

Social inclusive ageing across the lifecycle: a study of new ageing populations

Project Team

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Project Overview

Aim of our ESRC funded project is to reframe research on loneliness & social isolation by:

- Developing the concept of social health
- Investigating the importance the lifecourse as a determinant of social health in later life
- Focussing upon the experiences of under-researched groups of older adults
 - > minority ethnic people
 - > those who identify as LGBTQ+
 - > those living with a (lifelong) disability
- Considering the importance of intersectionality in understanding social health exposures and outcomes

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Strand One: Quantitative

Research Questions & Methods

Research questions include:

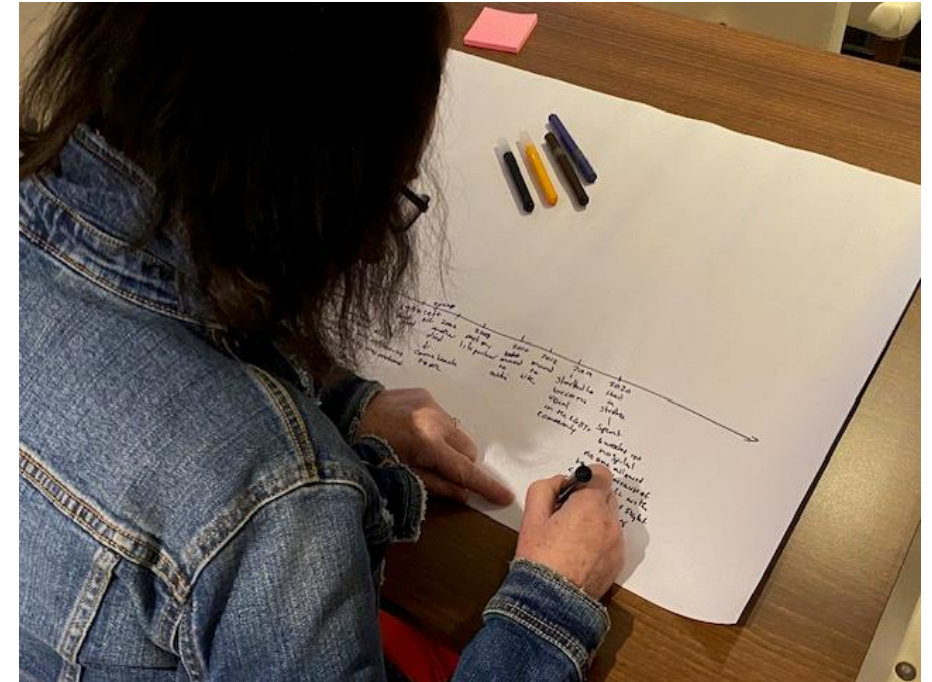
- What are the social health outcomes for each group?
- Do they vary across groups, within groups and from age/gender matched peers without these identities?
- What factors explain observed social health outcomes and variations?
- How do life course and intersectional factors influence social health outcomes?

Secondary data analysis of existing studies:

- Two established longitudinal studies are central to our study: the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and Understanding Society/UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)
- Alongside studies, such as, SABRE (Southall and Brent REvisited)



Strand two: Qualitative Timeline interviews



Timeline Interviews: Method of life history research

Use of a timeline as a focal point for an interview: as a visual representation of main events and milestones in an individual biography

Timeline as an 'organising principle' for a conversation, not as a rigid, linear tool

Collaborative effort between participant and researcher: potential for co-production

Potentially holistic- allows for life stories to be placed in context of wider historical, social, political context

Testing out this approach: Co-production events

Sessions with older LGBTQ+ community groups in London spring 2023.

Time spent building relationships with community groups and service users. Trust is important; potential for this to be an over-researched group.

Time spent introducing the project by researchers who were open about our identifying as part of LGBTQ+ communities. Also introduced timeline and shared examples of our own timelines that we had produced.

Asked service users to work on their own timelines, given loose instructions about drawing a timeline, scope of the timeline period, using whatever formatting or colours they wanted.

Researchers circulated to answer any queries but these were not pilot interviews. Sought feedback from service users afterwards. Images in today's presentation are shared with their permission.

What did they look like?

BORN [redacted] OLDER SISTER + BROTHER REJECTED BY BROTHER THE REST OF HIS LIFE

GREW UP BEING DIFFERENT BUT NOT REALISING UNTIL AUBREY. WITH HINDSIGHT HAD BEEN ATTRACTED TO MY OWN SEX FREQUENTLY.

ABOUT 1950, AT SCHOOL YOU HAD TO DECIDE WHAT SUBJECTS YOU WOULD WANT FOR FUTURE CAREER.

LATH TEACHER RIG HERSELF OF ME BY SETTING ME FRASAGE OF EXTREME MEN WHO DIDNT GO TO GAIL WITH CREOSOTE - CAMPAIGN LEFT HER CLASS!

ALL TIME ~~1955~~ 1955-1958

KEPT HEAD DOWN

SEVERAL IDENTURED APPRENTICE SHIP IN SEAMEN'S SERVICES OFFICE IN EDINBURGH, UNBUILT UP

1958-1971

STAVED CIVIL SERVICE AS LOVELY TRUCKMAN BUT VERY BLOODY APRIL 1968-69 CYPRUS 1966-67

1972

LEFT C.S. TO LIVE AND WORK WITH MY LOVER GEORGE IN DEVON

1980

GEORGE DIED VERY UNEXPECTEDLY OF ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE BOTTOM FELL OUT OF MY WORLD AND JUST GOT THROUGH LIFE AS POSSIBLE.

