

ORAL ABSTRACT ADDED TO PROGRAMME

Thursday 2nd July, 15.00-16.30,
Parallel Session 5, Stream 11

Gary Haq

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[Gloria Gutman]

Climate Gerontology: Addressing the challenges of growing old in a changing climate.

The global population is ageing at a time when climate change is also occurring. By the end of this century the global surface temperature is likely to increase by 1.5– 2 °C. As the planet warms, we can expect increasing climate variability that will have direct and indirect positive (e.g. increased crop yield) and negative effects on human well-being. Warmer global temperatures are likely to increase the frequency, severity and duration of extreme weather events, such as heat waves, tropical cyclones, flooding, sea level rise and severe storms. Major indirect adverse effects of climate change include temperature-related illnesses and deaths, water stress, air pollution and vector-borne disease.

This paper presents a review of the evidence of the potential impact of climate change on older people. It is argued that if we are to prevent and minimize the negative impact of environmental change on older people, interdisciplinary study of the convergence of the two trends, “climate gerontology”, is needed. The paper argues that the study of climate gerontology can examine the unique challenges and needs of older people in coping with extreme weather events. It can contribute to our understanding of the everyday challenges of growing old in a changing climate and how we can achieve the

“longevity dividend”. In particular, it can lead the way to the development of effective policies to reduce the carbon footprint of people during their life course, protect older people from climate-related threats and mobilize their wealth of knowledge and experience to address these.

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ORAL ABSTRACT ADDED TO PROGRAMME

Friday 3rd July, 19.00-10.30,
Parallel Session 6, Stream 4

Sara Ronzi

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[Daniel Pope, Lois Orton, Nigel Bruce]

What makes an age-friendly community in terms of respect and social inclusion: investigating perspectives from older people living in the City of Liverpool using photo-voice methodology.

Population ageing and urbanisation make it increasingly important to involve older people in creating social and physical environments (age-friendly communities) that can better support healthy ageing. This paper reports on a study using Photo-Voice methodology to engage older people in exploring respect and social inclusion. This approach has not been applied in Liverpool City before.

Three groups of older people (N=20; 60+ years) living in disadvantaged and affluent areas in Liverpool took part in the study. Participants photographed perceived positive and negative aspects of the city that made them feel more or less valued and part of their community. They then reflected on the meanings of the photographs in

individual (n=18) and group interviews (n=7). Photographs were selected by participants (n=90) and captions attached to aid interpretation by understanding the participants' meaning of the images. Common locations considered to be ideal places for interaction included parks and libraries, and access encouraged by the free travel passes for older people was reported to be important. Poorly maintained neighbourhoods and lack of accessible public toilets in town were portrayed as barriers to social inclusion. Potential solutions to some of these issues emerged.

An exhibition of older people's photographs will take place in May 2015 at the Museum of Liverpool. The aim is to create a platform to enable dialogue amongst participants, researchers, and local policy makers and service providers for older people, where research findings are communicated in a way to stimulate social/policy change that reflects the needs of local older people.

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**POSTER ADDED TO
PROGRAMME**

Friday 1st July, 15.30-16.30,
Location 2

Balsam Ahmad

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[David Landes, Mike Lavender, Julie King, Louise Lyons, Suzanne Moffatt]

Evaluating the 'Mouth Care, We Care' award scheme and training for care staff in elderly residential care homes in County Durham: A reflection on the preliminary findings.

Maintaining good oral hygiene and ensuring access to dental treatment for adults in residential care homes have been emphasised in the forthcoming guidance of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The aim of this paper is to describe the process, methods and initial findings from an evaluation of the 'Mouth Care, We Care' Award and training of nursing staff that took place in fourteen residential care homes in County Durham. The public health department in Durham County Council (DCC) is leading the evaluation which is overseen by an interdisciplinary steering group with wide representation. Mixed methods were used. These included

- Secondary analysis of data on access to dental treatment as well as costs of receiving dental treatment in secondary care
- A survey of oral health knowledge and access to dental services sent to managers of 145 residential care homes in County Durham;
- Semi-structured interviews with care home managers, care staff, dentists in primary and secondary healthcare and representatives from NHS England and the Care Quality Commission as well as commissioners in DCC.

Secondary analysis of data from the Business Services Authority (BSA), shows that the elderly population in care homes has limited access to dental healthcare and treatment. Other barriers of and opportunities for promoting oral hygiene in residential care homes will be presented and critiqued upon the collection and analysis of data. Provision of adequate and timely oral health care to the elderly in care homes should be key to social care provision and commissioning.