

A multidisciplinary international conference

Intersections of Ageing, Gender, Sexualities (I-AGES)

6-7 July 2015

Rik Medlik Building, University of Surrey

Programme



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WELCOME

Welcome from the Organising Committee to this Institute of Advanced Studies supported conference on Intersections of Ageing, Gender, Sexualities. We hope that you will find the programme interesting, exciting and also challenging. The papers being presented at the conference will share empirical and theoretical work, as well as use a range of methodological approaches, to explore this topic. We are very pleased to have such a variety of international speakers, from a range of disciplines and we have made room in the programme for some interactive discussion sessions.

We are also delighted to welcome our keynote speaker, Professor Toni Calasanti, from Virginia Tech, USA and our guest speakers: Professor Mark Hughes, Southern Cross University, Australia and Professor Yvette Taylor, London South Bank University, UK, as well as Associate Professor Travis Kong, from University of Hong Kong. We anticipate that the collaborative work initiated in this workshop will continue after it has finished in the form of continuing dialogues about our work, and in the publication of an edited collection – so we will be in touch with all the presenters about these possibilities and opportunities.

We extend our grateful thanks to the Institute of Advanced Studies for sponsoring this event and to all those who have helped with the organisation. We do hope you enjoy the intellectual stimulation of the conference and look forward to meeting you all.

Andrew King, Sue Westwood and Sara Arber

Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender (CRAG), Department of Sociology, University of Surrey

About CRAG

Founded by Professor Sara Arber, Dr Kate Davidson and Professor Jay Ginn in 2000, the Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender (CRAG) brings together social scientific expertise to conduct policy relevant research on gender and ageing. Recently, research in CRAG has focused on intersections of ageing, gender and sexualities, with important work conducted by Dr Sue Westwood (CRAG Research Fellow) and Dr Andrew King (CRAG Co-Director) including the ESRC-sponsored seminar series 'Older LGBT people: minding the knowledge gaps' and University-funded project 'SAFE Housing – Older LGBT people's housing in later life'. More information about CRAG can be found on its website surrey.ac.uk/sociology/research/researchcentres/crag/



PROGRAMME

MONDAY 6 JULY 2015

- 10.30-11.00 Registration and tea/coffee (foyer of Rik Medlik building)
- 11.00 **Welcome: Professor Sara Arber and Dr Andrew King, Co-Directors of the Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender (CRAG), University of Surrey, UK**
- 11.15-12.00 **Conference Keynote: Professor Toni Calasanti, Virginia Tech, USA**
"Intersections of Age, Gender, and Sexualities in Partner Caregiving." Chair: Sara Arber
- 12.00 -1.15 Session (1): Embodiment. Chair: Andrew King**
1. Ferrero Camoletto, Raffaella and Bertone, Chiara (Italy)
Questioning the sexy oldie: Intersecting masculinity, age and sexuality in the Viagra era
 2. Cheng, Ling-Fang (Taiwan)
Liberated and/or constrained: Intimate relations of post-menopausal women in Taiwan
 3. Ong, Michelle (New Zealand)
Marks of success: Ageing Filipina migrants' meaning-making around beauty
 4. Green, Richard (UK)
Life After Prostate Cancer: How Older Men Manage the Uncertainties of Sexual Dysfunction
- 1.15-2.00 Lunch Break
- 2.00-2.30 Professor Mark Hughes, Southern Cross University, Australia**
"Health and wellbeing of lesbians and gay men in later life: Exploring commonalities and differences." Chair: Sue Westwood
- 2.30 -3.30 Session (2): Queer Kinship. Chair: Kathy Almack**
5. Jones, Rebecca (UK)
'Queer' and 'traditional' families in bisexual people's imagined and experienced later life
 6. Suen, Yiu-Tung (Hong Kong)
What's gay about being single? A qualitative study of the lived experiences of older single gay men
 7. Westwood, Sue (UK)
Constructing Care Networks in Succession Law (England and Wales): An analysis of older lesbians' and gay men's Will-writing.
- 3.30 - 4.00 Coffee/Tea break
- 4.00-5.00 Session 3: Temporal (Dis)locations. Chair: Ling-fang Cheng**
8. Lahad, Kinneret and Hazan, Haim (Israel)
The Return of the Old Spinster: Social Death in Late Singlehood
 9. Willkens, Jill (UK) *All Change Please*
 10. Amini, Elham (Iran)
Insider or Outsider? Issues of Power & Habitus during Life History Interviews with Menopausal Iranian Women
- 5.00-6.00 Free Drinks Reception followed by optional dinner in Guildford 7.00-9.00pm**

