

Plenary sessions

Plenary 1 – Monday 9 September, 3.30pm

The health and care needs of future older populations: opportunity or challenge?

Professor Carol Jagger

AXA Professor of Epidemiology of Ageing and Deputy Director of the Newcastle University Institute for Ageing (NUIA)

The ageing of our populations is usually viewed as a challenge and a problem. Much of this debate focuses on whether the extra years of life are healthy ones, but is it as simple as this? Using recent national and international research, this presentation will show that there will be both opportunities and challenges as a result of likely population health and care profiles in the future, and will discuss how the malleability of ageing could minimize the challenges.

Plenary 2 – Tuesday 10 September, 3.15pm

Longevity in research and policy: What happens next

Dr Brian Beach

International Longevity Centre UK

Trends in longevity are driving extraordinary demographic changes at the societal level, with enormous impacts on how we learn and work, where we live, and how we deliver care. Society will not just be older in the future, it will also function differently. This presentation will highlight three key perspectives that should shape future research and policy development in this respect: maximizing the benefits of longevity; addressing diversity and inequalities across the life course; and understanding how policy can work for current as well as future cohorts' needs.

Early career plenary – Tuesday 10 September, 6.15pm

To move or not to move? Immobility, opportunity and inequality

Dr Fran Darlington-Pollock

University of Liverpool

We all move house, some of us more than others. However, our experiences in arriving at the decision of when and where to move are uneven. Some may move with career progression or for family reasons, a largely positive experience. Others will have no choice but to move, necessitated by a need for reduced expenditure on housing, a change in employment status, or following a break-up. This can be quite a negative experience. At the individual level, it is clear that our experiences of moving house are highly variable. The likelihood that we will move house, and the particular nature of that move, are related to our characteristics. Things such as age, sex, marital status, and socio-economic factors are important. Migration is thus considered a 'selective' process.

Through this *selectivity*, there are social and spatial differences in who moves and how far they move. These act as an important determinant of the age-sex structure of an area, and its socio-economic characteristics. This selectivity has been increasingly explored in the context of health inequalities, addressing questions such as ‘are differently healthy groups “sorted” into different area types?’ or ‘does any sorting process contribute to changing health gradients between areas?’ However, while the links between migration and health are well established, with a growing emphasis on the potential impact on changing health gradients, the relationships are under-theorized. This talk will explore the concept of ‘selective migration’ and its relationship with health from a mobilities perspective, seeking to untangle some of the complexities between immobility, opportunity, and inequality.

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