



**Bold Ideas, Better Solutions
Hopkins Centre Symposium 2019**

Making innovation better: the promise and challenge of new discoveries for disability



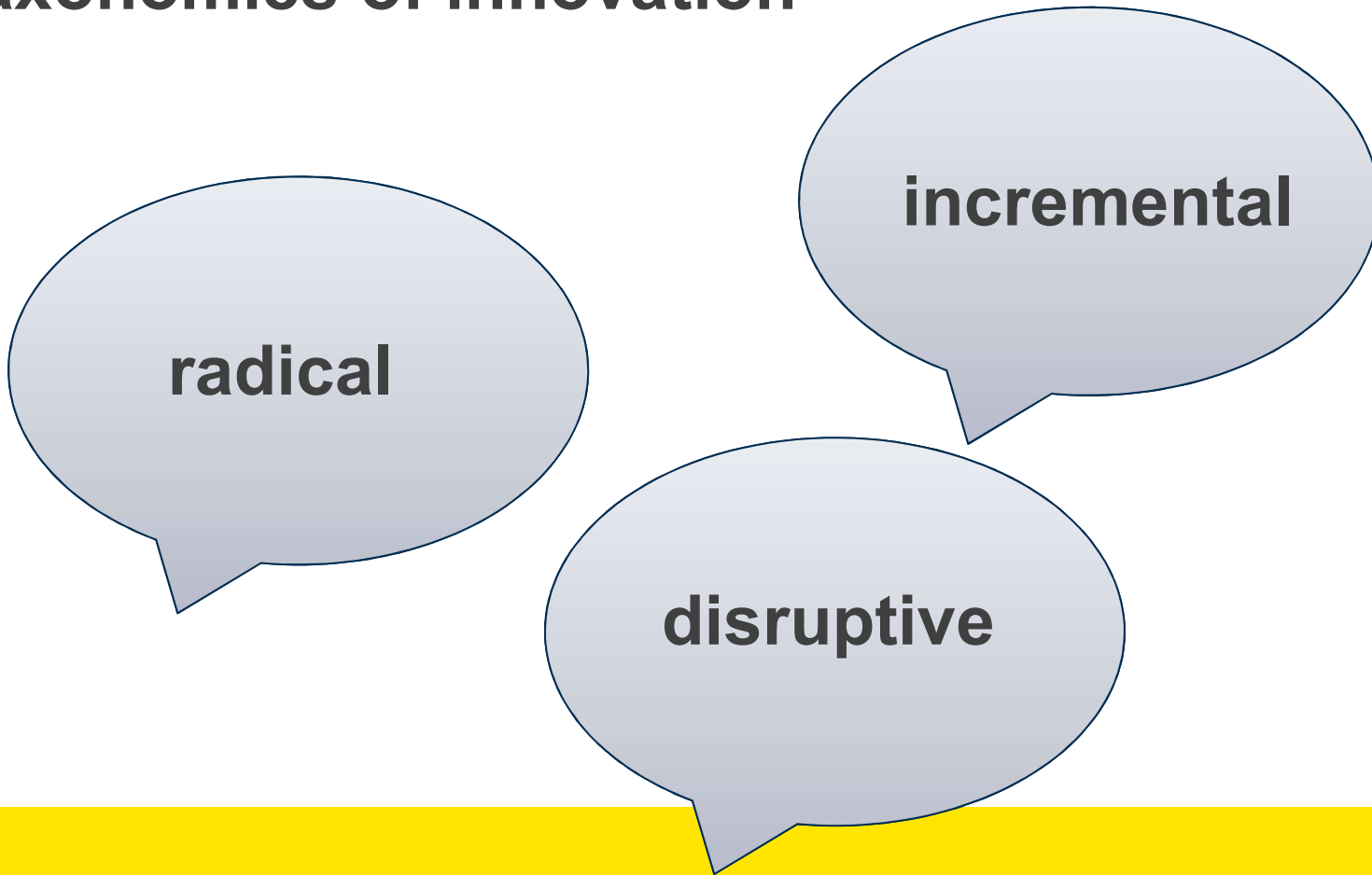
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Innovation

- Newness and novelty...
- ...fresh directions, new paths...
- ...new things, new processes, new (social) practices...

- *...Innovation is thinking in a new way, and seeing what comes out of it...*

Taxonomies of innovation



Morally loaded background of innovation

- Assumptions about
 - ...normativity of innovation
 - ...innovation = progress
 - ...innovation as inevitably ethical and social good
- Innovation should make the situation better
- Evaluation is an intrinsic, embedded part of innovation process

Innovation in disability: the conceptual landscape

- Innovation in *thinking about disability*
- Disability activism 1970s/80s
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 (Australia ratified 2008)
- Sent out a radical *innovative message...*



Innovation in disability: the conceptual landscape

- Individualized/medical framework
 - Deviation from biological norms of form/function
 - Innovation through biomed intervention to restore individual body to norms
- Social-relational framework
 - Mismatch between embodiment and social/material environment
 - Innovation through social/environmental transformation (changing norms)



chairs

The necessity for access ramps and in have the option of avoiding out-



Innovation in disability: co-production

- Traditional *lack of engagement or consultation* with people with disabilities
 - Excluding knowledge and experience of people with disabilities from processes of research and innovation
 - People with disabilities seen as passive *recipients* of innovation rather than agential co-researchers or co-producers

Innovation in disability: co-production

- Working in partnership with people with disabilities at different stages of innovation process
 - Addresses real problems
 - More likely to produce feasible, workable solutions
 - Treats people with disabilities as agents in control of their lives

An example: sign language 'translating' glove

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By Nick
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Tuesday, May 10, 2016

By **Emily Pate**



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Jose Hernandez-Rebollar demonstrates his AcceleGlove, which claimed to "translate" sign language into written and spoken forms. (STEPHEN J. BOITANO / AP)

Innovation in disability: co-production

“...Still, as long as actual Deaf users aren’t included in these projects, inventors are likely to continue creating devices that offend the very group they say they want to help. “To do this work, the first rule you have to teach yourself is that you are not your user”

Thad Starner, quoted in Erard, 2017

Innovation in thinking normalization or div

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- so



Disability Innovation Institute UNSW

- Disability isn't a *problem to be solved*: it's part of the human condition, we need to engage with it
- Aim is to foster *interdisciplinary, inclusive* research and development
- And to encourage *co-research practices* to build capacity in the research community
- Building partnerships between researchers in academia, industry, government, DPOs in Australia and beyond

Thank you for your attention!

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