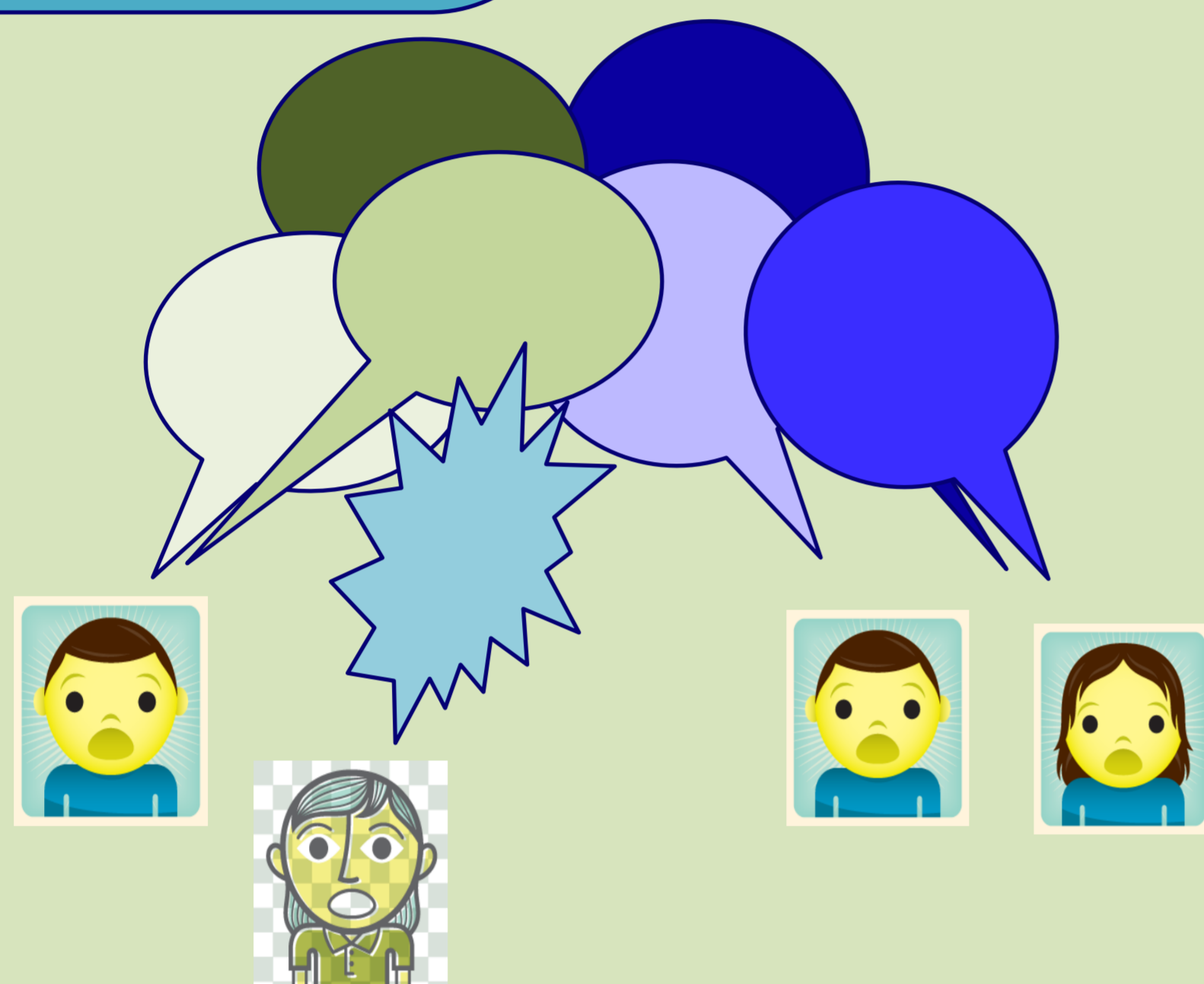


New methodologies, new rules?

Methods for accessing the 'voice' of people with dementia in research

The study described in a nutshell... "A systematic exploration of the application of alternative communication methods in research, focusing on the experiences of people with dementia in comparison to other cognitively impaired populations."

