

# Zoom is better than nothing!

## Observing Participation of Older Adults Transitioning from In-Person to Video Meetings

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### Introduction

Video technologies provide an easy way for people to stay connected remotely.

We observed a local Bloomington quilting group's meetings **transitioned** to online meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We investigated how an older adult group **transitioned** their hands-on meetings to online meetings.

### Research Questions

- How do older adult crafters' interactions **change** when transitioning their hands-on, in-person activities to an online group?
- What **challenges** do older adults have in **transitioning** to meeting online?

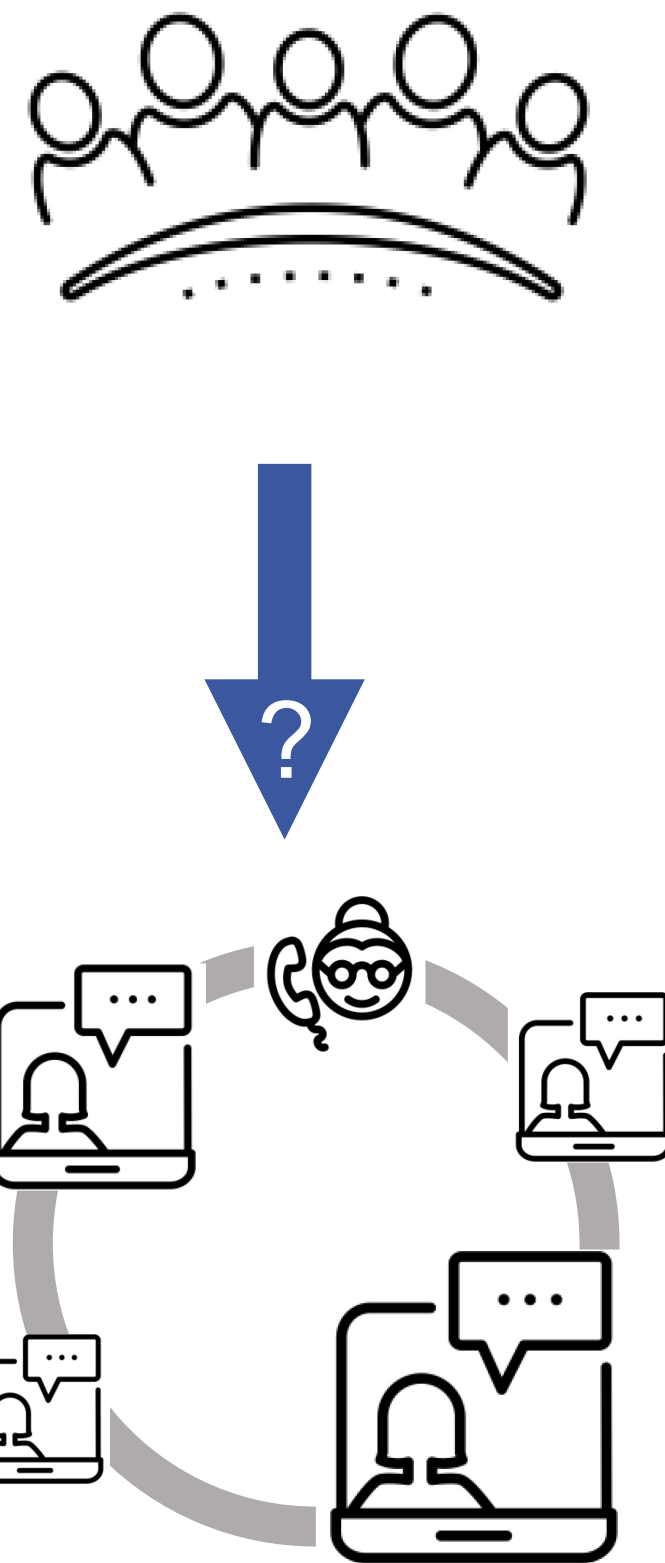
### Research Methods

We ethnographically observed 7 participants over 18 meetings from mid-April 2020 to mid-August 2020. Meetings were 36-95 minutes long (average 67 minutes).

We interviewed participants after 18 meetings to collect **personal** and **common experiences** among the quilting group.

**Meetings and Interviews** were conducted over Zoom, a platform that has grown huge over the past year.

Two researchers **thematically analyzed** transcripts using open and inductive coding with consultation by a third researcher.



