



BSA Ageing,  
Body and  
Society  
Study Group

Gender, Ageing and the  
Body Conference  
**P R O G R A M M E**

20th July 2009  
British Library Conference Centre,  
London

# Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference 2009

Thursday 3rd – Saturday 5th September 2009  
University of Manchester

We look forward to welcoming you at our **41st Annual Conference**.

In addition to high profile plenary speakers

**Joan Busfield, University of Essex**

and

**Evan Willis, Latrobe University, Australia**

the 2009 conference will celebrate our international links with a  
Scandinavian symposium.



Papers, posters and other forms of presentation will be structured around streams  
that include:

- |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Cancer                                 | 8. Genetics                                 | 15. Lifecourse                     |
| 2. Complementary and Alternative Medicine | 9. Health service delivery and organization | 16. Mental Health                  |
| 3. Death and Dying                        | 10. Health policy                           | 17. Methods                        |
| 4. Ethics                                 | 11. Health technologies                     | 18. Reproductive and Sexual Health |
| 5. Ethnicity                              | 12. International                           | 19. Risk                           |
| 6. Experiences of Health and Illness      | 13. Inequalities                            | 20. Theory                         |
| 7. Gender                                 | 14. Lay/professional interface              | 21. Open stream                    |

Further details and the conference booking form are available from:  
[www.britsoc.co.uk/events/medsoc](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/medsoc) and [bsamedsoc@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:bsamedsoc@britsoc.org.uk)

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# WELCOME

## BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Conference

### Gender, Ageing and the Body

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> BSA Ageing Body and Society Study Group Annual Conference. We are delighted to welcome our keynote speaker, Professor Toni Calasanti, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University USA, who will give the keynote address, entitled, '**Doing Age: Gendered Embodiments in Middle Age**' and our plenary speaker Dr Sadie Wearing, London School of Economics, UK who will give the plenary address, '**Narratives of Decline and Degeneration? Representing the Ageing Body**'. We welcome all participants to the conference, particularly those travelling from overseas.

We feel very privileged to have the opportunity to present our research and ideas in such a prestigious and engaging venue as the British Library. The BSA has made important links with the **British Library** in recent years and Jude England, Head of Social Sciences at the British Library, is committed to promoting and highlighting the significance of social science research. We hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about social science research resources, as well as gain important links with the British Library, to promote and assist with your own research. We are sure you will find Jude England's talk '**Introduction to the British Library: a resource for research**' very interesting and useful in this respect.

Since our relaunch last year the group has grown significantly and is going from strength to strength. This not only reflects the significance of this important and developing area of research but the commitment and enthusiasm of our members and associates. We would like to invite you to bring your coffee and join us for the **Ageing, Body and Society network meeting** at 13:10 when we will explore and discuss future plans and possibilities for the network.

The **British Library** have been extremely generous and welcoming to us, and we are delighted to announce that **Jude England** is hosting a **wine reception** at 17:30 immediately after the conference. Please do join us in Meeting Room 2 to enjoy a glass of wine with nibbles. This is an excellent opportunity to informally meet and greet friends and colleagues and welcome our new members and people from overseas.

We would also like to thank **Liz Jackson**, Events Officer, and **Michelle Rhone**, Events Assistant, for their committed and diligent work organising this conference. The BSA office is committed to supporting study groups and we would not be able to be as active and efficient without their support. We thank you for your help and encouragement this year.

There will be **refreshments** available in the foyer at break times throughout the conference. We welcome any comments you may have on the format or organisation of this or future conferences. Please let us know your views either by speaking to one of the conference organisers, or via the suggestion box at the conference registration desk.

We have included all the submissions that met the submission criteria as either papers or posters. The timings and abstracts of **oral presentations** are listed in the conference programme, **poster presentations** will be displayed in the foyer so that you can view these whilst enjoying your coffee break. A listing of poster presentations and abstracts are also included in the conference programme.

This year's programme showcases the diverse and stimulating research that is taking place on 'gender, ageing and the body'. Ageing bodies are without doubt on the academic agenda now! The vibrancy of the topic is evident not only with the breadth and depth of the research being conducted in this area, but how emerging researchers are presenting alongside well established academics and researchers.

We would like to thank everyone who is presenting their work, chairing a session or contributing in some way to the conference organisation and success. We hope that you enjoy all aspects of the conference, from the academic to the social to the food and wine!

*Wendy Martin and Julia Twigg*

BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Convenors

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As always many people have helped with organising the conference. Thanks to the BSA office for their support, in particular, Liz Jackson, Events Officer and Michelle Rhone, Events Assistant.



The conference committee would also like to thank Jude England, Head of Social Sciences, and her colleagues at the British Library for their support of this event and the wine reception.



# BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group

## Introduction

There has been a wealth of work recently on the subject of the body across the humanities and social sciences. Most has, however, focussed on younger, implicitly 'sexier' bodies. Social gerontology has, moreover, tended to avoid the subject of the body, in its struggle to assert the social and cultural determinants of ageing, as against the reductionist bio-medical accounts that dominate professional and popular discourses of age. Emphasising the body can seem to demean older people, reducing them to 'failing' bodies. For these reasons gerontology has kept away from the topic. This means, however, that the body in old age has remained largely untheorised and unexplored.

Although work on the body in old age has begun to emerge, it remains scattered. Researchers and scholars are isolated in their disciplinary groupings. There is no obvious forum for exchange. The aim of this study group is to redress this, and establish a forum that will bring together work across a range of approaches and subject areas. We also invite researchers, practitioners and academics to revisit and explore the embodied dimensions of their work.

The aim of the group is therefore to be a focus for an exchange of ideas and debate. As part of this there will be a number of one-day seminars and workshops which will explore different aspects of ageing and the body. It is hoped that these will provide a basis for publications. The interests of the group are broad and include theory, empirical research and practice in relation to, for example:

- Anti-ageing/Age Resistance
- Lived bodies in everyday life
- Clothing and embodiment
- Discourses of ageing and ageism
- Well-being and the ageing body
- The masquerade of age
- Policing old bodies: intergenerational conflict and the role of governance
- Queer bodies
- Racialised bodies
- Fluid bodies, leaky bodies
- Gendered bodies
- Bodies in the Third and Fourth Ages
- Researching ageing bodies: methods and methodology
- Exercise and 'active' ageing
- Spatial geographies of bodies
- Bodies and institutions
- Death, dying and disposal
- Bodywork
- Emotions
- Science and technologies

## Forthcoming Events

**'Embodying Dementia' one day conference – co-hosts Bradford Dementia Centre – Spring / Summer 2010: date to be confirmed.**

**'The Futures of Ageing: Science, Technology and Society' one day conference – co-hosts the British Library - Autumn 2010: date to be confirmed.**

## Joining the Group

New members, including students, are very welcome to join the Group. To put your name on the BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group mailing list please contact Wendy Martin. For more information please visit [www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AgeingBodyandSociety](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AgeingBodyandSociety)

## Contact the Convenors

**Dr Wendy Martin** School of Health and Social Care, University of Reading. Tel: 0118 378 5842; Email: [w.p.martin@reading.ac.uk](mailto:w.p.martin@reading.ac.uk)

**Professor Julia Twigg** School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent. Tel: 01227 827 539; Email: [j.m.twigg@kent.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.twigg@kent.ac.uk)

# INFORMATION DIGEST

## **Registration**

The conference registration desk will be open in the foyer of the conference centre from 09:30am until 17:00 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Please note that delegates should wear their conference badge at all times, otherwise you may be refused access to conference sessions and service of refreshments and meals.

## **Messages**

During the conference please direct all telephone messages to the British Sociological Association office on +44 (0)191 383 0839. Please make reference to the BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Conference, as the office staff will need to know how to direct your call.

There will be a message board situated in the foyer where delegates can leave messages for each other.

## **Programme Changes**

There will be a conference notice board for programme changes, general messages and announcements. It will be situated in the foyer.

## **Keynote & Plenary Addresses**

**Dr Toni Calasanti**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA will give the Keynote Address on '**Doing Age: Gendered Embodiments in Middle Age**' on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 10:15 in the Auditorium.

**Dr Sadie Wearing**, London School of Economics, UK will give the Plenary Address on '**Narratives of Decline and Degeneration? Representing the Ageing Body**' on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 16:45 in the Auditorium.

## **Poster Exhibition**

Posters will be displayed in Conference Centre Foyer for the duration of the conference. There are poster viewing times on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 09:30-10:00, 11:10-11:25 and 15:05-15:20 and presenters will be available during this time to discuss their work. Additional times may be indicated on individual posters.

## **Evening Reception**

There will be a reception held on Monday Evening from 17:30-19:00. This will be held in Meeting Room 2 and is free for all delegates to attend.

## **Refreshments and Lunch**

Tea and coffee will be served in the foyer at the times specified below

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 09:30-10:00.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 11:10-11:25.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 15:05-15:20.

Water will be available throughout the conference.

Lunch is provided on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July and will be available to delegates in the foyer.

## **Meeting rooms**

All conference sessions will take place in the British Library conference centre rooms including the Auditorium and Meeting rooms 2 and 4.



**PowerPoint**

All meeting rooms will be equipped with a screen, powerpoint and laptop. Presenters should bring with them a copy of their presentation file on a CD or USB memory stick.

Presenters should access session rooms 15 minutes before their stream starts or during lunchtimes.

