

**Dr Grant Gibson**

**Lecturer in Dementia Studies, University of Stirling**

**"How do people with dementia and their carers make assistive technology work for them: Innovation, personalisation and bricolage"**

**Seminar Presentation**

In the United Kingdom, assistive technologies (AT) are being 'mainstreamed' within dementia care services. However, there is still little understanding about how people with dementia use either these technologies, or access the services that provide them. This seminar examines findings from an NIHR study of services to people with dementia in primary care, to explore issues around the uses of assistive technologies by people with dementia and their carers. Qualitative, in-depth semi-structured interviews with 29 people with dementia and their carers explored their experiences of using AT within their everyday lives to identify facilitators and barriers to their use. Participants actively combined AT in diverse ways with everyday items such as sticky notes used as signs, other everyday objects or even novelty devices, to networking smartphones and tablets within bespoke telecare systems, to provide care in often individual, personalised and innovative ways. Such uses can be termed 'bricolage' combining devices in diverse ways often differing from their original design. Grant will consider a range of factors influencing the bricolage-based use of technology in dementia care including informal carers' actions as bricoleurs, or a lack of awareness of AT products or methods for people with dementia, carers and GPs to access AT through formal services within inflexible systems. How people with dementia and carers engage in bricolage when using AT, and how services can mobilise these experiences demands more attention and understanding if we are to provide truly person-centred technology-enabled dementia care services.

**Brief Biography**

Dr Grant Gibson is a social gerontologist and Lecturer in Dementia Studies on the Dementia Studies MSc at the Faculty of Social Sciences. This MSc is among the world's leading Dementia Studies postgraduate programmes. Grant teaches on other courses including Dementia and the Environment and Research and Evaluation in Dementia Care. He has been a researcher in dementia care for over 12 years, with particular interests in the design and implementation of AT for people with dementia within routine care, user perspectives relating to technology in dementia care, and mainstreaming of non-pharmacological interventions (including technology) within dementia care. His wider interests include embodiment, masculinity and the subjective experience of chronic illness in older age. Grant's PhD used embodied perspectives to explore the intersection of age and gender in men's experiences of living with Parkinson's disease. Grant is currently co-investigator on the Life Changes Trust-funded project 'A Good Life in Later Years', which uses co-production to explore essential characteristics of a 'good life' for older people in Scotland.

**For further information contact:** [sally.beet@uea.ac.uk](mailto:sally.beet@uea.ac.uk)

**Tel:** 01603 591212 <https://www.uea.ac.uk/health-sciences/school-seminars>

**Free. All welcome. No need to book. If you are attending from outside the University, please check the seminar is taking place. If in the event of a fire you need assistance please contact us to arrange a Personalised Emergency Evacuation Plan.**

**Please note: Edith Cavell Building is NOT on the main university campus, it is near Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Use postcode NR4 7UL for satnav purposes. Reception will advise about parking: 01603 597001**