



BSA Ageing,  
Body and  
Society  
Study Group

# Critical Perspectives, Future Challenges

# PROGRAMME

BRITISH  
LIBRARY

Friday 6 July 2012  
British Library Conference Centre  
London



# BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

**Call For Papers**

## The British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2013

Engaging Sociology

■ **Tuesday 2 April – Friday 5 April**  
Postgraduate and Early Career Forum Workshops.

■ **Wednesday 3 April - Friday 5 April**  
Annual Conference  
Grand Connaught Rooms.

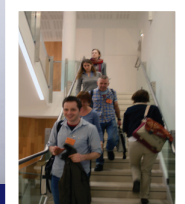
The British Sociological Association invites submissions to its Annual Conference. Participants can present on any sociological research topic.

Suggestions for grouped sessions within the open streams are welcomed.  
All BSA study groups are strongly encouraged to contribute posters/ papers and other activities. There will also be opportunities for study groups to meet independently.

■ **Online abstract submission:**  
[www.britsoc.co.uk/events/Conference](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/Conference)

■ **IMPORTANT DATES:**  
Friday 5th October 2012: Final deadline for abstract submission  
Friday 18th January 2013: Last date for presenters to register

● **E-mail: [events@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:events@britsoc.org.uk)**



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# WELCOME

## BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Conference

### Critical Perspectives, Future Challenges

Welcome to the 5th BSA *Ageing Body and Society* Study Group Annual Conference: *Critical Perspectives, Future Challenges*. We are especially delighted to welcome our plenary speaker, **Professor Barb Marshall** from Trent University, Canada, who will speak on '*Ageing, Embodiment and Corporeality: Lessons for the Sociology of the Body*'; and the participants of our Plenary Panel *Ageing Body and Society*: Professor Toni Calasanti (Virginia Tech, USA); Professor Paul Higgs (UCL, UK); Professor Chris Phillipson (Keele University, UK); and Professor Julia Twigg (University of Kent, UK). We welcome all participants to the conference, particularly those travelling from overseas.

During the last five years our study group has been exploring the social, cultural and biological dimensions of our bodies as we grow older. For our fifth annual conference we wish to take the opportunity to review our progress and debate and consider our future challenges. In particular, this one day conference brings together academics and researchers whose work focuses on ageing bodies and we present a diverse inter/national programme that includes one keynote address, one plenary panel, 30 oral presentations, 4 posters, a book launch, and an exhibition of visual research. We would like to thank Dr Miranda Leontowitsch for co-hosting the wine reception that includes a launch for her Palgrave edited book *Researching Later Life and Ageing: Expanding Qualitative Research Horizons*.

We are very pleased to once again to have the opportunity to present our research and ideas in such an attractive 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, 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. As co-convenors we wish to extend a very special thank you to Jude England for her continuing support and enthusiasm for our *Ageing, Body and Society* study group.

We would also like to thank Liz Jackson, Events Officer at BSA, for her most efficient organisation of the 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.

There will be **refreshments** available in the foyer at break times throughout the conference, and a **drinks reception** at the end. 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, at the annual study group meeting, or via the feedback survey which will be circulated via email after the conference.

We would like to thank everyone who is presenting their work, chairing a session or contributing to the conference's organisation and success. We hope that you enjoy the day!

*Wendy Martin and Julia Twigg*  
BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Convenors

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



As always many people have helped with organising the conference. Thanks to the BSA office for their support. The conference committee would like to thank Jude England, Head of Social Sciences, and her colleagues at the British Library for their support of this event and Dr Miranda Leontowitsch for supporting the book launch and 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

## Joining the Group

The group organises seminars, workshops, conferences and other events and has an e-mail discussion list as well as a web page. To join the email discussion list and receive information on the group's activities please visit. [www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AgeingBodyandSociety](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AgeingBodyandSociety). New members, including students, are very welcome to join the Group.

## Contact the Convenors

**Dr Wendy Martin** School of Health Sciences and Social Care, Brunel University. Tel: 01895 268747; Email: [wendy.martin@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.martin@brunel.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 9.30 until 18:30 on Friday 6 July 2012. 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 or the BSA Events Team mobile phone on +44 (0)7825 235 181. 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.

## Programme Changes

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

## Keynote Address & Special Events

**Professor Barb Marshall**, Trent University in Peterborough, Canada will give the Keynote Address on **'Ageing, Embodiment and Corporeality: Lessons for the Sociology of the Body'** at 10:30 in the Auditorium chaired by **Professor Julia Twigg**.

A Plenary Panel on **'Ageing, Body and Society'** chaired by **Dr Wendy Martin** will take place in the Auditorium at 14.50 with **Professor Toni Calasanti** (Virginia Tech, USA); **Professor Paul Higgs** (UCL, UK); **Professor Chris Phillipson** (Keele University, UK) and **Professor Julia Twigg** (University of Kent, UK)

## Posters and Visual Research Exhibition

Posters and a visual research exhibition will be displayed in the conference centre foyer for the duration of the conference. There is a poster and visual research viewing time on Friday 6 July at 16:20-16:40 and presenters will be available during this time to discuss their work.

## Evening Reception

There will be a wine reception and book launch held on Friday evening from 17.40 – 18.45. This will be held in the Eliot room 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

Friday 6 July 2012	09:30-10:00
Friday 6 July 2012	12:30-13:30
Friday 6 July 2012	16:20-16:40

Water will be available throughout the conference.

Lunch is provided 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, Chaucer Room, Eliot Room, Dickens Room and the Bronte Room.

## 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

## FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012

09:30 – 10:00	Coffee and Registration	<i>Conference Centre Foyer</i>
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Conference Welcome</b> Jude England, Social Sciences, British Library. Wendy Martin, Co-convenor of the Ageing, Body and Society Study Group, Brunel University	<i>Auditorium</i>
10:10 – 11:10	<b>Keynote Address</b> 'Ageing, Embodiment and Corporeality: Lessons for the Sociology of the Body' <b>Barb Marshall</b> (Trent University, Canada)	<i>Auditorium</i>

### 11:10 – 12:30: PAPER SESSION 1

	<b>AUDITORIUM</b> <i>Chair: Carol Wolkowitz</i>	<b>CHAUCER ROOM</b> <i>Chair: Sara Arber</i>	<b>BRONTE ROOM</b> <i>Chair Miranda Leontowitsch</i>
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Campbell, S., Ward, R.</b> 'Experiencing the Care-Based Hair Salon': A Mixed Methods approach	<b>Nettleton, S.</b> '50 at 50' and '60 at 60': towards a carnal sociology of fell running in the English Lake District	<b>Tarr, J.</b> Evoking Ageing Embodiment: Methods and Challenges
11:30 – 11:50	<b>Iltanen-Tähkävuori, S.</b> Fashion design – Professional construction of social age	<b>Carmichael, F., Duberley, J., Szmigin, I.</b> Older women, participation in recreational physical activity and employment status	<b>Buse, C.</b> "It is the skills she has learnt over time and how she does things without thinking about it": Situating the ageing body biographically
11:50 – 12:10	<b>Hockey, J., Dilley, R., Robinson, V.</b> 'Nana wouldn't be seen dead in any of these shoes': footwear, identity and ageing	<b>Phoenix, C.</b> Grasping the Phenomenology of the Ageing, Physically Active Body: A Critical Reflection on Methods	<b>Wistow, J., Dominelli, L.</b> Ageing and care needs during extreme weather events
12:10 – 12:30	<b>Watts, N.</b> Grumpy old Teachers?	<b>Simmonds, B.</b> Visual representations of active older people: constructing the successful and unsuccessful ager	<b>Kribernegg, U.</b> Locating Life: Intersections of Age and Space

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	<i>Conference Centre Foyer</i>
13:10 – 13:30	Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Meeting with Coffee	<i>Bronte Room</i>

### 13:30 – 14:50: PAPER SESSION 2

	<b>AUDITORIUM</b> <i>Chair: Ian Rees Jones</i>	<b>CHAUCER ROOM</b> <i>Chair: Chris Gilleard</i>	<b>BRONTE ROOM</b> <i>Chair: Richard Ward</i>
13:30 – 13:50	<b>Sandberg, L.</b> Affirmative old age - feminist theories on difference and the ageing body	<b>Suen, T.</b> Caring for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people - Prepared? Or not! Care home staff's (mis)understanding of older LGBT issues	<b>Madden, M.</b> Living with Chronic Wounds: "What do I want most? Give me a miracle cure! That would be very welcome. Find a cure, that's what I want"
13:50 – 14:10	<b>King, N., Calasanti, T.</b> The best or worst of times? Middle-aged male workers, class, and bodies in the workplace	<b>Marhankova, J.</b> Embodying activity – discourse of active ageing and the subjectivities of actively ageing seniors	<b>Lyons, L.</b> On Rollators
14:10 – 14:30	<b>Gravill, N., Cartwright, T., Knight, T., Broom, A., Ridge, D.</b> Male narratives of successful	<b>Golman, E.</b> Ritualized body maintenance: comparing theoretical	<b>Kirkman, A.</b> Dementia, ageing and the body

	ageing and wellbeing	approaches to the female body care	
14:30 – 14:50	<b>Meersohn Schmidt, C.</b> Transitions from midlife to old age: Steering mismatching expectations	<b>Amor, T.</b> The Fight against Age: Dis(believes) about the anti-ageing industry and reconfiguration of the sense of self over the life course	<b>Roberts, C., Mort, M.</b> Gendering body work in telecare arrangements for older people living at home