**Email Facilities**

Free wireless internet is available in the British Library. **Remember to bring your laptop if you wish to use this facility, as the British Library and the BSA will not provide them.**

# OUTLINE PROGRAMME

## Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009

09:30 – 10:00	Coffee and Registration Posters	<i>Conference Centre Foyer</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Conference Welcome: Julia Twigg, Co-convenor of the Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Jude England, Head of Social Sciences, British Library: Introduction to the British Library: A resource for research.	<i>Auditorium</i>
10:15 – 11:10	Keynote address: Toni Calasanti ' <i>Doing Age: Gendered Embodiments in Middle Age</i> ' Chair: Prof Julia Twigg	<i>Auditorium</i>
11:10 – 11:25	Break Posters	<i>Conference Centre Foyer</i>
11:25 – 12:45	Paper session 1	<i>Auditorium &amp; Meeting Rooms 2 &amp; 4</i>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch	<i>Conference Centre Foyer</i>
13:10 – 13:40	BSA Ageing, Body and Society Network with Coffee	<i>Meeting Room 4</i>
13:45 – 15:05	Paper session 2	<i>Auditorium &amp; Meeting Rooms 2 &amp; 4</i>
15:05 – 15:20	Break Posters	<i>Conference Centre Foyer</i>
15:20 – 16:40	Paper session 3	<i>Auditorium &amp; Meeting Rooms 2 &amp; 4</i>
16:45 – 17:30	Plenary address: Sadie Wearing ' <i>Narratives of Decline and Degeneration? Representing the Ageing Body</i> ' Chair: Dr Wendy Martin	<i>Auditorium</i>
17:30 – 19:00	Wine Reception <i>Hosted by the British Library with thanks</i>	<i>Meeting Room 2</i>

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 10:15 in the Auditorium

## Professor Toni Calasanti

### *Doing Age: Gendered Embodiments in Middle Age*

People do age by managing their behavior mindful both of age-specific ideals and of the potential need to explain it as age-appropriate. For aging people wishing to retain advantages of youth, this can amount to a double-bind, in that efforts to remain young can seem inappropriate to their age. Bodies serve as important markers of age; and, within Western societies, people are supposed to maintain control over their bodies and health, through diet or exercise regimens, by being “active,” or by consuming appropriate lifestyles (McHugh, 2000; Katz, 2000; Estes, Biggs, and Phillipson, 2003). Given that age relations exclude old people from full participation in western societies, and bodies serve as critical markers of age, individuals will want to present their bodies in age-appropriate ways without seeming to give into the degradations of old age. At the same time, bodies are gendered such that this age embodiment varies accordingly.

This interview research explores individuals’ gendered experiences of doing age within this double-bind. I examine in-depth interviews with 20 women and men aged 43-61 to explore some of the ways that gender influences how they view their aging bodies and how they see their doing of middle age in relation to both youthful body ideals, which they can no longer approximate, and old bodies that they want to avoid.

**Toni Calasanti**, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Sociology at Virginia Tech, where she is also a faculty affiliate of both the Center for Gerontology and Women’s Studies. She is co-author of *Gender, Social Inequalities, and Aging* (Alta Mira Press) and co-editor of *Age Matters: Re-Aligning Feminist Thinking* (both with Kathleen Slevin), and has published in such journals as the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*; *The Gerontologist*; *Social Forces*; *Journal of Aging Studies*; *Men and Masculinities*; and the *NWSA Journal*, among others.



# PLENARY ADDRESS

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 16:45 in the Auditorium

## Dr Sadie Wearing

### *Narratives of Decline and Degeneration? Representing the Ageing Body*

This paper explores some of the questions surrounding the cultural representation of age, gender and the body through a close reading of the film adaptation of John Bayley's memoir of Iris Murdoch, *Iris* (Richard Eyre, 2001). Cinema audiences are, as cultural theorists of age have pointed out, accustomed to the splitting of aging characters into parts played by different actors, this paper will explore this convention to examine the ways in which cinema reflects and complicates wider cultural assumptions about aging bodies in relation to gender, memory and temporality. Both the reception of the film and its visual iconography will be explored to ask how adaptations of biography or memoir interrogate the 'invisibility' of aging in contemporary culture and how the division of characters/bodies relates to questions of identity and the recognition (or failure thereof) of the self that 'becomes', as Simone DeBeauvoir puts it, 'over time'. The paper thus questions the body politics of representations which reify binary divisions between 'young' and 'old'. *Iris* is examined here in the context of the range of visual and narrative strategies for evoking and challenging normative conceptualisations of aging and subjectivity, particularly in the context of the related theoretical issues of performance and performativity

**Sadie Wearing** is Lecturer in Gender Theory, Culture and Media at the London School of Economics. Her research interests are in the critical analysis of literary, visual and media culture with specific interest in representations of aging, temporality and memory in both historical and contemporary contexts. Her work is concerned with questions of the political implications of deployments of cultural understandings of time, memory and the body. She looks at a range of the 'stories': those of 'aging' of 'national identity' of gender and sexuality that a culture tells itself and insists that they require critical thought, they are not remote from the social world but, in important ways constitutive of it.



# PROGRAMME GRID – PAPER SESSIONS

## PAPER SESSION 1: 11:25 – 12:45

	<b>AUDITORIUM</b> <b>Media Images</b> <i>Chair: Dr Bill Bytheway; The Open University</i>	<b>MEETING ROOM 2</b> <b>Embodied Identities</b> <i>Chair: Dr Cassandra Phoenix; Exeter University</i>	<b>MEETING ROOM 4</b> <b>Physical Activities</b> <i>Chair: Prof Christina Victor; University of Reading</i>
11:25 – 11:45	<b>Twigg, J.</b> Clothing, Magazines and the Cultural Constitution of Age: How Does <i>Vogue</i> negotiate ageing?	<b>Wray, S.</b> The Influence of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity on Women's Embodied Experiences of Ageing	<b>Hardy, S.</b> Investigating older adults' influences and motivations to engage in physical activity
11:45 – 12:05	<b>Ging, D.</b> Written on the Skin? A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Irish-Mediated Advertising's Treatment of Male and Female Ageing	<b>Leontowitsch, M.</b> The Natural and Normal in Bodywork in Later Life	<b>Williams, V.</b> Movement and stagnation – the impact of the environment to perceptions of self, body and breathlessness in COPD
12:05 – 12:25	<b>Ishiguro, J.</b> Glamorising the ageing body – the visual representation of Japanese middle aged women	<b>Zubair, M.</b> Negotiating Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Power in Fieldwork with Older Pakistani Muslims in the UK: Some Reflections on Dress and the Presentation of Self in the 'Field'.	<b>Dickinson, A.</b> Maintaining the older body in hospital: Patient experiences of hospital food provision
12:25 – 12:45	<b>Chambers, D.</b> The Spectacle of Decline: Representations of Ageing Femininity in Celebrity Culture	<b>Gott, M.</b> Learning how to be an 'older woman': negotiating cultural scripts of ageing after the menopause	<b>Paulson, S.</b> Older men dancing themselves to death; older men and women dancing through bereavement

## PAPER SESSION 2: 13:45 – 15:05

	<b>AUDITORIUM</b> <b>Men and Masculinities</b> <i>Chair: Prof Ian Rees Jones; Bangor University</i>	<b>MEETING ROOM 2</b> <b>Gender, Ageing and the Body</b> <i>Chair: Dr Joanna Latimer; Cardiff University</i>	<b>MEETING ROOM 4</b> <b>Health and Illness</b> <i>Chair: Dr Angela Dickinson; University of Hertfordshire</i>
13:45 – 14:05	<b>King, N.</b> Professional privilege and slacking off among middle-aged American men	<b>Krekula, C.</b> (Age)coded bodies: On Embodied Gendered Ageing	<b>Salter, C.</b> An exploration of older women's existential experience of being diagnosed as 'above average risk' of fracture and being prescribed osteoporosis medicine to prevent fracture.
14:05 – 14:25	<b>Simpson, P.</b> Fairy Tales: The Politics of Suffering, Surviving and Surpassing in Midlife Gay Men's Responses to Ageing.	<b>Simmonds, B.</b> Older women drawing upon past and present discourses to understand their bodies	<b>Westwood, M.</b> What is the Shape of a Stroke?
14:25 – 14:45	<b>Mao, S.</b> Transformation of informal care and gender: male carers in Japan	<b>Krpic, T.</b> Self-Reflexive Body Techniques, Gender and Ageing	<b>Suen, Y.</b> Changing Gender Differences in Self-reported Health in Old Age through Periods and Cohorts
14:45 – 15:05	<b>Phoenix, C.</b> Ageing, Natural Bodybuilding and Auto-Photography: A Case Study Exploring the Performance of Masculinity.	<b>MacMaster, M.</b> Growing Old for Real; Women, Image and Identity	<b>Pointu, A.</b> "Open the shutters"- the use of photographs when interviewing women with learning disabilities

## PAPER SESSION 3: 15:20 – 16:40

	<b>AUDITORIUM</b> <b>Everyday Life</b> <i>Chair: Dr Merryn Gott; University of Sheffield</i>	<b>MEETING ROOM 2</b> <b>Ageing Bodies</b> <i>Chair: Prof Chris Gilleard; University College London</i>	<b>MEETING ROOM 4</b> <b>Social Identities and Relationships</b> <i>Chair: Dr Julia Johnson; The Open University</i>
15:20 – 15:40	<b>Degen C.</b> Acting and Looking One's Age: Gendered Perspectives on Ageing and Old Age	<b>Venn, S.</b> Gendered approaches to bodily changes, declining sleep quality and increasing age	<b>Todd, M.</b> Written on the Body? Older Lesbians' Experiences of Domestic Violence
15:40 – 16:00	<b>Loe, M.</b> Doing it My Way: Nonagenarians, Embodiment, and Pleasure	<b>Bengs, C.</b> The experience and understanding of body, gender, emotions, health and depression in late life	<b>Jones, R.</b> "Older people have a lot to say about sex and sexuality": Issues in researching sexuality and ageing
16:00 – 16:20	<b>Hurd Clarke, L.</b> To dye or not to dye: Older women and the perception and experience of gray hair.	<b>O'Donnell, T.</b> Invisible women: Are older women's stories of anorexia nervosa being eclipsed by body image discourses?	<b>Bhatti, M.</b> Re/Imagining the Garden – A photo-essay on ordinary landscapes
16:20 – 16:40	<b>Martin, W.</b> Gender, Ageing and the Body in Everyday Life	<b>Sutton, L.</b> Keeping up appearances: How older people manage growing old	<b>Makita, M.</b> Pathways to Ageing: Images of old age and the roles of older women in Mexican society



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The Open University



## Rethinking Concepts: Families, Intimacies and Personal Relationships

BSA Families and Relationships Study Group Colloquium  
Co-convenors Dr Jacqui Gabb and Prof Elizabeth Silva

**Date: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 11.00am - 4.00pm**

**Venue: BSA Meeting Room, Imperial Wharf, London SW6 2PY**

This event aims to encourage critical dialogue on the value of prominent concepts used in the study of contemporary living, notably *families*, *intimacies* and *personal relationships*.

There is a wealth of empirical studies on household trends and people's experiences of living together and apart-together in the UK. Critical engagements have moved away from supposed crises in 'the family' or decline in commitment, proposing new ways of understanding the connections and practices that constitute relationality in personal, intimate and family contexts. We want to interrogate how conceptual frameworks have kept up with contemporary living. How do the prominent concepts of families, intimacies and personal relationships work for us? Do they enhance or restrain our capacity to know and make sense of everyday relation experience?

