

# **(Dis)trust in medical technology and medical support considering severe health decisions**

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**TU Wien**  
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**Research Progress**



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**Universitat d'Alacant**  
**Universidad de Alicante**  
Project Coordinator



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The University of Dublin



1. **Overview of the project & the work** 
2. (Quick) recap of the literature 
3. (Quick) recap of the progress 
4. Trust across technologies and situations 
5. Trust in sensitive user groups 
6. Research in progress and Timeline 
7. Publications, future career plans, and feedback 

- **Why?** Trust in the healthcare system and in technology are key variables embedded in a complex system leading to the adoption of medical technology, i.e. AAL solutions
- **What?** Perceptions, attitudes, (pre)determinants, and decisions influencing trust in the medical AAL technology
- **Who?** Various target groups, including people with chronic illnesses and disabilities
- **How?** Assessing context- and user-specific influences of trust and decisions about their health



- **Goals**

- Understanding of trust in sensitive user groups
- Development of trust metrics in AAL technology
- Holistic framework of user and context requirements










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- **Relevance**

- Trust as the key to successful adoption of AAL technologies
- Trust as compass for protection of autonomy and agency
- Implementation in all sectors of society

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- Core component of human thinking and consequent behaviour – key factor in interactions between humans, situations, and institutions
  - most common conceptualisation as *belief* and *expectancy* (McKnight & Chervany, 2001)
- Trust in technology has been investigated in multiple contexts, e.g., mobility & e-commerce (McKnight et al., 2002; Lee & See, 2004)
  - no unified theory of trust across contexts
- Individual and institutional variables are relevant in the understanding of trust in the healthcare system (Zhao et al., 2018)
  - Trust influences (subjective) health behaviours (Birkhäuser et al., 2017)
    - important for therapy outcomes and the improvement of the healthcare system
- Trust in medical technology depends on several other context-specific variables, such as trust in their primary care physician, etc. (Qiao et al., 2015)
  - suggests predictive relationship of trust in the healthcare context and trust in medical technology
- Sustained adoption of these innovative technologies in home environments have failed (Wichert et al., 2012)
  - missing trust requirements in intimate and sensitive context?

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What are conditions of trust in AAL? How are trust and acceptance of AAL related? How is trust in AAL different than other trust evaluations?

### Exploratory Approaches 10/21 – 07/22

- Validity of trust (requirements)
- Definitions of severe health decisions








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- Validity of trust (requirements)
- Definitions of severe health decisions

## Validating Approaches 08/22 – 04/2023

- Connection of trust and acceptance
- Trust across automation contexts

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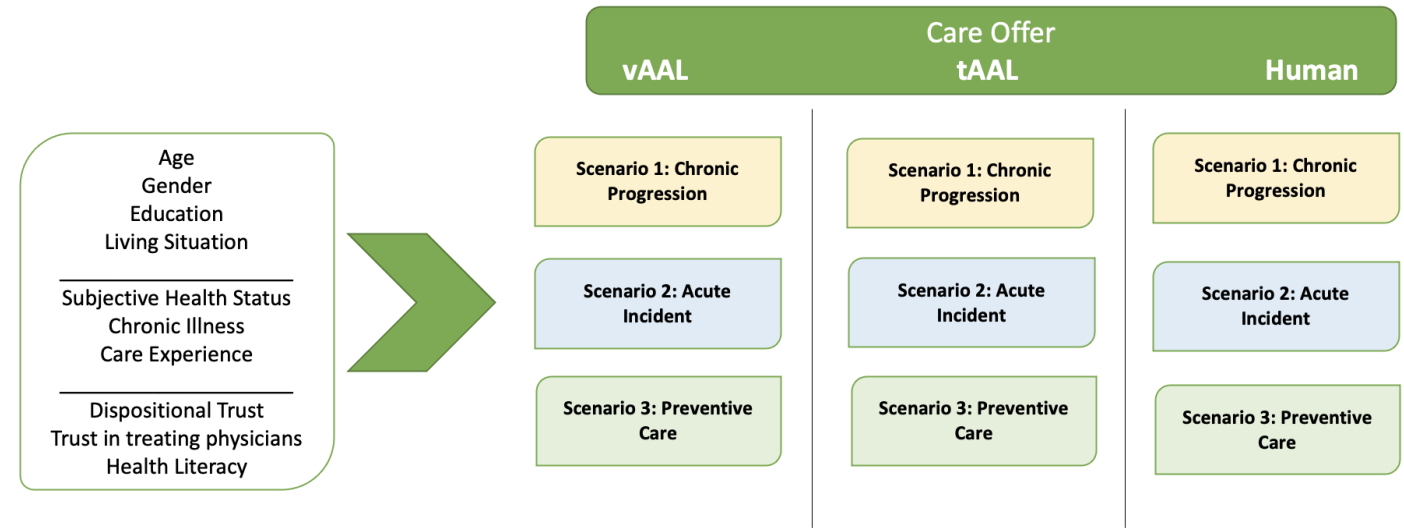
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## Context-specific Trust Evaluations

