



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

4. Rights and Voice

April 8th – 11th 2025

Chair: Faculty of Humanities, Open University of the Netherlands

Venue: Open Universiteit Utrecht Campus, Vondellaan 202, Utrecht, the Netherlands



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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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4rd Network-Wide Training Event Programme

April 8th – 11th 2025

Venue: Open Universiteit Utrecht Campus, Vondellaan 202, Utrecht, the Netherlands

Day 1 – Wednesday, April 9th

Public Lecture and Training Session

- 09:15 **Welcome**
Alexander Peine and Karin van Leersum (Open University of the Netherlands); Kieran Walsh (HOMeAGE Coordinator, University of Galway, Ireland)
- 09:30 **Why co-design with older adults? Reflecting on a praxis of care-full co-design**
Chair: Karin van Leersum
Speaker: Helen Manchester (University of Bristol, UK)
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Home-making in Later Life: Practices, Technologies, and Buildings for Aging-in-Place**
Chair: Alexander Peine
Speaker: Daniel López Gómez (Open University of Catalonia, Spain)
- 12:00 **Enhancing research participation among older adults: Applying the Mmogo-method® in Low and Middle-income Countries**
Chair: Kieran Walsh
Speaker: Vera Roos (North-West University, South Africa)
- 13:15 **Lunch**
- 14:00 **Playshop 1**
All the Way Inclusive. Epistemic Justice & Good Practice in Inclusive Research
Organisers: Daniëlle Amelsbeek (Amerpoort), Lesley Verbeek (Open University of the Netherlands), Bregt Lameris (Open University of the Netherlands)
- 16:00 **Coffee break**

- 16:30 **Caring communities: from individual skills to enabling spatial infrastructures**
Chair: Lucie Vidovicova
Speaker: Klasien Horstman (University of Maastricht, The Netherlands)

End of the public session

- 17:30 **Closing of day 1**
- 18:30 **Joint dinner**

Session Abstracts and Learning Outcomes

Day 1 – Wednesday, April 9th

Why co-design with older adults? Reflecting on a praxis of care-full co-design

Helen Manchester (University of Bristol, UK)

This session will make the case for the importance of design and co-design approaches in gerontological research, in order to centre the rights and voices of older adults. It will introduce some traditions of co-design that have supported the participation of older adults in gerontechnology design processes. It will then draw on research and practice (praxis) that involves a deep ethical engagement with the more than human assemblages that shape the politics and practices of co-design. The session will sketch out a feminist posthuman praxis of ‘care-full’ co-design, grounding it in work co-designing digital cultural experiences with older adults who live along multiple axes of inequality in care homes and community settings in the UK.

At the end of the session participants will:

- Understand the rationale for including design and co-design approaches in gerontological research
 - Gain familiarity with different approaches to co-designing with older adults, including the ‘praxis of care-full co-design’
 - Reflect on the practice-ings, tensions and challenges that might emerge as we co-design technologies with older adults
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Home-making in Later Life: Practices, Technologies, and Buildings for Aging-in-Place

Daniel López Gómez (Open University of Catalonia, Spain)

This session will explore the concept of home-making in later life as a dynamic, fragmentary, and partial socio-material arrangement. It involves continuous adjustments by older adults, their caregivers, and their environment. This perspective challenges traditional notions of autonomy and control associated with aging-in-place, demonstrating that care does not necessarily disrupt the sense of home. Drawing on empirical cases from previous projects, we will focus on the significant role of digital and built infrastructures in this process. Specifically, we will examine digital services such as telecare and mobile media use, along with the architectural design and material culture of senior cohousing, an alternative housing for aging in the community. Through these cases, we will highlight the often invisible but creative work involved in the home-making practices of older adults, their families, and caregivers. Additionally, we will analyze the concepts of ‘home for aging’ embedded in digital infrastructures, architectural design, and material culture, and how these affect the home-making practices of their inhabitants.

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Understand the home as a socio-material arrangement requiring constant and evolving efforts.

- Comprehend how the digitalization of care, social connectivity, and environmental design shape home-making in old age.
- Reflect on the impact of prevailing notions of good aging and good home on the daily lives of older adults and their ability to age in place.

Enhancing research participation among older adults: Applying the Mmogo-method® in Low and Middle-income Countries

Vera Roos (North-West University, South Africa)

A key directive of the Madrid International Plan of Action is that older adults should have the opportunity to participate in research conducted in an enabling research environment and benefit from its findings. Guiding by the principle of inclusivity, this presentation aims to demonstrate how the Mmogo-method can be effectively used in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) as a tool for co-creating research data while benefitting older participants and researchers. Mmogo is a Setswana word (one of South Africa's 11 indigenous languages) meaning “together”, “as one”, or “building together”.

