



**INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON DEFINING
AND MEASURING THE NEEDS OF OLDER
LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE**

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

2 JULY 2026



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Project Leads:

Dr Richard Green, School of Health Sciences, University of Surrey

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INTRODUCTION

Over recent decades, research into the health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ people has expanded considerably. Legal and social reforms in many parts of the world have been accompanied by a parallel growth in scholarship seeking to understand the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals across the life course. Increasing visibility, community advocacy, and a slowly growing evidence base have all contributed to a more nuanced understanding of the health inequities this population continues to face.

At the same time, the global population is ageing, albeit unevenly. Some regions are ageing rapidly while others remain comparatively young, and within this picture, older LGBTQIA+ adults represent a growing and diverse group whose needs have often been overlooked. These needs vary considerably depending on context, shaped by local legal protections, cultural attitudes, family structures, and access to health and social care, yet many experiences are widely shared across borders, including heightened risk of social isolation, disparities in mental health, barriers to accessing appropriate care, and the ongoing impact of discrimination, both historical and present-day.

The Goldsen Institute's [Global Pride Project](#) has underscored just how much interest and momentum this field is now gathering. This workshop seeks to contribute to that growing momentum. By bringing together international researchers, care practitioners, and community representatives, we aim to share evidence across different national and cultural contexts, identify points of consensus and divergence, and begin to lay the groundwork for a future international framework of core needs, one that can meaningfully inform research, policy, and practices of care for older LGBTQIA+ people everywhere.



PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 2 JULY ONLINE

(BST)

11.30 - 11.50

Introduction and Housekeeping

Richard Green, University of Surrey

Welcome

Andrew King, University of Surrey

11.50 - 13.10

Presentation Session 1:

Ageing, Care Planning and Kinship Networks in India

Ranjita Biswas, Sappho for Equality, India

LGBTQIA+ Aging, Art, and Self-Perception: The Impact of Social Representations on Mental Health

Thiago Nascimento and Jonatas Pinheiro, Universidade São Judas Tadeu, Brazil

The Working Life Course of Aging LGBTQ Workers

Raphael Eppler-Hattab, University of Haifa, Israel

Intraminority Stress and Experiences of Exclusion Among Mid-Older LGBT+ People

Richard Vytņiorgu, University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

Promoting Health and Wellbeing Among Transgender Adults Aged 40+: Experiences from a Brazilian Public Health Initiative

Milton Crenitte, University of São Paulo, Brazil

13.10 - 13.30

Break

13.30 - 14.50

Presentation Session 2:

Citizens' Perspectives and Evaluation of the Implementation of Age-Friendly Cities in Indonesia

Sari Handayani, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia



Homosexual Men and Aging: Body, Desire, and Sexual Narratives

Junior Malinowski, Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos em Sexualidade Humana (SBRASH), Brazil

Embodied Resistance: Rethinking the Needs of Older LGBTQIA+ People through Literature and Movement

Sandra Regina Mota Ortiz, Universidade São Judas Tadeu, Brazil

Using River of Life to Rethink Older LGBTQIA+ Needs Internationally

Maya Chew, University of Surrey

LGBT+ Ageing in Germany: Opportunities and Challenges for Quantitative Social Research

Robert Heidemann, TU Dortmund University, Germany

14.50 - 15.10

Break

15.10 - 16.20

Panel Discussion:

Barry Lee - Chairperson of Grey and Pride, Education University of Hong Kong & Royal Holloway, University of London

Katherine Bristowe

Kings College London

Charles P. Hoy-Ellis

University of Washington

William Lodge II

Cornell University's Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy

16.20 - 16.30

Future Directions and Close

Richard Green, University of Surrey



INVITED SPEAKERS AND ORGANISERS

KATHERINE BRISTOWE



Katherine Bristowe is a qualitative methodologist with a background in sociolinguistics and health communication research. Her programme of research focuses on widening access to palliative and bereavement care for people from minoritised and marginalised groups including the LGBTQ+ communities, people from minoritised ethnic groups, and children, and improving communication between health and social care professionals and service users.

SARAH COMBES



Sarah Combes is a clinical academic nurse and Senior Lecturer at the University of Surrey. Her work centres on palliative and end-of-life care for older people living with advancing frailty and multimorbidity, with particular interests in decision-making, advance care planning, and workforce development.