1980-96

WENT BACK TO LIVE WITH MOTHER AND ENDED AS HER CAREER. WE WERE ALWAYS GOOD FRIENDS.

1996-2022

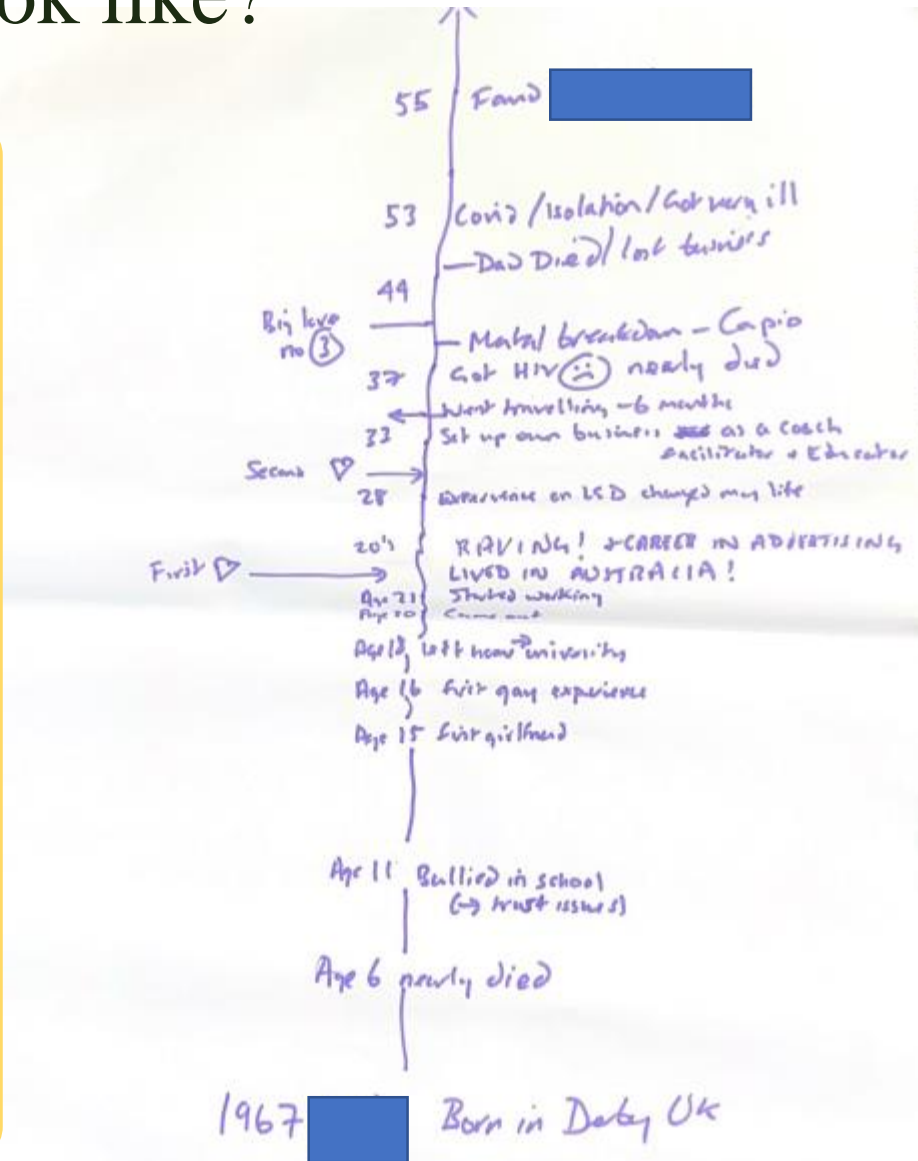
RETIRED TO N. LONDON VOLUNTEER AT SUBBERSHUFFERS (NICE) VARIOUS PART TIME JOBS TO 65 FULL RETIREMENT.

2022 - Today

READ ABOUT [redacted] IN ODL SEND LETTER, THE EXPLORE, FROM MEDIA FILMED ME THE COMMENTARY OLD AGE SHOWS I THOUGHT I WOULD BE SMALL THAT PARADE ON 15th FEBRUARY

Some took a linear, chronological approach

Here use of emojis, uppercase and exclamation marks seem to signify significant events



What feedback did we get?

“It did allow me to think through my life”

“It was good, I felt like it was almost freeing to reflect”

“Helpful, revealing and cathartic”

“It stirs up memories, makes you think about what happened to you”

“Some things stick that you would rather forget. It brings things back”

“I’ve found greater freedom in later life as family have died off and they are not around to be embarrassed”

Going forward: recruitment and data collection

We will be testing our timeline interview method with individuals belonging to our ethnic minority group who have experienced a stroke

Once ethical approval has been granted (decision pending), we then will begin our official recruitment process with community groups that we have been working with

We hope to recruit around 20 people per group

We will audio record the interviews and conduct them in a place each participant feels comfortable with for around (45-90 mins) and then return for a second interview a 1-2 months later

Timelines will be analysed alongside the verbatim to explore aspects of social health, loneliness and connectedness. These results will also be used to explore how policy and legislation have had an impact over the life-course