In the first part, a pre-recorded video will demonstrate the application of the method across four phases. This part will conclude with a presentation of the theoretical underpinnings of the method, the different types of data obtained, suggested methods of analysis, and examples of how the data can be applied for various purposes. The second part of the workshop will feature an interactive discussion regarding the application of the Mmogo-method in LMICs. This discussion will be introduced—but not limited—to the following topics: 1) Cultural sensitivity; 2) Facilitation of expression; 3) Addressing sensitive topics; 4) Community engagement; and 5) Adaptability.

By the end of the session, participants will

- Understand how an experiential visual data-collection method can engage older individuals in research on issues affecting their lives.
- Learn how theory informs practice and explore the method's application for various research purposes.
- Critically discuss the applications and limitations of the method in LMICs.

All the Way Inclusive. Epistemic Justice & Good Practice in Inclusive Research

Daniëlle Amelsbeek (Amersfoort), Lesley Verbeek (Open University of the Netherlands), Bregt Lameris (Open University of the Netherlands)

This session will provide an introduction to the methodology of inclusive research. Starting with a brief explanation of the concept of ‘epistemic (in)justice’, we explain why your research projects should be inclusive all the way; from the start and following every further step. From there, we elaborate on the advantages, but also the practical problems we experienced while trying to make the research inclusive. For instance, since academia excludes those without a ‘normative’ education and background, it can be challenging to hire people from outside the academic world for a research project. Diplomas are always demanded when you apply for a research position in academia. Additionally, there are differences in what is possible and what is not, between universities and research institutes.

To showcase the importance and value of inclusive research, we will give concrete examples of how our co-researcher's expertise by experience enriches our research and analyses. By sharing our experiences doing research with a co-researcher with a developmental disability, we hope to provide a jumping-off point and format that you can use to make your own research practices inclusive.

At the end of this session, participants will:

- Know and understand what is meant by epistemic (in)justice and good practice;
- Understand how to make your research inclusive and reciprocal all the way;
- Understand the value of inclusive research and how early career researchers can contribute to and benefit from working inclusively in their research projects;
- Understand the administrative problems of making your research project genuinely inclusive.

Caring communities: from individual skills to enabling spatial infrastructures

Klasien Horstman (University of Maastricht, The Netherlands)

Notions like 'aging in place' and 'caring communities' challenge dominant notions of healthy aging and vitality that have been developed in the context of an individualistic paradigm of healthy lifestyle. While nowadays the ideal of 'caring community' is quite popular, it is important to analyze the ingredients of this individualistic paradigm as these are deeply ingrained in policies and practices of aging. Moreover, this paradigm articulates moral assumptions about autonomy and self-care that reinforce inequalities between elderly in high and low social economic positions. From an individualistic paradigm, healthy communities are considered the sum of healthy, socially, and digitally skilled elderly. I will show how, to escape this individualism, it is fruitful to focus on diverse kinds of in-between-work and we explored how the design of public space (streets, squares, parks, neighborhood centers, libraries etcetera) enables and affects the different kinds of in-between-work that shape caring infrastructures. This perspective is the more important as, in a highly mobile world, 'caring communities' are not given and need to be continuously made and remade. Through the 'university-with-the-neighborhood' we developed a methodology that allowed to see the different ways how public space, social infrastructures and care were conconstructed.

Speakers, Chairs and Panellists

Biographies



Karin van Leersum is an Assistant Professor at the Open University of the Netherlands and works on the topic of artificial intelligence (AI), in particular AI and aging and AI in healthcare. She researches explainability of AI and how AI shapes and is shaped by new forms of practicing health, caregiving and staying socially connected as we age. She also has a wide expertise in citizen science methodologies and investigating how various groups of citizens integrate innovations and new forms of information and data into their daily lives. Her background is in Technical Medicine and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society. During her PhD, she worked with clients in long-term care to develop a website "What I care about" - to help articulate what preferences clients have in their care and lives.



Alexander Peine is a Professor of Culture, Innovation and Communication at the Open University of The Netherlands. He is also the founding chair of the Socio-gerontechnology Network and the chair of the societal advisory board of the EU's Joint Programming Initiative "More Years, Better Lives" (JPI-MYBL). Alex' research explores the many intersections between population ageing, including the challenges it allegedly poses for care and health systems, and technological change, including the push towards more interactive and "smarter" technologies. His work has expanded the usual drive in this area to think of technologies as interventions with a unique line of research that thinks of ageing, care and health as being co-constituted with technology. He has recently co-edited the book "Socio-gerontechnology – Interdisciplinary Critical Studies of Ageing and Technology" with Barbara Marshall, Wendy Martin and Louis Neven.



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.