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 7 JULY 2015

- 9.30-10.00 Tea/coffee in foyer of Rik Medlik building
- 10.00-10.30 Professor Yvette Taylor, London South Bank University, UK**
"The Queer Subject of 'Getting On'" Chair: Rebecca Jones
- 10.30-11.30 Session (4): Representations Chair: Kinneret Lahad**
11. Mogaji, Emmanuel (UK)
Breaking the stereotype: Ageing, Gender, Sexualities Intersection in UK Print Advertisement
 12. Oró-Piqueras, Maricel (Spain)
Representations of Female Ageing and Sexuality in Penelope Lively's Moon Tiger, Angela Carter's Wise Children and Doris Lessing's "The Grandmothers"
 13. Barry, Elizabeth (UK)
'Narrower and Narrower Would Her Bed Be': Menopause in Philosophy, (Sexual) Politics and Culture
- 11.30-12.00 Coffee/tea break
- 12.00-1.15 Session (5): Intersections. Chair: Kate Davidson**
14. Stoncikaite, Ieva (Spain)
Erica Jong: No fear of aging and sexuality
 15. King, Neal (USA)
Knowing hegemony among intersecting relations
 16. Hunter, Chryssy (UK)
A discussion of issues around identity, sexuality and economics in the context of trans and sexgender nonconforming aging*
 17. King, Andrew (UK)
Intersecting what? Exploring intersections of ageing, gender, sexualities in talk-in-interaction
- 1.15-2.00 Lunch Break
- 2.00-2.30 Associate Professor Travis Kong, University of Hong Kong, HK**
"The Secret Garden: Oral History of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong"
Chair: Andrew King
- 2.30-3.30 Session (6): Age, Gender, Sexuality and Care. Chair Sue Westwood**
18. Henderson, Neil (South Africa) & Almack, Kathryn (UK)
LGBT ageing and care: A Literature study
 19. Almack, Kathryn (UK)
Navigating Personal Networks: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Trans Older People's Networks of Support Towards The End Of Life
 20. Parslow-Breen, Orla (UK)
Family carer or lesbian: Is it a choice or can I be both?
- 3.30-3.45 Coffee/Tea break
- 3.45-4.40 Workshops: Setting New Research Agendas**
- 4.40 Closing Comments: Dr Andrew King & Close 4.45

▶ KEYNOTE AND GUEST SPEAKERS ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Toni Calasanti, Virginia Tech, USA

Intersections of Age, Gender, and Sexualities in Partner Caregiving

I outline an approach to studying partner caregiving through an intersectional lens that considers the impacts of age, gender, and sexualities. I begin with a brief specification of intersectionality as a theory of inequalities, one distinct from a model of interactions between various other activities. I then give a quick overview of the intersections of such inequalities as age, gender and sexuality. Finally, I use this intersectional approach to theorize experiences of gay men and lesbians who care for partners in later life, as part of a research model. I draw on previous research on gender and spousal care among heterosexual couples, to illustrate the theory of intersection of gender, sexuality, and age. I then incorporate literature on lesbians and gay men, to refine the theoretical model and set up the research to come.

Toni Calasanti is 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. Her research on the intersections of age, gender and social inequalities has appeared in several journals in aging and sociology as well as in the books *Gender, Social Inequalities, and Aging* (2001) and *Age Matters: Re-Aligning Feminist Thinking* (2006). Recent explorations of the intersectional approach and of age, gender and sexuality appear in *Handbook of Theories of Aging* (2nd ed.) and the *Handbook of Cultural Gerontology*, and lay the foundation for her upcoming research on same-sex partner caregiving.

Professor Mark Hughes, Southern Cross University, Australia

Health and wellbeing of lesbians and gay men in later life: exploring commonalities and differences

In health and social care, quantitative research is prominent in the discourses of evidence and evidence-based practice. While the complexities and intersections of age, gender and sexualities can be difficult to capture in quantitative studies, findings from quantitative research do speak to majority experiences and general patterns within populations. However, with the aggregation of people into one LGBT category there is a risk that quantitative research – or the translation of its results into policy or practice – misrepresents the issues and needs across the diversity of LGBT people. What is needed is careful unpacking of quantitative findings to ensure that this diversity is respected. In this presentation I explore some of the commonalities and differences in quantitative findings on lesbian and gay men's health and wellbeing. I overview key findings from international research, including a recent Australian study with LGBTI people aged 50 and over, and compare these with patterns found in the general population. The implications for LGBT service development are discussed.

