

# Research partnerships for improving older care residents' quality of life

Prof. dr. Jan Hamers

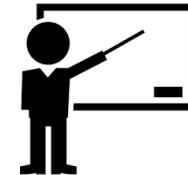
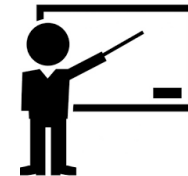
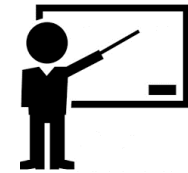
Dr. Reena Devi

Prof. dr. Carl Thompson

Prof. dr. Hilde Verbeek

Prof. dr. Karen Spilsbury

# Living Lab in Ageing & Long-Term Care 1998-2022



# Living Lab in Ageing & Long-Term Care 1998-2022



- Structural collaboration between universities and care organizations
  - Maastricht University, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, and Gilde & Vista Intermediate Vocational Training Institutes
  - 9 long-term care organisations providing professional home care and nursing home care (>185 care locations; 27.000 staff; 50.000 clients)
- Mission
  - Contribute to 1) quality of life, 2) quality of care and 3) quality of work
- Successful replication of model in UK: NICHE Leeds

# Key characteristics of the Model



- Interdisciplinarity
- Scientific and practice-based linking pins
- Citizen and team science
- Topics that matter

# Program



## I. The Model

- The recipe of partnership success
- The role of the Scientific Linking Pin

Prof. Karen Spilsbury  
Dr. Reena Devi

## II. Illustrations of topics that matter

- Contact tracing, quality and COVID19 in care homes
- Innovative dementia care environments

Prof. dr. Carl Thompson  
Prof. dr. Hilde Verbeek

## III. Discussion

# The recipe for partnership success

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**NICHE**  
Nurturing Innovation in Care  
Home Excellence in Leeds



living lab  
in ageing and  
long-term care



# Exchange visit: partnerships between care and science

**FOCUS ON RESIDENTS**

**Quality of care**

**Quality of life**

**Quality of work**



**INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION**



## Listening

Addressing problems that matter most for residents and their families/ friends, care home staff and senior operational managers and executives

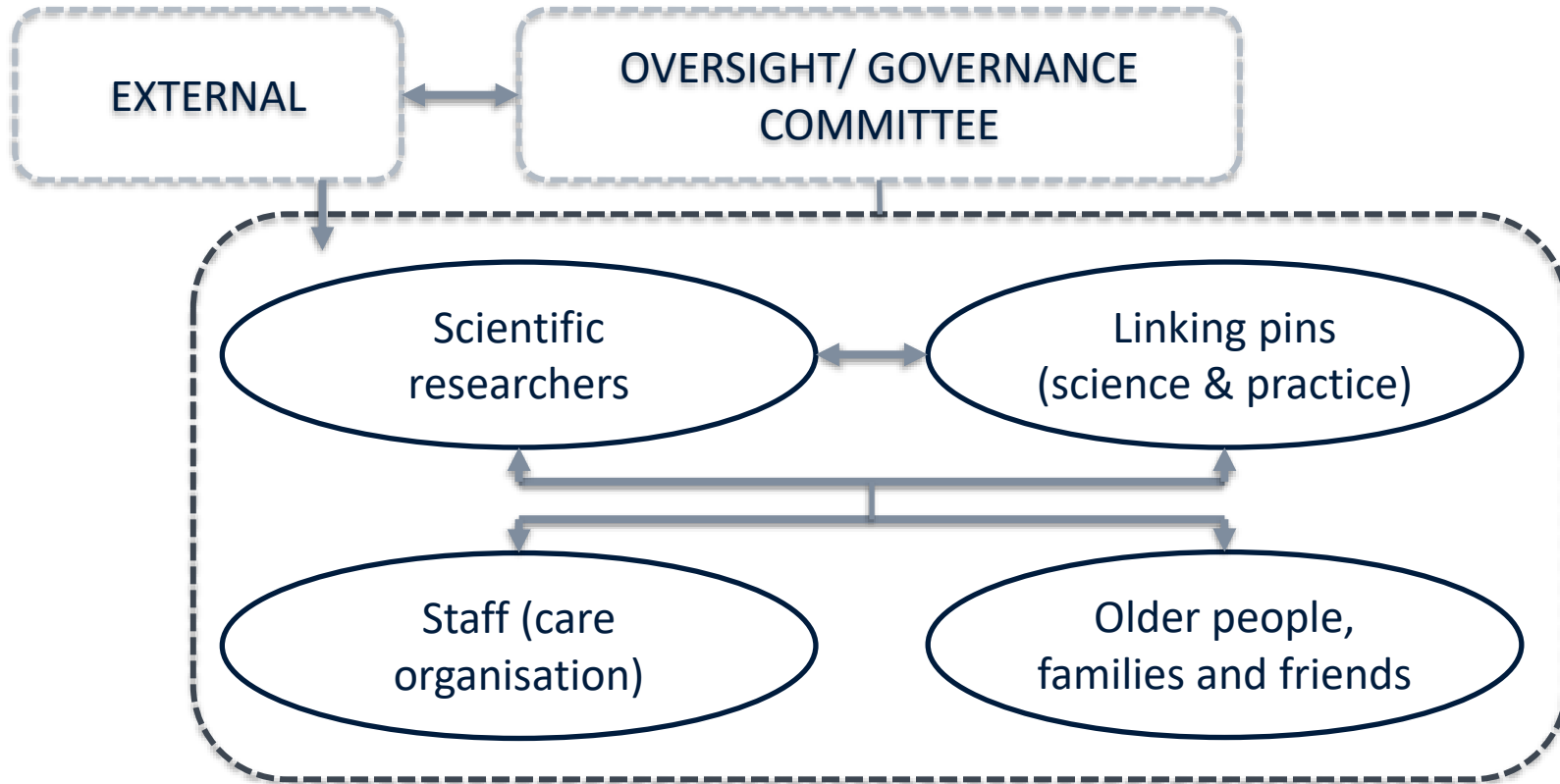
## Doing

Undertaking research and development that meets the highest scientific standards, that is internationally excellent, but that is accessible to and useful for care homes

## Offering

Offering sustainable solutions, developed jointly through care and science

# Organisational structure



# Key ingredients

## Relationship-based

Shared values, aims and goals  
Understanding needs & drivers  
Mutual respect  
Trust  
Open communication  
Building collaborations

