or yahoo) is also holding your responses, and they are not fully protected.

All collected data will be stored in a thoroughly protected data storage until 6 months after publication, conform the guidelines of Delft University of Technology. Your literal answers will not be made publicly available. However, the results from the totality of interviews will be made available upon publication. If you indicate so on the consent form, I will ask for additional explicit consent if I would want to use an anonymous quote from you in research output.