



Simon Judge

Qualifications

MEng in Electronic and Electrical Engineering (2:1)

1995-1999: Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine,
London

A-Levels (Maths -A, Physics -A, Chemistry -A) , GCSEs (8 As, 2 Bs)

1988-1995: The Holy Trinity School, Crawley

Personal Statement

I have made a significant impact on the electronic assistive technology field, having been intensively involved in this community since the beginning of my career. I am able to blend my experience and knowledge of assistive technology, mainstream technology and working with people with disabilities to contribute to both my clinical practice and research. I see my strengths as understanding and mediating the often contrasting requirements of people and technology.

My current role is leading and developing the Barnsley Assistive Technology team. This team offers a specialised service across three districts, working with local professionals to provide assistive technology to clients with severe disabilities. In addition I am an honorary researcher with Sheffield University and lead and collaborate on a number of research projects. My research interests are across a number of different areas of electronic assistive technology, particularly in open source software and human computer interaction.

I have skills and experience in a unique combination of areas: electronic assistive technology; electronic engineering; usability and accessibility; people skills and people management; user requirement specification; advanced computer skills across a broad spectrum of software including programming, web design and advanced office applications.



Significant Recent Projects

Development of speech recognition systems (SPECS & Vivoca2 projects): user involvement shef.ac.uk/cast/projects/vivoca

I lead the user involvement and user interface design aspects of these significant projects (approx. £1.5m in total) which are aiming to develop speech recognition systems for people with disordered speech. This suite of projects represents a significant technical challenge and one that requires a significant level of user involvement and have a complex set of constraints that apply when making the devices usable.

Communication aid design (Devices for Dignity project): user requirements devicesfordignity.org.uk

I am joint lead on the Devices for Dignity (D4D) project looking into the design requirements of users of communication aids. People who use communication aids (and have difficulties with speech) are a notoriously hard to reach group and their needs are poorly understood. This scoping project has investigated the needs of users using a mixture of research methods. The D4D programme, funded by the Department of Health, focuses on the design, development and evaluation of devices to improve healthcare quality and well-being for clients with long term conditions.

Development of simplified computer interfaces (Maavis project): usability maavis.fullmeasure.co.uk/

I jointly conceived and am involved in the development of an open source software project called Maavis. Maavis is designed to include people otherwise excluded from the possible benefits of technology because of its complex interface. Maavis has been successfully trialled with people with dementia and children with special educational needs, uses a flexible, open development platform and is an OSSwatch strategic project.

Open source assistive technology (OATS) software: creating an open community oatsoft.org

I jointly conceived and developed the OATS website - a website and community promoting and listing open source assistive technology software. This site is well recognised and has been running for over 6 years as the most authoritative source of this information.

RAATE & Communication Matters conferences: developing the assistive technology field

I am on the scientific committee of the [RAATE conference](#) - the UK's main assistive technology conference. I am also a trustee of [Communication Matters](#) - organising the UK's main augmentative and alternative communication conference (AAC) and representing the needs of AAC users nationally.



Employment

Barnsley Assistive Technology Team (2007 onwards)

barnsleyrd.nhs.uk

The Barnsley AT team offers a specialist service across three districts of Yorkshire – working with local professionals to provide relevant assistive technology. The team consists of Clinical Scientists and Clinical Technologists and works with local teams to offer: assessments for and provision of electronic assistive technology; provision of specialist and custom made assistive technology; help, support, advice and training. The team is well recognised within the UK as one of the most reputable, innovative and forward thinking teams.

As the Senior Clinical Scientist within the team, I lead the team and am responsible for developing the team into an example of best practice. I have a clinical role within the team, assessing clients for provision of electronic assistive technology. I am also an honorary researcher at Sheffield University and manage and carry out research in conjunction with the Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Group in the [School of Health and Related Research](#) - one of the fastest growing and possibly largest research groups of its kind.

ACT (2004 - 2007)

actwmids.nhs.uk

ACT is a regional specialist electronic assistive technology service providing a range of equipment throughout the West Midlands. The department consists of Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Clinical Scientists supported by Medical Technical Officers and Administrators.

As a state registered Clinical Scientist within this team my role included: carrying out assessments of patients for provision of electronic assistive technology; considering the holistic rehabilitation needs of a diverse and complex case load; taking a leading role in the development of technology within the service; involvement in a number of research and development projects.

MERU (1999-2004)

meru.org.uk

MERU is a not-for-profit organisation making custom made equipment for individual children with disabilities. I worked within the Interface Centre service that I jointly set up in 1999. This specialised service creates bespoke electronic assistive technology controls and is a specialised service that is unique in the UK.

As the only Clinical Scientist within this team my roles were diverse and included: production of bespoke computer interface equipment; assessment of children with disabilities for custom-made equipment; service creation, management & administration; computer, network, web page administration.

Hobbies and Interests

I am very much an outdoors person, enjoying all forms of cycling and climbing and most other things outdoors. I have enjoyed extensive outdoor climbing and cycle touring throughout the UK and abroad. I have also been a member of the [City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus](#) and the [City of London Choir](#).



Recent Funding

Voice Input Voice Output Communication Aids 2: Developing a novel communication aid for people with dysarthric speech. Named collaborator. £376k. Feb 2010.

Communication Matters - Research Matters: An AAC Evidence Base. Joint principle investigator. £467k. Dec 2009.

Maavis@School: Managed access to audio and visual services (simplified interfaces) for children in special schools. Joint principle investigator. £5.3k. Jan 2009.

Devices for Dignity AAC Project: What do users really want from communication aids? Joint principle investigator. ~£10k. Jan 2007.

Recent Publications

mendeley.com/profiles/simon-judge/

For a full listing of my publications and presentations, please visit my library at: citeulike.org/user/simonjudge/tag/my-articles & citeulike.org/user/simonjudge/tag/my-presentations.

Judge S, Robertson Z, Hawley M, Enderby P. Speech-driven environmental control systems - a qualitative analysis of users' perceptions. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*. 2009;4(3):151-157.

Judge S, Robertson Z, Hawley MS. Users' Perceptions of Environmental Control Systems. In: *Assistive Technology from Adapted Equipment to Inclusive Environments - AAATE 2009*. Vol 25. Florence, Italy: IOS Press; 2009:426-431.

Judge S, Blackburn S. The use of eye-gaze data in the evaluation of assistive technology software for older people. In: *Proceedings of COGAIN 2008, "Communication, Environment and Mobility Control by Gaze"*. COGAIN; 2008:67-72.

Judge S. Recent Advances in Assistive Technology and Engineering (RAatE) Barker R. *Advances in Clinical Neuroscience and Rehabilitation*. 2008;8(1):39-40.

Judge S. Information-sharing and evidence base within assistive technology: some current tools. *Journal of Assistive Technologies*. 2007;1(2):52-53.

Judge S, Landeryou M. Disambiguation (Predictive Texting) for AAC. In: *Communication Matters Journal*. Vol 22. Communication Matters; 2007:37-41.

Robertson Z, **Judge S**. "What's your name?" A case study. In: *Communication Matters Journal*. Vol 21.; 2007:30-33.

Judge S, Colven D. *Switch access to technology - A comprehensive Guide*. 1 ed. Oxford: The ACE Centre; 2006:1-56.

Judge S, Lysley A. OATS - Open Source Assistive Technology - a way forward. *Communication Matters Journal*. 2005;19(3):11-12.

Palmer P, Thursfield C, **Judge S**. An evaluation of the Psychosocial Impact of Assistive Devices Scale. In: *Assistive Technology: From Virtuality to Reality*. IOS Press; 2005.