## Practical

Taking time  
Agreed governance  
Adequate funding  
Specified deliverables & timelines  
Delivering as promised  
Inclusive involvement & engagement

## “The glue”

Mutual benefit  
Flexibility and adaptability  
Sharing success and credit  
Credible leaders

# What does 'success' in the partnership look like?

Equal opportunity for  
all individuals to  
engage

Mutual gain and  
benefits (individuals  
and organisations)

Embedding evidence-  
based solutions for the  
benefit of people

Demonstrable impact  
of enhanced quality of  
care, life and/ or work

Continuity:  
commitment and  
investment

Wider impact, value  
and recognition of the  
partnership

**The views expressed are those of the authors** and not necessarily those of any of our funders.

**There are no known conflicts of interest.**

**With thanks to participants of exchange visit (4 to 6 May, Leeds, UK)**

**Science:** Karen Spilsbury, Jan Hamers, Hilde Verbeek, Reena Devi, Carl Thompson, Kirsty Haunch, Magda Jordao, Sil Aarts, Petra Erkens, Irma Everink, Judith Urlings

**Care:** Peter Hodgkinson, Paul Torrance, Magda Duzniak, Lisa Heaton, Graeme Lee, Angela Randle, Jennie Fieldhouse, Iria Cunha, Guido Biesmans, Anne Gulpers,

**Family members:** Karen Winterburn, Edna Feenan, Erwin Maes



# Bridging the gap between science and care: a qualitative exploration of Scientific Linking Pins working in research and practice partnerships

Dr Reena Devi

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Scientific Linking Pin, NICHE-Leeds



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# Background and study aim



- One key role in care and science partnerships is the role of Scientific Linking Pins (SLPs)

Aim: to explore:

- the experiences of researchers working as SLPs
- the content of their work
- the impact of their work
- the challenges and opportunities faced

# Methods



- Design & data collection: qualitative descriptive study, semi-structured interviews
- Participants: n=15, current and former SLPs working in NICHE-Leeds and Living Lab with at least one year experience
- Data analysis: thematic analysis
- Ethical approval: Maastricht University, Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Science Research Ethical Committee (FHML-REC/2021/083)



# Results



## Overarching theme 1: general experience of SLPs

- Close connection to practice and having an impact
- Professional and academic growth
- Experiencing doubts and insecurities

*“People in practice sometimes think academics are in ivory towers and have no idea about what happens in practice. Linking Pins are important because they know both”*

*Being embedded in care home organisations also helps with grant applications. I got ideas from a care home director, and now we have a whole EU project on it*

*“When I started I had absolutely no idea about my goals and what I was doing”*

## Overarching theme 2: varied and mixed roles of SLPs



living lab  
in ageing and  
long-term care



**Develop relationships**

**Raise awareness**

**Identify priorities and  
generate research  
questions**

**Build an innovation  
committee**

**Broker knowledge**

**Develop & carry out  
research studies**

**Assist with internal  
projects**

**Build links and  
connections**

**Generate academic  
outputs**

# Conclusions, implications and future work



- First study to describe the SLP role
- SLPs perceived a wide range of benefits to their role
- SLPs described some challenges, and how these are overcome
- Implications :
  - Our findings can be used to develop a role description
  - SLPs can use these findings to help them to be effective
  - the skills and expertise required to work as a SLP are implied
- Future research: 1) explore other key roles 2) examine the nature of interaction between themes and outcomes gained

