

International Perspectives on Defining and Measuring the Needs of Older LGBTQIA+ People

2 July 2026 · Online · Workshop Programme

11:50–13:10 — Presentation Session 1

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
Ranjita Biswas <i>Sappho for Equality,</i> <i>India</i>	Ageing, care planning and kinship networks in India	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
		<p>collective responsibility. They acknowledge diverse forms of intimacy and belonging while creating pathways for support across generations and life stages.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Thiago Nascimento and Jonatas Pinheiro <i>Universidade São Judas Tadeu, Brazil</i></p>	<p>LGBTQIA+ Aging, Art, and Self-Perception: The Impact of Social Representations on Mental Health</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>The Deepest Part Is the Skin (O Mais Profundo é a Pele)</i>, a photographic project by Rafael Medina that foregrounds LGBTQIA+ experiences, identities, and bodies. Through this comparison, the research investigates how aging, desire, and</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
		<p>belonging are represented, recognized, or marginalized within visual culture.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Raphael Eppler-Hattab <i>University of Haifa, Israel</i></p>	<p>The working life course of aging LGBTQ workers</p>	<p>Aims: 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.</p> <p>Methods: 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</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Reference: Eppler-Hattab, R., & Steindórsdóttir, B. D. (2025). The working life course of aging LGBTQ workers: An intersectional perspective and a theoretical framework. <i>Work, Aging and Retirement</i>. https://doi.org/10.1093/workar/waaf020</p>
<p>Richard Vytningu <i>University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom</i></p>	<p>Intraminority stress and experiences of exclusion among mid-older LGBTQ+ people</p>	<p>This 5-minute talk will outline a paper I'm beginning to write drawing from LGBTQ+ data from the IncludeAge project (2022-27). This paper will explore the role or significance of intraminority stress on how mid-older LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ people.</p>
<p>Milton Crenitte <i>University of São Paulo, Brazil</i></p>	<p>Promoting Health and Wellbeing Among Transgender Adults Aged 40+: Experiences from a Brazilian Public Health Initiative</p>	<p>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</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
		<p>geriatrics service, where medical residents in geriatrics actively participate in patient care under supervision.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

13:10–13:30 — Break

13:30–14:50 — Presentation Session 2

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
<p>Sari Handayani <i>Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia</i></p>	<p>Citizens' Perspectives and Evaluation of the Implementation of Age-Friendly Cities in Indonesia</p>	<p>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-</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
		<p>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.</p>
<p>Junior Malinowski <i>Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos em Sexualidade Humana (SBRASH), Brazil</i></p>	<p>Homosexual Men and Aging: Body, Desire, and Sexual Narratives</p>	<p>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</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
		<p>down prejudices embedded in social imaginaries and in the personal imaginaries of the elderly themselves.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
<p>Sandra Regina Mota Ortiz <i>Universidade São Judas Tadeu, Brazil</i></p>	<p>Embodied Resistance: Rethinking the Needs of Older LGBTQIA+ People through Literature and Movement</p>	<p>visibility and dignity for aging homosexual men.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
<p>Maya Chew <i>University of Surrey, United Kingdom</i></p>	<p>Using River of Life to Rethink Older LGBTQIA+ Needs Internationally</p>	<p>affirmation, and resistance to marginalisation.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Robert Heidemann <i>TU Dortmund University, Germany</i></p>	<p>LGBT+ Ageing in Germany: Opportunities and Challenges for Quantitative Social Research</p>	<p>Aims: 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.</p> <p>Approach: We conducted an exploratory secondary data search and systematically screened German surveys published since</p>

Speaker	Title of Presentation	Abstract
		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>