While recovering from a stroke, Isabel was diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2009. A mere two months before, Isabel was living independently and extremely active in her community. Scared of what this would mean for her family, she spoke openly and courageously about her diagnosis and what was happening in her body. She lived each day at home with her family, surrounded by laughter, love and her growing grandchildren.

One Day at a Time is the story of love. It’s the story of the Kelly family and their journey in supporting their Mother, Isabel, from diagnosis through to end of life. How they met the challenges of geography, energy, ignorance and how, together, they created a beautiful space for Isabel to remain whole and connected with her family. This journey intersected with multiple health care systems — three Canadian provinces in both urban and rural centers. Catherine will share insights on isolation, stigma, community care, of infusing life in the dying process and the power of love. Unflinching, One Day at a Time is a raw account of one families lived experience. Raising her children. She is certified as a Third Party Neutral and trained/certified in community engagement, facilitation, and peace circles. These skills have helped Catherine advocate for her Mother, others living with dementia and their caregivers.

Catherine recently founded ‘Got the Dementia’, inspired by her experience as a caregiver for her mother. Catherine holds a BA (Hons) from Carleton University, is a certified Dementia Care Practitioner, a certified Positive Approach to Care™ trainer and a certified End of Life Doula. She lives in a red house on a hill, by the ocean, with her husband Wayne and their two curious kids – Xavier and Sibéal. The mission for her business is working with people with dementia and their families to create a loving, caring, supportive, nurturing environment from diagnosis to end of life. To help families identify and create the circles of support, so people with dementia can stay at home as long as possible. Catherine’s commitment to community, nature and connectedness is grounded in her small-town Newfoundland upbringing, and greatly influenced by her experience with Indigenous Cultures.

Life story work is generally regarded as a way for people living with dementia to maintain their connection with the past and facilitate meaningful communication in the present. This paper presents a single-case life story study that highlights themes of care giving and receiving in the interconnecting stories of a mother living with dementia and her adult son. The project methodology was informed by ideas and practices from both drama therapy and narrative therapy and, as such, combined a performative approach to life story work with a creative, collaborative approach to communication. The work is discussed in light of recent conversations about citizenship and dementia (Baldwin, 2008; Baldwin & Greason, 2016; Brannelly, 2016) that highlight the essential interdependence of people’s lives and narratives as justification for more egalitarian relationships between people living with dementia and their partners in care.

The importance of children’s agency in the use of technologies is well-established but it continues to be challenged with applications that automatically personalize children’s content. This paper integrates educational theory of personalization with the design principles and empirical work of a story-making app called Our Story, which places a child’s agency at the center of its design. The impact of a series of studies...
with the OS app is summarized and implications for future design are offered. The Agentic Personalization Framework that consists of a design principle and a set of guiding questions is presented. The design principle is based on two continuous axes: agency/structure and individualism/collectivism, which give rise to four processes: personalization/customization and standardization/individualization. The guiding questions are intended to promote reflection among researchers and designers interested in supporting children's agency with stories that children can make or interact with on tablets. The Agentic Personalization Framework is rooted in empirical studies, iterative design and theoretical developments and provides a fertile ground for research-design collaborations that place children’s agency at the heart of innovative work.

Note: This work is partly presented at International Conference on Dementia & Dementia Care July 20-21, 2019 at Toronto Canada.