



## Scope

The situated art intervention brings together artists from HappyEndProject, researchers from Artful Dementia Research Lab and residents and care staff at Bergsodden Residential Care Home. The scope of the study is four-fold:

- (1) Developing novel arts-based research methods
- (2) Collecting arts-based research data that allows us to analyse moments of connectivity through movement, dance, choreography and touch
- (3) Exploring novel understandings of what it could mean to live with dementia
- (4) Documenting the artistic process and make arts-based research with people living with dementia as open and transparent as possible.

## Method

Situated art intervention is a scholarly approach which creates situated knowledge through arts-based practices and promotes/enables collective inquiry through aesthetic encounters. The direct involvement into the processes and relations that are studied makes each member of the group equally ethically accountable for the relations and intra-actions that emerge.

## Recruitment & Participation

The research team consist of 6 artists (3 dancers, a composer, a photographer, a film documentarist) and 6 researchers. The research team will be familiar with the methodological approach and experienced in working co-creatively with people living with dementia.

The activity leader at the care home, who is a professional musician herself and member of ADLab, will further invite up to 12 residents and staff members to join the sessions in their role as co-creators of art and knowledge. Recruitment process is self-selective in the sense that all who become part of the sessions voluntarily and based on the experiences and relations that emerge during the situated art intervention. The residents (most of them living with mild to severe dementia) will be invited to participate in a morning sessions at 11 am (ca. 1,5 hours). In addition, they will meet the dancers at their homes if they wish. By end of the residency there will be an open session to which family members, a friends, volunteers or health care staff will be invited by the group.

## Roles

The formal identities of the group members are fixed in the sense that roles are not conflating. However, identities will transform and both residents and staff might become some else and be seen differently by each other. Together those people embody 'the group' of the art residency. The whole group will be engaged to varying extend in design of the intervention, data collection, data analysis and dissemination.

## Consent

Information about the project will given both orally and in written form at four points in time: (1) four weeks before the residency during a regular gathering by the activity leader (2) in the moment of entering the care home (3) at the start and during the session (4) during conversations directly after the session. It will be possible to withdrawal from the project at any moment. Consent by editing will be collected for photo and video recordings that the researchers chose to use for research communication such as the fact sheet, a short film and other written accounts.

## Research design

Prior to the residency ADLab will facilitate preparatory meetings with the group of artists and at the care home involving staff members who would like to take part in the two weeks residency. The artists will facilitate the group sessions and decide on which movements, gestures and choreographic materials will become part of the sessions and how we would like to dance and intra-act. After each sessions artists and researchers will have a conversation about 60 minutes about what they have seen and how to understand certain moments that occurred during each session.

## Movements/Gestures

The choreographic material created in the mutual relation between dancers and resident. The unique body language of each individual composes the essence of each choreographic relation.

**Picture 2:** Embodied life stories, relational choreography, co-creating mutual movements, transforming relations, transforming identities, being here and now, being alongside, becoming part of each others lives. Connecting through movement, touch and multisensorial experiences. Film by Engeli Broberg captures moments of connectivity <https://vimeo.com/233216692>.



## Materials

Music will be created by a composer who is part of the artistic team of Happy End Project. The music is created to facilitate and embrace the unique connection between dancer and resident.

## Place

The morning dance sessions take place in the activity room of the care are home. In the afternoon artistic interaction will mainly take place in the living rooms of those residents who expressed their interest in further collaboration.

## Data collection

We will collect a variety of qualitative and arts-based data such as logbook writings, field notes, sound recordings of conversions, video recordings of the full sessions. Foto and film recordings created by the artists during the sessions will be analysed and archived as research data.

## Expected results:

1. Eight co-creative dance sessions in the mornings
2. Individual dance sessions in the afternoons
3. Consent form template
4. Collaboration agreement template between researchers and artists that enables open access publishing of arts-based research data
5. Sett of archived data that document the sessions at NSD
6. A research paper that evaluates the effects the interventions in terms of changed perceptions beyond health care staff
7. Three factsheets on central concepts (relation ethics; embodied cognition and multisensoriality)
8. Teaching materials in form of short 1 min clips that invite students to reflect on in-the-moment experiences 'Do you see what I see'
9. Journalistic products that documents the citizen science approach of the project
10. Presentation of results at 26th Nordic Congress of Gerontology (NKG), which will be in Odense, Denmark, June 8-10, 2022.