The colloquium will feature keynote presentations from:

**Dr Val Gillies**, Families and Social Capital Research Group, London South Bank University

**Prof Lynn Jamieson**, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh

**Prof David Morgan**, School of Social Relations, Keele University

**Prof Carol Smart**, Morgan Centre for the Study of Relationships and Personal Life, University of Manchester

These presentations and pre-circulated position papers will lead into structured group discussion. The event aims to provide a dialogic environment to allow us to advance our thinking.

A set of questions will guide our proposed engagement:

- How far do the concepts families, intimacies and personal relationships help us to understand the ways people create togetherness? Do they illuminate or obscure the relational processes of everyday life?
- How helpful are these concepts for understanding new ways of relating? Are there other existing and/or new concepts that are more useful?
- What is the role of the concepts in grasping change and continuities in social life?
- What is the scale and size of 'the social' involved in each of these concepts? How does the personal divide/separate from the social?
- How do the concepts distinguish from each other or link up? Do they ever merge or do they remain distinct at some level?

Our engagement with these questions seeks to explore how ways of thinking and the formulation of arguments are embedded in theoretical debates that bring together understandings of personal and social worlds. We aim to produce a journal special issue generated through and from colloquium papers and participant discussion.

To facilitate discussion, the colloquium is intentionally small, with the number of participants being limited to 40 people. Places will be allocated through abstracts that demonstrate critical engagement with the key concepts and set of questions.

Abstracts of 200-250 words should be submitted by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009** to Sarah Batt, research secretary in CCIG [a.s.c.batt@open.ac.uk](mailto:a.s.c.batt@open.ac.uk). Please put author name and short abstract title in the email subject, for example: Smith J. Happy families? Participants will not make formal presentations but will be expected to read the pre-circulated papers and to critically engage in small group discussion of the framing and concepts used in the study of contemporary living.

Cost: Registration **£35** BSA members and **£50** non-BSA members (including lunch and refreshments).

# POSTERS

09:30-10:00, 11:10-11:25, 15:05-15:20

CONFERENCE CENTRE FOYER

*Martin, W.*

*University of Reading*

## **Embodying active ageing: exploring perceptions of health, risk and ageing in later life**

The promotion of 'active' ageing in later life has been a key development in recent health policy in the United Kingdom (UK). These changes not only challenge the prevalent view of old age as an inevitable process of biological decline but also signify the tendency of lay and expert discourses to increasingly use the notion of risk. At the same time, older people's social identities need to be negotiated in the context of positive (active) and negative (passive) images of ageing.

This poster will report findings from a research study that explored: (1) how older people negotiated their social identities in the context of alternative images of ageing; (2) people's own meanings and perspectives about their lifestyles, self-identities and bodies; and (3) the salience and limitations to the concepts of 'risk' and 'reflexivity' in everyday life. The research involved a diverse group of 50 participants aged between 50 and 96 years. Data collection methods included the intersection of in-depth qualitative interviews with photo-elicitation.

Thematic analysis using Atlas Ti was undertaken. It was shown that the process of risk profiling and reflexivity was complex and multifaceted as participants drew upon a number of different discourses when making choices about health related lifestyles. Underlying the participant's discourses about health and risk was a sense of embodied vulnerability about ageing in which old bodies were constructed as 'other' to be avoided and distanced from their everyday worlds

*Siverskog, A.*

*Linköping University*

## **A future PhD project: A study of discourses on ageing, intimacy and sexuality in older persons life stories and within residential housings for older people**

The poster aims to present my future PhD project which will explore discourses of ageing, intimacy and sexuality through two different studies.

The aged body is often considered as asexual and the notions of it as unbound, frail and leaky clashes with ideas of sex as connected to the young, smooth and attractive. Simultaneously the concept of successful aging, associated with autonomy, activity and consumption includes ideals of an active sex life in old age, but this is often preserved for the still active and able and thus constructed in contrast to the 'oldest old'. This project aims to challenge ageist assumption about old age and sexuality without reproducing ageist notions.

These contradictory discourses raise questions of old people's possibilities to express desires and wishes for intimacy, sexuality and sex. The first study will therefore consist of qualitative interviews with old hetero-, homo- and bisexual people and bring attention to how they construct intimacy and sexuality in relation to age(ing) in their life stories. The project also aims to generate knowledge about old GLB persons' situation in a Swedish context.

The second study will focus on an arena where autonomy and activity can be seen as already put in question. It will explore how discourses of intimacy and sexuality are constructed in residential housings for old people and study which sexualities, subjects, gendered bodies and acts are created and regulated in them. Observations and qualitative interviews with residential housing staff in these settings will constitute the empirical material for this study.

*Venn, S., Arber, S.*

*University of Surrey*

## **Improving the understanding of poor sleep in later life through the legacy of poor sleep in earlier life**

Background: It is widely believed that sleep worsens in later life. Trouble getting to sleep, staying asleep, waking early, and an increase in daytime sleepiness has a higher prevalence among older people. Therefore the focus on sleep in later life tends to be on the physiological changes that take place, rather than on the social factors that may influence sleep quality, such as caring for an ill partner in the night. As a result poor sleep in later life is largely regarded as originating in later life.

Aims and Methods: This paper offers a detailed understanding of older peoples' sleep through qualitative interviews (n=62) of older people's perceptions of sleep needs, causes of poor sleep quality, and strategies to improve sleep.

Results: Older people reported difficulty getting to sleep, having fragmented sleep, and staying asleep early in the morning. However, they were also often able to identify social factors that contributed to their poor sleep. Further exploration as to the origin of these factors revealed that many of the influences on the quality of their sleep earlier in life had a continuing impact on their current sleep. Such factors included previous long term shift working, caring for partners with a long term illness, worries about work, and continuing health problems.

Conclusions: Whilst it is important to recognize that changes in sleep architecture may influence the quality of older peoples' sleep, it is also important to take into account how the legacy of poor sleep in earlier stages of the lifecourse may continue through into later life and impact on the quality of current sleep. Asking people to reflect on their attitudes to sleep and sleep habits through a lifecourse narrative approach may contribute to a better understanding of the complex mechanisms that influence poor sleep in later life.

The research is supported by the New Dynamics of Ageing initiative, a multidisciplinary research programme supported by AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC and MRC (RES-339-25-0009).



**The experience of activity for older people ageing with a chronic respiratory condition – ageing before one's time.**

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic respiratory condition that mainly affects older people. It can severely affect peoples' ability to engage in activities and may affect their experience of ageing. However, it appears that little has been published with regard to activity as perceived by older people living with COPD. The aim of this research was to explore the experience of activity as perceived by older people ageing with COPD using qualitative methodology.

This interview based, Grounded Theory study included 18 people with COPD (59 to 84 years old; 12 men and six women). Interviews were tape-recorded and transcribed. Data were analysed to derive themes of importance to participants.

Two main concepts were identified: 'stagnation' - as linked to being confined to indoors; and 'movement' - associated with being outdoors. Stagnation affected participants on a physical and psychosocial level and changed their perception of themselves, their symptoms and their ageing experience. The experience of stagnation as a result of being confined to indoors led to perceptions of premature ageing. Movement, including physical and psychosocial aspects, enabled people to escape feelings of stagnation and changed perceptions of self, environment and symptoms. The environment was an important contextual factor influencing the experience of activity for older people living with COPD. The stagnation-movement model suggests a link between the environment and experience of illness, ageing and activity. Therefore the experience a chronic respiratory condition affects the individual's ageing experience and may lead to feelings of ageing before one's time.

**Using a wearable assistive technology system– opportunities and threats**

Population ageing poses one of the greatest social, economic and health challenges for Europe in the 21st century. Increased life expectancy does not necessarily translate into healthier lives; with age the prevalence of chronic illness increases, often compromising older peoples' independence and well being. The introduction of assistive technology (AT) may support older people to live independently in their own homes. This paper explores the perceptions and needs of older people and their carers with regard to a wrist worn AT device.

A mixed method approach (focus groups/ survey) was chosen to explore the responses of older people and their carers with regard to using a wrist worn AT device. Nine focus groups with 47 participants (aged 58 to 91 years) from a diverse range of socio-economic and health backgrounds were conducted. Two main themes were identified: threats and opportunities such a device would offer. Two issues characterised the perceived threats: design and operational complexity and confidentiality/privacy concerns. Opportunities related to increased independence, reassurance and well-being. Older people described both threats and opportunities inherent in the device whilst carers placed greater emphasis on opportunities than threats. These findings were supported by questionnaire data from 121 respondents. Assistive technology can have clear benefits for older people and their carers in terms of well-being and independence. However, such technology also raises concerns amongst older people, which need to be considered in order to ensure that the objectives of AT, increasing the well being and independence of older people and their carers, can be achieved.

# PAPER SESSION 1: 11:25 – 12:45

**MEDIA IMAGES** *Chair: Dr Bill Bytheway, The Open University*

**AUDITORIUM**

11:25 – 11:45 *Twigg, J.*

*The University of Kent*

## **Clothing, Magazines and the Cultural Constitution of Age: How Does Vogue negotiate ageing?**

Dress is central to the presentation of the body; and clothes therefore play a significant part in mediating the experience of ageing and bodily change. We are familiar from feminist analyses with the role of women's magazines in the constitution of gendered – and classed – identities, but less so in relation to aged ones. The paper – which draws on an ESRC funded empirical study of clothing, the body and age – addresses the role of women's magazines in negotiating the ways in which age and ageing are presented, imagined and experienced. It focuses primarily on Vogue as representing the premier UK fashion magazine, and it explores the changing response of the magazine to the issue of age, contrasting its presentation of the older women in the 1950s, through the image of Mrs Exeter, with its current treatment which de-emphasises age cohorts and presents an ideal of 'ageless style'. These contrasts are used to reflect upon the changing social and cultural location of older women, and to engage with theoretical debates concerning the role of consumption culture and the interplay between the body and social identity.

11:45 – 12:05 *Ging, D.*

*Dublin City University*

## **Written on the Skin? A Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Irish-Mediated Advertising's Treatment of Male and Female Ageing**

This paper explores the radically different ways in which contemporary advertising treats the ageing of men and women. Based on a large content analysis study which looked at a wide range of issues in relation to gender stereotyping in Irish-mediated advertising, the findings show that in female-directed advertising, ageing tends to be constructed as a source of anxiety whereas in male-directed advertising, ageing is generally portrayed in a more positive manner. While other research in Ireland (O'Boyle, 2006) has shown that much of advertising's focus on youth and youthfulness is attributable to the age profile of the industry's workforce, this does not account for the highly gender-specific images of ageing and youthfulness that the industry produces. In this paper, I argue that advertising's infantilisation of men and women is played out in significantly different ways, which are attributable primarily to the dominance of a postfeminist discourse across all aspects of media culture. The paper also asks whether the recent move toward more realistic, 'pro-age' advertising such as the Dove campaign ultimately serves to challenge or perpetuate western society's apparent inability to accept the ageing of women.

