

HOMeAGE

Advancing Research and Training on Ageing, Place and Home



— **HOMeAGE** —

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

Public Lecture and Training Session

Home and Belonging in Place

Wednesday, 9th October 2024

In-person and online

Interdisciplinary Ageing Research (IAW), Goethe University Frankfurt

Venue: PEG Building, Campus Westend, Theodor-W.-Adorno-Platz 6



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GOETHE
UNIVERSITÄT
FRANKFURT AM MAIN

IAW Interdisziplinäre
Alternswissenschaft

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 Session

09:30: **Institutional welcome**

Sabine Andresen, Vice President for Opportunities, Career Development, Career Advancement, Diversity and Equality, Goethe University

09:45: **Welcome address by host team**

Anna Wanka and Frank Oswald (Interdisciplinary Ageing Research, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany) – Academic Lead

10:00: **Introduction to HOMeAGE 3rd Training Event**

Kieran Walsh (HOMeAGE Coordinator, University of Galway, Ireland)

10:15: **The Impact of (Dis)embodied Social Presence on Loneliness, Home and Belonging**

Chair: Anna Wanka

Speaker: Vanessa Burholt (University of Auckland, New Zealand)

11:00: **Coffee break**

(Room PEG 1.150)

11:30: **Narratives of Ageing and Materiality: The Experience of Home in Older People's Residential Care**

Speaker: Melanie Lovatt (Dept. of Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK)

12:15: **Belonging, Migration, and Ageing**

Chair: Kieran Walsh

Speaker: Sandra Torres (Department of Sociology, Uppsala University, Sweden)

13:00: **Lunch**

(Room PEG 1.150)

14:00: **Late-Life Homelessness: Experiences of Disadvantage and Unequal Aging**

Chair: Tine Buffel

Speaker: Amanda Grenier (Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Canada)

14:45: **Geographical Gerontology: Knowing Place, Five Ways**

Chair: Anna Wanka

Speaker: Gavin Andrews (Department of Health, Aging and Society, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada)



- 15:45: **Coffee break** (Room PEG 1.150)
- 16:15: **Emancipatory Gerontology and The Political Economy of The City: Understanding new inequalities and policy responses**
Speaker: Chris Phillipson, (Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester)
- 17:00: **Practitioners – Panel discussion on Research and Innovation
“How Specific Innovations or Processes Enable Ageing in Place?”**
Chair: Julia Wadoux (AGE Platform)

Speaker: Paul McGarry (Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group [MUARG], Greater Manchester Ageing Hub) & Mark Hammond, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Research Lead at Manchester School of Architecture.
- 17:45: **Wrap-up and close**

Session Abstracts and Learning Outcomes

Wednesday, October 9th

The Impact of (Dis)embodied Social Presence on Loneliness, Home and Belonging
Vanessa Burholt (University of Auckland, New Zealand)

This session will introduce the concepts of embodied and disembodied social presence. It will examine the use of technology mediated communication by older adults in long distance (within the UK) relationships with relatives and the influence on loneliness. It will introduce a classification of transnational relationships that considers the (dis)embodied processes which migrants use to sustain international networks with relatives and the influence of these relationships on belonging. Additionally, the session will discuss ‘spectral traces’ of ancestors and communities that symbolise social presence, and the potential impact on (auto)biographical belonging and home.

At the end of the session, participants will:

- understand the differences between embodied and disembodied social presence;
- gain familiarity with the concept of ‘spectral traces’ of social presence;
- reflect on how these concepts can be utilised in theorisation concerning loneliness, belonging and home.

How creative and qualitative methods can illuminate understandings of home in later life
Melanie Lovatt (Dept. of Sociology, Social Policy & Criminology, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK)

This session will explore how our understandings of home and what it means to become at home – or to not become at home – can be enhanced by creative and qualitative research methods. Taking examples of ethnographic and material methods in older people’s residential care, and ‘creative mapping interviews’ in private accommodation, we will discuss how these methods can illuminate home as a temporal, material and relational process.