## The study team



**Irma Everink**



**Judith Urlings**



**Alys Griffiths**



**Hilde Verbeek**



**Kirsty Haunch**



**Karen Spilsbury**



**Jan Hamers**

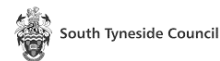


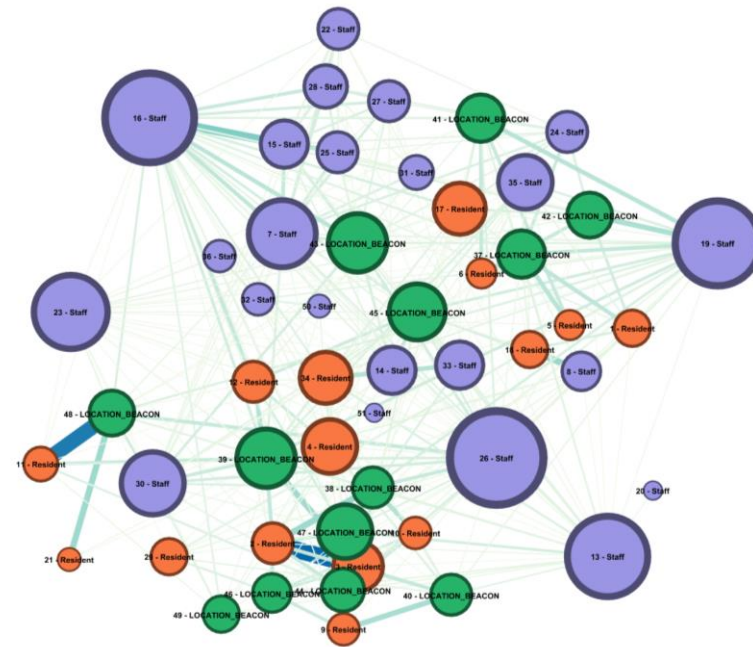
**Reena Devi**

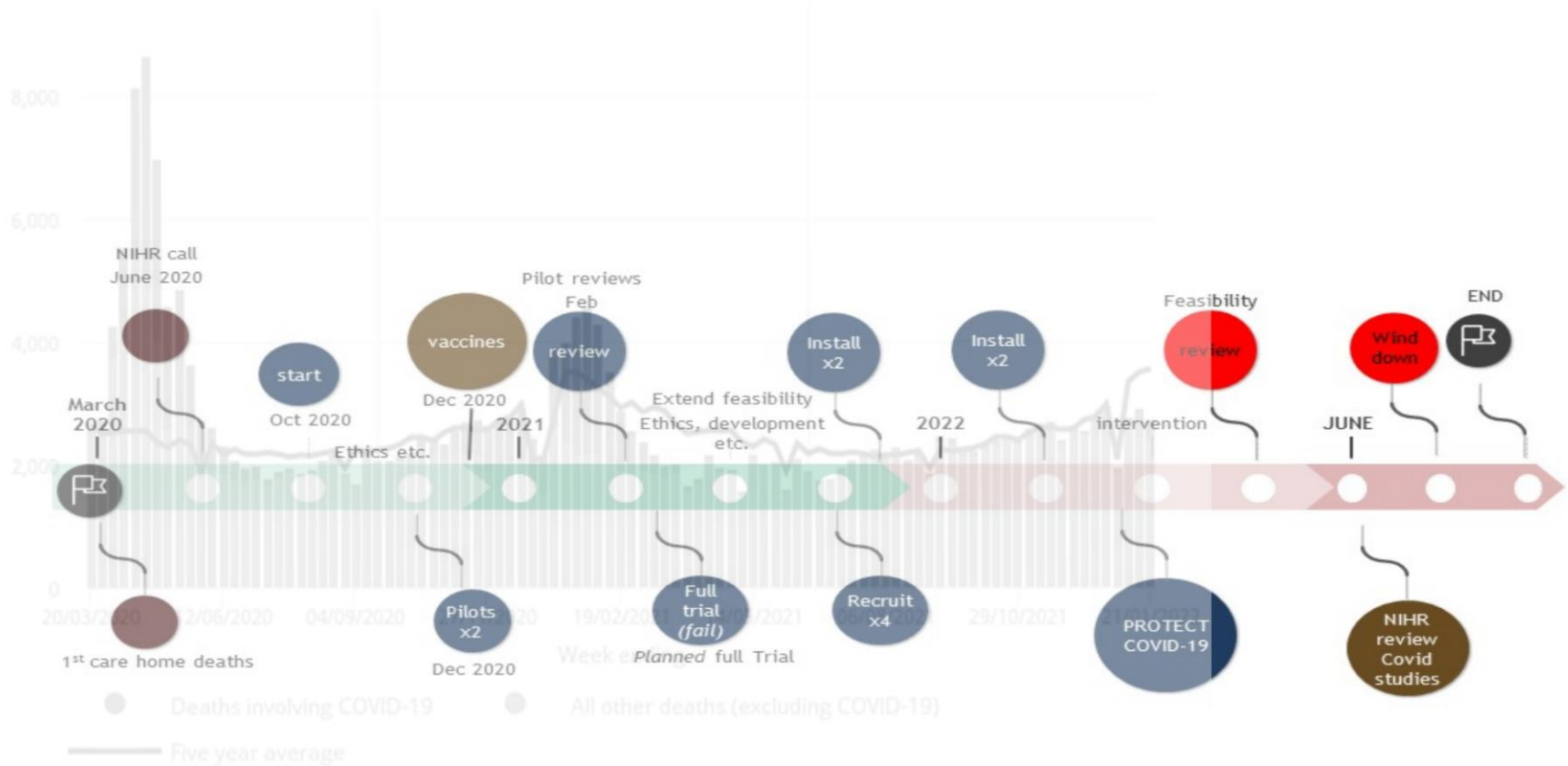


# Contact Tracing in Care Homes using Digital Technology (CONTACT)

Professor Carl Thompson (PI) on behalf of the CONTACT research team

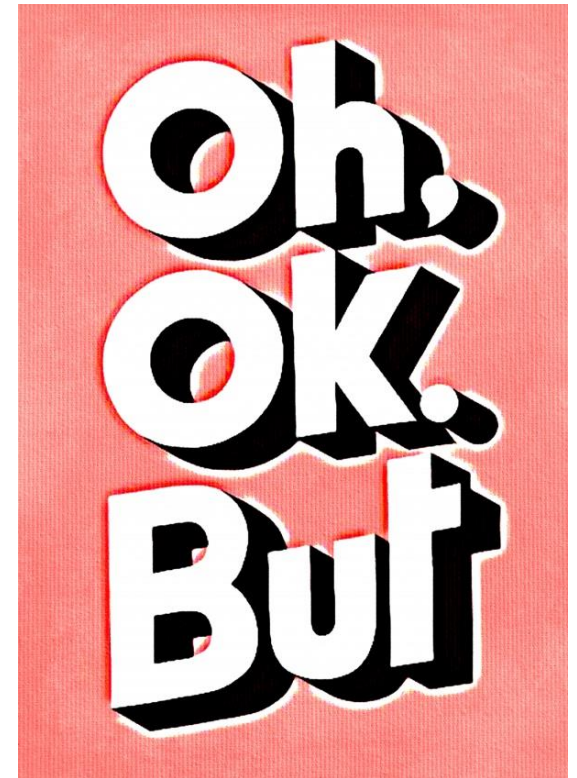
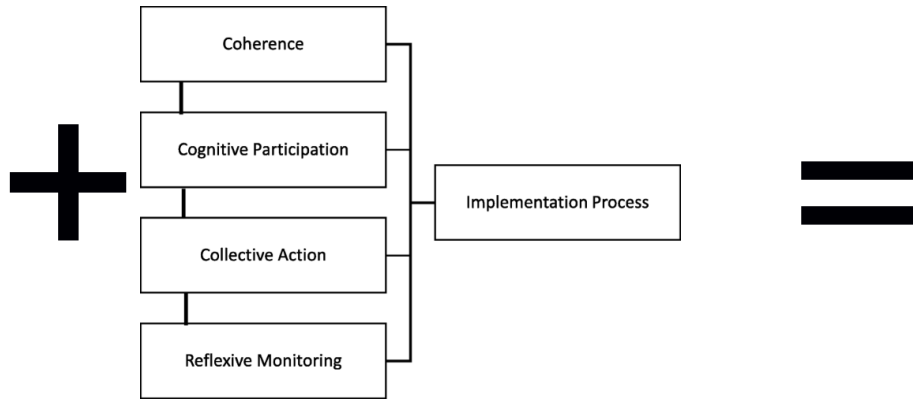
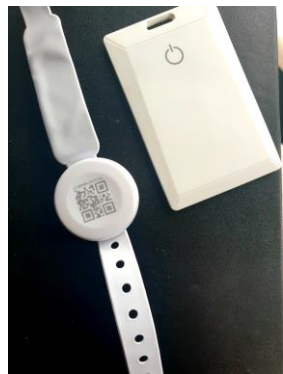








