Implementer Portrait: Thekla Brunkert

Thekla Brunkert is a Postdoctoral fellow in the field of Geriatric Care and Technology and is affiliated with Nursing Science (INS) at the Department of Public Health, University of Basel, and with the University Department of Geriatric Medicine FELIX PLATTER, Basel, Switzerland. She is the Co-founder of the Swiss Implementation Science Network IMPACT.

Thekla is working and living in Basel, Switzerland, her first language is German and she says *Implementierung* (=implementation) and *Wissenstransfer* (=knowledge transfer).

What is one of your favourite articles on implementation?

"Beyond Adoption: A New Framework for Theorizing and Evaluating Nonadoption, Abandonment, and Challenges to the Scale-Up, Spread, and Sustainability of Health and Care Technologies''. Generally, I enjoy reading theoretical discussions about implementation. This article on the NASSS framework is part of an interesting line of implementation research conducted by Prof. Dr. Trisha Greenhalgh and colleagues. The framework provides an overview of critical factors and questions to consider during technology development, implementation and scale-up. I hope I can integrate all learnings from NASSS into my own research and thus mitigate challenges to implementation and sustainability before they arise.

What are you currently working on that relates to implementation?

At the Institute of Nursing Science in Basel we are currently working on several projects in the field of implementation science. For example, I am involved in the process evaluation of a nurse-led model of care in nursing homes and a literature review on contextual analysis in implementation research. Furthermore, I am in the process of developing my own research project at the intersection of geriatric care, technology and implementation science.

At the Swiss Implementation Science Network (IMPACT) we are currently organizing our first virtual Conference and Masterclass which will take place in January 2021. We have launched IMPACT in 2019 and are now exploring the needs of the implementation community in Switzerland to develop infrastructures and plan future activities.

If you were to have lunch with another 'implementer', whom would you pick?

There are many interesting implementation researchers who I would like to have lunch with. However, what I really do look forward to is meeting all EIC board members in person at some point. Having lunch together would be a great opportunity to brainstorm how to further advance implementation science and practice in Europe.

If you had the resources for it, what within implementation science or practice would you want to work with next?

As mentioned before, I am developing my own research project in the field of technology for the care of older people and/or their caregivers. As this work requires a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach, I would love to establish a framework for the collaboration of different stakeholders (healthcare providers and organisations, older people and their caregivers, technology developers, insurers, regional policymakers) under the umbrella of implementation science principles. Keeping the routine implementation in health systems in mind throughout all steps of technology development and piloting is crucial to have real impact on the lives of older people. To date, much of the research in technology development for older people ends up on a bookshelf after a first pilot phase due to limited usability or lack of independent funding. Therefore, to facilitate sustainable innovation, it would be great to create a real- world implementation lab with secured funding that supports co-creation among stakeholders and thus facilitates implementation and scale-up.

Get in touch with Thekla via her Twitter *@TBrunkert* or email *Thekla.brunkert@unibas.ch*.

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