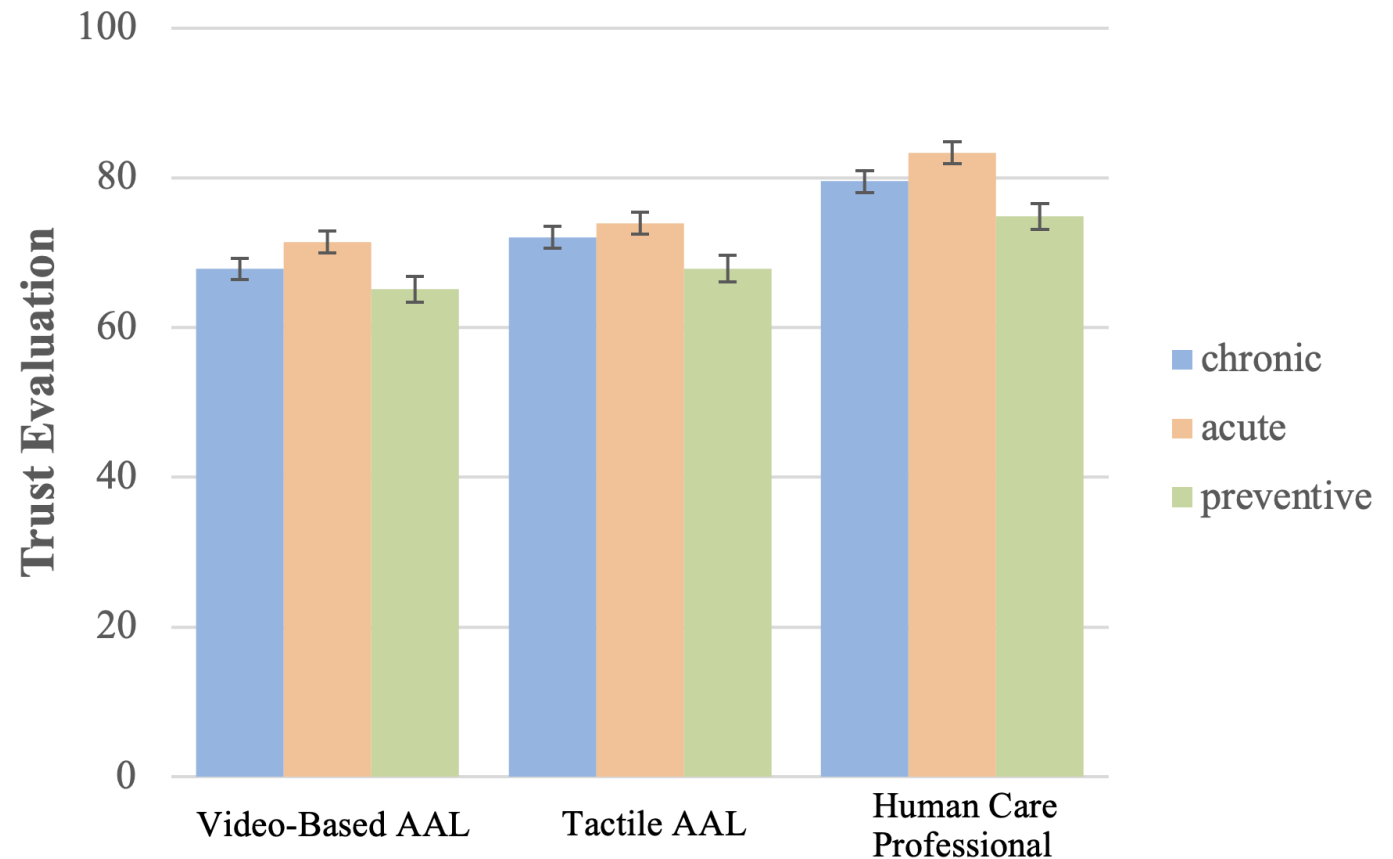
- difference across (non-)technological care offers?
- dependence on different health situations?

