

New Dynamics of Ageing

A Cross-Council Research Programme

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Background information:

The **New Dynamics of Ageing** Programme is a seven year multidisciplinary research initiative with the ultimate aim of improving quality of life of older people. The programme is a unique collaboration between five UK Research Councils - [ESRC](#), [EPSRC](#), [BBSRC](#), [MRC](#) and [AHRC](#) - and is the largest and most ambitious research programme on ageing ever mounted in the UK.

The programme aims to develop practical policy and implementation guidance and novel scientific, technological and design responses to help older people enjoy better quality lives as they age. This requires integrating understandings of the changing meanings, representations and experiences of ageing and the key factors shaping them (including behavioral, biological, clinical, cultural, historical, social, economic and technological), through direct engagement with older people and user organisations. The programme will harness inputs from a wide range of disciplines to reveal the dynamic interplay between ageing individuals and their changing technological, cultural, social and physical environments - local, national and global - and to develop methods and means for overcoming the consequent constraints on the quality of life of older people.

Aims (brief explanation):

The overall aim of this Programme is to advance our understanding of the dynamics of ageing from a multidisciplinary perspective. Thus the central questions are:

- What are the forces driving ageing?
- What are the influences shaping them (behavioral, biological, clinical, cultural, historical, social and technological) and how can their consequences be managed to achieve the maximum benefits for older people?

The research challenge is clear: it is essential to harness inputs from a wide range of disciplines to reveal the dynamic interplay between ageing individuals and their changing technological, cultural, social and physical environments - local, national and global - and to develop methods and means which will allow us to overcome current constraints on the quality of life of older people.

The central objectives of the Programme are:

- to explore the ways in which individual ageing is subject to different influences over the life course, including identifying the biological determinants of healthy ageing and the social and environmental factors contributing to ageing well;

- to understand the dynamic ways in which the meaning, understanding and experience of ageing are currently changing and becoming more diverse;
- to investigate the diverse ways in which ageing is/has been understood and represented at different times and in different cultures.
- to encourage and support the development of innovative multidisciplinary research groups and methods;

to provide a sound evidence base for policy and practice (including the development of prototype systems, procedures and devices) so that research contributes to well-being and quality of life.