At the end of this session, participants will:

- be familiar with a range of qualitative and creative research methods that can be used to research experiences of home, and the advantages and limitations of these methods;
 - have a conceptual understanding of home from sociological and critical gerontological perspectives.
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Belonging, migration and ageing

Sandra Torres (Dept. of Sociology, Uppsala University)

This session will introduce the audience to the ways through which international migration (at various times during the life course) could challenge people's sense of belonging and affect quality of life. The session will address how differences between migrants' ethno-cultural/ religious backgrounds and the values that the 'host' society regard as 'typical' for that ethno-cultural/ religious setting could affect international migrants' sense of belonging, as well as how ageism and racism could impact migrants' ability to navigate space and place.

At the end of this session, participants will:

- gain familiarity with some of the specific challenges that ageing international migrants face as far as belonging is concerned;
- gain familiarity with some of the streams of research that inform scholarship on international migrants, belonging and ageing;
- gain familiarity with where the state of the art of research on this topic is at and where contributions could be made.

Late-Life Homelessness: Experiences of Disadvantage and Unequal Aging

Amanda Grenier (Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Canada)

This session will focus on the broadly defined area of aging and inequality. It will draw on studies of precarity and late life homelessness to share insights on two different experiences of unequal aging, highlight the inconsistencies between policy frameworks or practices and lived experiences of marginalization, and offer suggested pathways to carry out research that shapes gerontological knowledge that is inclusive of diverse older people's perspectives.

At the end of this session, participants will:

- gain familiarity with the concepts of precarity and homelessness as examples to understand and address aging and inequality;
- consider research-based illustrations from older people with lived experiences and the stakeholders who work with them in everyday community and shelter practices;
- begin to recognize how qualitative and ethnographic research can be used to include 'unheard voices', challenge, and extend the parameters of gerontological knowledge and practice.

Geographical Gerontology: Knowing Place, Five Ways

Presenter: Gavin Andrews (Department of Health, Aging and Society, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada)

Geographical gerontology is a broad subdiscipline title that captures both gerontological research conducted by geographers and geographical research conducted by gerontologists and other academics. What has been consistent in geographical gerontology over the years

has been its focus on place as a key concept, even if understandings of place have differed. This chapter reviews these different theoretical understandings of place over the years namely (i) place as location (in spatial science); (ii) place as a state/market formation (in Marxism and political economy); (iii) place as multi-meaningful (in humanism, social constructionism and post-structuralism); (iv) place as relational and generative (in relational materialism and assemblage theory); (v) place as performed and registered (in non-representational theory and affect theory). Brief comments are made on how each of these understandings of place might inform policy and practice in particular ways.

Ageing in the city: Foundations for developing a critical urban gerontology

Presenter: Chris Phillipson, Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester

This presentation argues the case for developing what will be termed a ‘**Critical Urban Gerontology**’, one which places support for age-friendly work within a framework which seeks to overcome the inequalities and injustices which limit the potential of urban life. Three principles are put forward to support such an approach: (1) analysing how spatial ageism intersects with other forms of oppression such as patriarchy, racism, classism, homophobia and ableism; (2) linking work on age-friendly cities with wider struggles for urban space, reflected in the development of solidarity cities, rebel cities, and sanctuary cities; and (3) challenging the dominance of market-driven priorities by realigning cities to serve values such as care, equity and sustainability. Drawing on these principles, it will be suggested that Critical Urban Gerontology should develop research and policy around the following areas: first, ensuring *spatial justice* in cities through planning and policymaking to guarantee that all residents, particularly the most disadvantaged, can fully participate in and benefit from urban resources. Second, enabling *mobility justice* to maintain equality of movement in cities for people with different types of disability. Third, developing *protective social spaces* which favour co-operation over competition: these vital in giving people diagnosed with some form of dementia, or those with a disability of some kind, and/or those experiencing abusive relationships, full access to the resources of the city. Fourth, stimulating urban planning which can facilitate *interactions between diverse communities* where people learn to tolerate contrasting values and perspectives, across and within generations and cultures.

Learning outcomes:

- (1) As a result of the session, researchers should have a fuller understanding of the factors driving the development of critical urban gerontology.
 - (2) As a result of the session, researchers should have an awareness of the possibility of developing new policy responses to urban inequalities and injustices.
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Practitioners – Panel discussion on Research and Innovation

“How Specific Innovations or Processes Enable Ageing in Place?”