- Online survey with a scenario-based approach
- 3x3 within subjects design
  - 3 care offer scenarios
  - 3 health situations
- Evaluation of trust and ItU
  - Level of agreement on scale from 1 (= disagreement) to 100 (= agreement)



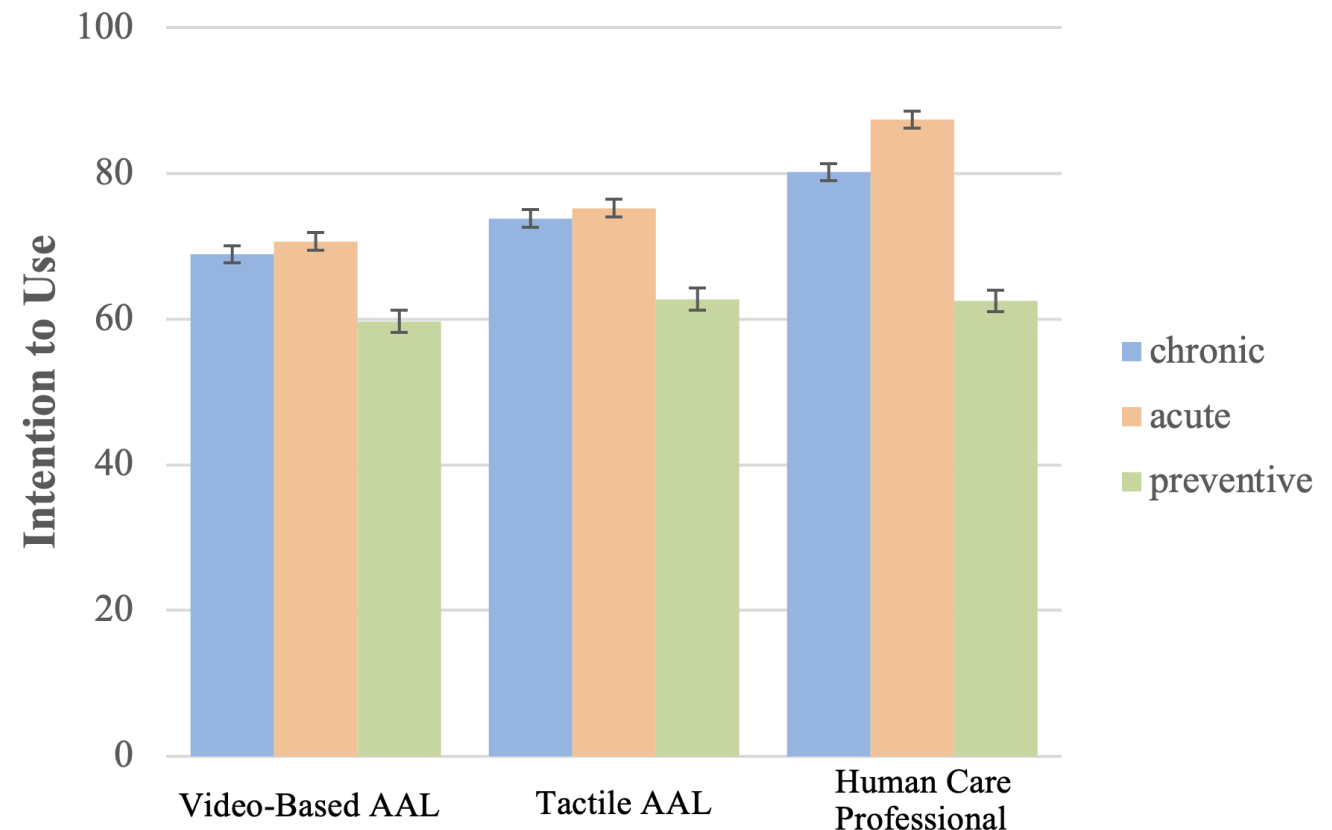
- Sample characteristics (N=275)
  - ❖ Data collection in Summer 2023 on German individuals
  - ❖  $M_{age}=59.2$  ( $SD=10.3$ , Range: 40-79)
  - ❖ 47.3% female participants
  - ❖ 45.8% reported to have one or more chronic illness, a. o. hypertension, depression, and arthritis
  - ❖ 49.4% reported to have care experience (37.8% private, 11.6% professional)