14:50 – 16:20 **Plenary Panel: Ageing, Body and Society** *Auditorium*  
 Professor Toni Calasanti (Virginia Tech, USA)  
 Professor Paul Higgs (UCL, UK)  
 Professor Chris Phillipson (Keele University, UK)  
 Professor Julia Twigg (University of Kent, UK)

16:20 – 16:40 Break *Conference Centre Foyer*

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS & VISUAL DISPLAY** *Conference Centre Foyer*

- Martin, W.** Photographing everyday life: ageing, bodies, time and space  
**Parnell, S.** 'Women of an Uncertain Age' and 'Late Developers'  
**Phoenix, C., Orr, N.** Moving Stories: Physical Activity and Ageing  
**Pieniasek, M.** Co-design as mode of representation in the new product innovation & development process, with specific reference to the sector of design for ageing well  
**Suen, T.** Caring for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people - Prepared? Or not! Care home staff's (mis)understanding of older LGBT issues  
**Watson, J.** A disintegrating mind + a disintegrating body = a disintegrating person? - The implications for person-centred care of people with dementia at the end of life  
**Watts, N.** Grumpy old Teachers?  
**Wolkowitz, C.** The 'Body Work' Landscape of South Florida

**16:40 – 18:00: PAPER SESSION 3**

	<b>DICKENS ROOM</b> <i>Chair: Bethany Simmonds</i>	<b>BRONTE ROOM</b> <i>Chair: Sally Keeling</i>
16:40 – 17:00	<b>Cheng, L-F.</b> Changing Body in a Changing Society: The Tales of Menopausal Women in Taiwan	<b>Jennings, R.</b> It's all just a little bit of history repeating: pop stars, audiences, performance and ageing – exploring the performance strategies of Shirley Bassey
17:00 – 17:20	<b>Brown, L.</b> Ageing and Collective Motherhood in South Africa	<b>Wimpenny, K., Beck, A., Savin-Baden, M.</b> Creative Gymnasium: exploring the use of theatre, movement and performance to provide a means of expression and presence for the 50+ population in Coventry
17:20 – 17:40	<b>Morton, K.</b> Disciplining the ageing body: 'youthful' subjects and practices of cosmetic technology	<b>Orr, N.</b> Older men's embodied experiences of heritage through museum volunteering
17:40 – 18:00	<b>Martin, W.</b> Photographing everyday life: ageing, bodies, time and space	<b>Milton, S.</b> Negotiating ageing with a packaged femininity: an ethnographic account of women dating again in their 50s in the UK

18:00 – 19:00 **Drinks Reception and Book Launch: *Researching Later-Life and Ageing*** *Eliot Room*



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Friday 6 July 2012 at 10:30 in the Auditorium

## Professor Barbara Marshall

### *Ageing, Embodiment and Corporeality: Lessons for the Sociology of the Body*

The past decade has seen a concerted effort to redress the 'absent presence' of the body in ageing studies, drawing fruitfully on the sociology of the body. The conversation between the sociology of the body and ageing studies has been somewhat one-sided, however, with ageing bodies still marginalized in mainstream sociology of the body. In this paper, I will focus on highlighting what the sociology of the body might learn from studies of ageing bodies.

Building on work in feminist sociology, I argue that agency and sociality in late modernity are still linked to particular modes of embodiment that are able to, at least in part, mask their corporeality. While feminist work has been critical in destabilizing the binaries of 'natural' and 'social' that underpin this, ageing studies can provide additional insights. First, there is necessarily a temporal dimension, with ageing bodies as constantly shifting bases for the production of difference. Secondly, an increasing number of practices and discourses of biotechnology focus on senescence, materializing difference in specific bodies in particular ways. Thirdly, social/political contexts –such as those problematizing ageing populations -- shape how differences are taken up. I will illustrate these themes with reference to a range of examples from recent research and suggest how they might usefully inform the sociology of the body. If, as some analysts suggest, 'somatic individuals' and 'corporeal selves' are the basis of modern societies, then ageing studies have much to offer in grasping their embodiment as an ongoing *process* rather than an accomplishment.



**Barbara L. Marshall** is Professor of Sociology at Trent University in Peterborough, Canada. She is the author of *Engendering Modernity* (Polity Press, 1994), *Configuring Gender* (Broadview Press, 2000) and co-editor of *Engendering the Social* (with Anne Witz, Open University Press, 2004), the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Social Theory* (with Austin Harrington and Hans Peter Mueller, Routledge, 2006) and *Aging Men: Reconceiving Masculinities and Modern Medicine* (with Antje Kampf and Alan Petersen, Routledge, forthcoming). She has written numerous articles (often with her colleague Stephen Katz) exploring ageing,

sexuality, bodies and biomedicine which have been published in a range of journals, including *Body and Society*, *History of the Human Sciences*, *Men and Masculinities*, *Science as Culture*, *Journal of Ageing Studies*, *Medicine Studies*, *Sociology of Health and Illness* and *Sexualities*. Her current research project, "Sexualising the 'Third Age'" explores the reconfiguration of sexual life courses in newly complex discourses and images of aging bodies in Western societies.

**Chair:** Professor Julia Twigg, University of Kent

# PLENARY PANEL

Friday 6 July 2012 at 14:30 in the Auditorium

## *Ageing, Body and Society*

**Chair:** Dr Wendy Martin, Brunel University

### **Panel**

Professor Toni Calasanti (Virginia Tech, USA)

Professor Paul Higgs (UCL, UK)

Professor Chris Phillipson (Keele University, UK)

Professor Julia Twigg (University of Kent, UK)

**Toni Calasanti**, PhD, is a professor of Sociology at Virginia Tech, where she is also a faculty affiliate of both the Center for Gerontology and Women's and Gender Studies. She is co-author of *Gender, Social Inequalities, and Aging* and co-editor of *Age Matters: Re-Aligning Feminist Thinking* (both with Kathleen Slevin), and co-editor of *Nobody's Burden: Lessons from the Great Depression on the Struggle for Old-Age Security* (with Ruth Ray) and has published in such journals as *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*; *The Gerontologist*; *Social Forces*; *Journal of Aging Studies*; and *Men and Masculinities*. Her recent work focuses on age and gender in relation to aging bodies and the anti-aging industry; middle-aged bodies and doing age; and masculinity and health.



**Paul Higgs** is Professor of the Sociology of Ageing at University College London. He is co-author of *Cultures of Ageing: Self, Citizen and the Body* (Prentice Hall, 2000), *Contexts of Ageing: Class, Cohort and Community* (Polity, 2005) with Chris Gilleard. A third volume on embodiment is to be published in 2013. He is also the co-author of *Medical Sociology and Old Age: Towards a Sociology of Health in Later Life* (Routledge, 2008) with Ian Rees Jones. Professor Higgs is an editor of the journal *Social Theory and Health* and has published widely in both social gerontology and medical sociology. He has been involved with the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) since its start. Paul directed an ESRC funded project on the historical emergence of the older consumer in the UK. This has been published as *Ageing in a Consumer Society* (Policy Press, 2008) He is currently researching the topic of new ageing populations with Karen Lowton. In 2012 he became an academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.



**Chris Phillipson**, PhD, is Professor of Applied Social Studies and Social Gerontology, at the University of Keele, UK. He received his Ph.D from Durham University in 1977. Chris established the Department of Applied Social Studies and Social Work at Keele in 1988 and headed the Department until 1996. He has been Dean of Research for the Faculty of Social Sciences and served as a Pro-Vice Chancellor for the University (2005-2009). He was also founding Director (1986-1997) of the Centre for Social Gerontology at Keele. His research interests have focused on work and retirement, family and community life in old age, problems of social exclusion, and issues relating to urbanisation and migration. He has published extensively on age-related matters and his books include: *Reconstructing old age* (Sage, 1998), *Social theory and social ageing* (with Carroll Estes and Simon Biggs) (McGraw-Hill, 2003), *Social networks and social exclusion* (co-edited, 2004), *Ageing, globalisation and inequality* (co-edited, Baywood, 2006), *Futures of old age* (co-edited, Sage, 2006), and *Family Practices in Later Life* (co-authored, 2009). He is the co-editor (with Dale Dannefer) of the *Sage Handbook of Social Gerontology* (Sage, 2010). His book *Ageing* will be published with Polity Press in 2013. He is a former President of the British Society of Gerontology and a former Deputy-Chair of the



Training and Development Board of the Economic and Social Research Council. He is a member of the Academic Advisory Group of the International Longevity Centre-UK.

