

Keynote Tim Rapley – #EIE2023

Slow Implementation

The keynote

In this talk, I want to explore how we might begin to enable more supportive contexts for change. Contemporary implementation environments are far from stable, and innovation is often undertaken within turbulent (bureaucratic, organisational, political, socio-cultural, etc.) infrastructures. We can therefore all, at moments, follow a path of least resistance, drawing on (more automatic) implementation habits, thoughtways and routines. Drawing on a range of studies, working with, for and alongside implementation practitioners, I want to show how we, at times, attempt to manage this issue.

- I will trace moments when practitioners and researchers worked towards slowing down, reflecting and make their implementation ideas and actions more explicit.
- I will show how we can work to create moments, resources and tools to enable more supportive contexts for continuous, and most importantly, collaborative, reflective practice.
- I will argue that we need to think-with others more often, to encourage more situations that can foster creativity and collaboration, to support new (or old) ways of working, practical reasoning and courses of implementation action.

About Professor Tim Rapley

Tim is a Professor of Applied Health Care Research and works at Northumbria University, Newcastle, in the UK. He is a medical sociologist with an interest in social studies of medical and social care work, research and practice. He undertakes detailed empirical studies that seek to understand the everyday, taken-for-granted, aspects of medical, health and social care work. A focus on what people actually do, as opposed to only what they think they do, or they tell you they do, can offer unique, practical and tailored solutions.

I was asked to suggest some recommended readings – and it might be more traditional to suggest some papers I've been involved in - but I would like to offer a different idea:

- Please read an academic paper that you've been meaning to read but have not yet found the time and/or made it enough of a priority.
- Ask a colleague to suggest an implementation-related article that they really enjoyed (or raised a lot of questions for them) and then make some time to read it yourself.
- Take some time – however fleeting - to discuss one of these papers with someone else.
- Try any element of this again.