Longevity in research and policy: What happens next

Dr Brian Beach
Senior Research Fellow
Key points for today

• Reframing the longevity revolution
• Key priorities for research and policy
• What happens next
What is ILC?

The UK’s specialist think tank on the impact of longevity on society and what happens next

- Independent and politically neutral
- Evidence-based research for policy
- Working collaboratively to pioneer solutions for the future
Who do we work with?
ILC Global Alliance
Reframing the narrative on ageing and longevity

Old people are an increasing burden, but must our young be the ones to shoulder it?

Phillip Inman

Incomes for retirees have risen by 60% in 12 years, but by just 36% for the rest. Maybe they should be made to share their good fortune.

Britain's ageing time bomb: Family doctors 'will struggle to meet needs'

FAMILY doctors will struggle to meet the needs of Britain’s rapidly ageing population, a new report reveals.

By GILES SHELDRICK
PUBLISHED: 00:01, Wed, Feb 28, 2018
Challenging the narrative

News story
Experts to help UK champion ageing society opportunities

Council of advisers set up to help UK seize economic opportunities of ageing society, and Business Champion for the Ageing Society Grand Challenge announced.

Published 30 June 2019
From: Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

ilc...
International Longevity Centre UK

Analysts think the aging population is hurting the economy. Here’s why they’re wrong
Published: Sept 4, 2019 10:22 a.m. ET

A fear-based narrative ignores the fact that Americans are working longer
The impact of longevity on society

Source: Dr Alex Kalache, IAGG Africa Regional Conference
Key priority areas for the future

• Maximising the benefits of longevity
• Ensuring longer lives are good for everyone
• Future-proofing policy and practice
Maximising the benefits of longevity
Maximising the benefits of longevity

- **Ageing & local economies – the high street**
  - People aged 50+ spend an estimated £314 billion per year, about 43% of total consumption spending (*The Missing £Billions*).
  - Yet spending declines 17.1% between 55 and 75.
  - Barriers go beyond a lack of income.

*Figure 2: Weekly expenditure by age group, for people with/without walking difficulties and with/without internet access.*

*Source: own estimates from ELSA wave 7*
Maximising the benefits of longevity

• **Living longer, living well – Independence at home**
  - 93% of older households (55+)
    live in mainstream housing
    (HoC 2018)
  - 5% of 65+ households in all types, est. 0.6-1% in extra care
  - Extra care associated with better health and psychosocial outcomes

Maximising the benefits of longevity


**Table 1: The value of advice in numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Probability of saving in 2012-14</th>
<th>Average financial assets (2012/14)</th>
<th>Average pension wealth (2012/14)</th>
<th>Occupation/private pension income</th>
<th>Probability of having risky assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bassline (all groups)</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>£54,224</td>
<td>£161,248</td>
<td>£4,664</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affluent &amp; advised</td>
<td>67.0%</td>
<td>£36,949</td>
<td>£223,711</td>
<td>£6,395</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affluent &amp; non-advised</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
<td>£274,586</td>
<td>£192,929</td>
<td>£5,515</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Impact on the ‘affluent’</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.7pp</strong></td>
<td><strong>£12,363</strong></td>
<td><strong>£30,882</strong></td>
<td><strong>£860</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.7pp</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In percentage terms</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just getting &amp; advised</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
<td>£49,918</td>
<td>£151,885</td>
<td>£4,409</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just getting &amp; non-advised</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>£35,882</td>
<td>£125,826</td>
<td>£3,696</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average Impact on the ‘just getting by’</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.7pp</strong></td>
<td><strong>£14,036</strong></td>
<td><strong>£25,859</strong></td>
<td><strong>£713</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.8pp</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In percentage terms</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All advised</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td>£63,218</td>
<td>£177,471</td>
<td>£5,121</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All non-advised</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
<td>£49,794</td>
<td>£149,814</td>
<td>£4,348</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average effect on all</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.6pp</strong></td>
<td><strong>£13,435</strong></td>
<td><strong>£27,664</strong></td>
<td><strong>£773</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.4pp</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s calculations from Wealth and Assets Survey (2006-08, 20012-14)
Ensuring longer lives are good for everyone
Ensuring longer lives are good for everyone

• *Ageing & diversity – the myth of the older person*
Ensuring longer lives are good for everyone

• **Ageing & diversity**

• 30% of E&W pop 50+ will be *ethnic minority* by 2051 (22% for non-white), up from est. 12.6% (7.9%) in 2016 (cf. Lievesley 2010).

• Older LGBT+ people report poorer self-rated health and worse outcomes across many aspects of their lives (cf. Beach 2019).

• Prevalence of *disability* is projected to stay constant around 21.6% (2015-25), but absolute numbers will increase (Guzman-Castillo et al. 2017).
Ensuring longer lives are good for everyone

- Inequalities in (healthy) life expectancy
Ensuring longer lives are good for everyone

• Redefining ageing – perceptions and ageism

Britain's AGEISM shame: Carol Vorderman leads backlash at 'nonsensical attacks' from youth

ONE in three Britons admit they have discriminated against someone because of their age, a study reveals.

By SARAH O'GRADY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT
PUBLISHED: 00:01, Tue, Aug 20, 2019 | UPDATED: 14:10, Tue, Aug 20, 2019

Table 1. Multiple Possibilities of Operationalizing Ageism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cognitive</th>
<th></th>
<th>Affective</th>
<th></th>
<th>Behavioral</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-directed</td>
<td>Other-directed</td>
<td>Self-directed</td>
<td>Other-directed</td>
<td>Self-directed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explicit</td>
<td>Positive 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative  7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implicit</td>
<td>Positive 13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative 19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: São José et al. (2017)
Future-proofing policy and practice
Future-proofing policy and practice

• Ageing, work, & retirement


cf. Beach & Bedell (2019) The EXTEND project. ILC.
Future-proofing policy and practice

- Ageing & technology – panacea or empty promise?

"Age-Tech": The Next Frontier Market For Technology Disruption

Tina Woods  Contributor
Healthcare
I write about the impact of technology on health, life and society

Automation not seen as threat by majority of UK workers

By Jack Loughran
Published Monday, September 3, 2019

UK workers are generally unconcerned about losing their jobs to robots and are optimistic about the roles that technology will create in the future, according to the recruiter Hays.
Future-proofing policy and practice

- New relationships, new communities

Minister’s social care ideas ignore the million childless over-65s

The idea that older people may not have family members who are able to help, or may have no family at all, seems not to have occurred to the government.


Social media use among over 65s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Linking research and policy

**Timing**

*Flickr/Phil Dolby*

**Targeting**

*Flickr/Scooter Simpson*

**Tone**

*Flickr/Himanshu Ahire*
Moving forward

• Do you think about the stakeholders relevant for your work early enough, i.e. in the planning and proposal stage?

• Do you consider what the relevant stakeholders want to hear and what they need to hear for their own work?

• Academic and policy timeframes are different; politics has a rapid pace of change and can suddenly move onto different priorities. Do you have the right collaborative partners?
What happens next

Future of Ageing 2019

Date: Thursday, 5 December 2019

Time: 9.30am – 5.30pm followed by a short drinks reception

Location: Wellcome Collection

https://ilcuk.org.uk/event-the-future-of-ageing/


“What needs to be done to maximise the longevity dividend?” 13 Sept deadline!
What happens next

• Let’s shift the narrative and language on ageing and get others to do so as well.
  • If we don’t…

• Let’s challenge our assumptions and those prevalent in policy, e.g. not everyone will reach later life with massive amounts of housing wealth.

• Let’s work together to build a society that works for everyone, regardless of their age.
Thank you

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References