**Julia Twigg** is Professor of Social Policy and Sociology at the University of Kent in UK. Her interests focus on cultural gerontology, particularly the role of clothing and dress in the changing constitution of age. She is currently finishing an ESRC funded study of clothing, drawing on the views and experiences of older women, the responses of the media and the fashion industry. This will be published by Berg in 2012 as *Fashion and Age: Dress, the Body and Later Life*. She is about to start a new ESRC study on Dementia and Dress. Her earlier research focused on questions of care, the body and age. Her interests have always been with the front line of provision and with the concrete realities of people's day to day lives. She is particularly associated with work on the body, and with the establishment of carework as a species of bodywork, a perception explored in her study of the provision of personal care, *Bathing, the Body and Community Care*, and further developed in *The Body in Health and Social Care*. She is founder and co-convenor with Dr Wendy Martin of the BSA study group Ageing, Body and Society.



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## Annual Meeting of the Ageing, Body and Society Study Group

Friday 6 July 2012 at 13:10 in the Auditorium

**Meet the convenors:**

**Wendy Martin** (Brunel University) and **Julia Twigg** (University of Kent)

## Exhibition of Current Visual Research



Exploring the visual is seen as a means to uncover significant insights into how micro processes of daily life are linked to wider socio-cultural discourses; to make visible the taken-for-granted; and reveal meanings and understandings in context. The purpose of this exhibition is to portray and illustrate insights that can be gained from researching the 'visual'. This exhibition brings together researchers who are using visual methods and highlights the significance of the 'visual' within our social worlds.

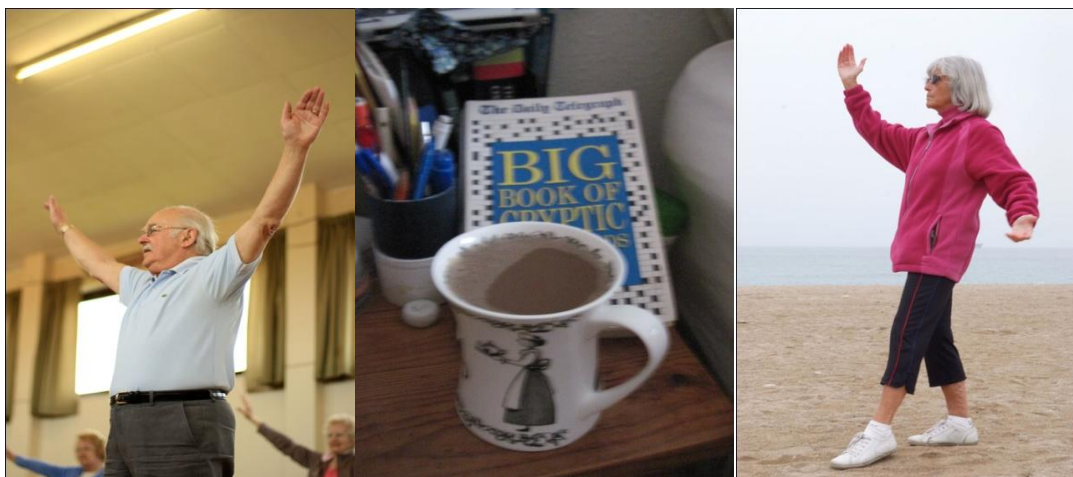
The following researchers present illustrations from their visual research:

**Wendy Martin** (Brunel University): *Photographing everyday life: ageing, bodies, time and space*

**Cassandra Phoenix & Noreen Orr** (Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry): *Moving Stories: Physical Activity and Ageing*

**Carol Wolkowitz** (Warwick University) *The 'Body Work' Landscape of South Florida*

We invite you to participate in this exhibition of visual research and hope that it will stimulate some interesting discussion around its opportunities and use within research.



Photographs published with permission by photographers

BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study  
Group and Miranda Leontowitsch  
would like to invite you to the launch  
of



Join us to celebrate this publication with  
some wine in the Eliot Room of the British  
Library Conference Centre.

On: 6<sup>th</sup> July from 17.40 – 18.45

## PAPER SESSION 1A: 11:10 – 12:30

Chair: Carol Wolkowitz

Auditorium

*Campbell, S., Ward, R.*

*University of Manchester*

### **'Experiencing the Care-Based Hair Salon': A Mixed Methods approach**

Until recently, research in dementia care has been characterised by a fairly limited methodological repertoire. In particular, a reliance on observational approaches has meant that the evidence-base emphasises that which can be seen or heard and the 'readable' aspects of care. Much that is unobservable and non-discursive has been neglected and its significance underplayed.

This qualitative mixed methods study has explored the role of hairdressing, hair care and other aspects of personal grooming in the lives of people with dementia living in a number of care settings. We aimed to explore the role of appearance in the lives of people with dementia and its relevance to a sense of self; as well as the intrapersonal, embodied and sensory experiences of appearance related body work such as hairdressing.

To do this we have drawn on visual and sensory methods of data collection including using our own bodies as research tools. In this paper we advocate a more 'full-bodied' approach to dementia research as we discuss the challenges and insights associated with a two-year ethnographic study of care-based hair salons.

Our findings from this study show the importance of finding more creative ways of undertaking research to enable a fuller appreciation of the daily lives of people with dementia.

*Iltanen-Tähkävuori, S.*

*Aalto University*

### **Fashion design – Professional construction of social age**

Fashion is a cultural industry operating on dressed bodies (Entwistle 2000). As cultural intermediaries, fashion designers take part in constructing the end-user's social age (Iltanen 2007).

I compare three studies conducted in Finland: (1) design of mainstream fashion targeted at women in late middle-age (Iltanen 2007), (2) design of patient clothing (2004-2008), and (3) design of clothes targeted at people with dementia (2009-2013). Designers (n=40) were interviewed twice with the help of concrete products (n=31).

In the studies, social age appears to be constructed by the material reality of dressed bodies, interpretations made of the dressed body, and practices related to fashion industry and the context of use of clothing. Designers of mainstream fashion recognize that constructing social age is part of their professional skills, but designers working within the medical context are less alert to this aspect.

Major differences are seen in the design, interpretations on the dressed body, and possibilities provided for agency. Designers present middle-aged women as skilful and active in guiding other people's gazes by covering and revealing their body. In contrast, designers present the ageing person in need of care as having few possibilities for performing agency, such as constructing their social roles or personal identity. Discussing dementia in connection with clothing brings forth intimate issues such as vulnerability, dependency on others, incontinence, and aggressive or socially deviant behaviour.

More contextually sensitive analysis is needed on the designers' role in the construction of abilities, appearance and agency of ageing people.

*Hockey, J., Dilley, R., Robinson, V.*

*University of Sheffield*

### **'Nana wouldn't be seen dead in any of these shoes': footwear, identity and ageing**

This title reflects the responses of a granddaughter and her mother when looking in the grandmother's wardrobe for shoes to bury her in. Glamorous shoes that reflected her earlier identity were subsequently bought for this purpose. This paper draws on data currently being gathered for an ESRC-funded project on footwear, identity and transition. Using focus groups and case study data, the project combines a breadth of shoe perceptions and experiences with in-depth year-long accounts of 15 individuals' shoe lives. As such they allow us to bring a life course perspective to bear upon the contribution of footwear to later life embodied identity. In particular we examine tensions between footwear choices that might enable someone to feel that they 'fit in' socially yet, across time, can so damage feet as to seriously impair social participation in later life, isolating someone within the home. Using a case study approach we address broad theoretical questions about the relationship between structure, agency and the body by showing how particular individuals navigate the practical, economic, aesthetic and symbolic dimensions of shoe choice and wear, particularly in relation to the changing bodily conditions of later life. Important here are questions to do with life course transitions and the part played by footwear in achieving new, desired identities as well as sustaining those rooted in earlier experiences and eras which have been key to an individual's sense of self.

*Morton, K.*

*University of Exeter*

### **Disciplining the ageing body: 'youthful' subjects and practices of cosmetic technology**

This paper addresses the transformation and disciplining of ageing bodies through exploration of non-surgical practices of 'anti-ageing'. Situated within feminist geographies of the body, this paper takes seriously the ways in which women experience ageing, the 'anti-ageing' practices they engage with, and their motivations for doing so. In addition, such 'body-work' is approached from the perspective of practitioners, exploring the disciplining spatialities of 'anti-ageing' including the clinic, the beauty salon and the home. This paper is drawn from ongoing qualitative research, including material from semi-structured interviews, embodied ethnography and contextual analysis. Through such an approach, the paper explores the discursive overlap between health and beauty, addressing the co-constitution of corporeal practice and ideology, in order to critique the gendering of hegemonic notions of the 'acceptable' ageing body.