Mark Hughes is Professor of Social Work at Southern Cross University, Australia. Mark has worked as a social worker in community health, mental health and aged care in both Australia and the UK. He has published widely on social work with older people, the organisational dimensions of social work practice, and LGBTI ageing. He has recently completed projects on the health and wellbeing of LGBTI seniors, and end-of-life care for LGBT people. Mark is currently Editor of the journal, *Australian Social Work*.

▶ KEYNOTE AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Associate Professor Travis Kong, University of Hong Kong

The Secret Garden: Oral History of Older Gay Men in Hong Kong

Based on an oral history project of older gay men (60+) in Hong Kong since 2009, this paper discusses how these men have negotiated same-sex intimacy in everyday sites over time, in particular in the 1940-50s when they were young and at present when they are older. Using a post-structuralist conception of power/resistance and identity formation, this paper examines the ways in which they reconcile the tension between their familial roles and same-sex desires within the parameters of family biopolitics and how they manoeuvre various hierarchical social and sexual spaces. The sites such as the family home, the public toilet, and even gay exclusive space are all sites of governmentality/resistance, domination/subversion and surveillance/desire. Through the voices of these older gay men, this paper reveals the ways how they create their own spaces for social interaction and sexual desire under the complex web of domination in both the heterosexual and the homosexual worlds in contemporary Hong Kong. The final part of this paper discusses how this oral history project has embarked on an unexpected journey: Turned a pure academic research into a participatory action research in which respondents have been empowered and a gay counterpublic can be imagined, created and practiced.

Travis S.K. Kong is Associate Professor in Sociology and Programme Director of Master of Social Sciences in Media, Culture and Creative Cities at The University of Hong Kong. Through the studies of homosexuality, commercial sex and intimate cultures in Hong Kong and mainland China, Kong aims to offer a critical analysis to understand Chinese sexuality, identity, desire, and intimacy. To date, his articles have appeared in international journals such as *Body & Society*, *Sexualities*, *Gender, Work & Organization*, *Deviant Behavior*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *Lancet*, *AIDS Care*, *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, and *British Journal of Criminology*. He is the author of *Chinese Male Homosexualities: Memba, Tongzhi and Golden Boy* (Routledge, 2011) and co-Editor of *Sexualities: Studies in Culture and Society*.

Professor Yvette Taylor, London South Bank University, UK

'The Queer Subject of 'Getting On''

To think of 'age' is perhaps often to think of the embodied subject who has aged, who is 'getting on'. Sexualities research is replete with metaphors of 'coming of age' and, with the passing of Equalities legislation, may well be seen as a discipline that has itself, 'got on' or 'arrived'. Yet only certain gendered and sexual subjects are constructed as on time, planned alongside work-life balance, situated against anticipated life-course trajectories, and as endorsed in social policies, institutional practice and normative imaginings. I want to pause on disruptions of normative time, which explode ideas of what is done 'at the right time'. In considering 'intersections' of age, sexuality and gender, as bringing forward certain subjects, while rendering others as out of time, backwards, behind and redundant, I want to draw upon different projects, in order to empirically situate the 'queer subject of 'getting-on''. I draw on concepts from Bourdieu, and ideas of 'queer temporalities', to explore how normative and non-normative personhood is produced (and ruptured). I locate myself in and through research, as inevitably intersecting my own cares, biography, personal and professional identity (as also a queer subject 'getting on').

▶ KEYNOTE AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Yvette Taylor is Head of the Weeks Centre for Social and Policy Research at London South Bank University (LSBU), UK. She received the Lillian Robinson Fellowship Concordia University, Canada (2009), a Fulbright Scholarship, Rutgers University (2010-2011) and a British Academy mid-career award (2013-2014). Yvette has published three sole-authored books based on funded research: *Working-class Lesbian Life* (2007), *Lesbian and Gay Parenting* (2009), and *Fitting Into Place? Class and Gender Geographies and Temporalities* (2012). She has 13 edited collections which include: *Classed Intersections: Spaces, Selves, Knowledges* (Ashgate 2010); *Theorizing Intersectionality and Sexuality* (2010, with Hines, S. and Casey, M.); *Educational Diversity: the subject of difference and different subjects* (2012); *Mapping Intimacies: Relations, Exchanges, Affects* (Palgrave 2014, with Sanger, T.); *The Entrepreneurial University. Public Engagements, Intersecting Impacts* (2014) and *Queering Religion, Religious Queers* (2014, with Snowdon, R). Yvette continues to work on an ESRC funded project *Making Space for Queer Identifying Religious Youth*.

