Dear IPED journal editors,

Please find attached my original paper submission to your journal, Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Equality and Diversity. I am submitting this autoethnographic paper for consideration for the upcoming special issue on ‘Intersecting inequalities in the time of COVID-19’. My paper is based on my own reflections of the COVID-19 lockdown and from my recent in-depth fieldwork with rural older people in Scotland who live at home with smart and internet-connected technologies to assist with their health and wellbeing. In the paper, I argue that a potential move to increased digital health technologies at home (digital-by-default healthcare) as a result of the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the care sector and potential cost-savings could lead to negative impacts on certain intersectionalities of society, in this case, older people and people with disabilities. These negative inequalities could include heightened isolation and reduced feelings of independence when the use of digital home healthcare, and the need to spend additional time at home, becomes a necessity rather than a choice.

I believe this paper could be a valuable contribution to this special issue as it explores the impacts of media narrative of the expendability of older and disabled people and the potential economic and social consequences of future potential public health measures (i.e. digital-by-default home healthcare). Furthermore, as my paper is a somewhat autoethnographic account I hope it may be welcomed as an alternative paper format.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course,

Thank you,

Rachel Creaney