Watts, N.

Sheffield Hallam University

### **Grumpy old Teachers?**

As our society ages, the questions of retirement and what to do with older workers become increasingly political. My research explores the case of older teachers.

As someone who has been a teacher, and someone who is approaching retirement, I aim to present some experiences of veteran teachers in English primary schools. Using a methodology uniquely structured to suit my research demands; I wrote and produced short dramas in the form of monologues which illustrate the experiences of some older teachers in their work environment. The stories were inspired by data collected from teachers in their mid to late fifties, and are grounded in my own knowledge and understanding gained from 25 years in the profession. These stories raise issues that have been brought to the forefront by recent research on the wellbeing of the older teaching workforce, and aims to provide a space for a unique and effective forum. At every stage of the production, a focus group of teachers were consulted: from creating the script, meeting the actors and film maker to viewing the finished product. This production aims to produce not a narrative of lives, but a construction on screen that will engender emotional, intellectual and visceral resonances. It constitutes a resource that I would like to develop, which offers more than traditional case studies: as well as providing a non threatening environment to invite discussion from older workers, it enables policy makers to catch a glimpse of perspectives they might otherwise find inaccessible.

I am working now on a JISC funded project which promotes digital literacy and open educational resources. I thought that I had left the subject of my thesis behind and was moving into new territory. However I am finding that issues surrounding older workers seem to permeate all aspects of life, and I am again facing familiar assumptions.

## PAPER SESSION 1B: 11:10 – 12:30

Chair: Sara Arber

Chaucer Room

*Nettleton, S.*

*University of York*

### **'50 at 50' and '60 at 60': towards a carnal sociology of fell running in the English Lake District**

Although hill walking and countryside activities are readily associated with later life, racing in mountain terrains tend not to be. However, men and women are achieving '50 at 50' and '60 at 60'; running circuits of 50 or 60 mountains within 24 hours in order to celebrate their chronological age. This presentation sets out to examine why, in later life, people are reluctant or unable to cut down on extreme sporting practices. Much of the existing literature on physical exercise is prompted by the need to better understand how we might encourage older people to become more active. Furthermore, sociologists of ageing write about an 'imperative to fitness' in terms of moral and normative obligations (Jones and Higgs, 2010). Here, by contrast it is argued, that an imperative to fitness may be rooted in embodied agenic biographies. Perusing a carnal sociology (Crossley, 1995) the paper reports on an ongoing ethnography of veteran runners in the English Lake District and reveals the ways in which fell running inhabits their bodies leaving visual and visceral residues which in turn give rise to what we might refer to as existential capital. This concept underscores the gains inculcated and internalized through corporeal practices that require sustained physical effort and embodied awareness in the context of environments that are topographically challenging and aesthetically striking. These embodied pleasures arguably can only be appreciated by those within the field, thus what is a solitary activity gives rise to an intense sociality that 'only runners can understand'.

*Carmichael, F., Duberley, J., Szmigin, I.*

*University of Birmingham*

### **Older women, participation in recreational physical activity and employment status**

This study contributes to the wider policy debate that is concerned with the promotion of active ageing and the extension of working lives. The research explores the factors and predispositions that enable, motivate and constrain the participation of older women in sport and other physical recreational activities. The role of employment in hindering and encouraging such participation is also examined. A mixed methodological approach is adopted. The quantitative analysis is used to provide national context. It uses data from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) and Sport England's Active People Survey (APS). The qualitative analysis involved 35 interviews with a sample of older women in their 50s, 60s and 70s and key stakeholders. The research confirms that recreational activity tends to decline with age and is negatively related to participation in employment but there are exceptions. Confounding factors include type of employment, reason for not working, level of activity and gender. Retirement for instance is linked positively to activity, at least for those with good health. The research highlights the complexity of attitudes toward physical activity and the influence of a range of psychological, social, environmental and economic factors. Among older women, barriers to participation in sport and fitness activities are diverse. These often go beyond economic consideration and include psychological inhibitors such as fear, embarrassment and lack of confidence. The motivational importance of significant others and social interaction is particularly important and social isolation can have a reverse, demotivating effect.

*Phoenix, C., Orr, N.*

*Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry*

### **Grasping the Phenomenology of the Ageing, Physically Active Body: A Critical Reflection on Methods**

Engaging with the phenomenology of the body offers one way to portray and understand embodied perspectives of ageing more fully. Phenomenology, with its focus upon the here and now of bodily existence and presence, acknowledges the centrality of the body in the relationship between self-consciousness and the self. Yet gaining insight into perceptions of the world through the body (as opposed to merely being a body in the world) is no easy task. It is this latter point that forms the focus of our presentation.

As part of an ongoing interest in the ageing, physically active body<sup>1</sup>, we critically reflect upon the methods used in our attempts to "grasp at" (Hockey & Allen-Collinson, 2007) older adults embodied experiences of physical activity. In doing so, we share visual, textual and interview data to illustrate the problems and possibilities of exploring the phenomenology of the ageing body within the context of physical activity.

It is hoped that the lessons we have learned in this process can act as a methodological resource for who seek an understanding of bodily practices that (may) have become habitual and taken for granted.

<sup>1</sup>The Moving Stories' project is funded by the ESRC and aims to understand the impact of physical activity on perceptions and experiences of (self-)ageing. <http://www.ecehh.org/publication/moving-stories>

*Simmonds, B.*

*The University of Chichester*

### **Visual representations of active older people: constructing the successful and unsuccessful ager**

Gerontologists have promoted positive representations of ageing to challenge ageist stereotypes of degeneration and decline, in order to change social practices and to encourage wellbeing (Featherstone and Hepworth, 1995). Subsequently, a range of 'active ageing' policy frameworks, in which physical activity has been a key component, have been promoted (see British Heart Foundation, 2007a; Department of Health, 2004a). However, instead of



promoting wellbeing in older age, the positive / successful ageing discourse has created, by default, binary subject positions which older people embody: the 'good', fit, slim, third ager and the 'bad', sedentary, overweight, fourth ager. This is partly due to the unproblematic assumption that people are able, have the resources, and want to be physically active in later life (Wearing and Wearing, 1990). This paper explores the experiences of physical activity amongst older people in rural West Sussex, examining the factors that affect their ability to be physically active, their preferences for physical activities and the reasons for their choices. The research design, a narrative inquiry, triangulated focus groups, narrative interviews, activity diaries and re-interviews, using visual elicitation. This paper will discuss one element of the study, which draws upon results of using visual elicitation to stimulate discussion of ageing corporeality (Prosser, 1998). Eighteen participants viewed visual representations of older people being physically active in a variety of healthy living leaflets and responses indicate that these images created binary subject positions of a 'successful' or 'unsuccessful' ager, into which older people were placed.

## PAPER SESSION 1C: 11:10 – 12:30

Chair: Miranda Leontowitsch

Bronte Room

*Tarr, J.*

*London School of Economics*

### **Evoking Ageing Embodiment: Methods and Challenges**

Visual methods and new technologies have expanded the range of methods available to social researchers, as well as providing new ways of foregrounding sensory and embodied experience (Pink, 2009). Yet these methods can also present challenges and limitations which are not immediately obvious. Drawing on two studies examining the visual and sensory dimensions of pain, this paper will examine whether and how visual images are useful in legitimating pain and communicating the embodied experience of pain to others. It will also consider these images in terms of what they hide or make visible, and how they enable particular versions of embodied experience to come to the fore.

In the first research project, a 3D white light scanner was adapted to create body maps of pain and injury with dancers. While participants found the images to be useful visual cues for remembering and seeing the relationship between pains and injuries, the scanning process itself raised issues about the representation of difference in terms of skin tones and disability. The second, pilot research project attempted to overcome these accessibility limitations by exploring different ways of mapping pain on the body, through sculpting, digital photographs, and line drawings. Yet these methods also had limitations, particularly for older participants with osteoarthritis. In the context of developing a new research project specifically on pain in older people, the paper considers what can be learned from these challenges and the ways in which particular methods enable some stories to be told whilst disabling or silencing others.

*Buse, C.*

*University of Leeds*

### **"It is the skills she has learnt over time and how she does things without thinking about it": Situating the ageing body biographically**

The ageing body has frequently been discussed in terms of changing physical appearance, decline, and 'disappearance' (Leder 1990). These bodily changes are often positioned in opposition to continuity in self identity (Hockey and James 2003), a division referred to as 'the mask of ageing' (Featherstone and Hepworth 1991). In contrast, this paper argues that as well as highlighting change, examining the ageing body biographically illustrates continuity in embodied skills and knowledge. These issues are illustrated by biographical accounts of technology use over the life-course, drawn from a study of computer and Internet use in retirement. Although participants described changes in bodily capabilities associated with ageing, their accounts also illustrate how the use of computers, the Internet and other new technologies during retirement was shaped by the embodied technological skills and knowledge they had acquired over a lifetime. Participants often described similar technological experiences, dispositions and competencies, which reflected a shared generational location or 'habitus', although these experiences were differentiated according to gender and class. These findings have wider implications for theorising the ageing body, and support other recent research which demonstrates the importance of attending to biographical continuity as well as change in experiences of embodiment in later life (e.g. Grenier 2004; Sinding and Wierkowski 2008; Ward 2010). They also complement research on 'embodied selfhood' among older people with dementia, which challenges the division between mind / body (Kontos 2004).