- Generally favourably evaluated across all care offers and health conditions
- Human care professional to achieve highest ratings of trust
- vAAL technology to reach lowest ratings of trust
- Preventive health situation least trusted
- Acute health situation most trusted





- Generally favourably evaluated across all care offers and health conditions
- Human care professional to achieve highest ratings of intention to employ
- vAAL technology to reach lowest ratings of intention to use
- Preventive health situation least willing to use
- Acute health situation most favourable evaluated



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- Secondment at the Lebenshilfe in three distinct sectors [May – September 2023]
  - ❖ Workplace (“Werkstätte”)



**Otten, S.,** (2023). Wissenschaft trifft Werkstatt - Interview mit Sophia Otten zur Einführung von Assistenzsystemen aus psychologischer Perspektive. **Werkstatt: Dialog.** 3/2023

**Hick, S. & Ziefle, M.** It's All Relative: The Importance of Assessing the Needs of People with Disabilities in the Evaluation of Assistive Technologies (*submission tbd*)

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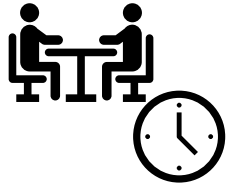
- Secondment at the Lebenshilfe in three distinct sectors [May – September 2023]
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  - ❖ Daycare and early assistance (“Kita und Frühförderung”)



- Objective to understand and experience the reality of people living with disabilities
- Identify practical possibilities of assistive technologies in this context

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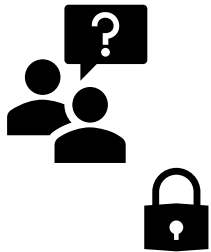
Getting to know the population of interest takes much longer than in other groups

- Communication needs are different (esp. non-verbal cues)
- Reliable estimation of needs are based on different interactions



Individuality above everything

- Each person is highly individual and actions are subject to contextual variables (e.g. feeling safe and respected)
- Relationships to peers, relatives, or superiors highly influential










Application of AAL difficult

- Many people in the rooms, initiative for independent living means less “surveillance”
- Wearables (such as activity tracker) have more potential
- Physical disability more predictable than mental disability