12:05 – 12:25 *Ishiguro, J.*

## **Glamorising the ageing body – the visual representation of Japanese middle aged women**

Focusing on the contemporary Japanese magazines aimed at women in their 40s and 50s launched after the early 2000s this paper critically examines how media images of Japanese middle aged women are framed and embodied in relation to a prevailing discourse: a glamorous Western middle aged body. Japanese women now enjoy the longest life expectancy (85.99 in 2008) in the world but are increasingly under pressure to look good for longer. The vague category of middle aged women was negatively represented in the media as 'dull', 'unsexy' or 'losing femininity' until the early 2000s retirement of baby boomers, when many glossy magazines for 'new' middle aged women were launched. In the context of late-consumer capitalism, its image obsession and dedication to physical self-improvement, the text emphasises glamorising the ageing body as key to becoming the 'right' middle aged woman inventing the category of the 'glamorous middle aged woman' by presenting images of Caucasian celebrities such as Demi Moore and Madonna. Such images are uniform in the Japanese imagination appearing independent, knowledgeable and, more importantly, successfully displaying ageing bodies. Utilising the narratives of life stories such as divorce, achievement, success and relationships with younger men gives flavour to maturity. This research suggests that, in Japan, making oneself the 'right' middle aged woman involves a gendered and racialised body project that also mobilises the emotional and psychological aspects of women. Consequently, as Skeggs (2004) argues, the historical and material conditions of the individual are eclipsed by an emphasis on self-accountability through choice.

12:25 – 12:45 *Chambers, D.*

*Newcastle University*

## **The Spectacle of Decline: Representations of Ageing Femininity in Celebrity Culture**

The ageing female celebrity is portrayed in the media as an embattled sign: of struggle against decay and degeneration. She is treated as a beleaguered mannequin for anti-ageing products and services, framed as a desperate consumer. This paper addresses significations of ageing femininity in popular culture. Working at the intersections of sociology and cultural studies, and using Debord's (1992) notion of the spectacle, the paper examines how the image of the ageing female celebrity is exploited as a spectacle of physical decline. Dominant discourses of ageing are analysed. The ageing female celebrity is signified, in a range of 'soft news', as a failed, desperate subject engaged in a ritual of resistance to bodily deterioration. Drawing on Shildrick's 'leaky bodies' approach to feminism and bioethics, I examine how ageing is often used by the media to undermine the integrity of the feminine subject by punishing her body. The older woman is fated as 'monstrous feminine'. But this feminine subject is recuperated if she disciplines/punishes herself by re-sculpting and redesigning her body. In today's popular culture, the potential elegance and sophistication of ageing celebrities is counteracted by the will to be 'other': to masquerade as a person several decades younger. Demi Moore, for example, not only has punishing anti-ageing regimes (including the use of blood-sucking leeches according to gossip columns), she is re-sexualized by taking a younger male partner. A range of popular texts are examined to identify ways in which dominant representation of age as physical decline are confirmed and challenged.

# PAPER SESSION 1: 11:25 – 12:45

**EMBODIED IDENTITIES** *Chair: Dr Cassandra Phoenix, Exeter University*

**MEETING ROOM 2**

11:25 – 11:45 *Wray, S.*

*University of Huddersfield*

## **The Influence of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity on Women's Embodied Experiences of Ageing**

Within social gerontology and the sociology of ageing, there has been a tendency to focus on ageing as a period characterised by adaptation, consumption, and the commodification of the body (e.g. Biggs, 1997; Featherstone and Hepworth, 1996). This work has highlighted the extent to which an ageing appearance might impact on the formation of identity and self. However, a limitation of this focus is a lack of attention to the significance of ethnic and cultural diversity on how ageing is experienced and embodied. An argument of this paper is that such approaches tend to overlook the complex meanings attached to ageing for women and how these are often bound up with past, current, and future ethnic and cultural belief systems and values. Based on qualitative research with women (aged 36-60) from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, this paper seeks to examine the different meanings women attach to ageing. It considers the extent to which current theories of ageing are able to explain those experiences of women that are not structured around perceived Western concerns and priorities.

11:45 – 12:05 *Leontowitsch, M., Higgs, P., Stevenson, F., Jones, IR. St George's University of London*

## **The Natural and Normal in Bodywork in Later Life**

Later life today is very different in character to that experienced by previous generations in that it has been accompanied by the emergence of the 'third age' as a cultural field. Social transformations related to risk, consumption and individualisation are reflected in the construction of third age identities. Health is central to the pursuit of an agentic third age lifestyle and the 'will to health' is emerging as a powerful discourse in later life. These changes have fostered a distinction between natural and normal ageing where the former is associated with a sense of coming to terms with physical and mental decline and the latter is associated with an increasing emphasis on maintaining norms of self-care aimed at delaying such decline. We aim to establish how the notions of natural and normal ageing influence older people's bodywork. The data are drawn from recorded interviews with people aged 60 plus who purchased non-prescription and supplementary medicines in pharmacies and health food shops in London. The participants were predominantly women so that beauty-work was as big a part of the interviews as diet, exercise and self-medication were. The analysis suggests that there was a continuation of bodywork across the lifecourse but that notions of being a good/healthy citizen coloured the way participants spoke about their bodywork. Where such limits started to occur we suggest it is useful to consider these in terms of an arc of acquiescence where individuals try to maintain as much of a 'normal' later life as possible.

12:05 – 12:25 *Zubair, M., Martin, W., Victor, C.*

*University of Reading*

## **Negotiating Gender, Age, Ethnicity and Power in Fieldwork with Older Pakistani Muslims in the UK: Some Reflections on Dress and the Presentation of Self in the 'Field'**

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in researching people growing older in our Pakistani Muslim communities living in the UK. However, older people from Pakistani Muslim communities have received comparatively little attention in wide-ranging discussions on culturally and socially appropriate research methodologies. In this paper, we draw on the experiences of our researcher, a young Pakistani Muslim woman, to explore the significance of gender, age and ethnicity to fieldwork processes and 'field' relationships (i). In particular, we highlight the significance of dress and particular presentations of the embodied self within the research process. This includes: (1) Insider/Outsider boundaries and how these boundaries are continuously and actively negotiated in the 'field' through the use of dress and particular presentations of the embodied 'self'; (2) Gender, age and space: how our researcher's use of traditional Pakistani dress, and her differing research relationships, are influenced by the older Pakistani Muslim participants' gendered use of public and private space; and (3) The opportunities and vulnerabilities experienced by our researcher in the 'field' reinforced especially by her use (or not) of the traditional and feminine Pakistani Muslim dress. Our research therefore highlights the role of different presentations of the embodied 'self' to fieldwork processes and relationships, and highlights how age, gender and status can result in fluctuating insider/outsider boundaries and experiences of power and vulnerability within research relationships.

i. Our research project 'Families and Caring in South Asian Communities' is funded by the ESRC New Dynamics of Ageing programme.

12:25 – 12:45 *Gott, M., Hinchliff, S., Ingleton, C.*

*University of Sheffield*

## **Learning how to be an 'older women': negotiating cultural scripts of ageing after the menopause**

It has been argued that the babyboomer generation is reinventing cultural scripts of ageing (Gilleard and Higgs, 2002). However, this has been explored more theoretically than empirically and little attention has been paid to the menopause as a key event in women's ageing experiences. These ideas are explored by drawing on data from in-depth interviews conducted with 12 women aged 48-60 years and self-defined as post-menopausal on 2 occasions, 6-8 months apart. For many participants, menopause was perceived as a time of transition into a 'different' phase of life. Whilst for most it invoked feelings of 'getting older', these were framed both negatively (in relation to concerns about mortality) and positively (as a time of increased opportunities). Evident in some participants' accounts was an uncertainty and anxiety about 'learning to be old' (Cruikshank, 2003). Concerns related to self presentation (dress, make-up, weight), as well as behaviour (appropriateness of having sex, need for exercise and dieting). Participants reported negotiating these concerns with reference to the advice and behaviour of peers, (younger) female family members and the media. Physical appearance was identified as important to most participants, although views about the use of age-resisting technologies to modify appearance were mixed. Some saw these as inherently unnatural, but to others they were 'just a bit of help'. These findings indicate that women in mid life experience difficulties in negotiating competing cultural scripts of ageing and identify the menopause as a time when these concerns are brought into focus.

# PAPER SESSION 1: 11:25 – 12:45

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES *Chair: Prof. Christina Victor, University of Reading*

MEETING ROOM 4

11:25 – 11:45 *Hardy, S., Grogan, S.*

*Staffordshire University*

## **Investigating older adults' influences and motivations to engage in physical activity**

Although regular physical activity is an effective means to prevent the onset of functional limitations and consequential disability, many UK adults aged over 50 years remain sedentary. This qualitative research aimed to investigate what older adults' experiences are of physical activity and what factors are important to older adults in order to understand what would motivate them to be more physically active. Focus groups with forty-eight older adults (aged 52-87) were carried out to gain an in-depth understanding of personal and social influences on physical activity. A model produced using a Grounded Theory analysis demonstrated that appearance and preventing further health decline were particularly motivating towards physical activity participation. Other influences included enjoyment of exercise, others as motivators to exercise, and perceived limited appreciation for older peoples' needs. The data were additionally analysed for gender differences. Results showed males and females both used others as motivators to participate in structured exercise classes, could identify the benefits of exercise, and acknowledge that a decline in physical ability may hinder present and future activity. Unlike the females, the male participants possessed limited appreciation for their appearance (except for weight), were more likely to have engaged in exercise as a treatment and could easily cite negative consequences of physical activity. Both males and females expressed disdain for unhealthy behaviour and lifestyle choices of younger generations. Whereas females had a strong desire to remain inside their residences during darkness, no male participant mentioned this. The results are discussed in relation to health and exercise interventions designed to motivate exercise behaviour in older adults.