▶ ABSTRACTS

Kathryn Almack, Anne Patterson and Meiko Makita - Navigating Personal Networks: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual And Trans Older People's Networks Of Support Towards The End Of Life

This paper examines ways in which sexual orientation and gender identity may impact on experiences of ageing, end of life care and bereavement. It draws on interviews (N= 60) with LGBT people (aged 60 and over); part of a two-year UK-wide project funded by Marie Curie Cancer Care, 2012-14. The interviews included a visual participatory method whereby participants mapped out their support networks on paper while describing what support (emotional and practical) they accessed and from whom. The personal networks described were complex with varying degrees of importance placed upon friends, families, kinship and others. This ranged from participants who identified multiple sources of support across generations to those who had built their networks among LGBT 'allies' of a similar age and a smaller number ageing alone with very limited networks. To some extent our findings challenge dominant narratives from existing LGBT research about limited single generation support networks and the absence of support from families of origin. Participants' networks presented a rich diversity including families of origin and of choice. It is clear however that LGBT older adults' histories and pathways have ongoing profound influences on the means of social support available to individuals at the end of life.

Elham Amini - Insider or Outsider? Issues of Power & Habitus during Life History Interviews with Menopausal Iranian Women

Conducting my fieldwork among religious menopausal women in Iran raised – as a secular Iranian woman myself – the question of the position of the researcher in life history research. This issue of insider/outsider status has been explored in the context of qualitative research from the perspectives of ethnicity, gender, disability and age. This paper will discuss how power is negotiated between the interviewer and interviewee throughout the life history interview. As an Iranian woman conducting interviews with menopausal Iranian women in Iran, I found that intersections of ethnicity, culture and gender were combining during the course of the interview. I found that what Bourdieu called the 'habitus' (how I speak, sit and what I wear) was a significant factor in negotiating my insider/outsider status. During my research, this status shifted during the interviews. So rather than consider the status of the researcher static and bounded dichotomously – either insider or outsider – instead I experienced a complex, dynamic status as both insider and outsider during even one interview. Utilising Connell's life history method and Bourdieu's notion of the 'habitus', this paper considers these issues.

Elizabeth Barry - 'Narrower and Narrower Would Her Bed Be': Menopause in Philosophy, (Sexual) Politics and Culture

This paper addresses the changing conception of menopause in philosophy and culture, understanding the phenomenon as a particularly fraught example of the intersection of ageing, gender and sexuality. The paper takes as its starting point Germaine Greer's heated critique of Simone de Beauvoir's conception of menopause, and in particular the gap between the political stance in *The Second Sex* and what Greer saw as the distressing capitulation in De Beauvoir's memoirs to society's construction of a desexualized and disempowered menopausal woman. It looks to the cultural history of the menopause

to contextualize today's attitudes and practice. How influential in society, culture and medicine have scientific theories about menopause as 'deficiency' been, and what alternative models might there be to this pervasive view? The concentration on reproduction and childbirth in the feminist women's health movement has reinforced ideas about menopause as the 'end' or loss of sexual identity. There have, however, been both political and cultural interventions that have argued for menopause as, conversely, a period of ripening and renewing, even of revival. This paper will present reflections on these differing perspectives and how they constitute particularly contested intersections between ageing, gender and sexuality.

***Ling-fang Cheng* - Liberated and/or constrained: Intimate relations of post-menopausal women in Taiwan**

This paper aims at exploring the intimate relations of post-menopausal women in Taiwan with an intersectional perspective of class, ethnicity and disability. The social constructivism of life experience is adopted as the theoretical perspective which cast the light on how sexuality and intimate relations are formed and transformed in the process of changing gender relations and social environment. The data is collected from in-depth interview of 45 women at the age between 55 to 70 during the period of 2010-2015. Taiwan has gone through drastic changes in social, political and economic, above all gender relations in the past 50 years. These women were brought up in a rigid social/political and austere economic environment as well as one-dimensional life aspiration for achieving femininity. However, by the time they reached menopause, the social/political/economic environment has changed and diversity of sexuality and gender relations are much recognized, above all they all have reached mature stage of life. The paper tries to explore three closely related questions: (1) How their current intimate relations are formed and transformed in the process of their individual life experiences? (2) How their individual life experience are formed and transformed by the social changes, especially the changes in gender discourses and relations in the society? (3) How the intersectional configurations of gender, class, ethnicity, and disability in the intimate relations of post-menopausal women can provide a non-stereotyped picture of our understanding of them? Are they liberated and/or still constrained?

***Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto and Chiara Bertone* - Questioning the sexy oldie: intersecting masculinity, age and sexuality in the Viagra era Proposal Discipline**

The intersections of health and well-being with sexuality, gender, and ageing have been explored by different streams of critical studies, dealing with men's health (Robertson 2007), sexual health (Gianni 2002; Marshall 2011, Cacchioni, Tiefer 2012), health and ageing (Gott 2004; Hinchliff, Gott 2004), and have been acknowledged as a key issue in the research agenda and in policy making. International literature has acknowledged the "Viagra phenomenon" as a crucial case of a construction of masculinity through medicalized practices, reproducing the hegemonic notion of masculinity (Potts 2000) by redefining male sexual standards (Ferrero Camoletto, Bertone, Salis 2015) and promoting the expectation of a bodily functioning unaffected by ageing (Marshall 2008). The possibility of

counter-discourses has been explored in EEM male users and their partners (Potts et al 2003, 2004; Wentzell 2013), while medical experts have been mostly interpreted as one of the main engines of the medicalization of masculinity and male sexuality in later life. Drawing upon in-depth interviews with sexual medicine professionals, the paper aims at providing a more pluralized and nuanced understanding of Viagra sexual culture, showing the ambivalences and tensions within medical discourses around social expectations of a pharma-mediated second youth.

***Richard Green* - Life after Prostate Cancer: How Older Men Manage the Uncertainties of Sexual Dysfunction**

Uncertainty, compared with risk, remains an underdeveloped concept within medical sociology. Zinn (2008) has identified tools that people employ to manage uncertainties, such as risk, trust, emotions, heuristics and hope. Examining how these resources are employed in gendered ways and in varying ways at different stages of the life course is important to the development of an embodied framework for understanding uncertainty and for better understanding health behaviours more broadly. For prostate cancer little is known about men's uncertainty experiences as part of their wider illness and recovery experiences. Yet prostate cancer presents men with a range of uncertainties from diagnosis through to recovery. Qualitative interviews with twenty-nine men who have been treated for prostate cancer were undertaken. These men, aged 53-83 years, were recruited from prostate cancer support groups in the South East of England. Men's accounts of their illness and recovery experiences have been examined within the broader context of their changing self-perceptions of ageing and masculinity. This paper examines the accounts of men experiencing sexual dysfunction, which is a common side-effect of prostate cancer treatment. The uncertainties that accompany the emergence and persistence of sexual dysfunction will be explored in relation to the management strategies men employed to improve their sexual function. The extent to which men's management strategies can illustrate their embodied self-perceptions of ageing and masculinity will also be discussed.

***Neil Henderson and Kathryn Almack* - LGBT ageing and care: A Literature study**

There is an increasing body of research on ageing and end-of-life care (EOLC) regarding LGBT people, particularly in the UK, USA and Australia, related to the recognition that those communities are now ageing. In contrast, in South Africa, despite the equality clause in the SA Constitution and legislation on gay marriage, there is minimal research in this area. This paper reports on work undertaken during a fellowship at the University of Nottingham, UK. It reports on a critical review of literature on ageing and EOLC of the LGBT community in the UK, USA, Canada, Ireland and Australia. Key themes identified include a greater need for LGBT older people to utilize support services but be less likely to access them alongside the need for awareness training of health professionals. Furthermore, fears were identified regarding living in retirement communities and the lack of inter-generational connections. Good practice guidelines have been developed by many third sector groups working with LGBT older people but are not wholly embedded in policy and regulatory frameworks. The paper concludes with a

consideration of what can be learnt from this review to begin exploring and addressing the needs and experiences of the older LGBT community in South Africa.