MILTON CREINITTE



Milton Crenitte is a geriatrician and researcher at the University of São Paulo's Hospital das Clínicas, where he coordinates outpatient services in sexuality in older age and in trans health for adults over 40. His research and clinical work focus on extending geriatric and gerontological practice beyond cisheteronormative assumptions, including studies on frailty care among older LGBTQ+ Brazilians.

RICHARD GREEN



Richard Green is a Surrey Future Fellow in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Surrey, working at the intersection of ageing, health, and care. His research applies qualitative, participatory, and simulation-based methods to under-researched areas of care provision, including the health and social care needs of older LGBTQ+ people.



CHARLES HOY-ELLIS



Charles “Charlie” Hoy-Ellis is Project Director of Interventions and Training at the Goldsen Institute–Healthy Generations Center and Research Scientist/Engineer III at the University of Washington School of Social Work. A Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), his research focuses on LGBTQIA+ aging, health equity, and the impact of social determinants on health and well-being across the life course. Charlie has more than two decades of clinical, research, and training experience and has been affiliated with Aging with Pride, the first federally funded national longitudinal study of LGBTQIA+ aging in the United States, since 2010.

ASHOK JAMMIGUMPULA



Ashok Jammigumpula is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, where he leads neuromodulation services and contributes to postgraduate training and clinical research. His clinical and research interests span neuroplasticity, neuromodulation techniques such as ECT and TMS, personality disorders, and LGBTQ mental health.



ANDREW KING



Andrew King is Associate Dean (Doctoral College) for the Faculty of Arts, Business and Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology at the University of Surrey, where he is also Co-Director of the Centre of Excellence on Ageing. He is one of the UK's leading scholars of LGBTQ+ ageing, having spent nearly two decades building an internationally recognised body of research on the lives, identities, and care needs of older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people. His work spans housing, health inequalities, social capital, and queer theory's application to gerontology and dementia studies, and includes landmark studies such as HomeSAFE, the UK's largest study of LGBTQ+ social housing residents, and the resulting HouseProud Pledge Scheme, now covering housing providers responsible for nearly two million social housing residents.

BARRY LEE



Barry Lee is Chairperson of Grey and Pride, Hong Kong's first and only registered charity dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ people aged 60 and above. He is an experienced social worker, counsellor, and supervisor with over 20 years of practice supporting marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ people, individuals living with HIV, and neurodivergent and mental health service users. Barry is a Guest Lecturer at the Education University of Hong Kong and a Specialist Mentor at Royal Holloway, University of London. His research focuses on LGBTQ+ ageing, HIV, social inclusion, and the lived experiences of older Chinese gay men, bridging academic knowledge with community-based practice.



WILLIAM LODGE II



William Lodge II, PhD, MSc, is an Assistant Professor of Health Equity and Public Policy at Cornell University's Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy. His research focuses on how policy, stigma, and social support shape health and wellbeing for LGBTQIA+ communities, with a particular focus on India. He is currently leading a qualitative study with LGBTQIA+ adults aged 40 and older in Chennai and New Delhi, examining experiences of aging, care and kinship networks, access to gender-affirming care, and barriers to social welfare systems. His work aims to better understand what supports LGBTQIA+ people need to age with dignity, safety, and connection.

FRANCES SANDERS



Frances Sanders is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Surrey, with interests in ageing, identity, and social geography. Her doctoral research, the Rainbow OPTICS study, explores the social drinking practices of older LGBT+ people across the life course. She has also worked extensively as a research assistant on LGBTQ+-focused housing and ageing projects, including Housing with Pride and HomeSAFE.