*Wistow, J., Dominelli, L.*

*Durham University*

### **Ageing and care needs during extreme weather events**

Planning for an ageing society is not only about demographic change. We expect changes in the climate and increases in weather related hazards (e.g., flooding, heatwaves and cold snaps). These types of hazards can disrupt the health and social care services that older people, in particular, rely upon. Given the Coalition Government's stated aim to reform health and social care in England to give individuals and carers more control over care services it is necessary to integrate mitigating, planning for, and adapting to, a changing climate with a more individualised model of care to ensure the well-being of the older population during extreme weather events. The personalisation agenda and individual budgets offer possibilities in this regard which we explore.

We present our case study research on climate change and older people to consider how services and communities might support older people better during extreme weather events and how older people can become empowered during them. Our research revealed that: effective co-ordination across a range of stakeholders (including older people, local authority staff, NHS staff, the independent sector, emergency services, community and voluntary groups); addressing complexities in the governance arrangements across a range of providers; and developing and maintaining connections between formal and informal networks of care were particularly important. Additionally, we examine examples of older people playing an active role in planning adaptation and mitigation strategies for extreme weather events and developing their own solutions during these events.

*Kribernegg, U.*

*University of Graz*

### **Locating Life: Intersections of Age and Space**

The aim of this paper is to investigate contemporary cultural representations of old age with a special focus on retirement- and nursing homes, and to address the tug-of-war between individualism and homogenization of the old in such "heterotopias of deviation" (Michel Foucault). The confined space of such institutions will be examined on both a literal and a metaphoric level in the context of the "Spatial Turn" which defines space as a result of social relations and practices (Henri Lefebvre). Approaching questions of life course identity from the perspective of cultural gerontology, aging is seen not only as an embodied process, but is also emplaced in time and space (Glenda Laws 1995). Thus, the spatiality of aging is a category that needs to be incorporated into an analysis of cultural representations of "the fourth age". The binary construction of "young" and "old" which is based on a biogerontological model of aging as decline, will be redefined as the ambiguity of aging from a cultural studies perspective.

The paper also aims at deconstructing prevailing norms and negative images of old age as physical decrepitude and disease by focusing on the possibilities of appreciating life even in the oldest age as a form of "successful frailty." It focuses on the intersections of space, time, and experience, and thus also on the social, cultural and biological dimensions of aging.

## PAPER SESSION 2A: 13:30 – 14:50

Chair: Ian Rees Jones

Auditorium

*Sandberg, L.*

*ISV- Department of Social and Welfare Studies – Unit of Social Work*

### **Affirmative old age - feminist theories on difference and the ageing body**

In my doctoral work on old age, masculinity, embodiment and sexuality I have developed the concept of affirmative old age as a way to think old age and ageing bodies in dialogue with feminist theories on difference and becoming, a concept that I will present in this paper (Grosz 1994, Braidotti 1994, 2002).

Discourses on old age and ageing are framed in narrow and binary ways, either as a decline narrative or through discourses of positive and successful ageing. The decline narrative, on the one hand, is highly centred on the decline of the ageing body, as a frail, leaky and unbounded, and how old age is characterised by non-productivity, increasing passivity and dependency. As such this discourse is also strongly linked to femininity. Discourses on successful ageing, on the other hand, rely heavily on neo-liberal imperatives of activity, autonomy and responsibility – which are also notably masculinist. In successful ageing the specificities of ageing bodies are largely overlooked, rather the capacities of the old person to retain a youthful body, e.g. through the aid of sexuopharmaceuticals, is celebrated.

I propose affirmative old age as an alternative conceptualisation, beyond binaries of decline/progress, and which takes its outset in the ageing bodies as the production of difference. I will discuss how feminist theories on difference can be useful to future theorizing on ageing and embodiment, but also how feminist theory should further encompass issues of embodied ageing. At the end of the paper I will present some tentative ideas on how to expand affirmative ageing further to comprise also cognitive differences of ageing, such as in cases of dementia.

*King, N., Calasanti, T.*

*Virginia Tech*

### **The best or worst of times? Middle-aged male workers, class, and bodies in the workplace**

Analysis of two sets of interviews, with men in professional careers and with men in construction trades, demonstrate the ways in which intersecting inequalities shape social uses of bodies. Among the most fully naturalized processes in social action, bodies become focus of workers' anxieties and hopes, viewed as both means of labor and limits on careers. As a form of agency, experience of personal control over bodies varies by class, and methods of increasing control vary by gender and class. Interview subjects describe the effects of different work on their bodies, ideals of performance/control to which they are accountable, the means by which they maintain their senses of competency on their jobs, and the extent to which they believe that they succeed and/or are failing with advancing age. Analysis shows how all three of these are affected by intersecting inequalities of gender, class, and age. The professional men are generally at the height of their careers, while realizing that bodily changes are encroaching upon this. Construction workers view their bodies as their principal bases for earnings; and, without technologies available to them, they face declines in their earnings capacities at relatively early ages.

*Fredriksen, A.*

*Columbia University*

### **Forced migration, (im)mobilities and the aging body**

This paper explores the interplay between forced migration, mobility strategies and the corporeal materialities of the aging body. Following from Cresswell, I start with the proposition that human mobility is first and foremost practiced, enacted and experienced through the body. In situations of forced migration, the relationship between mobility and the body gains specific urgency. Recent research has shown how many forced migrants engage in complex strategies of back and forth mobility between camps and places of return or resettlement as a means of asserting agency over, and speeding up, their recovery processes. Yet, the everyday mobilities taken for granted by many forced migrants – walking long distances (or at all), queuing for long periods to receive supplies and engaging in the physical labour associated with many livelihoods and with the building of new homes – can be experienced as (sometimes insurmountable) challenges through the aging bodies of older forced migrants. While other vulnerable groups of forced migrants, such as children and women, have received significant levels of attention in both policy and practice, the specific needs of older forced migrants remain understudied and, consequently, underserved. Without specific programming to meet their needs, when other forced migrants begin to leave camps to return or resettle, many older forced migrants are simply left behind. Drawing on exploratory research in this area, this paper seeks to identify and better understand the particular challenges faced by older forced migrants through particular attention to the interplay between the corporeal materialities of mobility and of aging.

*Meersohn Schmidt, C., Yang, K.*

*Durham University*

### **Transitions from midlife to old age: Steering mismatching expectations**

The objective of this paper is to develop a conceptual model of the transition from the midlife to the old one. Among studies on ageing and life course, a major concern is with the inequalities between age groups, which are

usually represented in institutional procedures that discriminatively allocate resources across these groups. Regardless of their perspectives, these studies tend to take the transition from the middle age groups to the old ones for granted. However, such transition has become increasingly important for us to understand the ageing process and the relations between stages during the life course. How do people still in their midlife project an image of themselves in their old age? How will such view affect the actual transition from middle ages to the old ones? Some of the traditional markers of transition between midlife and old age, such as chronic illness and exit from work, have already started to spread across the entire age range, which in turn will alter the way in which people in midlife construct their own images, affect how old people construct themselves as an age group, and shape the way in which people reflect on the resources and the constraints during their transitions from one age stage to another. The prospective and the retrospective views are in a constant dialogue, during which the biographical actor attempts to articulate mismatching expectations.

## PAPER SESSION 2B: 13:30 – 14:50

Chair: Chris Gilleard

Chaucer Room

Suen, T.

University of Oxford

### **Caring for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people - Prepared? Or not! Care home staff's (mis)understanding of older LGBT issues**

Older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's lives have largely been overlooked by both Social Gerontology and also sexualities research.

This paper draws on data generated from an 18-month action research project that was completed between 2009 and 2011. Working with a care trust, I designed and delivered awareness raising sessions of older LGBT issues to more than 100 care home staff. Findings from the project have not only been disseminated in academic conferences, but also through meetings with and/or presentations to service providers and policy makers.

This paper discusses some of the worrying misunderstanding that some care home staff show and the stereotypes that they hold against older LGBT people. It argues that there is a need to challenge the heteronormative way of thinking that prevails in care practices.

The paper also discusses the challenges that the project met, and suggests what care homes can do to better meet the needs of older LGBT people.

Marhankova, J.