Chryssy Hunter - *A discussion of issues around identity, sexuality and economics in the context of trans* and sexgender nonconforming aging*

In the context of my research into trans* and sexgender nonconforming identities and recognitions/misrecognitions in a socioeconomic context I propose to discuss the increasingly recognised complexity of trans* and sexgender nonconforming identities. I will briefly critically examine the suggestion that older people's sexgender identities are more binary than younger people's, and will draw out what the implications of increased awareness of nonbinarism are for this discourse. In noting the specific issues of concern for OLGBTQ people I will examine how relevant discourses engage in discussions about healthcare, accommodation and isolation. I will highlight issues specific to older trans* and gender nonconforming people, distinct from OLGB issues such as those of visibility, of authenticity and mis/recognition. I will also raise questions about the viability of maintaining discourses of sexuality based on the homo/hetro/bi triad of definitions and question whether such definitions reinforce binarism to the disadvantage of older trans* and sexgender nonconforming people in care and social network situations. I will discuss potential areas for study engaging with differential life outcomes in relation to trans* and sexgender nonconforming trajectories in relation to different socioeconomic statuses. I will focus on how neoliberal championing of diversity discourses and legislation invisibilises as much as it visibilises and reinforces pre-existing vectors of privilege rather than promoting equal recognition of different diversities.

Rebecca Jones - *'Queer' and 'traditional' families in bisexual people's imagined and experienced later life*

Age, sexuality and gender (as well as other intersections) all shape people's experiences of families in later life and what they imagine will happen later in their own life course. Research into the families of mid-life LGBTQ people has long argued that 'families-of-choice' supplement, or even replace, families-of-origin. It is not yet clear how significant families-of-choice remain in later life. In the UK, traditional markers of family (such as marriage and child-rearing) are increasingly available to LGBTQ people, and step-families and other new forms of family are common for heterosexual and cisgendered people. This blurs the boundaries between 'queer' and 'traditional' forms of family. This paper uses the example of the ageing of bisexual people to add to debates about what constitutes 'queer' and 'traditional' families in this new context. It presents findings from two UK-based qualitative studies about ageing and bisexuality. The first study asked bi-identified adults (n=33, aged 20-66) to imagine their own ageing and later life through participation in a workshop and picture-making. The second (ongoing) study focuses on older people (age 50+) with some relationship to the identity 'bisexual' and uses interviews to reflect on life courses so far, current experiences of ageing and imagined further ageing. Participants in both studies imagined and experienced family relationships in later life, and these included both 'traditional' types of families and 'queerer' types. However, the experiences and expectations of

polyamorous and transgender or genderqueer people within both data sets suggest that some forms of kinship remain much queerer. This draws our attention to the importance of thinking about both gender and sexuality in later life beyond the usual binaries of male/female and gay/straight.

Andrew King - *Intersecting what? Exploring intersections of ageing, gender, sexualities in talk-in-interaction*

Whilst intersectionality, as a theoretical perspective, has become increasingly influential in recent years, putting it into practice, in methodological terms can be more difficult because deciding which identities and forms of social division to include are selective tasks. McCall (2005) usefully described three approaches towards intersectional complexity that help researchers make such methodological decisions: the anti-categorical, the intra-categorical and the inter-categorical. I briefly outline each one, before suggesting that one way around such problematics is to pay attention to members' categories. The study of categorisation in talk-in-interaction can be traced back to the pioneering conversation analytic work of Harvey Sacks. In this presentation, my aim is to show how studying categorisation work in talk-in-interaction can be useful for thinking through intersections between ageing, gender and sexualities. To do this, I draw on data I have collected as part of a project about older lesbian, gay, bisexual lives.

Neal King - *Knowing hegemony among intersecting relations*

Relations of inequality involve diverse ways of distinguishing subordinate from dominant groups, deviance from normalcy, and hegemony from defiance. Surveying political economies of gender, age, and sexuality, I argue that each offers a distinct vantage on hegemony: each urges denial of different aspects of the lives of subordinate groups, and each generates acceptance of people's own subordination in a different way. I then provide empirical support by demonstrating that study of age relations, via statements made by middle-aged people about their futures, offer a unique test of the popular but seldom tested theory of 'hegemonic masculinity'. I show that acceptance of ideals of manhood can lead aging people to hold themselves personally responsible for the exclusion that they anticipate enduring in old age. This intersectional study shows that attention to the distinct but intersecting operation of diverse relations of inequality allows for better theories of and research on each.

Kinneret Lahad and Haim Hazan - *The Return of the Old Spinster: Social Death in Late Singlehood*

Addressing recent literature on age, feminist theory and singlehood, we investigate the ways in which ageist and sexist constructions of age form prevalent understandings of late singlehood. We argue that single women above a certain age are faced with a triple discrimination, based on their age, gender and single status. This paper asks, what gives this powerful stereotypical image so much discursive force and makes it so defiant to resistance and deconstruction? We find that questions such as why are twenty and thirty plus single women depicted as old? And why are thirty plus married mothers represented as “young mothers” are illustrative questions that emphasize that single women are aged by a culture which is determined by culturally-framed expectations. In a similar vein, we wish to understand the discursive process which causes single women to “age faster”; and how do single women “age” differently from coupled and married ones?