Paul McGarry (Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group [MUARG], Greater Manchester Ageing Hub) Dr Mark Hammond (Senior Lecturer and Deputy Research Lead at Manchester School of Architecture)

Paul McGarry from the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub will describe how the development of the Manchester and Greater Manchester ageing programmes over the last 20 years. He will set out some of the successes and challenges of working of delivering an age-friendly programme during an extended period of economic austerity, focusing on the building of multi-stakeholder eco-systems, including research institutions. Dr Mark Hammond, who was seconded to the GM Ageing Hub, will present reflections on the negotiation of research and policy in relation to housing and ageing in place.

Speakers, Chairs and Panellists



Dr. Frank Oswald is Professor for Interdisciplinary Ageing Research (IAW), Chair of the Frankfurt Forum for interdisciplinary Ageing Research (FFIA) at the Goethe University, Germany and Director of the Center AGING for Early Career Researcher at the Goethe Graduate Academy (GRADE). His research interests are contexts of adult development, issues of person-environment transaction and transitions in old age, housing, ageing in place, relocation and the role of technologies in later life. He has conducted research in the field of environmental gerontology on the local, national and European level. Dr. Oswald has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University Heidelberg.



Kieran Walsh is Professor of Ageing & Public Policy in the Discipline of Economics, and Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG) at the University of Galway, Ireland. His research focuses on social exclusion in later life, life-course transitions and trajectories, and place, community belonging and a sense of home. Kieran is focused on translating research into real-world impact and integrating lived experience of those experiencing entrenched exclusion in the design of impactful research, services and teaching programmes. Kieran was Chair of the ROSEnet COST Action network on 'Reducing old-age social exclusion' (2016-2020) and is currently Scientific Coordinator of the Marie-Sklodowska Curie doctoral training network on 'Advancing research and training on ageing, place and home' - HOMeAGE.



Dr.ⁱⁿ Anna Wanka is a sociologist and critical gerontologist interested in the social construction of age. Her areas of expertise comprise the social practices of un/doing age, life course transitions / retirement and the re/production of social inequalities across the life course, ageing and technologies, age-friendly cities and communities, ageing migrants, and lifelong learning. She finished her PhD in 2016 in Sociology at the University of Vienna, and has since worked at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main as a postdoctoral researcher in the research training group "Doing Transitions" (2017 - 22) and research group leader of the research group "Linking Ages" (since 2022).



Professor Vanessa Burholt is Professor of Gerontology in the School of Nursing/School of Population Health, Faculty of Health and Medicine at the University of Auckland and is a Co-Director of the Centre for Co-created Ageing Research. She has overseen the integration of transdisciplinary research in ageing and dementia, and is committed to co-production of research on ageing. She has published on dementia, rurality, social exclusion, loneliness, support networks, intergenerational relationships, ethnicity and migration. Since 2013 she has been a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (in the UK). Her research profile is here <https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz/vanessa-burholt>



Dr Melanie Lovatt is a senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Stirling. Her expertise lies in ageing, intergenerational relationships, temporalities and materialities. She is a qualitative researcher who often uses creative methods. She has used a material culture approach to understand experiences of home in older people's residential accommodation. Her most recent projects include [Reimagining the Future in Older Age](#) which used fiction and theatre as research methods, and [Designing Homes for Healthy Cognitive Ageing](#), which used creative home mapping activities to understand how people experience their home when living with physical and cognitive change.



Sandra Torres is a Professor in Sociology and the Chair in Social Gerontology at Uppsala University, Sweden. As a critical social gerontologist, her work problematizes old age-related constructs and deconstructs some of the taken for granted assumptions that inform research, policy and practice for the older segments of our populations. Although most of her research has focused on various research questions generated at the intersection of migration and aging, Sandra has also worked on research projects on dependency amongst home-help care recipients, care management within eldercare, dementia in couple, civic engagement in old age and documentation practices within needs assessment processes in eldercare. Prof. Torres is the Editor-in-Chief for *Ageing & Society*, and serves on the editorial board of *Ethnicity & Health*, and the *Journal of Aging Studies*. Sandra's latest sole-authored book - *Ethnicity & Old Age: Expanding our Imagination* (2019, Policy Press) – was awarded the 2021 Richard M. Kalish Innovative Publication Book Award by the Gerontological Society of America. Her latest co-edited collections include *Critical Gerontology for Social Workers* (w- Sarah Donnelly, Policy Press, 2022), and the *Handbook of Migration & Aging* (w- Alistair Hunter, Edward Edgar Publishing, 2023).



