

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

February 5th 2026

In-person and online

Society and Ageing Research Lab (SARLab)

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

*Venue: **Building I**, Aula I.0.01*

Link to [Campus Map](#)

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.

February 5th

- 09:00 **Welcome and opening address**
Kieran Walsh, University of Galway, Ireland
- 09:10 **Engaging with the UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons**
Claudia Mahler (UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons)
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 **Cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary perspectives in social gerontology (working title)**
Tannistha Samanta (FLAME University, India and University of Maryland, U.S.)
- 12:00 **How can policymakers, in collaboration with researchers, lead the way out of the housing crisis?**
Alice Pittini (Research Director, Housing Europe)
- 13:15 **Lunch Break**
- 14:15 **Emancipatory and decolonial approaches to ageing research: Reimagining knowledge production and policy development to reflect and build from the experience of historically marginalised older persons**
Laurent Reyes (UC Berkley, U.S)
- 15:45 **Public Session Closes**
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