University of West Bohemia

### **Embodying activity – discourse of active ageing and the subjectivities of actively ageing seniors.**

The paper analyses the concept of active ageing as a product of modern regimes of power and knowledge. A three year ethnographic study was conducted in two centres offering seniors-only leisure-time activities that strongly referred to the idea of active ageing. The method of participant observation was used and 47 in-depth interviews were conducted with the centres' clients and employees. The analysis focuses on the way the discourse of active ageing is constructed in these centres and how seniors themselves relate to this idea. The first part of the paper analyzes the discourse of active ageing as a form of biopolitics. The paper points out the crucial role of current demographic trends related to the growing number of seniors in the population in the way the discourse of active ageing is formulated. The main purpose of the politics of active ageing is to manage the (ageing) population. This management is accomplished through the production of specific subjectivities of actively ageing seniors, who, through the technologies self embedded in the imperative of the necessity to move or do something, participate in the production of the discourse of active ageing as a form of discipline of the body. The paper points out the ways the idea of active ageing is incorporated into the daily of seniors and the way they relate to their bodies and daily life.

Golman, E.

National Research University Higher School of Economics

### **Ritualized body maintenance: comparing theoretical approaches to the female body care**

Body care becomes ritualized in contemporary world with the help of fast developing medical and cosmetic industries, while the body project implies lots of routine practices of body maintenance. The importance of body as a surface of constructing gender increased. Through ages female body maintenance was strongly connected with cultural understanding of female social roles (dimensions of maternity and sexuality) and beauty. One of the problems is whether we can analyze women's ritualized routine practices of body care (such as dietary, skin care and make-up) as a ground of assuming gender identity. The aim of this paper is to compare and reveal strengths and weaknesses of feminist approaches based on the idea of social construction of gender and the "strong program" in cultural sociology with the notion of Durkheimian opposition of sacred and profane to body care rituals. While most of feminist scholars consider different sorts of body care in the context of power and discipline and interpret them as forms of oppression derived from patriarchy culture, cultural sociology approach represents interest in the performative aspect of care rituals by focusing on their cultural meaning and emotional involvement. As for methodological aspect, cultural sociology approach is based on analysis of symbolic processes connected to establishment and blurring of boundaries between sacred and profane in cultural models of the body. I will try to discuss possible intersections and ways of mutual enrichment of these approaches.

Amor, T.

DINÂMIA-CET

### **The Fight against Age: Dis(believes) about the anti-ageing industry and reconfiguration of the sense of self over the life course**

The relationship between the ageing body and the ageing self is the object of this presentation. Based on a qualitative research (ethnographic fieldwork, in-depth interviews and content analysis of advertisements) conducted during the last four years among people aged from 35 to 85 years old, the results point out how relevant the embodied dimensions of the ageing process are to the (re)construction of the sense of personhood over the life course. In a context in which 'Image' (associated mainly with attributes of youth) is a mainstay of social imaginary, the concern is associated not only to physical frailty and dependence upon others, but also to the phenotypic signs of ageing. Although there is evidence of gender differences (which tend to be cut across by

generational cleavages), the development of a whole anti-ageing 'industry' plays an important role in the emergence and/or reinforcement of cognitive dissonances. The social normativities underlying the perception of the 'age-appropriate behaviours' are acknowledged, and sometimes incorporated by people in their self-referentials, but the sense that is now possible to fight ageing creates new tensions and responsibilities at the individual level, generating, in turn, new inner ambivalences or even conflicts. The relationship between the ageing body and ageing self tends to be established in terms of appraising value, giving rise to processes of fragmentation of the self, that is, the segmentation of oneself 'in parts'.

## PAPER SESSION 2C: 13:30 – 14:50

Chair: Richard Ward

Bronte Room

Madden, M.

University of York

### **Living with Chronic Wounds: "What do I want most? Give me a miracle cure! That would be very welcome. Find a cure, that's what I want"**

Chronic, complex wounds, such as leg ulcers, pressure ulcers and diabetic foot ulcers are common in the UK and throughout the western (post-) industrialised nations (Graham, 2003; Kaltenthaler et al., 2001; Reiber, 1996) posing a costly, unsolved healthcare challenge for these economies. Ageing populations living with chronic conditions such as diabetes or venous disease which can lead to chronic wounds, and those living with various degrees of immobility, present a growing market for pharmaceutical and medical device companies (Joyce, & Loe, 2010). However, the extent to which the commodification of medical technologies in wound care is providing innovations that lead to better health outcomes for patients is uncertain and evidence of the effectiveness of these interventions is limited. Systematic reviews of evidence in wound care reveal a predominance of small, underpowered and methodologically flawed trials. When trials are done, reduction in wound area is frequently reported as a surrogate measure for complete wound healing in order to reduce the study follow-up time, yet it is not clear how valuable patients judge such healing measures to be. Drawing on the sociology of science and technology and also Mike Bury's (2010) work on chronic illness, self-management and the rhetoric of empowerment, this paper will report on work in progress which uses semi-structured patient interviews to explore which treatment outcomes matter most to patients with chronic complex wounds.

Bury, M. (2010) Chronic Illness, Self-Management and the Rhetoric of Empowerment. *New Directions in the Sociology of Chronic and Disabling Conditions: Assaults on the Lifeworld*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Graham, I. D., Harrison, M. B., Nelson, E.A., Lorimer, K., & Fisher, A.R (2003). Prevalence of lower-limb ulceration: a systematic review of prevalence studies. *Advances in Skin & Wound Care*, 16(6), 305-16.

Joyce, K., & Loe, M. (2010). A sociological approach to ageing, technology and health. *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 32 (2), 171-180.

Reiber, G. (1996). The epidemiology of diabetic foot problems. *Diabetic Medicine*, 13 (Suppl 1): S6-11.

Lyons, L.

Nordiskt Sommaruniversitet

### **On Rollators**

This paper sets out to investigate the rollator. Rather than concentrate on the therapeutic or physiological impacts on its users, focus is on first hand experience of the materiality and aesthetics of this artefact. Using drawing research methods, greater appreciation and insights were gained. Observational investigations include drawings made from rollators in the collection at Medical Museion at the University of Copenhagen, from Amalienborg Museum and from rollators viewed in public areas and private homes.

The rollator is an example of a piece of essential equipment that has developed organically. Its origins and history have not been well documented and it has not been examined closely as a material object. It is not clear who invented the rollator and no date has been recorded specifying when the first one was produced. This has necessitated the writing of a brief review of the 'secret history' of the development of this relatively modern item as part of this investigation.

By bringing the rollator under close scrutiny two areas of debate surrounding this much maligned object are highlighted; the social and cultural dilemma of an item that aids and offers independence yet identifies the user as being weak and dependent by its very use, and an appreciation of the aesthetic materiality of this functional piece of assistive equipment.

Kirkman, A.

Victoria University of Wellington

### **Dementia, ageing and the body**

There is now a substantial sociological literature on people with dementia and the impact of this disease on the 'self' and identity of the person with dementia, as well as the impact of the changes on families and friends. There is less sociological research on how the onset of dementia impacts on the body of the person with dementia. This paper is a work-in-progress examination of the questions a 'sociology of the body' approach has asked in dementia research and the work that remains to be done in this area. The paper takes as an example the representations of the body in the media. Media representations of people with dementia have largely focused on the visibility of people with dementia and whether they are given 'voice' in representations but there has been less attention to the visibility of bodies.

Roberts, C., Mort, M.

Lancaster University

### **Gendering body work in telecare arrangements for older people living at home**

A recent issue of *Sociology of Health and Illness* (2011) on 'body work' highlights the significance of co-presence and physical touch in health and social care work, describing the significant temporal and spatial reorderings that



occur when paid care workers enter care recipients' homes. They also highlight the significance of emotions in body work: care involves physical intimacies of lesser or greater degrees, depending on the body parts involved and the kinds of bodies being worked on. It also often involves highly charged emotional relations: intimate physical care evokes experiences of childhood, illness and sexual interactions, all of which are emotionally laden. Body work is always gendered, involving relations of power. But what happens when technologies of care such as remote sensors and alarms systems are introduced into older people's homes? How do telecare arrangements, designed to provide continuous 'care at a distance', impact on the body work of caring? Do they transform the gendering of care for older people living at home?

This paper reports on a 3 year ethnographic study of telecare in England, funded by the European Commission's Framework 7 'Science in Society' Programme. Using field notes and interview data from observations of older people living with telecare and those providing telecare services, we explore the ways in which gender, care and bodies are enacted in these increasingly ubiquitous configurations of technologically mediated care.

## PAPER SESSION 3A: 16:40 – 18:00

Chair: Bethany Simmonds

Dickens Room

*Cheng, L-F.*

*Kaohsiung Medical University*

### **Changing Body in a Changing Society: The Tales of Menopausal Women in Taiwan**

Following Lock's argument for the 'local body' in her prominent research on menopause in Japan, this study aims to explore the local multiple embodied experiences as shaped by social, cultural and medical technology that menopausal women have presented in the interviews in Taiwan.

