**Leela Damodaran, Professor of Digital Inclusion and Participation, Loughborough University UK**

**Leela Damodaran**, FAcSS, MIoD, is Professor of Digital Inclusion and Participation at Loughborough University. She also leads the Digital Technologies and Social Inclusion (DTSI) Group and works as an independent policy advisor. She specialises in the behavioural aspects and human use of information and communications technologies (ICTs), planning of change and transition, strategies for social and digital inclusion, citizen engagement and participation. She is particularly interested in working with communities and grass-roots organisations to promote successful digital participation of older people.   
  
She has worked on and led a wide range of programmes and projects variously in research, consulting, or advisory roles. In recent years this has included the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme ‘Sus-IT’ project to develop understanding of the use of digital technologies by older people and solutions to promote their digital participation and the EPSRC funded KT-Equal consortium established specifically to exploit a decade of investment in ageing and disability research. As well as engaging in academic research, Leela collaborates with government departments, local government, ‘blue-chip’ companies, and other key stakeholder groups to inform policy, strategy and design decisions relating to ICT products, systems and services. She was a member of the Ofcom Strategic Advisory Board (OSAB) from its inception and a member of the DWP-led Age Action Alliance Digital Inclusion Group. She serves frequently on the steering/advisory groups for research projects run by other organisations. Recent work includes an evidence review on attitudes and behaviours relating to the ageing process commissioned by the Government Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser, at the Business, Innovation and Skills Department. Leela has authored 7 books, a wide range of papers in academic journals and conference proceedings and numerous project reports.

Leela is a representative of the academic sector on the Digital Inclusion Delivery Board (DIDB) of the Government Digital Strategy team in the Cabinet Office and has just completed a term in the associated role of Chair of the Research Working group. She is a member of the Action Group on Technology and Ageing of the South East England Forum on Ageing (SEEFA).