Helen Manchester is a Professor of Participatory Sociodigital Futures at the University of Bristol. She has just completed an UKRI Healthy Ageing funded research project '[Connecting through Culture as we Age](#)'. She is Co-investigator on the ESRC [Centre for Sociodigital Futures](#). The Centre is a five year programme of work bringing together world-leading interdisciplinary expertise to explore sociodigital futures in the making to support fair and sustainable ways of life. Helen is particularly interested in feminist and post human approaches to researching ageing and digital technologies, just futures, and participatory methods. She

develops methodologically innovative approaches to researching with minoritized communities, often working in collaboration with artists, technologists, civil society organisations and policy-makers. She has published widely in the field of ageing and technologies, in particular on participatory methods and co-designing technologies with minoritised communities.



Daniel Lopez Gomez is a Professor of Social Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology and Education and co-director of the CareNet research group at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) at the Open University of Catalonia. Daniel works at the intersection of Science and Technology Studies and Aging Studies. His main area of research is the emergence of care infrastructures in a context of demographic transition and “care crisis”, particularly the development and consequences of the digitalisation of care (telecare, telemedicine, social media) as well as of

new environments, living arrangements and long-term care facilities for the so-called ‘aging society’. More recently, he’s developing an interest in topics such as disasters and aging, which comprise the impact of disasters on older people as well as the imaginaries and practices of disaster preparedness in aging; more-than-human aging, particularly life-course transitions and care with companion animals; and aging infrastructures and maintenance, repair and discard practices.



Vera Roos is Professor in the Ageing and Generational Dynamics in Africa (AGenDA) programme in the Optentia Research Unit at North-West University and an Affiliate Research Fellow of the Institute of Population Ageing at the University of Oxford. As a socio-gerontologist, she focuses on relational experiences and, from a community psychology perspective, examines the contributions of older individuals in challenged contexts. Vera has presented her research on topics related to enabling interpersonal contexts, loneliness, friendship, and intergenerational relations at national and international conferences.

She has published extensively, including four edited books. Vera also developed the Mmogo-method®, a projective visual data-collection tool to enable research participation despite age, language or cultural barriers. Findings from this visual method informed the development of a relational theory, Self-Interactional Group Theory (SIGT). Her commitment to promoting the well-being of older people prompted the development of Yabelana, an information and communication eDirectory system that provides context-specific information for use on smart and older generation mobile phone devices, facilitating service delivery access in South Africa.



Daniëlle Amelsbeek is an expert by experience at the Amerpoort health organization. She has a physical/intellectual disability. She is committed to giving everyone a voice. Including those who are not able to talk. From a young age she has an interest in media and good representation. In her opinion what you see in the media is a very stereotypical image that needs some improvements. She works together with Lesley Verbeek, who is a PhD researcher at the Open University located in the Netherlands. With this research she hopes that there will be a change in the media.



Lesley Verbeek is a PhD researcher at the Open University in the Netherlands, where she studies audiovisual media representation of people with intellectual/learning disabilities, and its interaction with (de-)stigmatization in society. She works together on this research with Daniëlle Amelsbeek (Amerpoort), a co-researcher and expert by experience with physical/intellectual disability. Before this PhD Lesley received a research master's degree in Arts, Media & Literary Studies at the University of Groningen. As a researcher she engages with the fields of film and media studies, critical disability studies, feminist posthumanism, critical future studies and indigenous studies.



Bregt Lameris is a senior lecturer in media studies at the Open University of the Netherlands. In 2023, she successfully finished her Film and Media Studies habilitation at the University of Zurich. Her research interests include colour in media, media archaeology, film archiving, film historiography, affect, emotions and subjectivity, media and mental health, and disability media studies. In 2017, she published her first monograph *Film Museum Practice and Film Historiography. The Case of the Netherlands Filmmuseum (1946-2000)* is available in Open Access through Amsterdam University Press. Her second monograph *Feeling Colour. Chromatic Embodiment in Film Culture (1950s-1960s)* dates from 2025 and is published by Open Book Publishers in Diamond OA.



Mgr. Lucie Vidovičová, PhD. is a sociologist and social gerontologist. Her research interests include sociology of ageing, gerotechnology, active ageing, ageism and social exclusion. She is also involved in research projects in the field of the environmental gerontology, social policy, labour market, and family. She conducts research for national as well as European bodies and works as a consultant on several implementation projects. Lucie also cooperates with different governmental and NGO bodies in the field of senior advocacy. She serves as a Vice-president on the Executive Committee of RC 11 Sociology of Aging at the International Sociological Association. Recent projects she has been involved in as a principal investigator include those on age discrimination, ageing in big cities and in rural areas, the issue of role overload in later life, social exclusion from social relationships, the use of humanoid robots for the active ageing community programmes and elder abuse and neglect.



Klasien Horstman is Professor Philosophy of Public Health at Maastricht University, The Netherlands. With a background in sociology, philosophy and science and technology studies she investigates relationships between science, politics and society in diverse public health practices such as healthy neighborhoods, healthy cities, healthy workplace, infectious diseases control, antimicrobial resistance prevention.