Effectiveness = tech *plus* implementation

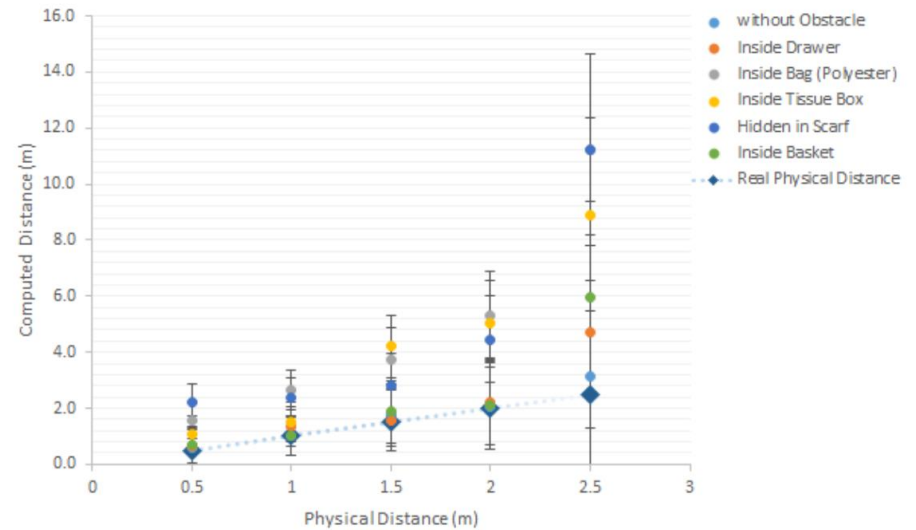
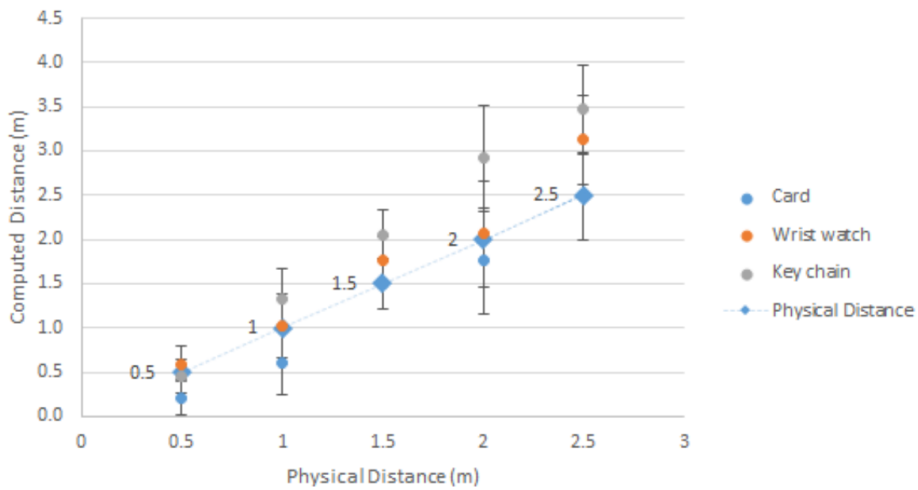






# The *Technology*: does it work?

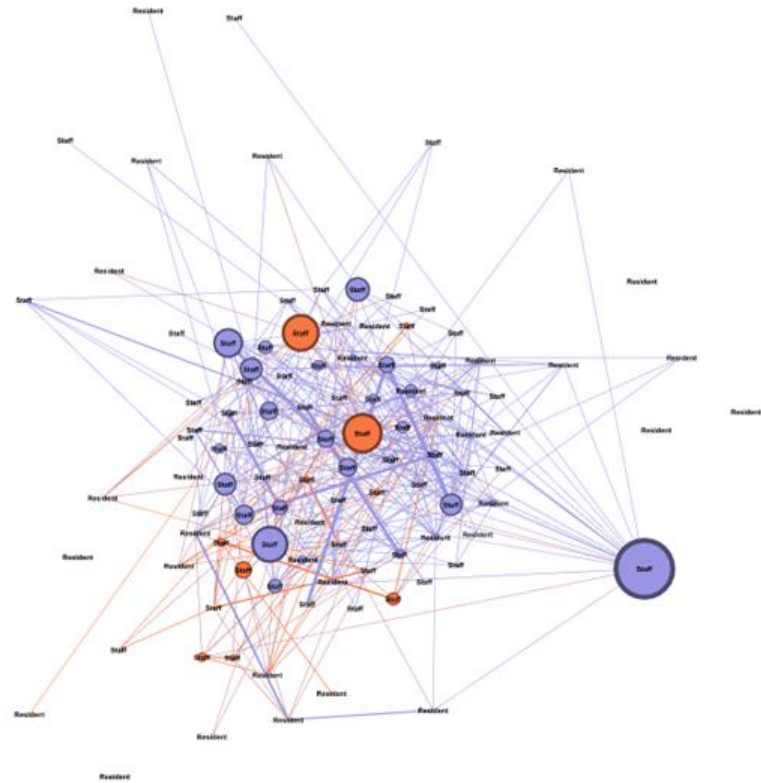
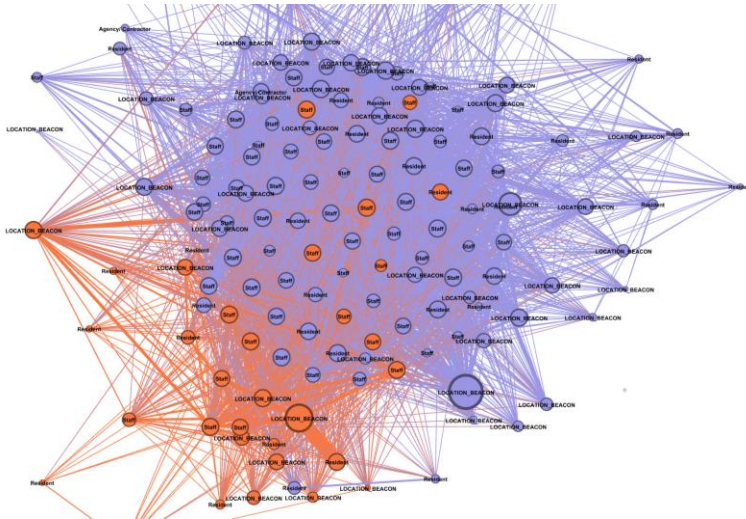
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# One size does not fit all