ABSTRACTS

Ageing, Care Planning and Kinship Networks in India

Ranjita Biswas, Sappho for Equality, India

As queer communities age, many confront a paradox, having survived exclusion, stigma, pandemics, and social upheaval, they often enter later life with extraordinary resilience while facing heightened vulnerability. Ageing queer people are disproportionately affected by social isolation, estrangement from biological families, economic insecurity, housing precarity, and care systems that continue to benefit heteronormative and biologically defined family structures. Yet alongside these vulnerabilities exists a powerful legacy of resistance, mutual aid, and community-making, a fire sustained through decades of collective survival and care. For many queer elders, chosen kinship networks have long functioned as vital sources of emotional, social, and practical support. Friends, partners, former partners, neighbours, and community members often assume roles traditionally associated with family, creating webs of belonging that challenge conventional understandings of care and dependency. Despite their significance, these networks frequently remain unrecognized within legal, policy, and institutional frameworks governing ageing and care. This paper argues for the recognition and strengthening of kinship networks as critical infrastructures of support for ageing Queer Trans populations. Rather than locating care within individual households or formal institutions alone, kinship networks offer relational models grounded in reciprocity, interdependence, and collective responsibility. They acknowledge diverse forms of intimacy and belonging while creating pathways for support across generations and life stages. By centring the experiences of ageing queer people, this discussion highlights the need to move beyond narrow definitions of family and toward more inclusive understandings of social connection and care. Supporting kinship networks is not only a response to vulnerability but also an affirmation of the enduring creativity, resilience, and relational labour through which queer communities have sustained themselves. In recognizing these networks as legitimate and valuable social formations, we can imagine more just, caring, and affirming futures for Queer Trans ageing.



LGBTQIA+ Aging, Art, and Self-Perception: The Impact of Social Representations on Mental Health

Thiago Nascimento and Jonatas Pinheiro, Universidade São Judas Tadeu, Brazil

This study examines the relationships among art, image, and representation in the social construction of LGBTQIA+ aging. It is based on the premise that images do not merely reflect reality but actively shape subjectivities, social recognition, and experiences of belonging. The objective is to analyze how artistic and media representations of older LGBTQIA+ individuals influence self-image, identity construction, and mental health, while also exploring the consequences of invisibility and stigma in later life. The study adopts a qualitative, narrative, and theoretical-reflective approach, drawing on literature from psychology, aging studies, LGBTQIA+ studies, and visual culture. As visual references, the analysis compares historical artworks depicting older adults with the photographs and narratives presented in *The Deepest Part Is the Skin* (*O Mais Profundo é a Pele*), a photographic project by Rafael Medina that foregrounds LGBTQIA+ experiences, identities, and bodies. Through this comparison, the research investigates how aging, desire, and belonging are represented, recognized, or marginalized within visual culture. The relevance of this study to the workshop lies in its contribution to understanding the social and symbolic dimensions of the needs of older LGBTQIA+ people. While discussions of needs often focus on health, housing, and social care, this research highlights the importance of representation, visibility, and cultural recognition as factors that influence psychological well-being, social inclusion, and a sense of belonging. By examining how images shape experiences of aging, the study contributes to broader international discussions on defining and measuring the diverse needs of older LGBTQIA+ populations.

The Working Life Course of Aging LGBTQ Workers ***Raphael Eppler-Hattab, University of Haifa, Israel***

This project explores disparities in the working lives of aging and older LGBTQ workers. Considering socio-historical factors, older LGBTQ adults may face unique risks associated with marginalized and nontraditional career paths, which can lead to ongoing mental strain and poorer occupational and economic outcomes. However, the intersection of aging, work, and LGBTQ identities remains underexamined. To address this gap, we will conduct a multi-country investigation based on the theoretical framework proposed by Eppler-Hattab & Steindórsdóttir (2025). The project was launched within COST Action LeverAge (CA22120) network dedicated to leveraging the multi-age workforce. Collaboration between



this network and other LGBTQ networks would strengthen both the research team and the study. The study will use a quantitative design to examine older LGBTQ adults across multiple countries. Study variables will be measured using scales drawn from the literature on working life and LGBTQ mental health from a lifespan perspective. Data will be collected through an anonymous online questionnaire distributed to older LGBTQ adults. The study requires access to this population in each country, translation of the questionnaire into local languages, and online distribution of the survey. Research outcomes: We aim to create a co-authorship publication in a refereed journal. We believe that this topic is important and timely, potentially revealing issues and needs arising from the intersection of aging, work, and LGBTQ identities.

Intraminority Stress and Experiences of Exclusion Among Mid-Older LGBT+ People

Richard Vytningu, University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

This 5-minute talk will outline a paper I'm beginning to write drawing from LGBT+ data from the IncludeAge project (2022-27). This paper will explore the role or significance of intraminority stress on how mid-older LGBT+ people experience exclusion across their lives, breaking down the assumption that exclusion is primarily caused by cisheteronormative society. The paper is being co-written with project co-researchers, so I will aim to talk a bit about the process of writing the paper, too. The paper contributes to the theme of the workshop by highlighting or at least signalling the relevance of intraminority stress and intra-community pressures facing older LGBT+ people.