11:45 – 12:05 *Williams, V., Bruton, A., Ellis-Hill, C., McPherson, K.*

*University of Reading*

## **Movement and stagnation – the impact of the environment to perceptions of self, body and breathlessness in COPD**

This paper explores the impact of the environment on perceptions of self, body and symptoms for older people living with a chronic respiratory condition. We draw on data collected through in-depth interviews with 18 older people (59 to 84 years old, 12 men, 6 women) living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). A grounded theory approach was chosen to recruit participants through purposeful and theoretical sampling, collect and analyse data through constant comparative method. The two key concepts that captured participants' experiences were 'stagnation' – as linked to being confined to indoors; and 'movement' associated with being outdoors. Stagnation was perceived as staleness impacting on perceptions of self, body and ageing as well as participants' perceptions of their bodily symptoms such as breathlessness. Movement was perceived as a way of having some normality from the limitations and physical restrictions faced by their chronic condition. The single most important factor impacting on these experiences was fresh air and participants described feelings of open airways, the ability to breathe freely and freedom. This paper identifies the importance of the environmental context to differing experiences of COPD and perceptions of self, body and bodily symptoms. This paper will conclude by arguing for an environmental and embodied approach in order that we can better understand lived experiences of COPD.

12:05 – 12:25 *Dickinson, A.*

*University of Hertfordshire*

## **Maintaining the older body in hospital: Patient experiences of hospital food provision.**

Food is vital to the maintenance of the physical body, but also has social and psychological roles which are important for health and well-being. Malnutrition and poor nutritional care of older patients in Westernised hospital settings have long been a concern frequently highlighted by the media and academic literature. However, what is less well understood are how patients' perceive and experience eating in this institutional setting. This paper will draw on data collected during an action research study. I will draw on data collected through interviews with patients (n=81) which explored their mealtime experiences. An inductive constant comparative approach was used to analyse the data. One of the themes emerging from the data is the work patients undertake in order to make the best of the hospital situation in order to 'survive' often through engaging in 'self-sufficiency' behaviour. Conscious adaptations are made by patients in order to adjust to the alien environment and foods, fit in with the constraints imposed by the institution, and avoid the need to ask for assistance. Patients also experience weight loss, varying impacts of disease and altered appetite. Despite these difficulties, mealtimes are important to patients, maintaining a sense of normality and providing temporal signals throughout the day as well as providing nutrients essential for recovery. This paper will conclude by highlighting the implications that exploring patient experience has for clinical practice and will make recommendations for further research.

12:25 – 12:45 *Paulson, S., Willig, C.*

*City University London*

## **Older men dancing themselves to death; older men and women dancing through bereavement**

In terms of gender differences, some older men dance themselves to death on the dance floor in Scottish Country dancing. Both older men and older women use Scottish Country dancing and Circle dancing to help them deal with bereavement. In an ethnographic and narrative interview study evaluating the health benefits of dance for older people, death was discussed in two distinctive ways. One of the older male Scottish Country dancers talked about wanting to die on the dance floor and both older male and female Scottish dancers talked about older men who had died on the dance-floor. Scottish Country dancing is mentally and physically demanding which may explain why sudden deaths occur amongst older men who maybe less inclined to notice the warning symptoms in their ageing body than older women. Other Scottish Country dancers would be shocked but positioned such deaths as good deaths for the older men concerned. Some older men and older women in both Circle dance and Scottish Country dance talked about dancing in order to deal with bereavement. Dance can facilitate emotional expression in both genders, with Scottish Country dancing focusing on fun and laughter and Circle dance focusing on a range of emotions. Older men tended to prefer Scottish Country dancing, and only the occasional older man attended Circle dancing, suggesting important gender differences in how older men and older women deal with death and bereavement.

# PAPER SESSION 2: 13:45 – 15:05

**MEN AND MASCULINITIES** *Chair: Prof. Ian Rees Jones, Bangor University*

**AUDITORIUM**

13:45 – 14:05 *King, N.*

*Virginia Tech*

## **Professional privilege and slacking off among middle-aged American men**

Many men say they feel increasingly hampered as they age. Theories that specify relations between agency/determinism, domination/resistance present groups for whom they advocate as having agency with which they resist oppression. Ordinary people make similar imputations, distinguishing between senses of disempowerment and their acts of defiance, for instance. Discussion of their aging bodies provides middle-aged men a venue in which they discuss the extent to which they strive to live up to ideals of young adulthood. In one-on-one interviews on the topic of middle age, men variously report retaining their senses of efficacy, relying increasingly on the external agencies of routines and commodities for assistance, and slacking off into states of relative lack of empowerment/discipline. The latter approach stands to frustrate the institutions that wish, for their own reasons, to see older men empowered. This willingness appears to be moderated by occupational privilege and suggests a class-bound doing of agentic

14:05 – 14:25 *Simpson, P.*

*University of Manchester*

## **Fairy Tales: The Politics of Suffering, Surviving and Surpassing in Midlife Gay Men's Responses to Ageing.**

How do gay men in midlife (approx late 30s – early 60s) respond to ageing? The paper explores interview and observation data generated within a Ph.D. study based in Greater Manchester. It will analyse both corporeal and spoken narratives relating to ageing in dress/grooming (and other bodily practices) and the wider of forms of sociation gay men are involved in that may/not serve as resources to counter ageism. I apply Foucault's concept of an 'ethics of the self' to illuminate midlife gay men's ambivalent narratives relating to ageing, gendered sexuality that comprise capitulation, negotiation and resistance to ageist discourse (suffering, surviving and surpassing (Plummer 1995). I will show how an 'ethics of the self' informs their relational practices, which suggest forms of affection, being there for the other and the older gay body as a still 'watchable self.' (Coupland, BSA Conference 2009). Such ethics challenge 'homogenising' tales of the uniformly disciplinary gaze and the degraded forms of sociation said to be at work in particular spaces, as per the coldness, instrumentality, hyper-individualised 'superficiality' and age-divided nature of the 'gay scene.'

14:25 – 14:45 *Mao, S.*

*University of Sussex*

## **Transformation of informal care and gender: male carers in Japan**

The main subject of this presentation will concern the issues faced by Japanese males, caring for their wives or parents at home. As a result of the aging society and the decrease in family size, the number of male carers has eventually increased in Japan. However, only the quantitative increase of male carers and the inverse decrease of daughters-in-law giving care does not result in an improvement of gender equality. Correspondingly, the abuse of the elderly, murders or double suicides all resulting from the burdens of care giving, have not yet declined. In 2006, our research group conducted a national questionnaire survey for male caregivers, the first to be carried out at a national level. This survey revealed unique challenges faced by male carers i.e. cooking, physically caring for their loved one, new and negative feelings and the cultural stigma of having to leave full-time work to care for their dependents. Since the 1990's self-help groups of male carers emerged at a local level in order to share their common problems and emotions. We also organize such groups where professionals support male carers at national level. A focus on male carers will lead us to clarify the situation and problems of informal care and to address the issues of future care provision in Japan.

14:45 – 15:05 *Phoenix, C.*

*University of Exeter*

## **Ageing, Natural Bodybuilding and Auto-Photography: A Case Study Exploring the Performance of Masculinity.**

Masculinity can be perceived as a performance: a doing rather than being. From this perspective, men are expected to show different masculine 'faces' within different contexts. The multiple masculinities performed by an individual, therefore, is intricately related to the dimension of space. In this presentation, I outline the findings of an auto-photography task undertaken with a 54 year old male natural (i.e. 'drug free') bodybuilder. This task involved the participant producing photographs that he felt would best represent one month of his life to an 'outsider'. A follow up interview took place to discuss the meanings that the participant assigned to the images. The way in which the participant performs multiple masculinities across a range of social contexts and spaces is discussed. In addition, I consider auto-photography as a potentially useful method for gaining insight into the gendered lives of individuals as they age.

# PAPER SESSION 2: 13:45 – 15:05

**GENDER, AGEING AND THE BODY** Chair: Dr Joanna Latimer, Cardiff University **MEETING ROOM 2**

13:45 – 14:05 *Krekula, C.*

*University of Karlstad*

## **(Age)coded bodies: On Embodied Gendered Ageing**

There is a growing interest in the significance of social positions such as gender, age, class and race/ethnicity to how embodied experiences construct different conditions for old age. In this paper I will draw attention to a body-related paradox on old women's relation to their bodies. On the one hand, we have the assumption that women's aging is influenced by beauty norms that praise youth, and on the other, studies showing that older women's attitudes towards their bodies are far more positive than has been suggested. Departing from three focus group interviews and twelve individual interviews with women in ages 70 years and older, I will illustrate the presence of (1) Double bodily dimensions, that are used to a greater or less extent in performances of identities, (2) The body as a process interpreted over time and space and (3) Double perspectives on bodies, e.g. the presence of many different reference groups. Analyses of these results with the concept of age coding – practices of distinction that are based on and preserve representations of actions, phenomena and characteristics as associated with and applicable to defined ages – sheds the light on how individuals take advantage of manifold and ambivalent norms and reference groups in order to construct embodied gendered aged identities.

14:05 – 14:25 *Simmonds, B.*

*The University of Chichester*

## **Older women drawing upon past and present discourses to understand their bodies**

This paper is based upon the narratives of seventeen women over the age of retirement that were interviewed and asked to complete diaries as part of a PhD project on ageing and physical activity. In the interviews and diaries they were asked to reflect on their corporeality and whether this was different from their conception of an ideal body, as well as reflecting on changing experiences of corporeality over time. What was evident from the narratives is that as young women growing up in the pre or post-war era, patriarchal discourses were prevalent. Middle class women's roles were based around servicing men's needs; being a secretary and once married being a homemaker. Working class women's roles had a similar emphasis on service but jobs were located in the manual labour sector. These gendered activities have inscribed older women's bodies and in the narratives women draw upon discourses from the past and the present to understand and make sense of their changing corporeality. For example a highly medicalised late-modern understanding of their bodies is evident along with more pre or post-war patriarchal notions of asceticism and gender roles. However women use these discourses differently; some women continue to use them to discipline their bodies, while others use them to resist the dominant notions of femininity.