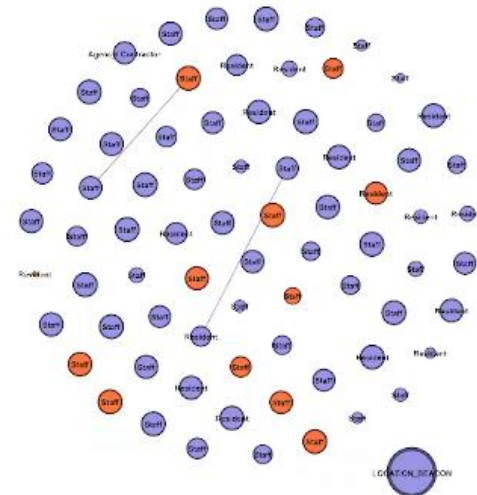
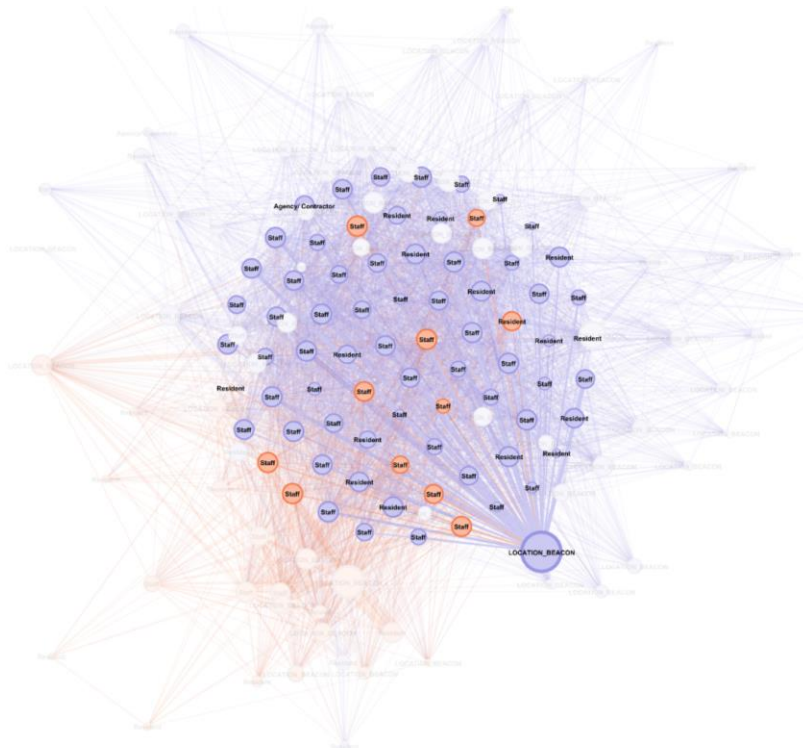
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# “dynamic” homes and reflexive quality



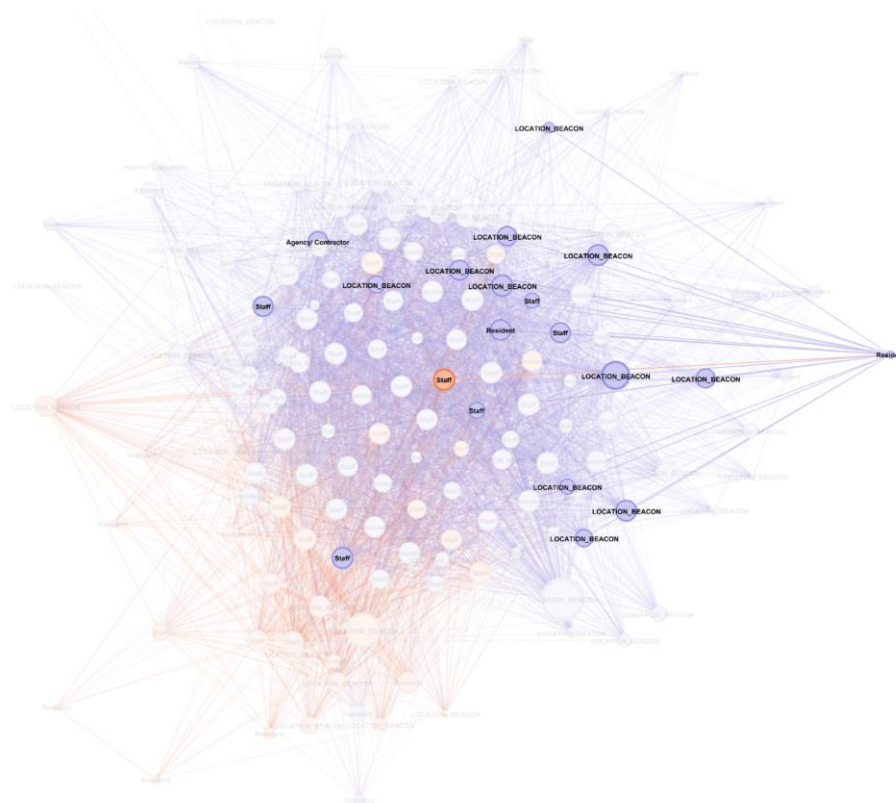
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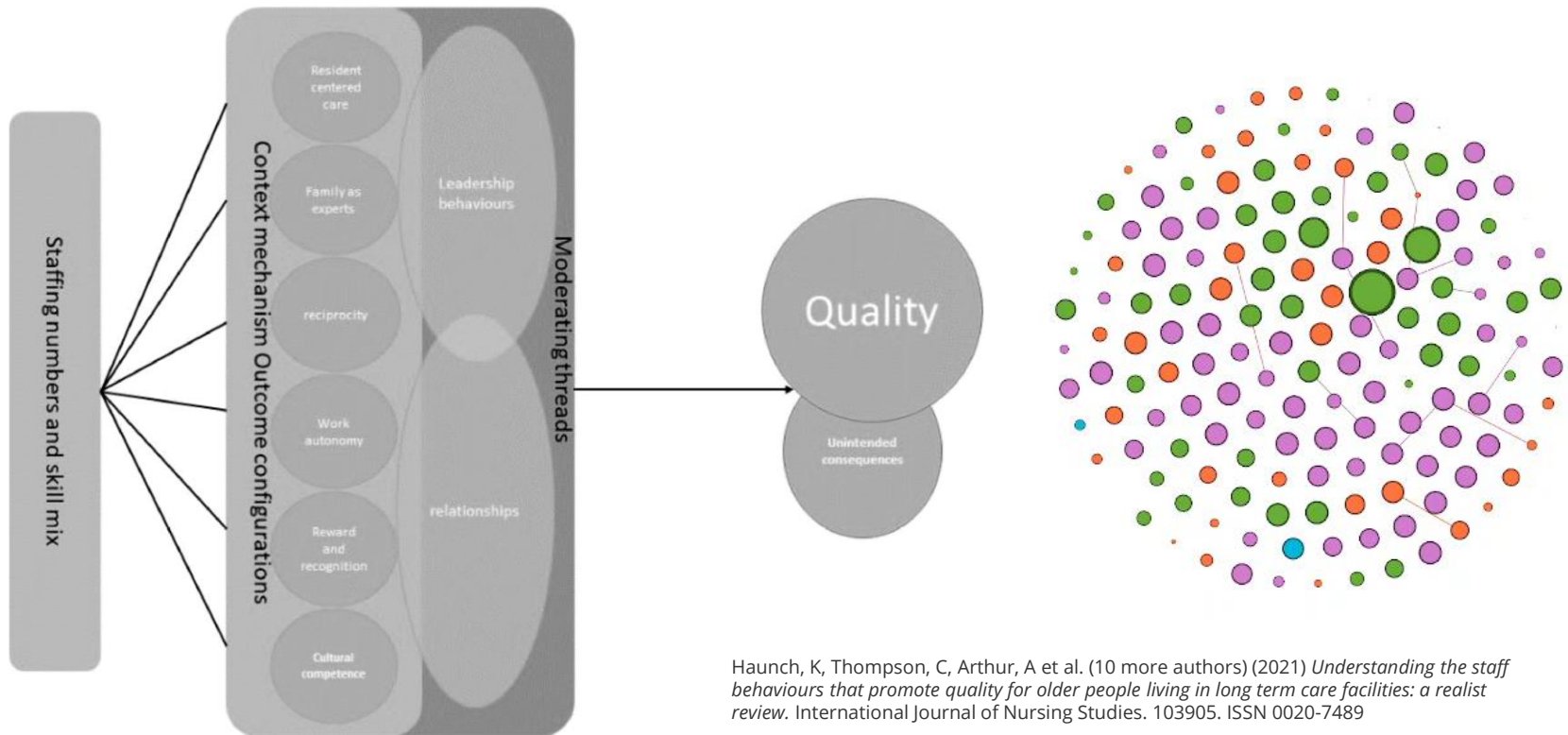