The study of changing embodied experience focuses on three areas: (1) How menopausal women deal with uncomfortable physical symptoms by shifting among three healing systems in Taiwan, such as, bio-medicine, Chinese herbal medicine, and CAM (complementary and alternative medicine). (2) How menopausal women deal with the phallic gaze and the gaze of youth as their bodies in changing. (3) The ways in which menopausal women view and take care of their changing bodies. The core theme goes through the above discussion is the social and cultural meanings as intersected with gender, ethnicity and class in the context of changing society. The tales are collected from 45 heterosexual women between age 50 to 70 with middle class and working class background, 5 aboriginal and 40 Chinese Han women. The length of in-depth interviews usually last for one hour and half. Sometimes interviews are done twice to make up the sufficient information.

*Brown, L.*

*University of the Witwatersrand*

### **Ageing and Collective Motherhood in South Africa**

This paper explores how the ageing body becomes the maternal body in situations of social crisis. It focuses on South Africa where the HIV AIDS pandemic has radically transformed the demographic landscape. The population aged between 15 and 49 has been particularly affected. In 2000, 40 per cent of deaths in this age range were due to HIV AIDS (Dorrington, Bourne, Bradshaw, Laubscher, and Timaeus, 2001). This has led to an orphan crisis in South Africa. It is estimated that by 2015 there could be 5.7 million orphans (UNICEF 2010). Elderly women, in particular, have become the primary care-givers (Harber 1999, Malherbe 2011, Mokomane et al 2011,). The development literature on South Africa tends to consign older women to the category of 'grandmother', and laud them as 'carers in the community'. Yet there is scant attention to how these women are coping with child rearing, at an age where they may be experiencing physical frailty, increased financial hardship, as well as grief at losing their own children. Using original ethnographic fieldwork, the paper documents how elderly African women's experiences of mothering are influenced by a corporeal interpretation of Ubuntu, an African philosophy of human connectedness and compassion. In other words, the women tend to view their bodies as forming part of a maternal collective, which contributes to the mothering of 'all' children. The women's experiences of collective third-age maternity not only form a crucial part of the struggle for physical and emotional survival, but also challenge received ideas of the ageing female body.

*Morton, K.*

*University of Exeter*

### **Disciplining the ageing body: 'youthful' subjects and practices of cosmetic technology**

This paper addresses the transformation and disciplining of ageing bodies through exploration of non-surgical practices of 'anti-ageing'. Situated within feminist geographies of the body, this paper takes seriously the ways in which women experience ageing, the 'anti-ageing' practices they engage with, and their motivations for doing so. In addition, such 'body-work' is approached from the perspective of practitioners, exploring the disciplining spatialities of 'anti-ageing' including the clinic, the beauty salon and the home. This paper is drawn from ongoing qualitative research, including material from semi-structured interviews, embodied ethnography and contextual analysis. Through such an approach, the paper explores the discursive overlap between health and beauty, addressing the co-constitution of corporeal practice and ideology, in order to critique the gendering of hegemonic notions of the 'acceptable' ageing body.

*Martin, W.*

*Brunel University*

### **Photographing everyday life: ageing, bodies, time and space**

## PAPER SESSION 3B: 16:40 – 18:00

Chair: Sally Keeling

Bronte Room

*Jennings, R.*

*University of Gloucestershire*

### **It's all just a little bit of history repeating: pop stars, audiences, performance and ageing – exploring the performance strategies of Shirley Bassey**

This paper examines the dynamics of performance and memory in relation to ageing, popular music performance and audience. As Frith suggests: "the meaning of pop is the meaning of pop stars, performers with bodies and personalities; central to the pleasure of pop is pleasure in a voice, sound as body, sound as person" (2002; 210). This work explores the impact of ageing on these meanings and pleasures in relation to the British popular music star, Shirley Bassey. For female pop stars, whose star bodies and star performances are undisputedly the objects of a sexualized external gaze; the process of publicly ageing poses particular challenges. Using Bassey's BBC Electric Prom, broadcast from London's Roundhouse, 23rd October 2009, this paper explores the deliberate performance strategies of screening Bassey's own youthful images as backdrop against her live older self and her most contemporary repertoire against her hits accumulated over 50 years.

Connell, John and Gibson, Chris, *Sound Tracks: Popular music, identity and Place*, London: Routledge, (2003).

Davis Basting, Anne, 'Dolly Descending a Staircase: Stardom, Age and Gender in Times Square' in Kathleen Woodward (ed.) *Figuring Age: Women Bodies, Generations, Bloomington and Indianapolis*: Indiana University Press, (1999): 248-263.

Frith, Simon, *Performing Rites: Evaluating Popular Music*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, (2002).

*Wimpenny, K., Beck, A., Savin-Baden, M.*

*Coventry University & The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry*

### **Creative Gymnasium: exploring the use of theatre, movement and performance to provide a means of expression and presence for the 50+ population in Coventry**

This paper will present findings from a community arts project 'Creative Gymnasium', which is exploring the benefits of drama and related arts activities in raising and maintaining the physical and mental health and well-being for older people in Coventry. Creative activities and health are an integral element of government policy and health guidelines (Social Exclusion Unit, 2004; Department of Health, Arts Council England, 2007; National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2008). This project has a particular focus on isolated and marginalised individuals. Developed by the Belgrade Theatre, the project involves a range of stakeholder groups including Age UK Coventry, Coventry Health Improvement Programme, families and carers, and researchers at Coventry University. The project is seeking to build on research and practice in this area regarding arts-and-health for those more difficult to reach and engage, including what works for whom, when, and why.

Three different strands of the project involve a community based Asian women's group, a sheltered housing residence and a city centre group (who meet at the Belgrade Theatre). Participants' experiences of engaging with the arts in these different spaces will be presented. We will discuss how we initially engaged participants, how those involved shared mutual understandings and world-views about growing older, and how participants were able to take risks and push boundaries. Finally, the paper will explore perceptions of the role and presence of isolated and marginalised older adults within the city, from both the participants and other stakeholder perspectives.

*Orr, N.*

*Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry*

### **Older men's embodied experiences of heritage through museum volunteering**

In recent years research and scholarly activity has tended to focus on older women's lived leisure experiences resulting in a considerable gap in the literature in terms of the experiences of older men. In response to such a gap, this presentation draws attention to the everyday leisure practices of older men and the embodied nature of their experiences of museum volunteering. For the volunteers, 'heritage' was experienced through a process of 'doing': they were 'working' with old electrical equipment and old printing presses; they were milling, wheelwrighting and candle making; and they were restoring, maintaining and driving old vehicles.

Encounters with museum objects and artefacts through the senses and the body were described by the volunteers and they spoke of the sounds, sights and smells of the printing presses, of the 'magic' of riding on a restored 1930s open-topped bus and of having a footplate ride on a locomotive. It was when the volunteers were engaged and stimulated in a multi-sensual way that they experienced a feeling for a moment of 'time passed' (Craig, 1989). For them, it was an embodied encounter with the past.

It was through 'doing' that the older museum volunteers 'learned to be' in the museum social world, engaging the senses and emotions. Heritage as practised by the museum volunteers also enabled them to successfully perform particular identities; the desire to become 'somebody' or 'something' was achieved through 'doing' or 'performing' heritage.

*Milton, S.*

*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine*

### **Negotiating ageing with a packaged femininity: an ethnographic account of women dating again in their 50s in the UK**

This paper is based upon material produced by an ethnographic approach to understanding the experiences of a group of women in their 50s re-entering the dating scene in the UK. In a highly sexualised culture, that valorises youth as beauty in a number of ways, the women interviewed experienced a position of liminality in relation to normative discourses surrounding age, sexuality and gender. Participants have mentioned having to 're-learn the rules', at a different time e.g. 2010-11 compared to the 1970s, and at a different age to when they might have been dating previously.

Due to widely held norms surrounding 'age-appropriate sexual spaces' in the UK, participants included salsa class attenders (identified as an acceptable place for the age group to meet sexual others, albeit often covertly), and internet daters. I will describe the sexualised bodywork of the salsa teachers and internet dating coach for the 50+; who sold a discourse and means for these women to become their 'best, most healthy and youthful selves'.

Women described narratives of rejuvenation, aided by the encouragement and guidance of these charismatic catalysts, for example from a shyness and hesitancy to an embodied, glamorous, sensuality, shown in changes in clothing, demeanour and behaviour.

As the women negotiated this packaged femininity, they also worked to shape their ideal partners, describing their requirements in terms of socio-economic class, traditionally gendered and organised/calculated desire. A very particular femininity then, evaluated by its ability to attract a very particular kind of male, was celebrated as successful.

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Conference Centre Foyer

*Pieniazek, M.*

*Salford University*

## **Co-design as mode of representation in the new product innovation & development process, with specific reference to the sector of design for ageing well**

The methodologies and process of co-design offers a multidisciplinary space where users/consumers can experience an active representative role in the innovation process. This is particularly cogent in terms of our ageing society, where the interests and requirements of the fourth generation group remain under represented and largely misunderstood in critical sector of new product development.

