

## Combining the SIA to Health with the ICF – participation experiences of people with MS

E. Dilger<sup>1</sup>, N. Reeck<sup>1</sup>, D. Hoekstra<sup>2</sup>, A. Thiele<sup>2</sup>, A.L. Brütt<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Junior Research Group for Rehabilitation Sciences, Department for Health Services Research, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Research Group for Education and Didactics in Chronic and Progressive Diseases and Physical Disabilities, Department of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation, Germany

**Background:** People with Multiple Sclerosis (PwMS) are prone to participation restrictions which in turn are associated with reduced health and well-being. In particular mobility limitations are eventually experienced by the majority of PwMS.

The concept participation, described as involvement in a life situation according to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), lacks the subjective facet of participation.

By complementing the ICF with the Social Identity Approach (SIA) to Health in order to characterize subjective facets of participation, this study sheds light on how PwMS with gait impairment experience participation and the contextual factors influencing it.

**Methods:** The qualitative design comprised 4 online focus groups with 4-6 participants (altogether N=19) of whom 12 were also interviewed individually. Participants were PwMS with gait impairment from Germany aged between 33 and 76 years. The data was transcribed verbatim and is analyzed using qualitative content analysis according to Kuckartz.

**Expected results:** Preliminary data analyses show that the SIA to Health is suitable to characterize subjective facets of participation. It is expected to gain a nuanced understanding on how contextual factors interact with the extent and subjective facet of participation.

**Current stage of work:** Deductive coding with the coding frame developed from the ICF and the SIA to Health is completed. Inductive fine coding and analyses will be carried out.

**Discussion:** This study offers a theory-driven insight into the participation experiences of PwMS with gait impairment. It exemplifies the usefulness of transferring a health psychology model to the territory of disability research.