Promoting Health and Wellbeing Among Transgender Adults Aged 40+: Experiences from a Brazilian Public Health Initiative

Milton Crenitte, University of São Paulo, Brazil

This presentation will discuss the experience of a public outpatient clinic dedicated to the health promotion and comprehensive care of transgender adults aged 40 and older at the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil. The initiative integrates the three pillars of a university hospital: clinical care, education, and research. The clinic is linked to the geriatrics service, where medical residents in geriatrics actively participate in patient care under supervision. Ensuring access to healthcare for transgender people remains a major challenge for the advancement of human rights and for improving physical, mental, and social wellbeing across the life course. In this context, the clinic provides inclusive, person-centered, and



age-sensitive care for transgender individuals, addressing both healthcare needs and barriers related to stigma and discrimination. A central aspect of the initiative is its educational role. Over the past three years, more than 60 medical residents have trained within the service, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and practical experience in transgender health and ageing. This model helps expand cultural competence and improve future healthcare practices beyond the clinic itself. The presentation will also address future research perspectives emerging from this experience, particularly regarding the ageing process, health trajectories, and social dynamics of transgender older adults in Brazil. The initiative highlights the importance of integrating care, education, and research to advance inclusive ageing policies and practices.

Citizens' Perspectives and Evaluation of the Implementation of Age-Friendly Cities in Indonesia

Sari Handayani, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

This paper explores the positioning of transgender older adults in the implementation of age-friendly city policies in two Indonesian cities. Drawing on focused study conducted from Yogyakarta and Surabaya City, it argues that age-friendliness is still uneven since formal urban commitments do not immediately reach older persons who are stigmatized, unregistered, poor, and/or socially abandoned. The research is based on a qualitative analysis on six in-depth interviews with transgender older adults and two focus group discussions with transgender older adults' groups. The findings reveal administrative invisibility with respect to the absence of identity cards, exclusion from health and welfare programs, housing insecurity and barriers to institutional care for transgender older adults. They also confront conditional acceptance in religious and community areas, where participation is often based on adherence to dominant principles of morality. In response, peer networks, NGOs and faith-based initiatives establish alternative care systems such as shelter, spiritual support, companionship and burial assistance. The study proposes that the age-friendly implementation should be assessed by the existence of the policy and by the potential for excluded older adults to gain recognition, protection and dignity in everyday life. More inclusive policy requires needs-based outreach, anti-discrimination safeguards, and flexible administrative systems.



Homosexual Men and Aging: Body, Desire, and Sexual Narratives

Junior Malinowski, Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos em Sexualidade Humana (SBRASH), Brazil

The growth and diversification of debates on sexuality and human aging have marked recent decades. At the intersection of “old age and male homosexualities,” this study sought to understand how homosexual men experience the aging process. Old age can come as an assault, frightening, distressing, and unsettling. Aging is an existential condition that no individual escapes, and, in social contexts, being old often means becoming invisible to the social gaze. The aging body is perceived as non-erotic, associated with illness, loneliness, and death. Understanding sexuality in old age appears as an urgency, as it is necessary to break down prejudices embedded in social imaginaries and in the personal imaginaries of the elderly themselves. This was a qualitative study. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with three Brazilian cisgender homosexual men, aged 60 to 71 years. Interviews were conducted online through the Google Meet platform during the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviews revealed that old age is understood through signs of the social imaginary: impotence, dementia, physiological and social losses, dependence, limitation, finitude, and death. The perception of aging first arises through the gaze of the Other. Participants reported decreased libido, inhibition of genital pleasure, and resistance to discussing sexuality. However, desire persists, expressed in the will to be desired. Homosociability, crossed by the valorization of the young body, excludes the older gay man from social environments. To be old, in the homosocial scene, is to be outside the erotic market and deprived of visibility. The aging body is marked by exclusion and the absence of eroticization. Participants reported feelings of invisibility, loneliness, fear of physical dependence, and death. The findings reveal that old age, for homosexual men, is marked by double stigmatization: age and sexual orientation. Exclusion from social and homosocial spaces, the stigma of the aging body, and invisibility reinforce prejudice. Nevertheless, sexuality does not disappear: desire, libido, and eroticization persist, even if re-signified. Old age may be a time of losses, but also of reinvention and re-stitching, in which sexuality remains an expression of identity, desire, and resistance. These findings highlight the urgency of inclusive health policies and psychosocial interventions that address both ageism and homophobia, ensuring visibility and dignity for aging homosexual men.