Not all who wander are lost...



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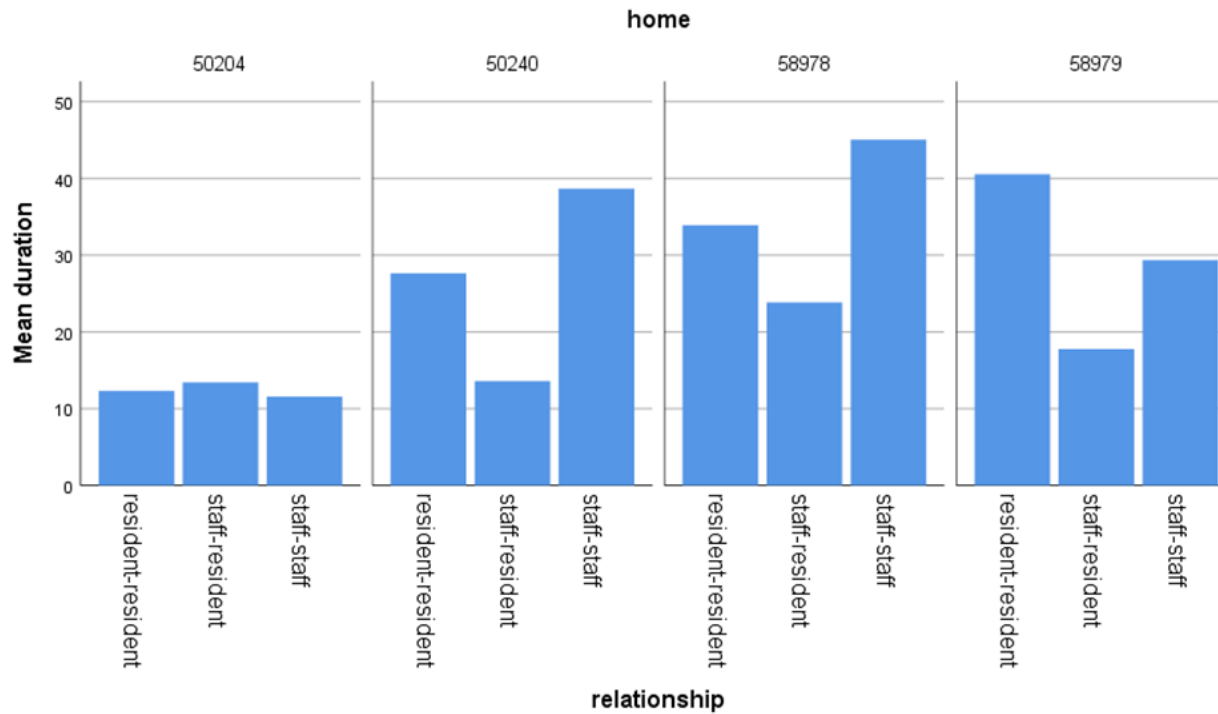


Haunch, K, Thompson, C, Arthur, A et al. (10 more authors) (2021) *Understanding the staff behaviours that promote quality for older people living in long term care facilities: a realist review*. International Journal of Nursing Studies. 103905. ISSN 0020-7489

