



INTERDEM MEMBERS – BRIEF CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME:	Franka (Cornelia) Bakker
TITLE:	dr.
PROFESIONAL GROUPING:	Windesheim University of Applied Sciences Department of Health and Wellbeing Research Group Living Well with Dementia
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PRESENT POSITION:	Associate Professor (in Dutch: associate lector) of Living Well with Dementia
HIGHEST ACADEMIC QUAL.:	PhD



PROFILE OF MEMBER:

Dr. Franka Bakker is associate professor of Living Well with Dementia at the Department of Health and Well-being of Windesheim UAS. She studied Health Sciences (2010) and the European Masters in Gerontology (2012), at VU University Amsterdam. Her PhD research (2010-2015) was on improving hospital wide care for frail older adults, at Radboud UMC, in which she implemented and evaluated a complex care intervention, partially aimed at preventing delirium during admission. She also led a programme to involve informal caregivers as partners in hospital care (2013-2015). Bakker has been a lecturer in Applied Gerontology for 5 years (2013-2018), and performed several applied research projects in which co-creation with older adults in living labs with multiple stakeholders from the quadruple helix were key elements.

By conducting practice-based qualitative research, the research group Living Well with Dementia aims to contribute to better lives for people with dementia and their families. The focus of the research group is on people's abilities rather than on their limitations and challenges posed by the disease. This implies that important themes in the work of the group include autonomy, dignity, inclusion, meaningfulness, participation, and well-being of people with dementia and their families. Research lines of the Living Well with Dementia research group are:

1. The meaning of living well with dementia;
2. Innovations in the living and care environments of people with dementia, and;
3. Access to and alignment of dementia care and support services.

Research designs of the research group are often guided by the principles of participatory action research, including co-creation between stakeholders from research, practice, and education. As such, findings of research find their way into professional practice and educational programs of (future) health and social care professionals.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

From background, I am trained in Health Sciences (Policy & Organization) and Gerontology. From a broad perspective on ageing and practice-oriented research I aim to improve care and support for ageing adults. Main focus of our current research is to enable living well with dementia from different angles (i.e. individual with dementia, social system around people with dementia, living and care environment, and society as a whole). Themes in our research include: perspectives on living well with dementia, tensions that challenge living well with dementia, framing of dementia, social innovations supporting living well with dementia (for people with dementia, family caregivers, health and social care professionals) and collaboration and alignment of (dementia) care and support. Research designs of our research group are often guided by the principles of participatory action research, including co-creation between dementia care stakeholders from research, practice, and education: people with dementia, informal caregivers, health and social care professionals, students, teachers and social entrepreneurs. Our research projects mostly have qualitative research designs using creative and inclusive data collection methods including narrative interviews, observations, photo voice, photo elicitation and cultural probes.

KEY PUBLICATIONS (Max. 5):

- Bakker, FC (2021) Sensitief voor zingeving in de dagelijkse praktijk van het sociaal werk [sensitivity for meaning in life in daily practice of social care]. SoZio, June;39-42.
- Bakker, FC, Harps-Timmerman AE, Veerman, M, Van den Berg, A, Smits, CHM. (2019) Goed leven; een holistische visie op ouder worden. [Good Life; a holistic view on ageing (well)] Tijdschrift voor Positieve Psychologie, August; 3:35-40.
- Bakker F, Sliepenbeek M, Becht J, Visser G, Veerman M, Smits C. (2019) De kracht van gelijkwaardige samenwerking tussen ouderen, onderwijzers en onderzoekers. [Strength of equal collaboration between older adults, lecturers and researchers] Geron Tijdschrift over ouder worden en samenleving (21), 4.
- Smits, C., Jukema, J., Duran, G., Cumert, G., Bakker, F. (2018) Op weg naar cultuursensitieve zorg; lessen in co-creatie. [On the way to culture sensitive care; lessons in co-creation] Denkbeeld, augustus 2018, 24-26.
- Bakker, FC (2015) Evaluating transition towards tailored hospital care for elderly people. [dissertation] Nijmegen: Radboud Universiteit.