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### **Identification of decision patterns in the evaluation of trust requirements in vAAL systems**

- Data Protection (operationalised as data access of chosen others)
- Reliability (operationalised as success and error rate)
- Integrity (operationalised as the amount and transparency of information)
- Relief of Care

**DATA COLLECTION  
IN PROGRESS (→ 12/23)**



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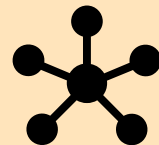
**DATA COLLECTION  
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### Evaluation of trust in network of predictors leading to the evaluation of trustworthiness of vAAL systems

- Structural equation modelling to estimate pathways of trust and influencing variables
- balancing predictiveness of trustworthiness and acceptance conceptualisations

**DATA COLLECTION  
COMPLETED**



December '23 – October '24

- > Write and defend thesis
- > Continue with submissions of planned publications








December '23

- > Finish data collection and analysis
- > Write up results

January – August '24

- > Finish writing and submit thesis
- > organise and submit publications

**Submit Thesis  
[August '24]**

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## 2022

**Otten, S., & Ziefle, M.,** (2022). Exploring Trust Perceptions in the Medical Context: A Qualitative Approach to Outlining Determinants of Trust in AAL Technology. In **ICT4AWE 2022** (pp. 244-253). DOI: 10.5220/0011058300003188

## 2023

Biermann, H., **Otten., S.,** & Ziefle, M. (2023). Understanding trust in automation: A consideration of human factors and context. In **AFHE 2023 Conference.**

**Otten, S.,** Wilkowska, W., Offermann, J., & Ziefle; M. (2023). Paving the way: Trust in and acceptance of video-based AAL technologies. In **ICT4AWE 2023.**

**Otten, S.,** (2023). Wissenschaft trifft Werkstatt - Interview mit Sophia Otten zur Einführung von Assistenzsystemen aus psychologischer Perspektive. **Werkstatt: Dialog.** 3/2023

**Otten, S.,** Offermann, J., & Ziefle; M. (2023). Paving the way: Trust in healthcare systems as a pre-requisite for technology usage. In **HCI International 2023 Conference.**

Wilkowska, W., **Otten, S.,** Maidhof, C., & Ziefle, M. (2023). Trust conditions and privacy perceptions in the use of accepted ambient technologies for health-related purposes. **Journal of Human-Computer Interaction)**

## submitted/under review

**Otten, S.,** Biermann, H., & Ziefle; M. How deep is your trust? – A Comparative User Requirements' Analysis of Automation in Medical and Mobility Technologies (*submitted to **Humanities and Social Science Communications***)

## Planned

**Hick, S.,** Wilkowska, W., & Ziefle; M. The Choice is Yours: Comparing Trust Evaluations of Medical Technologies in Varying Health Situations. (*submission tbd*)

**Hick, S.,** Offermann, J., & Ziefle; M. What's Personality got to do with it? Evaluating Decisional Patterns of Trust in AAL Using Conjoint Analyses (*submission tbd*)

**Hick, S. & Ziefle; M.** It's All Relative: The Importance of Assessing the Needs of People with Disabilities in the Evaluation of Assistive Technologies (*submission tbd*)

Wilkowska, W., **Hick, S. & Ziefle; M.** Predictors in the Evaluation of AAL Technologies: A Cluster Analysis of Trust Types (*submission tbd*)

Offermann, J., **Hick, S. & Ziefle; M.** Trust in AAL Technologies: A Meta-Analytical Approach to Predictors of Acceptance (*submission tbd*)