Emmanuel Mogaji - *Breaking the stereotype: Ageing, Gender, Sexualities Intersection in UK Print Advertisement*

Advertising, like any form of mass communication, contributes heavily to shaping social values and attitudes. The study draws on social learning and cultivation theory to examining the portrayal of ageing and gender in British newspaper advertisements, based on a content analysis of the advertisements using a coding system to enable an observation of the content of communication and its categorisation. 962 advertisements featuring 1,255 characters were coded over the twelve month periods, analysed based on the model's gender, age group, location and product. The findings indicate that women are relatively more likely to appear in fashion and household advertisement. Across different location and roles, they are relatively more likely to be featured in home location and in a sexual pose. Older adults however were seldom featured for technology and telecommunication products. This study has significant ethical and policy implications as it is expected that organisations take it as a social responsibility to champion the cause of equal opportunities irrespective of gender, race or age.

Michelle Ong - *Marks of success: Ageing Filipina migrants' meaning-making around beauty*

Studies on women and ageing which focus on the body often highlight beauty as an important concern for women (e.g. Baker & Gringart, 2009; Clarke, 2002; Furman, 1997). Discussions around women's beauty and beauty practices tend to analyse these issues in terms of women's efforts at performing femininity in the context of heterosexual relationships (Holland, Ramazanoglu, Sharpe, & Thomson, 1998; Slevin, 2010) and consumerism in modern western society (Featherstone, 1991; Gilleard & Higgs, 2013). This presentation looks at the various meanings Filipina migrants attach to beauty and its pursuit in old age. While I attend to those discourses that are more frequently addressed in feminist and critical gerontological literature regarding the matter of beauty, I also put forward some meanings around beauty that speak to these women's experiences and context as Filipino migrants to New Zealand. Of particular relevance is the wider discourse around Filipino migrants that position them as 'successful', and that, together with ageist, sexist and consumerist constructions of the female body, produce an

imperative to display 'success' through/on the body. I also discuss women's attempts to resist this imperative through discourse that draws from Filipino cultural notions of ageing and embodiment.

Orla Parslow-Breen - *Family carer or lesbian: Is it a choice or can I be both?*

Informal elder caregiving is traditionally a family affair. The majority of non-spousal caregivers to the elderly are middle aged adult daughters. This familial caregiving dyad is an often researched relationship. However models of caregiving hold inherent heteronormative assumptions about the women who provide elder care which renders invisible lesbians who provide familial caregiving support. Similarly, family studies literature research on lesbian and gay families is limited because lesbians are considered as individuals rather than as family members; a position that is echoed by the LGBT psychological research corpus. From an historical perspective lesbians and gay men were pathologized and cured. Post DSM removal, affirmative research has examined the issues of being homosexual in a heterosexual world. Either position, however, situates lesbians as being outside the family so that when women who provide informal care are positioned as lesbian their engagement in familial caregiving goes unnoticed and unremarked. This paper argues that the omission of familial caregiving research at the intersection of aging, gender, and sexuality fails to address the unique issues that lesbian familial caregivers encounter and that the discourses of family and homosexuality produce an either/or position such that women can be lesbian or family caregivers but not both.

Maricel Oró-Piqueras - *Representations of Female Ageing and Sexuality in Penelope Lively's "Moon Tiger", Angela Carter's "Wise Children" and Doris Lessing's "The Grandmothers"*

The binary old age and sexuality is still taboo in nowadays society, despite the exponential ageing of the population. In her recently published 'Out of Time: The Pleasures and Perils of Ageing', Lynne Segal argues that, opposing popular beliefs that sexual desire diminishes with age, sexuality is as important as any other aspect of a human life in late middle-age and old age. According to Segal, among other age critics such as Kathleen Woodward, it is actually the negative cultural conceptions attached to the ageing body; namely, ugliness and disgust, which relate old age to a lack of desire. In this sense, fiction is a powerful media that allows the reader to go into the deeper recesses of protagonists in their old age and witness the culturally-based contradictions which seem to limit desire and sexuality to youth and youthful appearance. By analysing two novels and a short story of well-known British contemporary writers, this presentation aims to discern the vicissitudes of sexuality and ageing as portrayed in these fictional texts.

