



# itDf

An invitation to join the  
**Imaging Technologies for  
Disability Futures**  
Reading and Watching Group





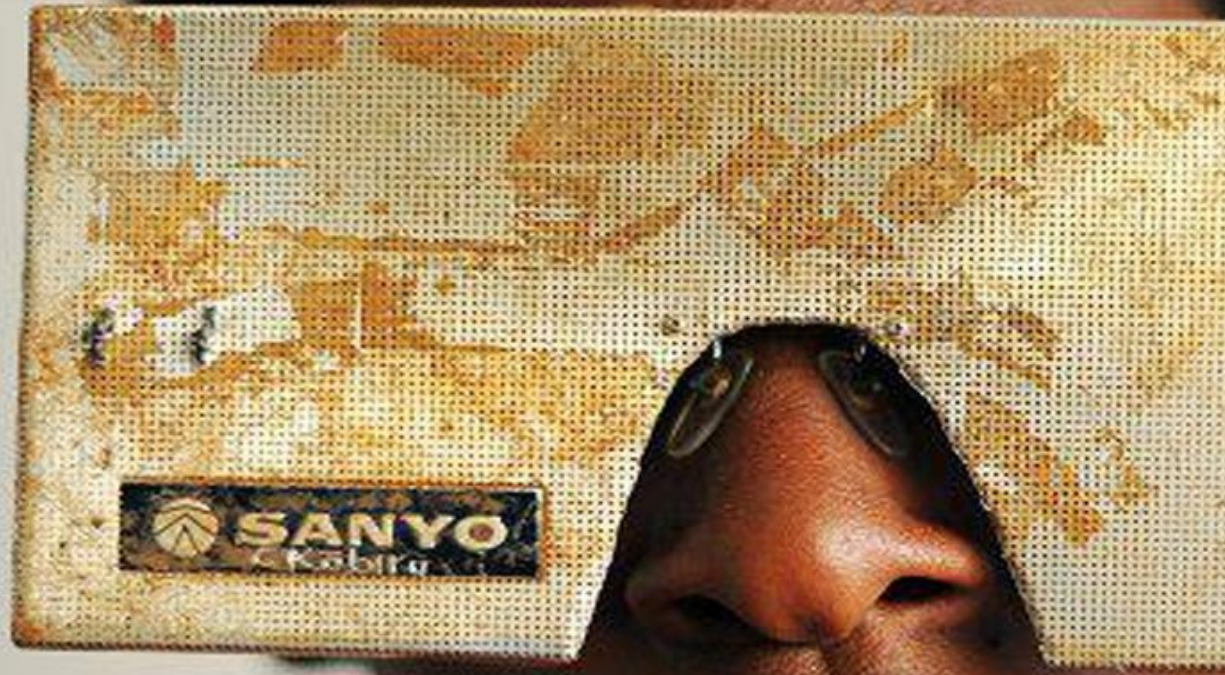
Studio Ordinary, Dundee



# itDf

**You are being invited to take part in a research project.**

Before you decide whether you would like to be involved, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.



Cyrus Kabiru, C-Stunners. 2012.