# Space (time) for relationships



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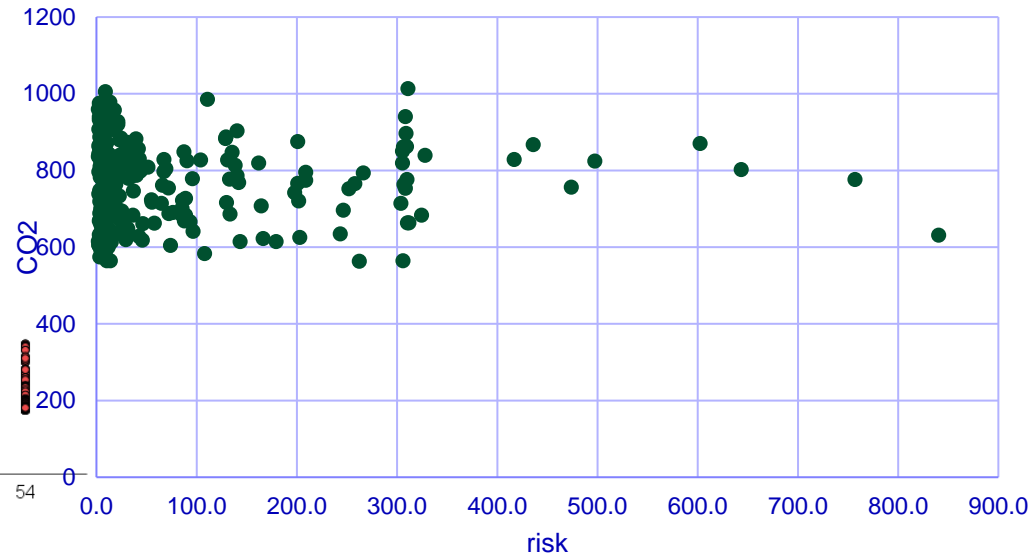
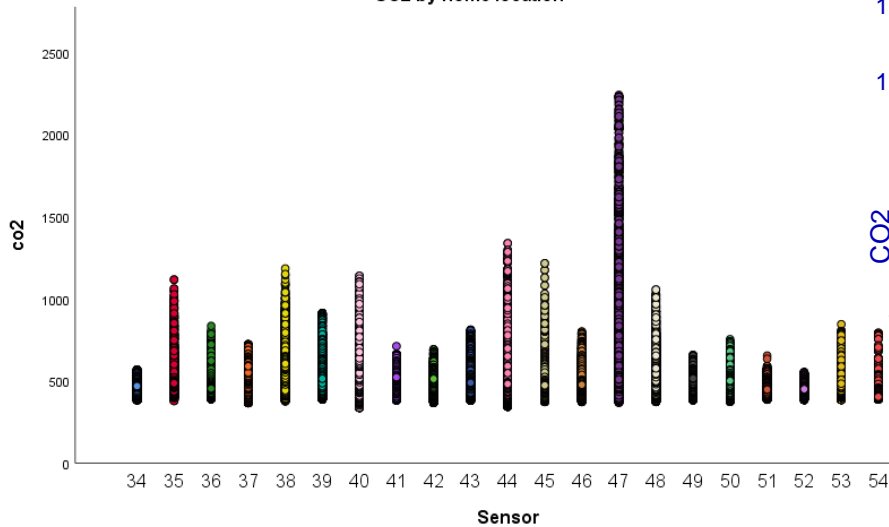


# A reactive quality environment?



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CO2 by home location



“If levels in an area are significantly above 600ppm over five to ten minutes, there would be a strong case to improve ventilation. At levels over 1,000ppm the need to improve ventilation would be urgent.”

So?



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- Post COVID and with scarce (human) resources what can we learn about time, relationships and quality – *efficiently*
- interventions to shape home networks:
  - More connected less between and within home variation.
  - Networks and home environments: communal space, design, “simple” interventions: ventilation, humidity
- Networks and Quality Improvement: bridges, opinion leaders?
- academic-care homes and industry partnership to improve technology





# Addressing topics that matter: Innovative dementia care environments as alternative for regular nursing homes

Hilde Verbeek, *Professor of Long-Term Care Environments*  
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# Changes in long-term care



- Focus on *living* in the nursing home
  - Quality of life and well-being
- Influence physical care setting
  - Small groups, homelike atmosphere
- Empowerment of older people, including those living with dementia



# Developments Netherlands



## Nieuwe woonvormen dringend nodig voor mensen met dementie

Resultaten van een peiling van Alzheimer Nederland onder ruim 1.400 mensen met dementie, mantelzorgers en zorgprofessionals



April 2021  
Susanne van den Buuse  
Anne de Boer

## Conny Helder wil de ouderenzorg 'radicaal' veranderen

Carina van Aartsen

Conny Helder zei het een jaar geleden al, toen ze nog zorgbestuurder was: de ouderenzorg moet radicaal veranderen en snel ook. Als VWS-minister voor langdurige zorg kan ze daar nu zelf het voortouw in nemen.



Foto: Paul Tolenaar

## Wonen met zorg

Verkenning van particuliere woonzorg voor ouderen

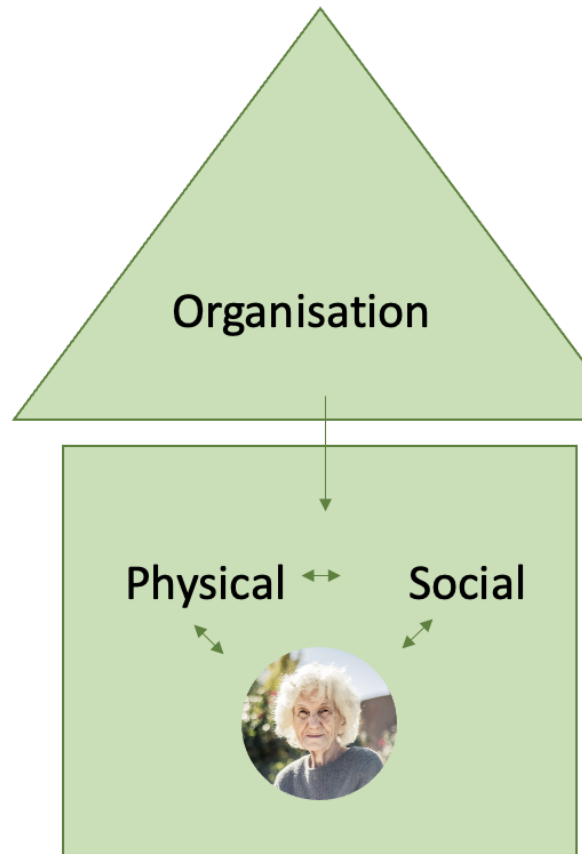


**The care  
environment  
influences daily life  
and functioning in  
older people,  
especially those  
living with dementia**



# Care environment as an intervention

living lab  
in ageing and  
long-term care



# Radical changes are necessary

living lab  
in ageing and  
long-term care



De Zorgcoöperatie Hoogeloon U.A is de eerste zorgcoöperatie van Brabant en Nederland.