Ieva Stoncikaite - *Erica Jong: No fear of aging and sexuality*

The objective of this article is to analyse how age, gender and sexualities intersect and how growing old changes perceptions sexuality. I will focus on Erica Jong, one of the key figures of the Second Wave Women's Liberation Movement, and an outstanding figure in contemporary American literature who is best known for her 1973 novel *Fear of Flying*, in which she explored female sexuality and erotic wit.

Although Jong becomes more introspective looking for spiritual and emotional growth in her late years, being influenced by the Sexual Revolution of the 1960-80s, she continues to write openly about female sexuality and argues that aging processes help to explore alternative sexualities in which the perception of sex is shifted from a genital-based to a whole-body sexual experience. The study of Jong's fiction and her personal writings shows that she challenges the views associated with aged women sexual inactivity and decline. However, by creating aging, but still sexually active heroines, Jong seems to advocate the youth-cult based notions and postfeminist ideas associated with sexual attractiveness, consumerist lifestyles and the beauty myth, thus reinforcing the sexualisation of older women and 'new aging' theories that claim that sexual activity adds to successful and healthy aging.

Yiu Tung Suen - What's gay about being single? A qualitative study of the lived experiences of older single gay men

This paper contributes to the theorization of 'choice' within sociological understanding of singlehood. Previous sociological research on singlehood has largely focused on the lives of heterosexual singles. A choice narrative permeates such literature, depicting singlehood as a celebratory story that brings about the potential to disrupt the couple-hood culture in society. Based on in-depth interviews with 25 self-identified single gay men over the age of 50 in England, this article finds that although gay singles share similarities with straight singles, there are gay-specific features of singlehood that can be identified, in terms of the limit of 'choice'. Although some older single gay men drew on the cultural discourse in the gay community which decentres the conjugal couple, and claimed freedom of sexual exploration as a positive aspect of being single, there was also strong sense that many older gay men's status of being single was shaped by larger history, and hence, they were afforded no choice in choosing to be single or not. Taking these findings together, this paper suggests that there are ideological, historical and cultural factors that distinguish the lived experiences of single gay men as being different from those of heterosexual singles. This paper argues that although the discourse of 'choice' helps sociologists to understand that singlehood needs not be understood as necessarily a negative experience, older gay men's experiences of singlehood caution that the choice narrative shall not mislead the analysis to focus singlehood merely on the individual level. Instead, singlehood needs to be understood as deeply socially and historically embedded.

Jill Wilkens - All Change Please

This paper explores how thirty-five lesbians and bisexual women, born between 1940 and 1957, are positioned as older citizens by their gender, class identity and sexuality. It is my contention that, in addition to the material disadvantage experienced by some as a consequence of poor education, limited job opportunities often resulting in low-paid employment and inferior pensions, many participants also experience feelings of 'difference' that are not to do with financial or structural inequalities but rather are shaped by issues of social mobility, gender and sexuality. For some this connects to their rejection of stereotypical female roles and appearance, for others to their education as children of working class parents propelled, via a scholarship, into grammar schools with a decidedly middle-class milieu. Some

women experienced a profound sense of sexual difference as teenagers and young women and, for many, their decision to live a lesbian life fractured relationships with parents and siblings and, when shrouded in secrecy and fear, made establishing intimate adult relationships more difficult. All of these factors – alongside others such as disability, faith and ethnicity - combine and intersect to impact on the way they have approached, entered and will live out their older age.

Sue Westwood - Constructing Care Networks in Succession Law (England and Wales): An analysis of older lesbians' and gay men's Will-writing.

This paper offers new insights into how lesbian and gay kinship complicates understandings of 'family' as well as problematizing and disrupting the notions of wills as a rich source of evidence for making claims about kinship, family and relationships. Taking up Daniel Monk's invitation to "to open up a dialogue between succession law and the field of gender, sexuality and the law" (Monk 2011, 232), I consider the contingency of lesbian and gay kinship, the complexities of the doing of family and friendship, and what lies between and beyond them. I analyse conversations about will-writing with fifteen older lesbians and gay men, taken from interviews which formed part of a wider socio-legal study on ageing, gender and sexuality. In contrast to much previous empirical work around wills, the data analysed here points to many different explanations underlying will-making, as well as contesting the literature framed around "families of choice" for gay and lesbian kinship. I problematize inheritance and kinship by offering an exposition of the intersectional issues at play, approached through the lens of Will-writing.

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