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The Unique Edge of Professional Doctorate Programs in Health & Well- being, in the Netherlands

Reimagining Doctorates

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The Unique Edge of Professional Doctorate Programs in Health & Well-being, in the Netherlands



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- 1. Program Launch and Focus:** Universities of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands are introducing a Professional Doctorate program centered on practice-driven research and real-world problem-solving in complex professional environments.
- 2. Purpose and Skill Development:** The program aims to prepare highly qualified professionals to innovate and implement meaningful changes, addressing field-specific challenges through practical expertise.
- 3. Addressing Complex Issues:** A key focus is tackling problems — difficult, multi-faceted issues — to drive improvements in health and well-being, in the Health and Welfare domain. Complex because of:



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Multifaceted Nature of Health and Well-being:

- Broad range of factors. Improving requires interventions addressing the whole person, not just isolated symptoms or conditions.

Personalized Approaches:

- Unique health needs based on backgrounds, lifestyles, and environments. Solutions must be adaptable, personalized, and culturally sensitive to effectively support diverse populations.

Tackling Systemic Barriers:

- Require policy changes, resource allocation, community-driven initiatives.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration:

- Enhancing health and well-being involves bringing people together, and develop holistic, sustainable strategies.



Long-term Behavior Change:

- Encouraging healthier behaviors requires creating environments that support long-term habits, addressing predictors of intention and behavior, and providing ongoing motivation.

Measuring Impact:

- Defining and tracking impact and success is challenging. Health improvements and well-being requiring tools that capture both quantitative data and personal experiences.

Navigating Ethical Considerations:

- Interventions must respect individuals' autonomy and cultural contexts, ensuring that changes align with the community's values and are co-created rather than imposed.



4. Responding to Demand:

- The initiative answers the growing need for experts who can navigate and resolve intricate knowledge and design challenges in professional practice.

5. Impact on Professional Practices:

- By encouraging innovation, the program seeks to reshape professional landscapes and enhance societal outcomes through advanced practices.

6. Transformative Approach:

- The program promotes renewal by introducing fresh strategies to address pressing health and social issues through collaborative, sustainable solutions.



7. Research Themes:

- Studies with a focus on challenges related to health and well-being are now presented by PD-candidates themselves

These studies show Commitment to Change:

- Through these projects, the Professional Doctorate program underlines its dedication to transforming professional practices and offering impactful, long-term solutions to societal challenge





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Enhancing senior wellbeing through innovative community-based health initiatives: A Professional Doctorate journey

Setting

Kraktie Foundation, a community-based organization in Southeast Amsterdam, collaborating with academic research groups from occupational therapy and social work to enhance its initiatives promoting health and wellbeing among senior citizens.

Aim

To evaluate, improve and innovate the facilitating mechanisms of Kraktie's program to impact the resilience and participation of community-dwelling seniors.

Research

The research question explores how Kraktie can enhance the facilitating mechanisms of its initiatives. The study aims to combine methods and applications such as the Presence Approach, Participatory Action Research, Community of Practice, Theories of Change, Narrative in action.

The Journey

The journey started in 2023 and is a joint effort and co-creation within participatory action research. On the horizon of 2027 the outcome will be shaped by a variety of boundary crossing objects like a documentary, a program theory, symposia and expositions.



Working towards an inclusive and healthy society are important and coherent goals.



Voor samenwerken en verbinden



Stichting Kraktie brengt kracht en daadkracht bij elkaar!

Soemitro Poerbodipoero, MSc¹, Peggy Anijs², Margo van Hartingsveldt, PhD³

The Damster Approach for More Healthy Years in a small Dutch northern town, Appingedam

Setting

Appingedam, located in the northeastern part of Groningen in the municipality of Eemsdelta, has been experiencing earthquakes caused by gas extraction since 1963. In addition to physical damage to homes, this has led to prolonged uncertainty, stress, and deep-seated distrust towards both national and local governments.

Question

‘How can the living environment be improved to better contribute to the lifestyle and health of the residents of Appingedam?’

Aim

The goal is to collaborate with residents, professionals, and policymakers to create a living environment that meets residents' needs, promotes lifestyle improvements, and supports healthier lives.

Findings so far

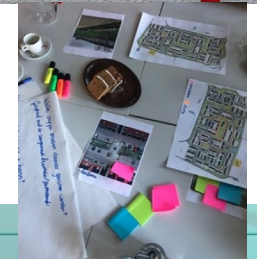
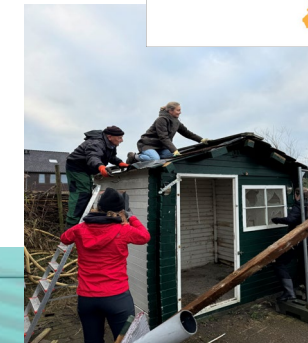
Various professionals from different fields seek to involve residents in addressing community issues, but there is a lack of structure and oversight in these efforts. In-depth interviews with regional professionals reveal that health-related topics are underrepresented due to an overwhelming workload.

Next steps ahead

The researcher is engaged with the municipality of Eemsdelta, which is in the early stages of developing its environmental vision, based on the newly implemented Environmental Act. In this process, the researcher has been assigned a recognized role in integrating the theme of health into the vision.



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Professional Doctorate: Innovating Dementia Care: Integrating Dance and Assistive Technology to Enhance Well-Being and Prolong Independent Living at Home

Research

- **Key Question:** *How can dementia care be transformed using S2M to enhance well-being and prolong independent living?*
- **Understand** current care practices and challenges.
- **Identify** conditions for successful integration of S2M.
- **Evaluate** the impact of S2M on dementia care practices.

The Journey

- A **participatory action research** project (2023-2027).
- Collaboration with **hospitals, care organizations, and individuals with dementia**.
- Outcomes: **documentary, program theory, symposia, and best practices**.
- Focus on **holistic care & interdisciplinary cooperation** to improve home-based dementia support.



Discussion

Unique Edge ... Health & Well-being

- Questions?



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Thank you for attending this session!



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