### Key Findings

#### Interaction Changes

Interactions Between People

*Go on! [[Zoom attendees encourage Participant 5, the only participant calling in]]*

Overall less interactions

*Participants reported attending less frequently after the pandemic because of the transition to Zoom.*

#### Transition Challenges

Getting Connected

*There are some people who don't even have the technology! [Participant 1]*

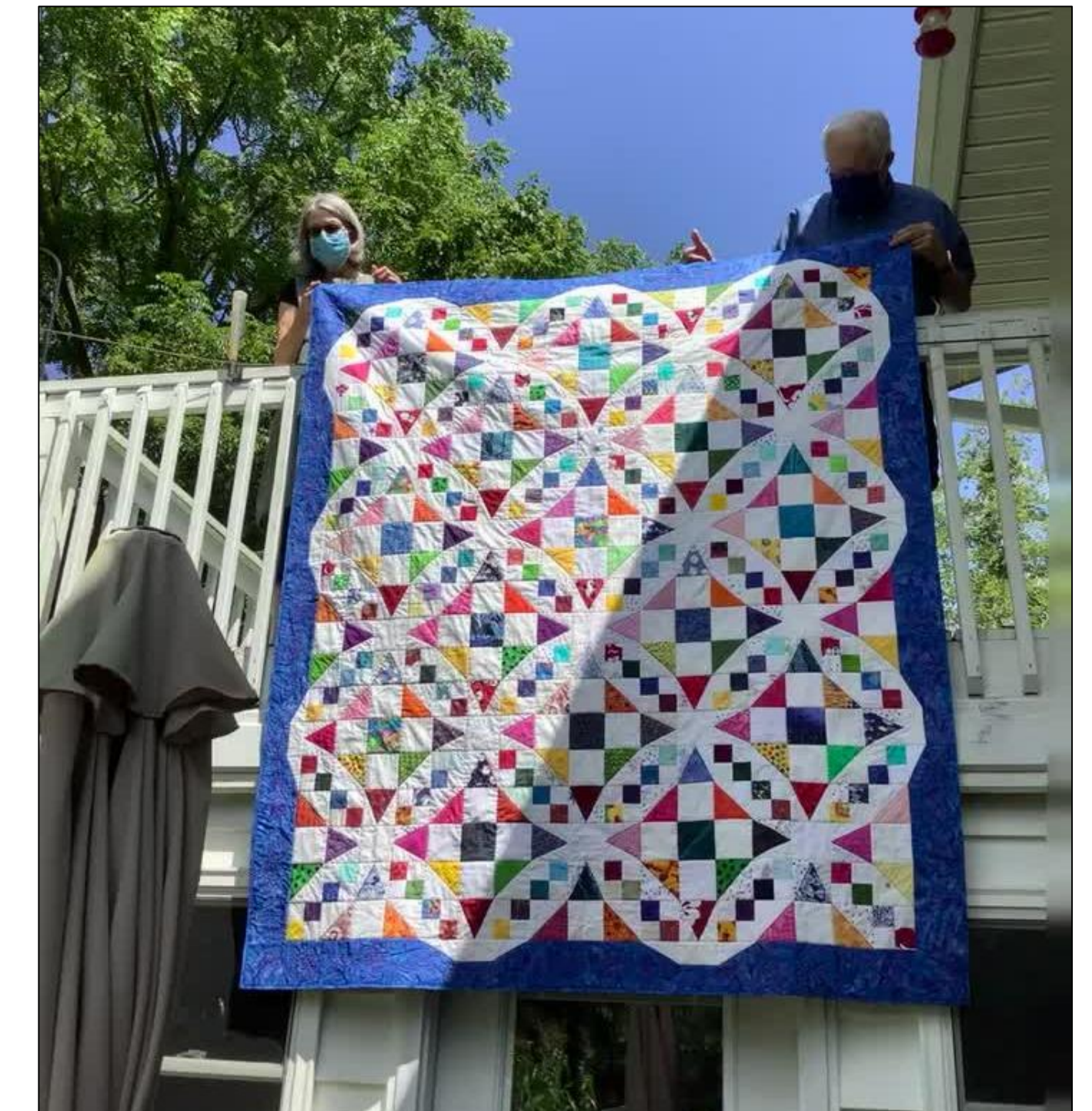
*What does copy and paste mean? [Participant 4]*

Becoming Experts

*We all got our Zoom skills honed because of this meeting! [Participant 1]*

Zooming vs. Quilting

*Participants stopped quilting because they needed to "focus on Zoom." [Participant 4]*



A quilting guild member showing a quilt during the pandemic



Christmas tree themed door hanging a participant showed during meetings.

#### Reasons for Persistence

Community

*The group offered experience. [Participant 1]*

*It's good to hear your voices. [Participant 2]*

*I sure worry about them. [Participant 4]*

*Zoom is better than nothing! [Participant 6]*



### Acknowledgments

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