14:25 – 14:45 *Krpic, T.*

*Ljubljana University*

## **Self-Reflexive Body Techniques, Gender and Ageing**

This paper, considered to be author's entrance to the field of embodiment of ageing, deals with the question of gendered self-reflexive body techniques applied by people during ageing as their reactions to the problems of ageing. In the past, the author developed the concept of self-reflexive body techniques with the intention to advance Crossley's concept known as reflexive body techniques. Crossley understands the body technique as a technique of embodiment used by the individual to first and foremost affect others' bodies. As a consequence, when the individual is subject to another agency, the author seeks an interpretation of the body techniques which by individual application affect the individual's own body. The applicability of the concept of self-reflexive body techniques is to explain how the gendered individual works directly back upon the body so as to modify, maintain, or thematise her/his body with the intention of inducing emotions, feelings, and thoughts in her/his mind as well as in others. The author finds researching the embodiment of ageing of great value due to the emergence of the individual's crisis of habits facing old age and vulnerability. The author uses Shilling's understanding of creative solutions of the individual identity crisis in relation to gender. An individual needs to develop different cognitive, emotional and self-reflexive body techniques and strategies of embodiment according to the status of her/his body to creatively cope with crisis. The paper is based on a small number of preliminary in-depth interviews conducted by the author.

14:45 – 15:05 *MacMaster, M.*

*Norwich University College of the Arts*

## **Growing Old for Real: Women, Image and Identity**

The combination of staged, imaginary or conceptual photographic images inspired by issues arising from face-to-face interviews with twenty women aged between 55 and 88 years forms the basis for my discourse that creative photography can provide an additional perspective on 'gender, ageing and the body', one of the sought after approaches outlined in the call for abstracts. My research for Ph.D, entitled 'Growing Old for Real, Women, Image and Identity' draws on a wide range of theory to inform themes for conversation which provide issues for the portfolio which in turn, test theory, together forming a distinctively integrated context for critical research. The portfolio, the practice element of the research reflects the lived reality of ageing femininity in a world where media images are constantly presenting new pressures and 'choices' to maintain a youthful appearance. The situation is further compounded by extended working years, availability of cosmetic and surgical treatments for those willing to pay, reconstructed relationships, expectations of a longer life and now, the possible effects of an economic recession. Responses to these issues, vital to the self esteem and happiness of ageing women are accessible through visual expression which, as Miriam Barnard (2001) emphasises, can 'complement conventional social scientific data ... to explain meanings and significance attached to the ageing process.'

# PAPER SESSION 2: 13:45 – 15:05

HEALTH AND ILLNESS *Chair: Dr Angela Dickinson, University of Hertfordshire*

MEETING ROOM 4

13:45 – 14:05 *Salter, C., Howe, A., Warren, C.*

*University of East Anglia*

## **An exploration of older women's existential experience of being diagnosed as 'above average risk' of fracture and being prescribed osteoporosis medicine to prevent fracture.**

This is a study in progress called ATOM (Adherence To Osteoporosis Medicines) and this presentation would discuss some of the early conceptual, methodological and theoretical issues arising. Using in-depth qualitative interviews ATOM is looking at older women's motivations and attitudes towards taking preventative treatment for suspected osteoporosis following a diagnosis of 'above average risk of fracture'. The study is part of a large national MRC funded trial of a fracture-risk screening programme. Osteoporosis is a condition defined as thinning or 'crumbling' of the bones. The medical definition describes loss of structure and strength with an increased risk of low impact fracturing. Screening is carried out both through bone scanning and a calculation of women's inherited and lifestyle related risks (early menopause, smoking etc). This 'silent' process of thinning of the bones begins for all of us in adulthood but is marked out by medical science as of increased risk to women post-menopause. Commonly known as brittle bone disease and characterized by the 'dowager's hump', older people and particularly old women, are routinely exposed to negative images in society including frail, bent and disfigured 'crumbles'. However, the eventual and inevitable loss of bone density can be seen as a part of natural ageing. This presentation will consider older women's gendered experiences and agency following diagnoses – commonly without any previous symptoms or concerns – of above average risk of fracture and of being prescribed medicines to prevent osteoporosis.

14:05 – 14:25 *Westwood, M.*

*Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust*

## **What is the Shape of a Stroke?**

A comment in a recent paper by McGibbon and Peter (2008) about patients in the highly specialised and reified environment of a paediatric intensive care unit started me thinking about aspects of my own, somewhat less reified but no less specified, field of stroke care. The comment concerned the extension of the sick child into the machines that surrounded it and to which he or she was, intimately, connected for treatment, care, and monitoring. Whilst the person with a stroke might only expect to be connected to the type of equipment and monitors that McGibbon and Peter were talking about for the first few hours after their stroke event, the interface with simpler, yet no less important, equipment and aids might continue into the medium term, or even for the rest of their lives. At the same time the person with a stroke will be coming to terms with a body and a body image that is changed beyond all of their previous expectations. This paper will explore, using examples from practice, some of the issues – from the possibilities of disability to the limitations of cybernetics – that determine the 'shape' of a stroke.

14:25 – 14:45 *Suen, Y.*

*University of Oxford*

## **Changing Gender Differences in Self-reported Health in Old Age through Periods and Cohorts.**

This study examines the changing gender differences in self-reported health in old age in the UK from the 1970s to 2000s. Using the General Household Survey time-series data, this paper explores the changes in self-reported health for men and women aged 65 and over through cohorts and historical time. It is found that while there was significant gender difference in reporting poor health for those born between 1880 and 1920, the difference was not observed for those born between 1921 and 1940. It is also found that compared to the 1970s and 1980s, gender difference in reporting poor health in old age decreased in the 1990s and diminished to a negligible level in the 2000s. The results challenge the conventional understanding of comparative disadvantage of older women in the literature and it is concluded that historical timing plays an important role in the relationship between gender and ageing.

14:45 – 15:05 *Pointu, A., Brooks, F., Sooben, R.*

*Barnet Primary Care Trust*

## **"Opening the shutters" – The use of photographs when interviewing women with learning disabilities**

**Aim:** To explore the use of photograph elicitation as a research method to investigate the lived experience of ageing through an expert reference group (ERG).

**Background:** Qualitative research has been dominated by written and verbal language, however this can prevent research from uncovering the perspectives of participants who have limited verbal communication skills. There is emerging evidence to suggest that photography can capture the lived experiences of people with learning disabilities (Aldridge 2007).

**Methods:** Participatory research has transformed the way that research is carried out with excluded groups (March et al, 1997; Walmsley, 2001; Walmsley & Rolph, 2001, Walmsley & Johnson, 2003). This study used participatory methods establishing an ERG that worked in partnership with the researcher.

A key element of the ERG work has been to explore how photograph elicitation can be used to support the narrative of interviews. It was anticipated that photographs would create a bridge between the different experiences of the researcher and the participants

**Results:** The use of photographs to support the narrative was tested over a period of 6 months within the safety of the ERG. Their experiences and the benefits of using photography have been incorporated into the future study that aims to capture the lived experience of growing older with learning disability.

**Conclusions:** The ERG demonstrated that photographs can enrich the verbal narratives. Photographs open the "shutters" enabling people who have a range of communication abilities to share their lived experiences in a more meaningful way

# PAPER SESSION 3: 15:20 - 16:40

EVERYDAY LIFE *Chair: Dr Merryn Gott, University of Sheffield*

AUDITORIUM

15:20 – 15:40 *Degnen, C.*

*Newcastle University*

## **Acting and Looking One's Age: Gendered Perspectives on Ageing and Old Age**

This paper considers what is at stake in older people's own descriptions of 'acting' and 'looking' one's age. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in South Yorkshire in a former coal mining village, the paper explores meanings attributed to both of these descriptors through a gendered lens. A particular focus here is the ways in which the boundaries of 'old age' are patrolled by older people themselves in everyday life. One such way that this is accomplished is by the paying of close attention to shifts one's own comportment and in that of peers. The use in everyday language of terms such as 'looking' and 'acting' one's age are part and parcel of this close attention to ideals of personal comportment. It also demonstrates some of what counts as 'real' old age for the older people involved in this research. 'Looking' one's age is perceived as a negative attribute, while 'acting' one's age (with certain caveats) is positive. However, what 'age' codifies in each expression is different and what is expected of men and of women in this regard is also different. It is these differences that in turn reveal some aspects of what 'oldness' is understood to be by older people themselves in this village setting as they simultaneously exist and live in, adapt to, contend with, delight in and rage against, their ageing corporeal selves.

15:40 – 16:00 *Loe, M.*

*Colgate University*

## **Doing it My Way: Nonagenarians, Embodiment, and Pleasure**

This ongoing research takes a close look at late-life meaning-making concerning embodiment and pleasure in old age. Findings are culled from in-depth interviews with twenty women nonagenarians living in New York state in the U.S.. Data collection and analysis incorporates a lifecourse perspective, taking into account life experiences, circumstances, and choices throughout one's life. Together, these life herstories reveal individual agency and fluidity when it comes to pleasure, desire and embodiment against the backdrop of ever-shifting macrosocial contexts and individual life worlds. I argue that for these women nonagenarians, pleasure is constituted in the context of social inequalities (primarily sexism and ageism), social capital (including active involvement in women's communities), widowhood, and "aging in place."

16:00 – 16:20 *Hurd Clarke, L., Korotchenko, A.*

*The University of British Columbia*

## **To dye or not to dye: Older women and the perception and experience of gray hair.**

West and Zimmerman (1987) have argued that gender is a performance that individuals accomplish through everyday interactions. A central part of an embodied feminine performance, hair styling has become an avenue through which individuals can resist stereotypical representations of old age and aged identities (Weitz, 2001). While grey hair is an obvious indicator of advanced age, the use of hair dye is one of the easiest ways to conceal one's chronological age. Using data from in depth interviews with 36 women aged 71 to 94, this paper explores the ways in which older women construct and negotiate the varied meanings of gray hair. Our analysis of the data revealed that all but two of the women had dyed their hair at some point in their lives. Equating gray hair with mental and physical decline, the women stated that they had coloured their hair in order to appear healthier and more active to their peers, family members, or potential romantic partners. At the time of the interviews, 24 women were continuing to use hair dye because they associated gray hair with oldness, unattractiveness, and social irrelevance. In contrast, 12 women did not dye their grey hair because of health concerns and the desire to appear natural and age-appropriate. All of the women subscribed to strong moral prescriptions regarding appropriate and inappropriate hair colours for older women. We discuss our findings in relation to the feminist theorizing concerning the body and ageism.