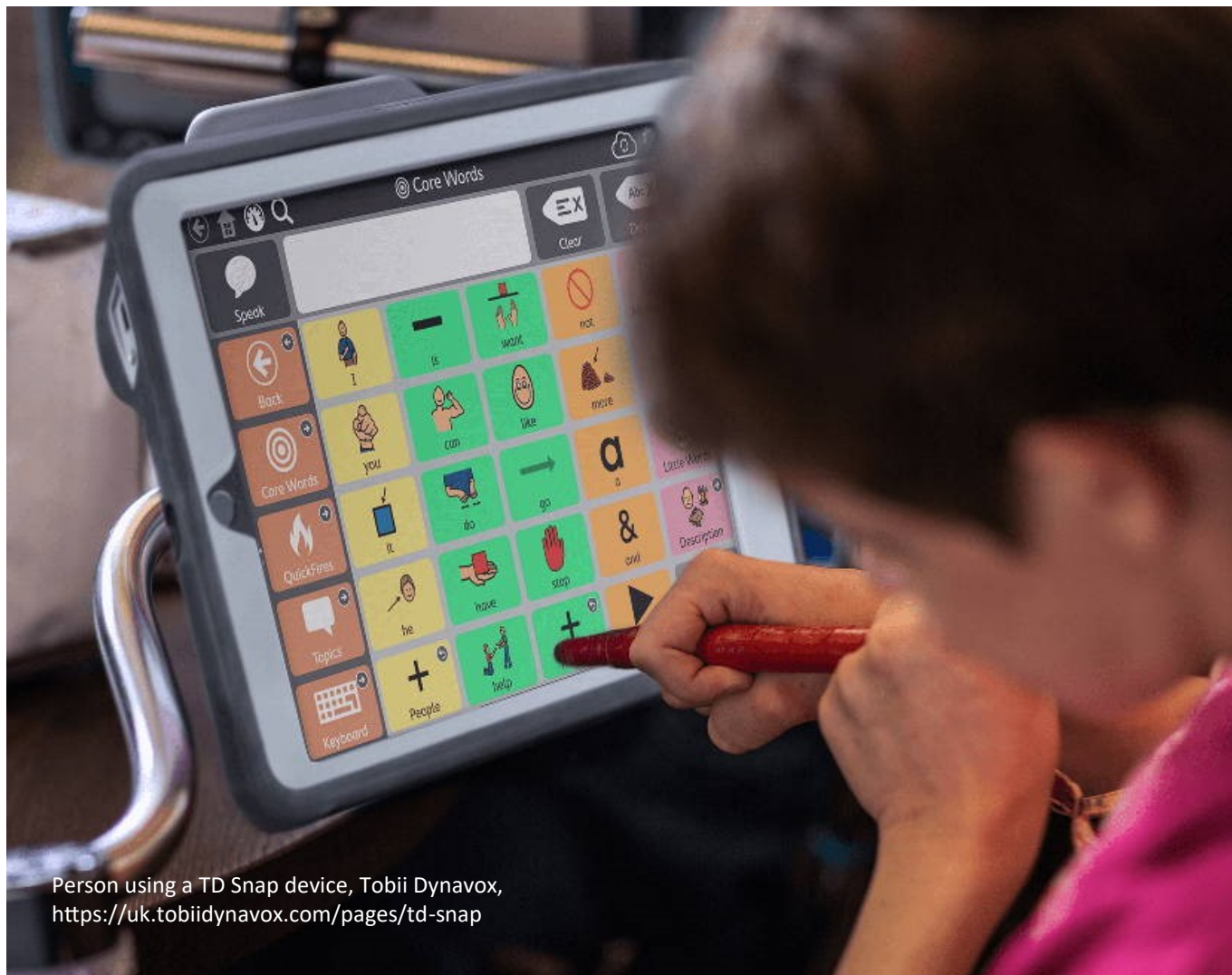
**Imagining Technologies for Disability Futures** is a five year project, funded by the Wellcome Trust. It brings together researchers in Literary and Cultural Studies and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Leeds, Philosophy at the University of Exeter, Disability Design at the University of Dundee, and Robotics at the University of Sheffield





"Male mechanical engineer attaches prosthetic arm" by This is Engineering image library is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The project is the first to combine expertise in arts and humanities, design, robotics and users of assistive technologies to increase understanding of how disability and embodiment are currently represented in media and culture. Because of the focus on these cultural stories, our work is very different to traditional research projects. We are not treating our participants as research subjects, but active co-participants in the results we will be producing.



Person using a TD Snap device, Tobii Dynavox,  
<https://uk.tobiidynavox.com/pages/td-snap>





# itDf

We are inviting you to take part in the project's reading and watching group. Through regular discussions, the group will reflect on a range of contemporary cultural representations of disability and technology in fiction, film and other media.

You will receive £20 Amazon gift card for every workshop you attend as thanks for your thought and time.