Hoogeloon is een kerkdorp van de gemeente Bladel en telt ruim 2300 inwoners. De coöperatie zet zich in voor het behoud en het ontwikkelen van zorg, diensten en faciliteiten in het dorp. Zij wil hiermee bereiken dat ouderen en mensen met een beperking, ook bij een toenemende zorgvraag, in Hoogeloon kunnen blijven wonen. De Zorgcoöperatie Hoogeloon is opgericht in 2005.

#### Visie

Ouderen en mensen met een beperking zijn gebaat bij zorgmogelijkheden in de omgeving waar zij wonen en leven. Ten gevolge van de schaalvergroting en steeds verder gaande bureaucratisering staan zorginstellingen verder af van de klant en kan de zorginstelling de wensen van de klant moeilijk honoreren.

# Scientific research: Green Care Farms



- Originated outside health care sector
  - Combine agricultural with care activities for various client groups
- Over 250 green care farms for people with dementia
  - Increasing number offers 24hour care
- Unique opportunity to examine environmental working mechanisms

International Psychogeriatrics (2018), 30:7, 1057–1068 © International Psychogeriatric Association 2018  
doi:10.1017/S1041610217002848

## **Innovating dementia care; implementing characteristics of green care farms in other long-term care settings**

Yvette Buist,<sup>1</sup> Hilde Verbeek,<sup>2</sup> Bram de Boer<sup>2</sup> and Simone R. de Bruin<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Department of Health Services Research, CAPHRI Care and Public Health Research Institute, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University, MD Maastricht, the Netherlands



# Scientific research



- Promising first effects on residents
  - Residents were more active, more socially engaged and spent more time outdoors compared with residents on traditional nursing homes
- Have encouraging elements integrated in every day care provision
- Implementation in regular care is feasible, but depending on vision and leadership

Beerens et al., 2016 De Boer et al., 2017; 2019, 2020; Buist et al. 2018, de Bruin et al 2017



# Working mechanisms?



- Stimulating the senses
- Engaging in purposeful activities
- Sharing responsibilities
- Creating a community in a new home

 | Frontiers in [Public Health](#)

TYPE Original Research  
PUBLISHED 29 August 2022  
DOI 10.3389/fpubh.2022.946962



#### OPEN ACCESS

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SPECIALTY SECTION  
This article was submitted to  
Ageing and Public Health,  
a section of the journal

## How the interrelated physical, social and organizational environment impacts daily life of residents with dementia on a Green Care Farm

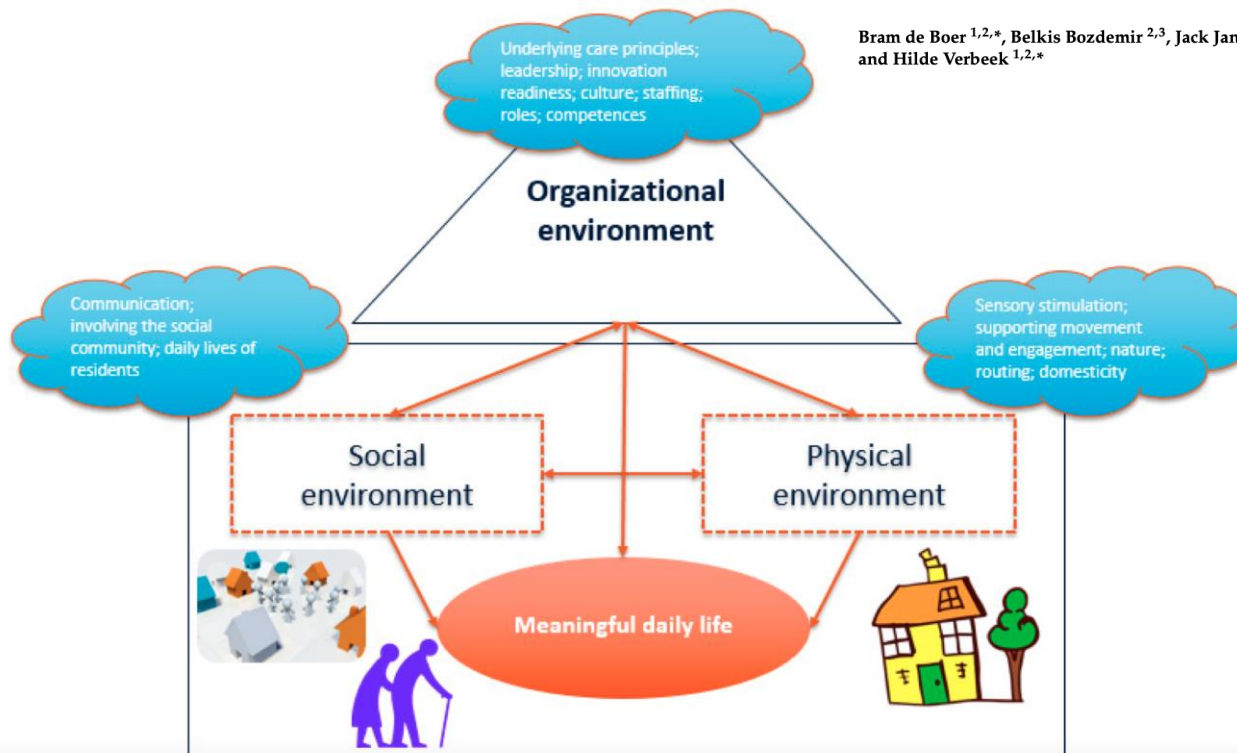
Katharina Rosteius<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Bram de Boer<sup>1,2</sup>, Sandra Staudacher<sup>1,3</sup>,  
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Article

## The Homestead: Developing a Conceptual Framework through Co-Creation for Innovating Long-Term Dementia Care Environments

Bram de Boer <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Belkis Bozdemir <sup>2,3</sup>, Jack Jansen <sup>2,3</sup>, Monique Hermans <sup>2,3</sup>, Jan P. H. Hamers <sup>1,2</sup> and Hilde Verbeek <sup>1,2,\*</sup>



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