RELEVANT RESEARCH ACTIVITY:

2022-2027 <i>NWO; Human Capital: Learning communities as innovation accelerator.</i> €1.000.000	ENABLE-DEM: Multistakeholder learning communities enabling the health and social care workforce to establish living environments that enable to live well with dementia. Simone de Bruin coordinated the grant proposal development and is project leader of the project. Franka Bakker supported the grant proposal development and is leader of one of the three work packages. Involved researchers in writing the grant proposal and performing the research are: Menno Vos and Tijmen Schipper (Windesheim UAS), Sandra Schruijer (UU), Minke Nieuwboer (HAN/Radboud Alzheimer Center), Rens Brankaert (Fontys UAS), Chris Wallner (Leiden UAS).
2022-2024 <i>ZonMw / Health~Holland; Citizens Science</i> €330.000	VRbeelding; beeld van een goed leven met dementie via VR-brillen <i>(imaging living well with dementia via Virtual Reality)</i> Franka Bakker coordinated the grant proposal development and is project leader of the project, supervised and co-produced by Simone de Bruin. Other involved researchers: Marike Hettinga (Windesheim UAS), Rens Brankaert (Fontys UAS).
2020-2022 <i>ZonMw; Zorg voor Zingeving</i> €300.000	ZINSITIEF; sensitief voor zingeving in sociaal werk <i>(sensitive for meaning in life in social work)</i> Franka Bakker coordinated the grant proposal development and is project leader of the project. Involved researchers: Eduard Groen and Theo van Leeuwen, Simone de Bruin and Carolien Smits.
2019 <i>Regieorgaan Sia; Kiem</i> €30.000	PROZINS; proactief en professioneel in zingeving voor senioren thuis <i>(pro-activity and professionalism in meaning in life for seniors at home)</i> Franka Bakker coordinated the grant proposal development and was project leader of the project. Involved researchers: Eduard Groen and Carolien Smits.
2018-2019 <i>Municipality of Zwolle</i> €45.000	Schoon en leefbaar huis <i>(attention for living well for seniors by household workers)</i> Franka Bakker coordinated the grant proposal development and was project leader of the project. Involved researcher: Carolien Smits.

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS/ONGOING PROJECT TITLE:

- **Living well with dementia project:** qualitative research project in which we explore the perspectives of individuals with dementia, their informal caregivers, and health and social care professionals on the meaning of 'living well with dementia', and identify factors that potentially challenge to live well.
- **Meaning in life / spiritual care in social work:** participatory action research in which we explore how social workers and volunteers can recognize and support older citizens who have questions regarding meaning in life and how to collaborate with professionals in spiritual care.
- **Meaning in life / spiritual care in dementia care and support:** a learning community in which we explore which life questions occur during the dementia disease trajectory among people with dementia and their informal caregivers, how different professionals can recognize these and collaborate in providing support, and which meaningful daily activities are needed and may be developed to fulfil needs of people with dementia and their informal caregivers.
- **VRbeelding; imaging living well with dementia via Virtual Reality;** citizen science project in which we explore the images among citizens about living with dementia, and how we can change negative images about living dementia into more positive images, through a VR-intervention.
- **ENABLE-DEM: Multistakeholder learning communities enabling the health and social care workforce to establish living environments that enable to live well with dementia:** participatory action research in which we explore how we can enable professionals to work, learn and innovate in dementia care and support through (researching) learning communities.

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO CONTRIBUTE TO INTERDEM:

I look forward to collaborating with the other members of the INTERDEM-network and to contributing jointly to more quality of life for people with dementia and their informal caregivers. My contribution will consist of sharing insights from our research projects, and more specifically sharing our learnings with regard to enabling to live well with dementia. Additionally, we aim to share our experiences with the different creative and inclusive methods for data collection. We are very motivated to learn from the experiences from other INTERDEM-partners. We still have a lot to learn when it comes to engaging people with dementia (with different cultural backgrounds) and therefore will join INTERDEM-meetings with an open attitude and with the intention to build learning connections. As a university of applied sciences, we always aim for close collaboration between science, care practice and education. This means that we have a lot of experience with co-creation with various stakeholders including people with dementia, informal caregivers, health and social care professionals, managers, students, teachers and social entrepreneurs. We are very motivated to share these experiences, and exchange with INTERDEM-partners how such collaborations can be used to their full potential so as to create new scientific knowledge while at the same time improve current practice in dementia care.