16:20 – 16:40 *Martin, W.*

*University of Reading*

## **Gender, Ageing and the Body in Everyday Life**

Whilst it is recognised that men's and women's perceptions and experiences of their bodies across the lifecourse are different there has, until recently, been limited empirical research into gender, ageing and the body in everyday life. The aim of this paper is to provide insights into the lived experiences and perceptions of men and women who are growing older in gendered bodies. The paper draws on findings from doctoral research, which combined 50 biographical interviews with photo-elicitation methods, to explore how people in mid to later life negotiated their health, bodies, emotions and identities. In particular, the paper will explore the following emergent themes: (1) Perceptions and experiences of ageing bodies were gendered in the context that men predominately talked about their bodies in relation to functionality and women in relation to subjectivities and appearance; (2) Social class and chronological age further differentiated perceptions and experiences of growing older in gendered bodies; and (3) The significance of gender and ageing to the use of space, that is, how perceptions and experiences of ageing bodies were spatially as well as socially contingent. This paper will conclude by reflecting on: (a) the role of masculinities and femininities to lived experiences of growing older in gendered bodies; (b) the interplay between gender, social class and ageing; (c) the significance of gender, ageing and the body to the use of public and private space; and (d) interconnections between the corporeality of the ageing body and the socio-cultural context in which we live.



# PAPER SESSION 3: 15:20 - 16:40

AGEING BODIES *Chair: Prof. Chris Gilleard, University College London*

MEETING ROOM 2

15:20 – 15:40 *Venn, S., Arber, S.*

*University of Surrey*

## **Gendered approaches to bodily changes, declining sleep quality and increasing age**

It is generally accepted that sleep quality will decline with age, and many older people report trouble getting to sleep, staying asleep, waking early, and daytime sleepiness. There has been research into the causes of the decline in sleep quality in older people, but little has been done in terms of how older people themselves feel about these bodily changes and their link to ageing. This paper will explore whether there is evidence of a gendered approach to how bodily changes relate to declining sleep quality with increasing age. This paper draws on qualitative interviews and audio sleep diaries with 61 men and women aged 65-95 in the UK who had poor sleep quality, collected as part of the SomnIA project on Sleep and Ageing\*. The interviews focused on self-perceptions of what influenced interviewees' quality of sleep, and their attitudes towards sleep disruption. Men and women largely identified two types of bodily change that they considered were synonymous with old age (i) that of an increased propensity to sleep during the day and (ii) a greater frequency in night time urination. However, women were more likely to be frustrated and resentful of these changes, not merely because of their potential for disturbing sleep, but also because they perceived these bodily changes as indicators of a current ageing process, and a signal of a deeper old age to come. Men, however, were more tolerant of these bodily changes, and regarded them, alongside other health changes, as an acceptable part of the ageing process.

15:40 – 16:00 *Bengs, C.*

*Umeå University*

## **The experience and understanding of body, gender, emotions, health and depression in late life**

The aim of this presentation is to present an outline of a research project within the Department of Sociology, Umeå University, Sweden. The project consists of two different studies with the objectives to: a) investigate older peoples understandings of and presentation of an ageing self. Central aspects for this study is the experiences of body, gender, health and emotions among older people (men and women age 60+), with and without disabilities, who are still in work as well as outside the labour market. b) to analyse the importance and impact of gender on health and wellbeing in the process of ageing with specific focus on accounts and experiences of depression. The project combines theoretical insights from gender theory together with theoretical influences from the sociological subfields of; body, emotions, culture as well as health and illness for an immerse understanding of older peoples experiences of health and illness. Comparatively little research has hitherto been performed in relation to older people within these theoretical perspectives. The methodological framework for the study is predominantly qualitative, using Grounded theory and Qualitative content analysis. The project is part of a larger multi disciplinary research program, Welfare and work in an ageing society, that focuses broadly on living conditions, well-being and welfare among older people in Sweden. The outlined project may contribute to a deeper understanding of gendered experiences of the body, health and illness in old age

16:00 – 16:20 *O'Donnell, T.*

*Leeds Metropolitan University*

## **Invisible Women: Are Older Women's Stories of Anorexia Nervosa being eclipsed by Body Image Discourses?**

Mass media coverage of anorexia nervosa (AN) focuses, in the main, on girls and young women whilst providing explanatory accounts that emphasise body image issues of idealised thin bodies linked with excessive fear of fatness. Recently, mass media coverage has picked up on AN amongst older women but has mostly framed this as a late onset illness driven by the continuation of quests for bodily perfection into mid and later life and fuelled by the standards allegedly set by ageing celebrities. Some older women are diagnosed with late onset AN but at present they are thought to be a small proportion of older women living with the condition. Others are re-diagnosed following relapse after a period of living as recovered and outside the diagnostic criteria. However, it is likely that most older women who are anorexic are recovering from, and/or maintaining, the condition, having either been diagnosed in childhood or early adulthood, or having never been diagnosed. The medical literature on the aetiology of AN addresses issues of identity, control and existential well being as well as drawing on body image discourses. There is, however, relatively little academic literature of any sort on older women who are recovering from, or are maintaining long-term anorexia. This study uses interviews and analysis of written [and visual] self-accounts to make visible older women's own stories of anorexia.

16:20 – 16:40 *Sutton, L., Hill, K.*

*Loughborough University*

## **Keeping up appearances: How older people manage growing old**

This presentation draws on qualitative longitudinal research with 78 households of older people aged between 65 and 85. By the second wave of research we had interviewed 17 single men, 27 single women and 34 couples. The overall aim of the research was to explore how older people manage their resources as they move through later life. However, this presentation explores how these older people, during the course of the research, perceived and experienced their ageing bodies, and how they managed the process of ageing. The presentation will compare and contrast the differences and similarities between how the men and the women talked about their bodies as they moved through later life. Women were much more concerned about cosmetic appearance and image with regard to their bodies, whilst men wanted to demonstrate their agility and physical fitness. For women, this meant continually being aware of their bodies and the need to be cover or hide them. Youthful bodies, are the bodies with most value in this society, and as such, many older women felt the need to mask the signs of ageing in order to cope with being seen as old and of less value. The presentation will also highlight older people's attitudes towards ageing more generally, and how aids and adaptations, designed to help older people manage their everyday lives, were often perceived as markers or symbols of ageing. This was primarily due to the association with their failing bodies and dependence.

# PAPER SESSION 3: 15:20 - 16:40

**SOCIAL IDENTITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS** Chair: Dr Julia Johnson,  
The Open University

**MEETING ROOM 4**

15:20 – 15:40 *Todd, M.*

*The Robert Gordon University*

## **Written on the Body? Older Lesbians' Experiences of Domestic Violence**

This paper will examine the impact of ageing on responses to, and understandings of, lesbian domestic violence, using interviews conducted with older self-identified lesbians as part of an ESRC-funded PhD research project. The research community, with some exceptions, has largely ignored older lesbians, and recruiting has often been limited to those active in the scene. The lack of a focus on age may, in part, be due to the fact that older lesbians are a particularly hard to reach population. Many of the women I interviewed expressed limited expectations of community (scene) support, and this had as much to do with increasing commercialization as with predominant ageist values. Older lesbians are women who are arguably experiencing an uncomfortable contradiction; they have experienced an increasingly open sexualization of identity, while at the same time becoming subject to the convention that sexuality is inappropriate for older age. Our sense of (dis)comfort in particular places, impacts on the kinds of stories we can tell and listen to. For example, if you feel your values are derided or you are just 'too old' to enjoy yourself, it may mean that there are few safe spaces in which to discuss lesbian domestic violence. In addition, views of older lesbians as isolated, desperate and vulnerable can also render potential perpetrators (and victims) of domestic violence invisible.

15:40 – 16:00 *Jones, R.*

*Manchester Metropolitan University*

## **"Older people have a lot to say about sex and sexuality": Issues in researching sexuality and ageing**

Engaging in research with older people around the issues of sexuality raises general concerns ranging from the belief that the sensitivity of the topic makes the research methodologically too difficult, through to a perception that sexuality and ageing are antithetical and incompatible (Gott 2005). There is a dearth of literature focusing on the issues and challenges raised by researching sexuality and ageing with only a few researchers exploring the issues in any depth (e.g. Jones 2005, Pugh and Jones 2007, Lee 2008). This qualitative study aims to identify the issues involved in such research as well as informing the methodology of a current PhD study focusing on older women's experiences of their sexuality. A sample of six older women and eight researchers, with an interest and experience respectively in the research area, were recruited to take part in individual interviews. The interview schedule was structured around seven key aspects of the research process which in turn made up the coding framework under which themes were developed using a thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke 2006). Themes were identified under the following research aspects: level of importance; gaps in knowledge; influence of society's views of sexuality and ageing; language of sexuality; recruitment of participants; data collection methods; and the researcher's influence on the research process. One of the main conclusions drawn is that undertaking research in this area is necessary and critical with the researcher having a pivotal role in countering any negative impact on the research process that may result from stereotypical views of sexuality and ageing.

16:00 – 16:20 *Bhatti, M.*

*University of Brighton*

## **Re/Imagining the Garden – A photo-essay on ordinary landscapes**

This photo-essay uses material from the Mass Observation Archive (MOA) to consider, document and make suggestions about the meanings of domestic gardens for older people. How older people 'picture' their private gardens gives valuable insights into the relationships they have with one of their closest and most intimate ordinary landscapes. The essay offers snapshots of domestic gardens all over Britain, with photos, text, poetry, and paintings, to help make sense of why gardens are such special places in both the imagination and at home. This rich material offers a rare opportunity for research into how landscapes are narrated by lay or 'ordinary' older people. The MOA material also reveals how those pictorial life stories change during the life course; how people remember their gardens, and what they remember: why does the garden feature recurrently as a special place in the memories of so many older people? I will focus on the research themes of time, place and memory; embodiment and ageing; emotional attachment and belonging, and gendered home- and place-making. The essay takes us into other people's private gardens and challenges the viewer to put themselves in the picture! This photo-essay is a part of the AHRC Landscape and Environment Programme project entitled Writing the landscape of everyday life: lay narratives of domestic gardens

16:20 – 16:40 *Makita, M.*

*University of Glasgow*

## **Pathways to Ageing: Images of old age and the roles of older women in Mexican society**

**INTRODUCTION.** This study with older people provides an interesting context. Mexico still has a relatively young population, in contrast to the demographic ageing of many developed countries. Previous research in Mexico has focused on older people as a social burden, rather than private experiences of growing old. There is a real necessity for a more in-depth exploration of how older women face this stage in the life-course.

**OBJECTIVES.** Following a critical feminist approach, the aim of this study is to obtain an understanding of the lived-experience of elderly women. The intention is to elicit these women's narratives to explore how they make sense of identity and what their ideas of good ageing might be.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS.** A qualitative study based on multiple in-depth semi-structured interviews of 32 women aged 60 and over in Mexico.

**PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.** On-going analysis of these women's pathways involve 5 interconnected themes: (1) Self-identity; (2) relationships; (3) health; (4) activities; and (5) structural issues.

**CONCLUSION.** This analysis shows: (1) how, through their narratives, these women are confronting their own self-understanding and social and cultural perceptions towards older people. And (2) how they are not a homogenous group: amongst them there are multiple and multidimensional accounts of ageing which emerge from, and shape, their own identities. What is needed is an approach that takes into account not only gender differences and inequalities, but also cultural and personal differences. In this way I hope to debate, and potentially, transform the paradigm of current ageing studies in Mexico.

# CALL FOR PAPERS



## The British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2010

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All BSA study groups are strongly encouraged to contribute posters/papers and other activities addressed to these streams. There will also be opportunities for study groups to meet independently.

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69 Swinton Street, London WC1X 9NT [www.acornhouserestaurant.com](http://www.acornhouserestaurant.com) Tel: 0207 812 1842  
Acorn House, London's first truly eco-friendly training restaurant, is set to alter the image of the restaurant industry as well as transform the way in which people eat out. With fresh seasonal menus, a dedication to healthy eating, environmental responsibility and a premium, glamorous appeal, this revolutionary and pioneering new concept offers King's Cross residents, businesses and visitors a unique destination dining experience.

## **Addis** African

42 Caladonian Road, London N1 4DT [www.addisrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.addisrestaurant.co.uk) Tel: 0207 278 0679  
Unlike other restaurants. Addis is a unique Ethiopian restaurant in the heart of London. At Addis restaurant our objective is to make our customers happy with hospitality and prices that cannot be found anywhere else.

## **Camino** Spanish

3 Varnishers Yard, Regents Quarter N1 9AF [www.barcamino.com](http://www.barcamino.com) Tel: 0207 278 0679  
Camino has been created as a place to enjoy the life, vigour and tastes of Spain. Come in for breakfast (coffee, churros and a flick through El Pais) a long lunch, an indulgent graze on cava and raciones or a seriously good wine with fresh meat and fish from the charcoal grill, every experience will be real and infectious.

## **Konstam at the Prince Albert** British

2 Acton Street, London WC1X 9NA [www.konstam.co.uk](http://www.konstam.co.uk) Tel: 0207 833 5040  
Konstam at the Prince Albert opened in April 2006, having been the central feature of BBC2's ten-part series The Urban Chef. The programme followed head chef/owner Oliver Rowe in his search to bring locally-sourced, seasonal food from all around Greater London to the heart of King's Cross. Konstam at the Prince Albert follows on from the popular Konstam café, which was opened in 2004 and was located just a few yards from the restaurant on King's Cross Road.

## **New Merkato** African

196 Caledonian Road, London N1 0SL Tel: 020 7713 8952  
Merkato is Amharic for 'market', but this intimate and friendly establishment carries few of the associations suggested by its name; the atmosphere is relaxed and quiet.

## **Pho @ Kings Cross** Vietnamese

126 King's Cross Rd, London WC1X 9DS [www.eatpho.co.uk](http://www.eatpho.co.uk) Tel: 020 7833 9088  
Here at Pho noodle soup King's Cross (no relation to Pho in Clerkenwell) we aim to bring you the best, healthiest and freshest Vietnamese culinary experience. Our Vietnamese dishes consists of the finest ingredients, our herbs and salad are flown directly from Thailand 3 times a week and served to you the following day.

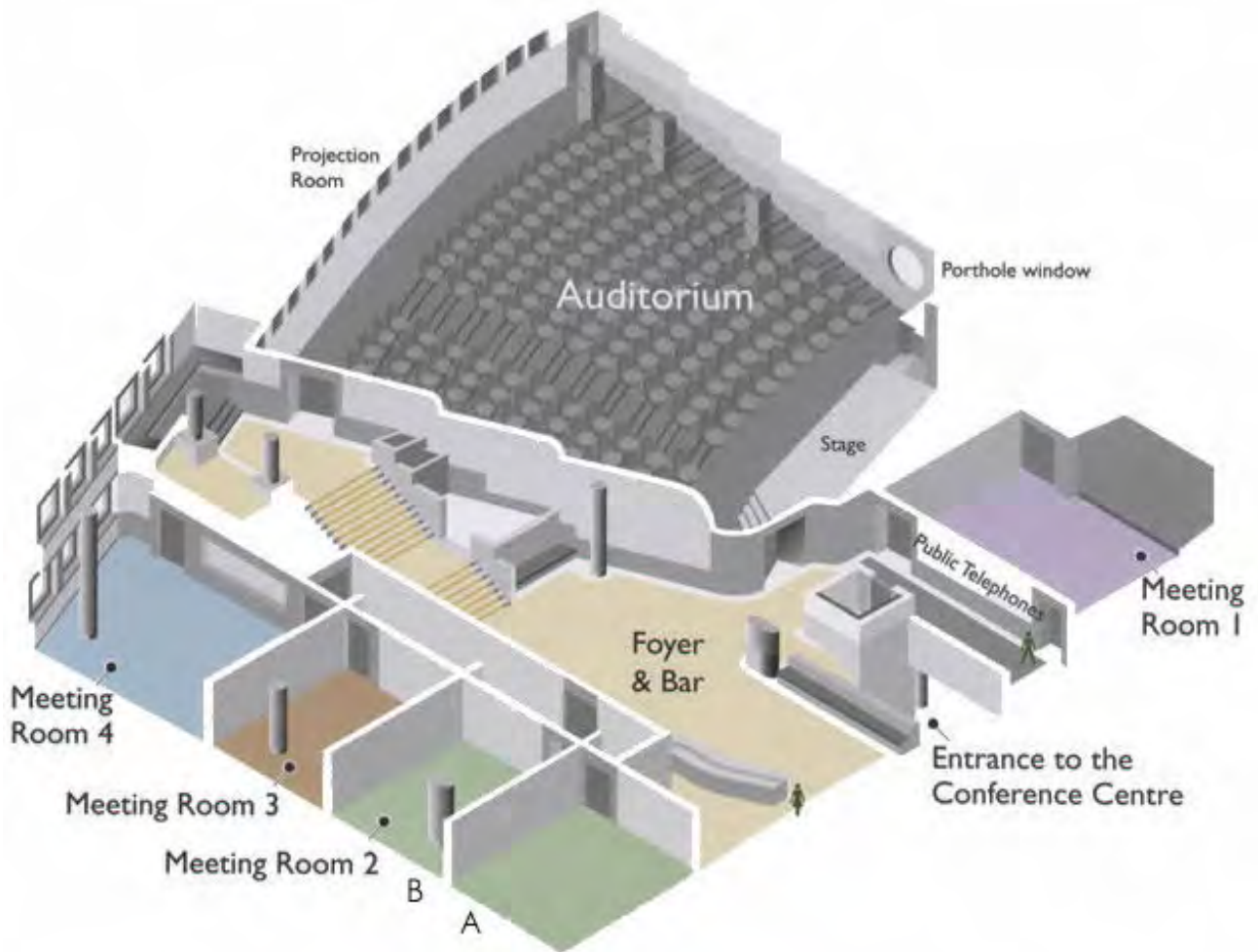
## **Rasa Maricham** Indian

Holiday Inn, 1 Kings Cross Road WC1X 9HX [www.rasarestaurants.com](http://www.rasarestaurants.com) Tel: 0207 833 9787  
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\_\_\_\_\_

For British Sociological Association Official Use Only

Initial Annual Debit Sum: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Reference No. **B S A** \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Identification No.: 679402

### INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY

Please pay the British Sociological Association Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with the British Sociological Association and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

I WISH TO PAY BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

CREDIT CARD  DEBIT CARD

VISA  MASTERCARD  MAESTRO  DELTA  AMERICAN EXPRESS

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Start Date

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Expiry Date

\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_|/\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_|

Security No.

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Issue No.

\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_|

Amount to be debited

£ \_\_\_\_\_

Card holder name & address, if different from above

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

I WISH TO PAY BY CHEQUE, ENCLOSED

# What is the BSA?

Founded in 1951, the BSA is the professional association for sociology in Britain, representing the intellectual interests of our members. BSA members include individuals in research, teaching, and learning, as well as practitioners in many fields.

## Why Join?

Membership to the BSA is a must-have for those who wish to be involved and stay current with sociology in Britain. As a member of the BSA community, you'll have many opportunities to meet and collaborate with others who share your interest in establishing invaluable networking and career opportunities.

### You'll also benefit from:

- Substantial discounts on conference and event registration
- Your choice of internationally recognised BSA journal, 'Sociology' or 'Work, Employment & Society'
- Free membership to BSA Specialist/Study Groups - connect with like-minded members and enhance your knowledge of a particular topic/area of interest
- Free access to SAGE Sociology Full-Text Collection
- Three issues per year of the BSA's informative newsletter, 'Network'
- Leadership, networking and volunteer opportunities
- Discounts on journals and books
- Eligibility for prizes and funding opportunities
- Access to exclusive Members Area of BSA website



## Who can join the BSA?

Membership is open to anyone who is engaged in, has influenced, or is interested in contributing to the promotion of sociology. So, whether you're an academic or a practising sociologist, teaching or working toward a degree, just starting your career or retired, we welcome you to the BSA community.

## 2009 Membership Subscription Categories and Rates

Band	Boundary	Rate	Direct Debit Rate
UK Concessionary	Full-time students or income of less than £14,000	£31	£26
UK Retired	Full-time retirement	£42	£37
UK Standard A	Income between £14,000 and £27,999	£67	£62
UK Standard B	Income between £28,000 and £42,999	£91	£86
UK Standard C	Income between £43,000 and £55,999	£110	£105
UK Higher	Income £56,000 and over	£134	£129
Non UK 1	Country of residence in Category B (any country not listed in Category A, below), OR Country of residence in Category A, AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• full-time student, or</li><li>• income of less than £14,000</li></ul>	£56	£51
Non UK 2	Country of residence in Category A, below, AND income between £14,000 and £55,999	£111	£106
Non UK 3	Country of residence in Category A, below, AND income £56,000 and over	£152	£147

Category A countries:  
Andorra; Australia; Austria; Bahamas; Bahrain; Belgium; Bermuda; Brunei; Canada; Cyprus; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hong Kong; Iceland; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Korea Rep; Kuwait; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Portugal; Qatar; Singapore; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Taiwan; United Arab Emirates; United States.