Can Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) methods capture voices of people with dementia?



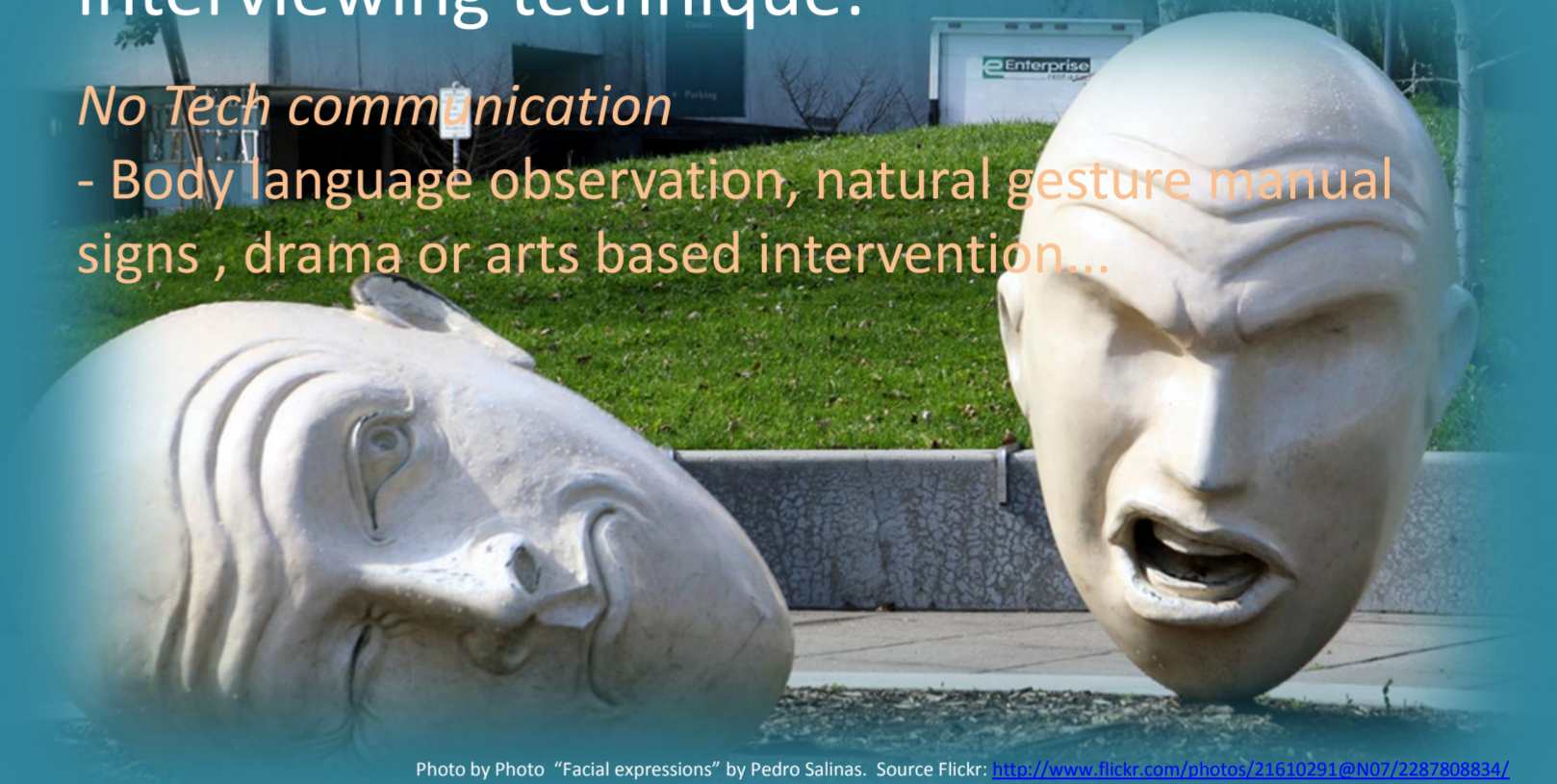
People with impaired communication face marginalisation if other means of conveying their experience are not explored by researchers

AAC provides a tool or a channel for expression **but** the data captured is different- how do researchers appraise these new forms of data??

