

# Social participation in dementia

Citation for published version (APA):

Heins, P. (2024). *Social participation in dementia: Experiences and the role of technology through an occupational lens*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20240314ph>

## Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2024

## DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20240314ph](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20240314ph)

## Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

## Please check the document version of this publication:

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## PROPOSITIONS

belonging to the dissertation

### **Social participation in dementia** *Experiences and the role of technology through an occupational lens*

1. Social participation is a dynamic concept with many aspects, of which at the moment, at best, only partial aspects are measured. *(this dissertation)*
2. The concept of the shrinking world unnecessarily contributes to the stigma surrounding dementia and should therefore be revised. *(this dissertation)*
3. Maintaining independence in social participation paradoxically requires people with dementia to accept support from others. *(this dissertation)*
4. There is insufficient evidence of the effectiveness of technological interventions in improving social participation among people with dementia. *(this dissertation)*
5. Fostering social participation for people with dementia involves adjusting familiar environments and activities, rather than creating new settings and activities exclusively for people with dementia.
6. The involvement of an occupational therapist should be an integral part of care for everyone diagnosed with dementia.
7. The rapid evolution of technology limits the effectiveness of traditional research designs, like Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs), in providing up-to-date and high-quality evidence.
8. The potential of technology in dementia highlighted in research contrasts with its real-world application in the daily lives of people with dementia.
9. The key to advancing research often comes in the form of a cup of coffee.
10. A PhD journey is like a grand adventure – you begin with a map and a plan, only to find that the real treasures are the unexpected challenges and friendships along the way.

*Pascale Heins, 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2024*