This sector is set to experience a significant growth. Not only because of the sizeable demographic shift, but also policy intent which positions assisted living a primary strategy for social wellbeing, health care and integration into a societal culture which is predominately accented toward the first & second generations.

From the perspectives of commercial enterprise this provides the opportunity for establishing acuity in terms of ethical factors, design relevance and ethnographic intelligence. These attributes have a growing significance in terms of marketability of product offers, as consumer behaviour progresses to being assertive in exercising highly influential and immediate evaluations; especially beyond the obvious choice to buy or not to buy.

This case study illustrates how 'co design' can deliver social and as well as commercial 'value' to the common partnership of commercial/social enterprise & consumer groups. It proposes that co design when directed by a multidisciplinary membership can affect a measurable deployment of policy and a enhanced accuracy in the representation of the interests of society's fourth generation.

*Suen, T.*

*University of Oxford*

## **Caring for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people - Prepared? Or not! Care home staff's (mis)understanding of older LGBT issues**

Older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's lives have largely been overlooked by both Social Gerontology and also sexualities research.

This paper draws on data generated from an 18-month action research project that was completed between 2009 and 2011. Working with a care trust, I designed and delivered awareness raising sessions of older LGBT issues to more than 100 care home staff. Findings from the project have not only been disseminated in academic conferences, but also through meetings with and/or presentations to service providers and policy makers.

This paper discusses some of the worrying misunderstanding that some care home staff show and the stereotypes that they hold against older LGBT people. It argues that there is a need to challenge the heteronormative way of thinking that prevails in care practices.

The paper also discusses the challenges that the project met, and suggests what care homes can do to better meet the needs of older LGBT people.

*Watson, J.*

*University of Edinburgh*

## **A disintegrating mind + a disintegrating body = a disintegrating person? - The implications for person-centred care of people with dementia at the end of life.**

In advanced dementia a disintegrating mind has led to a deeply embedded cultural assumption that the self is also disintegrating to the point where no person remains. Kontos (2004, 2006) demonstrates how selfhood is inherent in our embodied existence, enacted through bodily know-how, indicating agency and bodily autonomy even in those with advanced dementia. In the context of end of life care for people with dementia, where the body is also disintegrating, which as some would argue also constitutes a loss of selfhood (Lawton 2000), this paper explores the idea of bringing the 'lived body' centre stage as the site of holistic care, as a way of providing palliative comfort, and a way of valuing and respecting the embodied subjectivity of the person, recognising and supporting their selfhood, and maintaining relationships. This has the potential to address the unresolved tension between the persistence of self as death approaches, acknowledgement of losses, and moral and ethical practice. It challenges the notion of loss of personhood as dementia advances and offers therapeutic possibilities, bringing life back into social death. Implications for researching relationships during care practices with people with advanced dementia in a care home are considered; a hybrid research design, appreciative ethnography is proposed. This seeks to address the relationship between theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge, is explicitly action orientated and is participatory in approach.

Kontos, P.C. (2006) Embodied selfhood: An ethnographic exploration in Leibing, A. and Cohen, L. (eds) (2006) Thinking through dementia: Culture, Loss and the Anthropology of Senility Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick

Kontos, P.C. (2004) Ethnographic reflections on selfhood, embodiment and Alzheimer's disease Ageing and Society 24, 829-849

Lawton, J. (2000) *The Dying Process: Patient's experience of palliative care* Routledge: London and New York

Watts, N.

*Sheffield Hallam University*

### **Grumpy old Teachers?**

As our society ages, the questions of retirement and what to do with older workers become increasingly political. My research explores the case of older teachers.

As someone who has been a teacher, and someone who is approaching retirement, I aim to present some experiences of veteran teachers in English primary schools. Using a methodology uniquely structured to suit my research demands; I wrote and produced short dramas in the form of monologues which illustrate the experiences of some older teachers in their work environment. The stories were inspired by data collected from teachers in their mid to late fifties, and are grounded in my own knowledge and understanding gained from 25 years in the profession. These stories raise issues that have been brought to the forefront by recent research on the wellbeing of the older teaching workforce, and aims to provide a space for a unique and effective forum. At every stage of the production, a focus group of teachers were consulted: from creating the script, meeting the actors and film maker to viewing the finished product. This production aims to produce not a narrative of lives, but a construction on screen that will engender emotional, intellectual and visceral resonances. It constitutes a resource that I would like to develop, which offers more than traditional case studies: as well as providing a non threatening environment to invite discussion from older workers, it enables policy makers to catch a glimpse of perspectives they might otherwise find inaccessible.

I am working now on a JISC funded project which promotes digital literacy and open educational resources. I thought that I had left the subject of my thesis behind and was moving into new territory. However I am finding that issues surrounding older workers seem to permeate all aspects of life, and I am again facing familiar assumptions.

# BSA Ageing Body & Society Conference Critical Perspectives, Future Challenges

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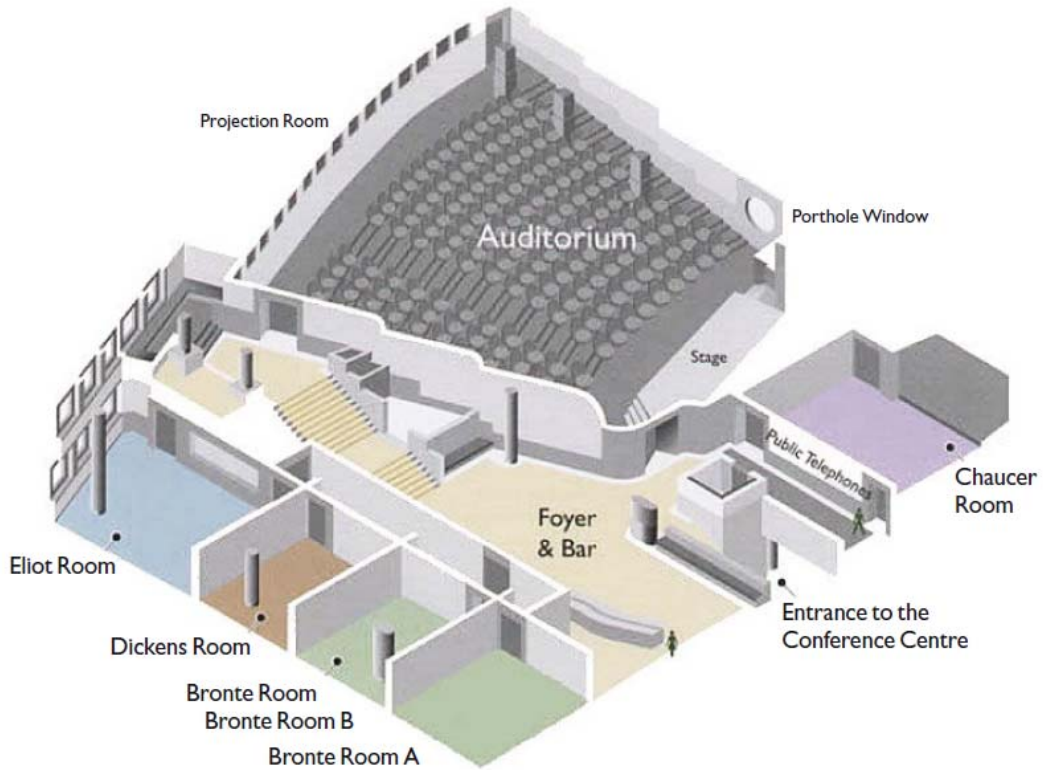
# BSA Ageing Body & Society Conference Critical Perspectives, Future Challenges

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# MAP OF THE AREA SURROUNDING THE BRITISH LIBRARY





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# BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference 2012

■ **Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th September 2012**

University of Leicester

**We look forward to welcoming you to our 44th Annual Conference.**

We are pleased to announce Kathy Charmaz, Sonoma State University, San Francisco and David Armstrong, King's College London have agreed to be our plenary speakers at the 2012 conference.

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

1. Cancer	10. Gender	19. Open Stream
2. Citizenship and health	11. Health Policy	20. Patient –professional interaction
3. Complimentary and alternative medicines	12. Health Service Delivery	21. Pharmaceuticals
4. Critical public health	13. Health Care Organisations	22. Politics of Health
5. Embodiment and Emotion	14. Individual, Collective and Global Risk	23. Professions
6. Ethics	15. Inequalities	24. Risk
7. Ethnicity	16. Lifecourse - reproductive health; chronic conditions; ageing; death and dying	25. Screening and diagnosis
8. Experiences of health and illness	17. Mental Health	26. STS and medicine
9. Evidence	18. Methods	27. Theory

The abstract submission is now closed.  
Important dates for your diary

● **Monday 11 June – Presenter registration deadline**

● **Friday 27 July – Reduced rate booking deadline**