

The Vocational Situation of People who rely on AAC in Germany - Experiences from Research Projects

This seminar will address employment issues faced by people who use AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).

The speakers will discuss a number of projects related to integrating people who use AAC into the workplace.

In particular Jan will present his Voice@Work project. The project's aim was to develop an employer's guide for the inclusion of people with complex communication needs (CCN) in an ergonomically designed mainstream workplace. This guide is also valuable for other stakeholders like accident insurers and rehabilitation centres.

The guide is based on the 'T-O-P'-approach of the occupational safety and health (technique, organisation and person) and gives stakeholders advice and suggestions how to (re-)employ people with CCN. The guide is one additional element when implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Speakers

Jan-Oliver Wülfing works in the domain of Human-Computer Interaction and Usability Engineering – especially on Speech Generating Devices and their emotional expressiveness. He holds a M.A. in Computational Linguistics having studied at the University of Trier, Germany (1997-2005), and at the University College Dublin, Ireland (2001-2002). He currently works at the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, Germany. He has worked on the Voice@Work project (funded by the German Social Accident Insurance) and the PHOSPHORUS (Lambda User Controlled Infrastructure for European

Research) project (funded by the European Union) – annotating and implementing a Resource Selection Service in the Grid Middleware including the design of ontologies. Jan-Oliver is a certified Usability Engineer. He is disabled (Cerebral Palsy, Dysarthria).



Gregor Renner



Jan-Oliver Wülfing

Prof. Dr. Gregor Renner holds the first professorship for AAC in Germany at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences Freiburg. He is also the chair of the bachelor program "special education / inclusive education". Gregor Renner has studied electronics and special education in Berlin and has worked in the AAC field since the early 1990s. In the 2004 he completed his doctorate about the theoretical basis of AAC. He worked as postdoc in different research projects in Berlin and Halle. In 2008 he received the professorship of AAC. He has been co-chair of the ISAAC research committee since 2004 and is ISAAC President Elect 2014 – 2015. Gregor Renner is actively involved in research, professional education and training, and service delivery in the area of AAC. His primary interest is the inclusion of persons who rely on AAC, especially into the life area of work and employment.

**All
Welcome**