

Socially Inclusive Ageing across the Life Course: A study of new ageing populations

Professors Christina Victor, Justin Fisher, Keming Yu, Drs Michael Thomas, Isla Rippon, Amy Prescott (Brunel). Dr Kimberley Smith (Surrey)

Why do we need to do this study?

We know that being socially healthy, not being lonely or isolated, having good social connections and feeling part of the local community, promotes the health and wellbeing of older adults. Because of the importance of social health, a range of policies and services to help us be socially health have been developed. However few are successful. We think this is because most research studies and interventions look at social health at a single point in time, rather than looking over the life course of individuals. Also certain groups of older people who we think may be vulnerable to poor social health—those from minority ethnic groups, older adults with LGBTQ+ identity and those ageing with lifelong disabilities—are often excluded from our research studies. Our research project addresses these evidence gaps.

How will we answer our research questions?

We will answer these questions using two types of data-quantitative and qualitative:

- We will answer our first four questions using existing large longitudinal surveys including the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and other studies such as Understanding Society.
- We will answer our fifth question by undertaking interviews with participants drawn from our three groups to capture their understanding and lived experience of social health.
- Using timeline interviews we will look at how individual experiences of social health have been influenced by their life course such as family relationships and employment and wider societal factors such as the development of equalities and discrimination legislation.

What will we do with our findings?

At the end of the project we will produce a range of different outputs to make our findings available to different audiences:

- Lay summaries, TED talks, podcasts of key findings for those with lived experience of poor social health, members of our 3 specific populations and the wider older adult population/general population. for research participants,
- Best evidence briefing papers for policy makers, service providers and practitioners
- Academic papers, creation and deposit of new data sets and seminar presentations for the academic community.

What do we want to find out?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

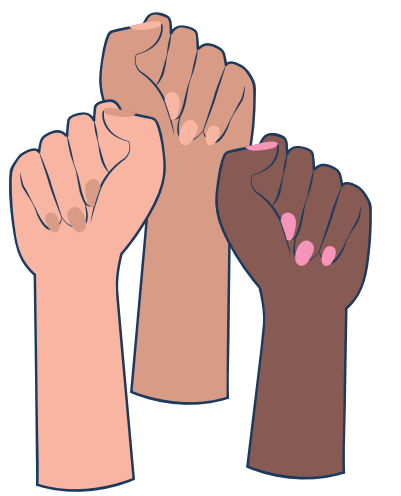
What is their social health and does it differ from the general older adult population?

Does social health differ between these groups and within them?

What factors explain observed differences in social health?

How do life course and intersectional factors influence social health?

What is the lived experience of social health for these three groups of older adults?



How can I get involved with the project?

If you or your organisation are interested in getting involved with the project, please contact Christina Victor or email us: sial@brunel.ac.uk