Embodied Resistance: Rethinking the Needs of Older LGBTQIA+ People through Literature and Movement

Sandra Regina Mota Ortiz, Universidade São Judas Tadeu, Brazil

This paper examines how literature and motricity can be integrated as educational and cultural tools to strengthen identity, memory, and resistance within LGBTQIA+ communities. Grounded in practices that combine literary narratives with embodied expression, the study explores how stories of struggle, belonging, and transformation may be translated into movement, performance, and collective reflection. In practical workshops, participants engaged with literary texts addressing LGBTQIA+ resistance and cultural marginalisation, using reading, dramatization, dance, and bodily expression to represent emotions, memories, and shared experiences. The proposal dialogues directly with international debates on how to define and measure the needs of older LGBTQIA+ people. Beyond clinical or service-based indicators, it highlights the importance of recognising cultural, affective, educational, and embodied dimensions of need. Older LGBTQIA+ people often face cumulative experiences of discrimination, social isolation, invisibility, and barriers to care, which may not be fully captured by conventional assessment tools. Literature and motricity offer alternative ways to access subjective experiences, preserve collective memory, and identify forms of vulnerability and resilience that remain undermeasured. By positioning the body and the word as interconnected forms of knowledge, this work contributes to broader discussions about gaps and inconsistencies in recognising LGBTQIA+ ageing needs. It suggests that culturally sensitive measures should include not only mental health, care access, and social support, but also opportunities for expression, intergenerational dialogue, identity affirmation, and resistance to marginalisation.

Using River of Life to Rethink Older LGBTQIA+ Needs Internationally

Maya Chew, University of Surrey

This paper offers a reflexive methodological account of the River of Life (RoL) as an arts-based, participant-led approach for researching ageing and identifying need in culturally and politically constrained contexts. In LGBTQIA+ ageing research, need is often understood through indicators such as service access, social isolation, mental health, or discrimination. While important, these measures may miss needs that are relational, culturally mediated, and difficult to voice directly under conditions of stigma and risk. Drawing on a study with older trans women in Malaysia (n=27), I show how River of Life can help make such needs visible. Rather than treating drawings simply as discussion prompts, I analyse them



alongside interview narratives and fieldnotes to explore how people represent life events, relationships, uncertainty, and future concerns. The paper shows how needs emerge not only as service gaps, but also through problems of recognition, documentation, kinship, safety, and future manageability. I argue that arts-based, participant-led methods such as River of Life can expand how older LGBTQIA+ needs are understood across different social and cultural contexts.

LGBT+ Ageing in Germany: Opportunities and Challenges for Quantitative Social Research

Robert Heidemann, TU Dortmund University, Germany

Older LGBT+ adults face unique intersectional challenges related to ageing, yet their holistic needs are often overlooked in German quantitative ageing studies due to fragmented secondary data. This study critically evaluates German quantitative secondary datasets to establish how methodological improvements could pave the way for more accurate and inclusive research and practice. Approach: We conducted an exploratory secondary data search and systematically screened German surveys published since 2014. We evaluated studies capturing populations aged 50+ with variables on sexual orientation/gender identity, as well as social, socioeconomic, or health indicators. Out of the 141 questionnaires screened, only nine met our inclusion criteria and achieved a minimum viable sample size of 20 LGBT+ individuals. We then subjected these nine studies to comparative methodological scrutiny. Relevance to the workshop theme: This presentation addresses the workshop's focus on research gaps and the scoping review's finding of a 'lack of consensus'. Our analysis reveals a significant absence of consensus in the operationalisation of the target group: studies rarely capture both sexual orientation and gender identity simultaneously. Furthermore, data limitations, such as restrictive binary gender categories or inaccurate household cohabitation proxies, mask the community's internal heterogeneity. By exposing these obstacles and their impact on the needs of older LGBT+ individuals, we propose actionable, evidence-based solutions for standardising multidimensional data collection in future ageing research.



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