



MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester
Institute for Collaborative
Research on Ageing



MANCHESTER INSTITUTE FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH INTO AGEING

The **Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research into Ageing** (MICRA) links academics in the University working across a range of disciplines concerned with understanding the challenge of ageing populations. The University of Manchester has the largest concentration of researchers actively engaged in research into ageing in the UK. Members of MICRA work extensively with national and international authorities, funding bodies, and private and public sector organisations, applying research findings to improve the lives of older people.

The decades to 2050 will see a further acceleration in global population ageing. MICRA and the University will be playing a leading role in developing the innovative research necessary to promote healthy ageing over the life course. This leaflet provides a snapshot of the exciting work relating to ageing undertaken in the University, ranging across early career researchers to senior staff.

PIONEERING NEW AREAS OF RESEARCH

School of Natural Sciences

Department of Materials Engineering

Professor Henry Yi Li (Textile Science and Engineering)

leads on developing advanced wearable biosensors and electronics for digital health with modelling and simulating human physiological health. A range of new sensors and wearable devices have been developed for key areas to maintain healthy ageing including digital healthcare applications such as infection management, wound care, and hypertension monitoring management.

School of Biological Sciences

Centre for Dermatology Research

Dr. Abigail Langton, Lecturer in Ethnic Skin, focusses on understanding skin health across global populations, applying innovative technical and clinical approaches to determine the functional consequences of ageing across individuals of diverse skin ethnicity.

School of Social Sciences

Law

Dr. Elaine Dewhurst, Senior Lecturer in Employment Law has led on the University contribution to the Uncertain Futures Project, a collaborative art and research project. Supported by an advisory group formed of women over-50



from Manchester's diverse communities, Uncertain Futures aims to co-research conditions around access to work, within work, and leaving work for women over 50.

School of Environment, Education and Development

Global Development Institute

Professor Tanja Bastia has undertaken innovative research on gender, age and migration, including the caring roles that grandmothers take up in looking after their grandchildren. Her research has also examined how transnational care practices differ in resource-poor countries and among different socio-economic groups; for example, by looking at the unequal consequences that migration has on the migrants' parents in countries such as Bolivia.



RESPONSES TO COVID-19

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration: Healthy Ageing

Dr. Annemarie Money, Research Fellow, and Jane McDermott, Policy Research Unit Manager, led on a study that sought to understand the factors (barriers and enablers) that influenced people 75 and over accessing digital services over the course of the pandemic.

Division of Population Health *Health Services Research and Primary Care*

Greg Williams, Senior Lecturer in Public Health, led on work investigating years of life (YLL) lost to COVID-19 across 20 countries, highlighting both the high burden of YLL amongst older age groups, as well as that in younger age groups in particular countries.

School of Health Sciences Administration

Dr. Karen Davies, Research Associate, led with colleagues on research studying the impact of living with dementia during COVID-19. The aim of the study was to raise awareness of issues facing people diagnosed with dementia and to help shape the design of future research with groups of people who may have limited power and control over their lives.

School of Environment

Education and Development: Architecture

Dr. Camilla Lewis, Lecturer in Architectural Studies, led on work studying the impact of COVID-19 on people 50 and over, with a focus on low-income areas across Greater Manchester. The research highlighted the impact of the pandemic on those people living alone, and people from African Caribbean and South Asian Communities

Division of Human Communication

Development and Hearing

Dr. Jenna Littlejohn, Research Associate, led with colleagues on research demonstrating a significant reduction in socialisation levels from pre-pandemic amongst people 70 and over with hearing difficulties. This was associated with greater levels of loneliness, depression and self-perceived cognitive dysfunction. Compared with pre-pandemic, people with hearing difficulties had increased odds of reporting worsened anxiety, depression, and memory loss during the COVID-19 pandemic.



School of Social Sciences
Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity

Jenny Hewitt, Research Associate, and **Dr. Dharmi Kapadia**, Senior Lecturer, led on research examining racism, social and economic disadvantage and activism before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in older ethnic minority adults. Their work highlighted the extent to which ethnic minority people were more at risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to longstanding inequalities in housing, health, employment and resources.





UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY

School of Social Science

Professor James Banks (Economics) and **Professor James Nazroo** (Sociology) lead on supporting the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), funded by the US NIA and UK Government departments. ELSA has been running for 20 years and has advanced the study of ageing in numerous ways, notably in areas such as work and retirement, healthy ageing, wellbeing, and social and economic inequalities.

Professor Debora Price (Sociology) has undertaken extensive research on pension outcomes after divorce, highlighting widespread disparities between men and women in accumulated pension wealth throughout the life course. The insights from her work has helped transform legal practice across the courts in in settlement negotiations in England and Wales.



INNOVATION IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE RESEARCH

School of Health Sciences

Division of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work: Dementia and Ageing Research Team

Dr. Robyn Dowlen, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, is investigating the benefits of music for people with advanced dementia. She is leading on a new study entitled: 'The impact of an improvised music-making programme on care home staff and family care well-being', in collaboration with Manchester Camerata, the Department of Music at UoM and GMMH NHS Trust.

School of Health Sciences

Division of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work: Healthy Ageing Research Group

Dr. Alex Hall, Research Fellow, undertook an NIHR-supported study examining how social care/social sector professionals, older people and their families address the

challenge of declining mental capacity to manage money in later life. A key finding was that professionals often feel uncomfortable in raising the topic of money management and in providing support to older people, reinforced by a lack of clear roles and responsibilities around assessment and support.

School of Social Sciences

Sociology

Dr. James Fletcher, Wellcome Trust Research Fellow is working with people with dementia documenting experiences of using the public transport system, with the aim of building a cognitive map of transport infrastructures in Greater Manchester.

Dr. Krisztina Mekli, Postdoctoral Research Associate, is leading on research using UK Biobank and ELSA data examining environmental exposure, inflammation, and risk of dementia.

School of Health Sciences

Centre for Primary Care and Health Sciences

Dr. Luke Mumford, Senior Lecturer in Health Economics led on research investigating the benefits of participation by older people with long-term conditions in community assets such as voluntary and community groups. The findings indicated that participation was associated with higher health-related quality of life but not with lower overall health care costs.



COLLABORATION WITH GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA)

School of Health Sciences

Applied Health

The Healthy Ageing Research Group (HARG) has undertaken a range of research collaborations with GMCA, on areas including falls prevention, health promotion advice for people self-isolating at home during COVID-19, and developing self-managed health care.

School of Social Sciences

Sociology

The Manchester Urban Ageing Group has been involved in a variety of projects with GMCA and Manchester City Council, notably around work supporting the development of 'age-friendly' communities across the region, developing innovative forms of co-research with older people, and highlighting the impact of urban generation and gentrification.

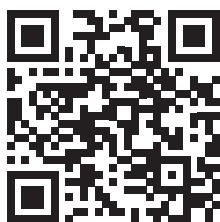


DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS AND COLLABORATIONS

School of Social Sciences
Cathie Marsh Institute

Dr. Nan Zhang, Senior Lecturer, in Medical Sociology and Social Gerontology, founded the Global Network for Ageing Research on China (GNARC). GNARC has a membership of over 200 and brings together researchers, policymakers and NGOs focusing on topics related to ageing and well-being with a particular reference to China and the Global South.





MICRA

LEADING RESEARCH INTO GLOBAL
POPULATION AGEING

<https://www.micra.manchester.ac.uk/>