Examples of AAC methods in research that replace or supplement the traditional interviewing technique:

No Tech communication

- Body language observation, natural gesture manual signs, drama or arts based intervention...



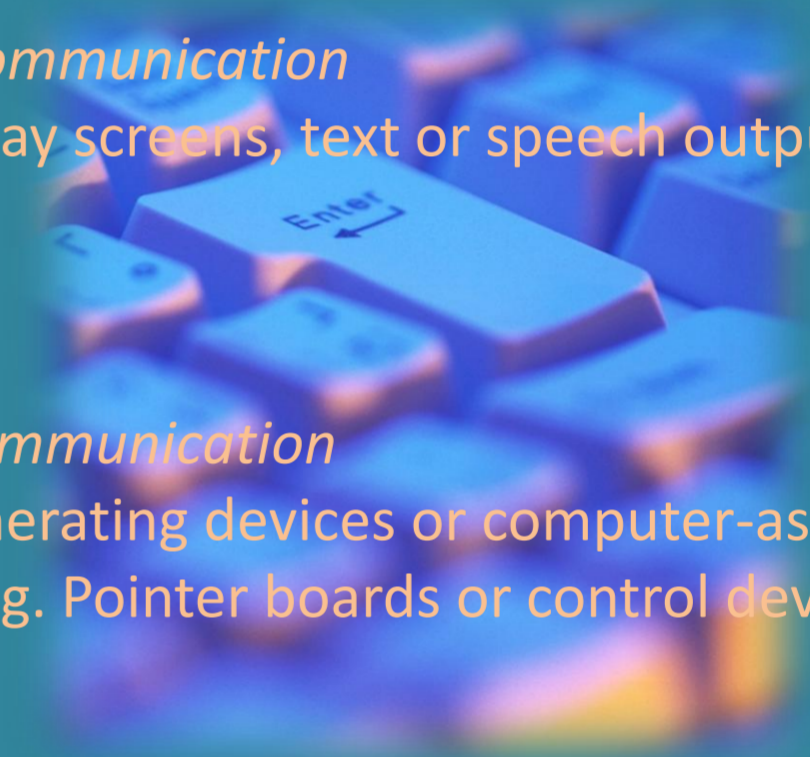
Aided Low Tech communication

- Picture cards or symbols, word boards, eye-pointing codes or photo elicitation...



Light-tech communication

- Visual display screens, text or speech output devices...



High tech communication

- Speech generating devices or computer-assisted software (e.g. Pointer boards or control devices)...

The study begins with a scoping exercise...

This is a comprehensive literature search that forms the first step towards conducting a full-scale systematic review. The scoping exercise is broad and will look at all methodologies and all cognitively impaired populations- justifying a narrower systematic review of the most relevant groups and methods. The table below outlines the inclusion and exclusion criteria which ensures the comprehensiveness of the scoping exercise.

| | Inclusion criteria | Exclusion criteria |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sources | International peer reviewed journals (including systematic reviews), grey literature. No date restriction | Journal articles not written in English that are not translated |
| Population | All ages groups, participants with all forms of cognitive impairment, analysis of researcher perspectives | Participants responding via proxy |
| Method | All forms of AAC devices, non-verbal methods/sensory expression methods or visual or arts-based methods | Purely interview-based methods, purely observational methods, clinical case reports or professional accounts |
| Study Type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Measuring functionality of the device (including an examination of researcher capability to interpret subjective data produced by the device) ii. Exploration of topics using AAC in different contexts (mapping how AACs are being used and with whom) iii. Interpreting the value and contribution of the AAC device/medium (including an examination of AAC devices' capacity to capture <i>personal</i> or <i>political</i> forms of 'voice' (i.e. 'voice' defined as an expression of personal experience, or an individual's ability to exert political agency)) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention or evaluation studies, service focused studies (i.e. studies measuring frequency of speech/voice) Studies, reports or reviews without primary data |

Next steps:

- To undertake the scoping exercise and assess the results
- To develop a typology of AACs and their application
- To explore if and how AACs are used in diverse populations
- To undertake the main systematic review