

5. **McMenamin, R., Griffin, M., Grzybowski, R. & Pound, C. (2021) Working together: experiences of people with aphasia as co-researchers in participatory health research studies, *Aphasiology*, DOI: [10.1080/02687038.2021.1923948](https://doi.org/10.1080/02687038.2021.1923948)**

*Background:* People with aphasia have been engaging with research in a variety of ways. There are few descriptions of how they are involved in participatory research methodologies and even fewer reports describe their perspective on participating as co-researchers.

*Aims:* To explore the experiences and reflections of two people with aphasia, BG and MG, on being involved in participatory research studies as co-researchers – the Conversation Partner Programme Evaluation Project and the Friendship and Aphasia Project.

*Methods:* Semi-structured interviews were conducted with two people with aphasia about their experiences of engaging in participatory research as co-researchers. Data were analysed thematically.

*Outcomes & Results:* Retrospective reflection by MG and BG resulted in five interlinked themes:

- Involvement in participatory research processes: *“More than a guinea pig”*
- Group process: *“It’s us not them ... completely different”*
- Flexibility and creativity: new ways to co-generate and co-analyse data
- Personal transformations and transformative actions arising from the research: *“The tortoise wants to be like the hare again”*
- Enhancing quality and meaningfulness: *“You get more things out of it for more people”*

*Conclusions:* Participatory research methodologies encourage and support non-traditional methods and boundary crossing relationships between academic researchers and people with aphasia. MG and BG’s reflections and recommendations suggest possibilities for enhancing collaboration and equality within our research practices.