Tine Buffel is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FACSS) and Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology at the University of Manchester, where she is the founding director of the [Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group](#). She has published widely in the field of ageing, addressing social and environmental issues affecting ageing populations, with a particular focus on inequality, exclusion, and spatial and social justice. Renowned for her participatory and co-production methodologies, she collaborates with older people, local authorities, and community groups to study and develop age-friendly communities.



Amanda Grenier is a Professor and the Norman and Honey Schipper Chair in Gerontological Social Work at the Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto and Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. Dr. Grenier is an inter-disciplinary social sciences scholar focused on aging and the life course, with a specific expertise in aging and inequality. Her scholarship has focused on frailty, life course transitions, social exclusion, precarity, and homelessness among older people and her current funded research explores consent and research participation of people living with dementia (Alzheimer's Society) and urban experiences of poverty among older people (SSHRC).



Gavin J Andrews is a Professor in the Department of Health, Aging and Society at McMaster University in Canada. A geographer by training, his research explores a range of phenomena through their production in/of space including aging people and things, holistic medicine and health care work. Much of his research is positional in that it considers the development, state-of-the-art and future of health and human geography. In particular he is interested in what non-representational and posthumanist theory can tell us about the emergence and immediacy of life. In 2021 he was awarded a Higher Doctorate from the University of Nottingham (UK).



Chris Phillipson is Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester. He has led a number of research programmes concerned with family and community life in old age, problems of poverty and social exclusion, social theory and ageing, and issues relating to urbanisation and migration. He has a particular interest in questions relating to the relationship between urban development and population ageing. He has published numerous books and research papers on various topics relating to the development of ageing populations. Chris is the former director of the Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA). He is a Fellow of the British Gerontological Society, and the Gerontological Society of America. His latest books are: COVID-19, Inequality and Older People: Everyday Life During the Pandemic (Policy

Press, co-authored, 2023), and Ageing in Place in Urban Environments: Critical Perspectives (Routledge Books, co-authored, 2024).



Julia Wadoux leads policy work in the areas of public health, accessibility, including age-friendly environments, and new technologies at AGE Platform Europe. She is responsible for the Task Force on Age-Friendly Environments. She represents AGE in the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and is the liaison person for their work with the WHO - WHO Europe and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Julia also supports the Secretary General on the implementation of work programmes including coordination with project team, and on statutory matters. Julia joined AGE in 2010 after having gained experience on social protection policy issues at European level. She holds a Master degree in political science.



Paul McGarry has been the Head of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) Ageing Hub since 2016 and is now Assistant Director of GMCA's Public Service Reform Directorate. Paul has worked in local government since 1993, working on ageing projects since 1997, setting up the Age Friendly Manchester Programme at Manchester City Council in 2009. Under Paul's leadership, in 2010 Manchester became the first UK city to achieve World Health Organisation (WHO) age-friendly status. Paul was a founding member of both the WHO's Global Network and the UK Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Paul is a research fellow at Manchester University. He has been awarded the "United Nations Healthy Ageing 50" title for his work as a leader in the field. Paul was also awarded the "Outstanding Achievement Award" by the British Society of Gerontology

for his 'significant and lasting contribution to gerontology'. In June 2024, Paul has recently contributed a chapter to the Manchester University's Urban Ageing Research Group called "*Re-imagining Age-Friendly*

Communities: Urban Ageing and Spatial Justice”.



Dr Mark Hammond is Senior Lecturer and Deputy Research Lead at Manchester School of Architecture. His research focuses on the intersections between architecture and urban ageing, with a specific interest in housing inequality and spatial justice. He works closely with local governments, social housing providers, architecture practices and local communities in his research, aiming to make policies, practices and places more agefriendly.