Academic environment

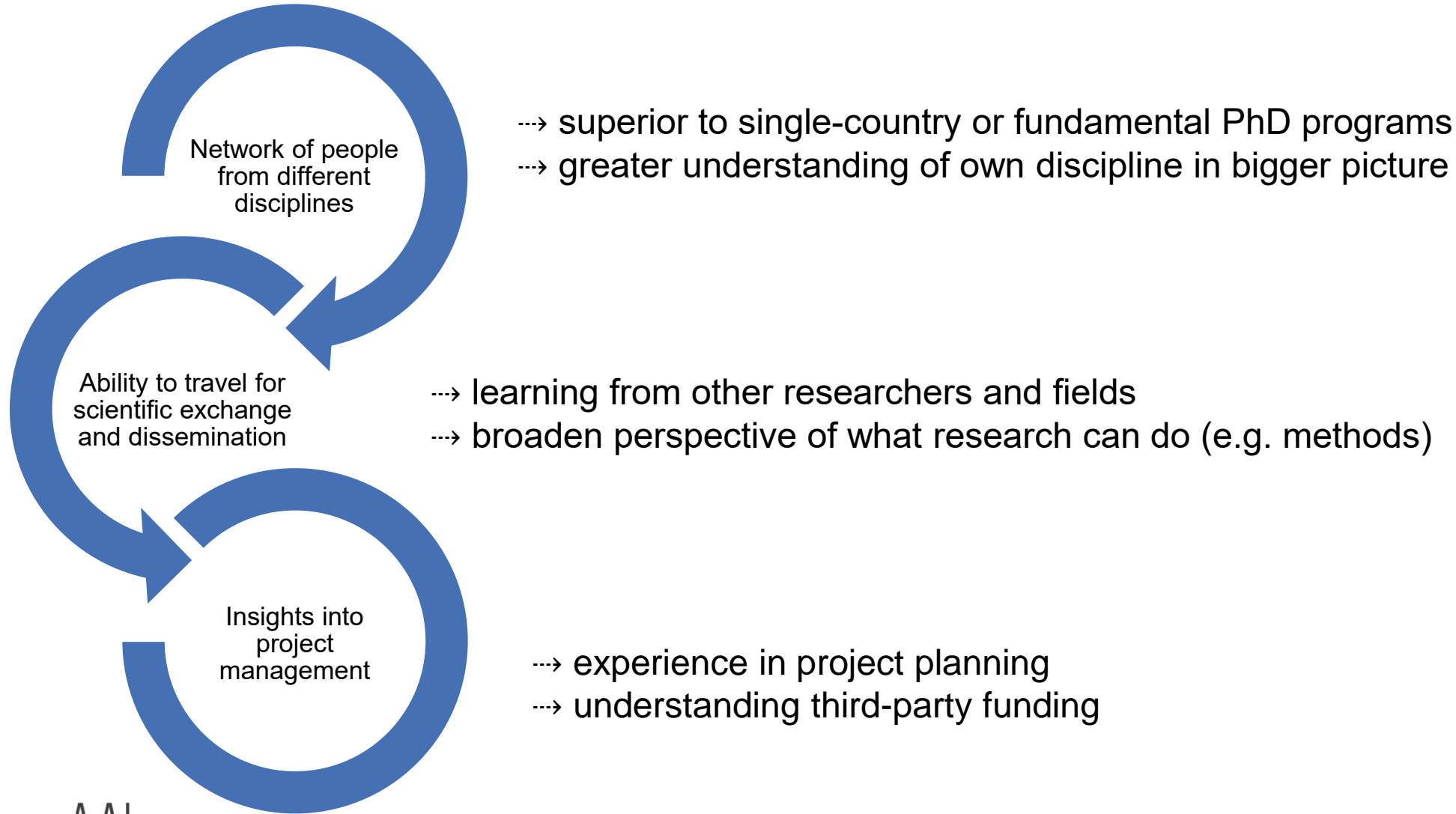


Non- Academic environment

Continuing to understand predictors  
of health attitudes and behaviours  
in clinical settings

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Implementing protocols to enhance  
public/individual health working  
directly with individuals

-----  
Build portfolio and identity about  
strengths and weaknesses



# Thank you!

**Sophia Hick, MScRes**

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