

HOMeAGE

Advancing Research and Training on Ageing, Place and Home



— **HOMeAGE** —

*Advancing Research and Training on Ageing,
Place and Home*

Public Lecture and Training Sessions

Thursday 19th October

In-person and online

Institute for Lifecourse & Society,

University of Galway, Ireland

Eircode: H91 C7DK

About HOMeAGE

HOMeAGE involves a nine-country collaboration between leading research units, major intergovernmental organisations, international civil society actors and governmental and non-governmental organisations.

HOMeAGE aims to institute an interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and international programme of doctoral training and research that drives the development of new leaders in excellence for the advancement of evidence-based innovation on ageing in place.

HOMeAGE, tackles three interrelated challenges by pursuing three strategic objectives through the work of 12 Doctoral Researchers (DRs) and their individual research projects.



Challenge 1- Needs and Systems:

HOMeAGE will identify flexible and sustainable housing, community-care and mobility systems and critically assess their capacity to support community living needs, across various cultural and structural conditions.



Challenge 2 – Home and Belonging:

HOMeAGE will identify innovative place-based pathways for engagement as a means to create new channels for building a sense of home and belonging amongst diverse older populations, in diverse places.



Challenge 3 – Rights and Voice:

HOMeAGE will identify integrative frameworks, that are responsive to the diversity of older people and their places, to drive relevant and rights-based policy development on ageing in place.

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Public Lecture and Training Sessions

- 08:30 **Welcome and opening address - LCI G018**
Kieran Walsh, HOMeAGE Co-Ordinator, University of Galway, Ireland
- 08:40 **Research overview on ageing in place research**

Theorizing place and ageing: Models and concepts from an Environmental Gerontology perspective
Frank Oswald, Goethe University, Germany

The pre-conditions for ageing in place: A socio-economic perspective
Marco Arlotti and Micol Bronzini, Marche Polytechnic University, Italy
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 **Ageing in place policy overview – Research informed perspectives**

Spatial justice and the right to an age-friendly community
Tine Buffel, UoM, the UK

Policy perspectives and agendas in ageing in place
- 13:30 **Lunch Break**
- 14:15 **Critical thinking and policy and scholarly debates in ageing in place**

Making research policy-relevant: Why place matters
Presenter – Norah Keating, Global Social Initiative on Ageing, IAGG, Canada
- 15:15 **Coffee Break**
- 15:30 **Critical issues in research on ageing in place: A geographical gerontologist's perspective**
Presenter – Malcolm Cutchin, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, US
- 17.00 **Wrap up & close**

Session Abstracts and Learning Outcomes

Research overview and approaches in ageing in place research

Theorizing place and ageing: Models and concepts from an Environmental Gerontology perspective

Frank Oswald, Goethe University, Germany

The aim of this contribution is to give an overview of selected theories addressing place and ageing interrelations, differentiating between first, second, and third generation models and emphasizing various fundamental concepts such as interaction, transaction, co-construction and co-constitution to understand person-environment inter-relations. Thus, the focus is on theorizing place and ageing from an environmental gerontology perspective. Moreover, it will be discuss if and how various theories can address enduring (e.g. interacting with the home environment) and novel challenges (e.g. increasingly digitalized world) of the place and ageing relationship.

- Attendees will be able to develop a critical understanding of theories and fundamental concepts in environmental gerontology.
- Attendees will be able to consider and appreciate theorizing place and ageing as a means to better understand enduring and novel empirical issues of person-environment exchange.

The pre-conditions for ageing in place: a socio-economic perspective

Marco Arlotti and Micol Bronzini, Marche Polytechnic University, Italy

The impact of ageing in place cannot be taken for granted: not only is ageing in place not possible for everyone, but it may not even be necessarily a positive experience for someone. Specific contextual pre-conditions may strongly shape and mediate the relations between ageing in place and older people's well-being. Successful ageing in place depends on the accessibility of appropriate housing, on living in a safe neighbourhood, and on the possibility of social interaction. When older people are affected by functional limitations, the availability of care services or support provided from informal caregivers, may also be crucial. To understand the contextual limitations and pre-conditions of ageing in place this presentation intends to illustrate and discuss two specific issues, by considering the structure of housing systems and national care regimes in Europe as key factors.

Following this session, attendees will be able to:

- Understand the differences in housing systems and care regimes across Europe (descriptive level)
 - Critically understand of how these two dimensions impact ageing in place (interpretative level)
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Ageing in Place policy Overview – Research informed perspectives

Spatial justice and the right to an age-friendly community

Tine Buffel, UoM, the UK

This presentation provides an overview of the main challenges and opportunities associated with developing age-friendly cities and communities to support ageing in place. It sets out the importance of a focus on social and economic inequalities, and their consequences, for research and policy on ageing in place. The implications of such inequalities for age-friendly policy and practice will be discussed, arguing that unless attention is paid to questions of inequality and social justice, such programmes run the very real risk of amplifying inequalities. An overview of the key challenges for the future of the age-friendly movement will be presented, together with a manifesto to inspire progress for the movement.

Following this session, attendees should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the main challenges and opportunities associated with developing age-friendly cities and communities to support ageing in place;
- Critically evaluate research and policy debates on age-friendly cities and communities;
- Have an enhanced understanding of the limitations of ageing in place models and age-friendly policies.

Critical Thinking and Policy and Scholarly Debates in Ageing in Place

Making research policy-relevant: Why place matters

Norah Keating, Global Social Initiative on Ageing, IAGG, Canada

Policy directives from the United Nations including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Decade of Healthy Ageing encourage governments to take action to improve wellbeing of people and of nations. These directives are aspirational. Governments must decide how or whether to act and in which policy domains. In this session we will discuss how regional and country contexts influence governments' understanding of global priorities, shape their public policy directions and highlight knowledge gaps that researchers can address. The Care Economy is used as an example of a policy framework that is understood and applied differently in Europe, North America and Africa.

Following this session, attendees will have an enhanced understanding of:

- How global agendas about ageing are interpreted within regional and country contexts
- How researchers can translate research findings in ways that policy makers may find useful.
- What we can learn from regional policy agendas arising from the same global imperatives.

Critical Issues in Research on Ageing in Place: A Geographical Gerontologist's Perspective

Malcolm Cutchin, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, US



This presentation will provide a geographical understanding of aging and place and suggest a set of emerging directions and opportunities for future research on the subject. Beginning with some common themes in geographical thinking about place, I will expand the discussion into more novel ideas about place and aging, including relational theory and the place integration perspective, multi-scalar perspectives and spatial polygamy, participation and engagement in places, habits and embodiment of place, and the life course of people and places. These theories, concepts, and methodological issues provide excellent research prospects for new scholars in gerontology to contribute to the field.

Following this session, attendees should be able to:

- Learn some key features of geographical thinking on aging and place.
 - Consider how their own projects may include geographical perspectives on aging and place to make novel contributions to the field.
 - Find resources for further learning about the content of the presentation.
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