



POPULATION AGEING AND URBANISATION

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON 'AGEING IN PLACE' IN CITIES

Understanding the relationship between population ageing and urban change is now a major issue for public policy and research. The case for such work is especially strong given that cities are where the majority of people of all ages live and where they will spend their old age.

Nevertheless, cities are largely imagined and structured with a younger, working age demographic in mind. Older people are rarely incorporated into mainstream thinking and planning around urban environments.

This research programme will contribute new knowledge about how urban environments can be developed to meet the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse ageing population.

The research will examine the role of 'age-friendly' policies and initiatives in shaping the experience of ageing in place in seven cities: Akita (Japan), Bilbao (Spain), Brno (Czech Republic), Brussels (Belgium), Manchester (the UK), Oslo (Norway) and Quebec (Canada).

Aims of the research

Advance understanding of 'ageing in place' in cities using interdisciplinary perspectives

- Examine policies and age-friendly initiatives aimed at supporting ageing in place across seven cities
- Explore experiences of ageing in place among diverse ageing populations (reflecting different ethnic, gender and class backgrounds) living in urban neighbourhoods
- Develop methods and tools for measuring and reporting the impact of age-friendly interventions
- Co-produce innovative models of dissemination with various stakeholder groups



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Research Team;

Dr. Tine Buffel (PI), Dr. Patty Doran (Co-I), Dr. Sophie Yarker (Co-I), Dr. Laura Swift (Project Administrator) and two PhD researchers.

“The research will play a key role in transforming research, policy and practice designed to improve urban environments for different groups of older people.”

Dr. Tine Buffel
Principal Investigator

Collaboration, co-production and engagement

We are committed to working in partnership with policy, practice and public stakeholders to promote age-friendly urban environments.

We work closely together with a range of stakeholders including the World Health Organization, AGE Platform Europe, Age-Friendly Manchester and the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub.

The research builds upon our expertise in developing innovative methods of co-production involving older people in all stages of the research process.

Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group (MUARG)

The research programme builds on the work of the Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group (MUARG). MUARG sits within the Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing and brings together researchers from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds. Our researchers work on a range of themes which connect ageing societies with various dimensions of urban change, including:

- Inequalities facing older people living in low income neighbourhoods;

- Developing new approaches to urban planning and design;
- Working with older people as co-producers of knowledge about urban environments;
- Understanding the influence of home and neighbourhood on the lives of older people.

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