**"Fascinating, humane, and provocative  
reframing of conceptions of  
'normal' bodies and 'disability.'"**

*-Gina Maranto, author of Quest for Perfection*



# FIXED

THE SCIENCE/FICTION OF  
HUMAN ENHANCEMENT

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY  
**REGAN PRETLOW BRASHEAR**



[WWW.FIXEDTHEMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.FIXEDTHEMOVIE.COM)  
[WWW.NEWDAY.COM/FILMS/FIXED](http://WWW.NEWDAY.COM/FILMS/FIXED)

Film poster: *Fixed: The Science/fiction of Human Enhancement*

It is important that our research into assistive technologies is relevant to the people who use those technologies. This reading and watching group will help us learn more about the key issues facing disability communities, and to feed this knowledge into our research questions. The project team want to listen and learn from disabled people – this is central to our research practice.



Book cover: William Gibson, *Burning Chrome*

There will be 10 workshops between September 2022 and December 2023. To begin, we will have two meetings in which we will decide together the best way for the workshops to function. Following this, we will read a short piece of text or watch a short film for each session. We hope that you will return to take part in each session although there is no obligation to attend every meeting. You are free to miss one or several meetings, or leave the study altogether at any time. Each workshop will take place via Zoom and last 90 minutes.



## BODY TALK

# I have one of the most advanced prosthetic arms in the world — and I hate it

Being a cyborg is cool right now, thanks in large part to gee-whiz media coverage. But actually using a bionic arm can really suck

“People expect you as a  
**CYBORG** to be able to  
**PUNCH** through walls.”

Britt H Young (2021) *I have one of the most advanced prosthetic arms in the world — and I hate it*,  
<https://www.inputmag.com/culture/cyborg-chic-bionic-prosthetic->



During each workshop, members of the itDf research team will facilitate a discussion on a text or video that the group has been invited to read or watch either before or during the meeting.

We will strive to create a comfortable and relaxed environment in which everyone feels able to contribute to the discussion, but there will be no compulsion to speak: you are welcome to come and just listen to the discussion if you prefer.



Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery

In addition to the Zoom workshops we hope to provide several opportunities for the group to meet in-person. These meetings are likely to take place in Leeds. Plenty of notice and information will be provided to enable participants to decide whether they wish to attend.

We can reimburse reasonable travel expenses to cover your involvement in the project.



Carole and Pepper, SoftBank Robotics



## What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We are aware of the risk that the screening and discussion might be a source of distress due to the issues raised. To ensure that we support you we will run a debrief at the end of the discussions to check on participants' wellbeing.

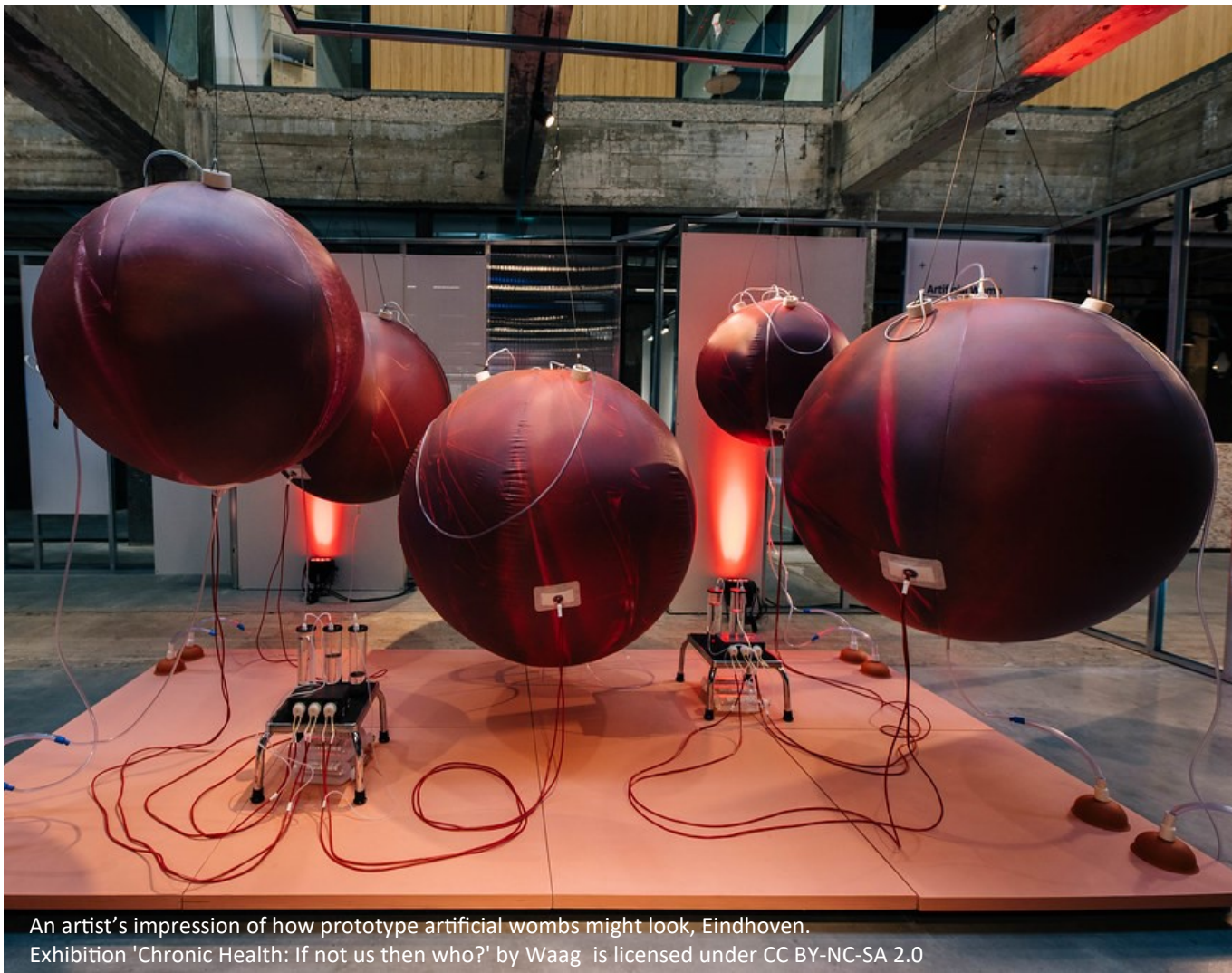


Studio Ordinary, Dundee



### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

While we cannot guarantee any direct benefit from taking part, we hope that this event will offer participants the opportunity to feed into research on the representation and design of assistive technologies. We hope that the content and discussion will provide an opportunity to reflect, collectively, on these issues and that you will feel consulted and included.



An artist's impression of how prototype artificial wombs might look, Eindhoven.  
Exhibition 'Chronic Health: If not us then who?' by Waag is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



**Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?/**

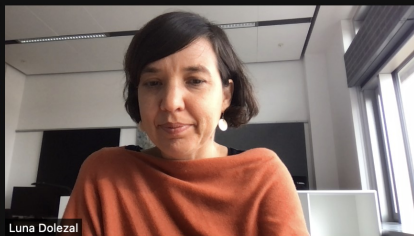
**What will happen to the results of the research project?**

Each workshop will be recorded. The recordings will be stored securely and only shared with researchers taking part in the itDf project. Your participation in the project will not be made public unless you decide you would like this.





Fischer, Cathrin



Luna Dolezal



Ellie she/her



Christina Elizabeth Stimson



rayjholt@hotmail.com



Graham Pullin



Mohammad Shaqura



Stuart Murray



Johanna



michael

The itDf project team, October 2021

10  
Participants

Chat

Share Screen

Reactions

## How to Participate

You can register your interest to join the *Imagining Technologies for Disability Futures Reading and Watching Group* by using the form on our website.

There is a space on the form to submit any questions you may have.

This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion  
by Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures Research Ethics  
Committee on 7 January 2022, ethics reference LTENG-037



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



University  
of Dundee

UNIVERSITY OF  
EXETER