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The New DyNamIcs Of AgeInG
ProGraMme

 The New Dynamics of Ageing Research Programme and Older People’s Involvement - Alan Walker

 Look at Me! : Older People’s Involvement in Research Exploring Images of Ageing - Lorna Warren

 The NDA Programme – The OPRG Perspective
Mary Sinfield

IFA 11th Global Conference on Ageing, Prague, 31 May 2012
The NDA is a multidisciplinary research collaboration to both investigate the new dynamics of ageing and the various influences shaping them; and to show how their consequences can be managed to achieve the maximum benefits for older people and society

- ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC, AHRC
- Budget = £22 million
- 2005 – 2013
- 35 projects, 136 senior researchers, 42 post docs, 29 PhDs
- 128 others e.g. Advisory, partners, admin teams
THE NEW DYNAMICS OF AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- Generate new knowledge: life course influences, changes and increasing diversity in meaning and experience of ageing
- To encourage and support the development of new multi- and interdisciplinary perspectives on ageing
- To encourage comparative research and provide new opportunities for UK science to link with other countries
- To support a new generation of multidisciplinary researchers
- To provide a sound evidence base for policy, practice and product development so that research contributes to well-being and quality of life
THE NEW DYNAMICS OF AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

RESEARCH THEMES

1. Ageing Well Across the Life course
   i) Active Ageing
   ii) Autonomy and Independence
   iii) Later Life Transitions
   iv) The Oldest Old

2. Ageing and its Environments
   i) Resources for Ageing
   ii) Locality, Place and Participation
   iii) The Built and Technological Environments
   iv) The Global Dynamics of Ageing
THE NEW DYNAMICS OF AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

University of Glasgow, Glasgow School of Art, University of Strathclyde

Lancaster University

University of Ulster

University of Manchester
Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Salford

Keele University
University of Derby
Nottingham Trent University
University of Nottingham
University of Leicester
Loughborough University
University of Birmingham

Swansea University
Cardiff University
University of Wales, Newport

University of Bristol
Bristol Urological Institute
University of Bath
University of the West of England
Plymouth University

University of Oxford
Oxford Brookes University
University of Reading
Kingston University
The Open University

Bournemouth University
University of Portsmouth
Southampton University
University of Brighton
University of Sussex
University of Surrey
University of Kent

University of Aberdeen, University of Dundee, University of St Andrews

Newcastle University
Northumbria University

University of York

The University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University

University of Lincoln

Anglia Ruskin University, University of East Anglia, Middlesex University

Brunel University
Birkbeck, University of London
Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Goldsmiths
Imperial College, London
Institute of Education, London
King's College London
London School of Economics
London College of Fashion
LSHTM
MRC
Royal College of Art
University College London
University of Westminster

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NDA LINKS WITH CANADIAN INSTITUTIONS

University of Toronto
University of Ottawa
Universite Laval
University of Victoria
University of Alberta
University of Montreal
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Universite de Sherbrooke

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COMMISSIONING THE NDA PROGRAMME

Three Core Principles:

- High quality multi-disciplinary science
- User engagement
- Impact on policy, practice, product development
THE NEW DYNAMICS OF AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk
IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- Significant scientific advances including the association between measures of physical capacity and survival; proof of the zero effect of the ACTN3 genotype on measures of physical capacity and muscle function (contrary to the hype surrounding this genotype); the susceptibility of older patients with depression to reduced immunity; and the stronger link between depression and anxiety and factors measured in later life compared with factors measured in very early life.

- Direct contribution to government action to support the economic security of older people in Tamil Nadu (Southern India) including a doubling of the social pension which benefited more than 1.5 million people.

- Exhibition of project output in the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

- First joint China/UK workshop on ageing

- Major inputs to UK Government’s strategy on ageing

- Capacity building among early career researchers
USER ENGAGEMENT IN THE NDA PROGRAMME

Commissioning:  
• Highest quality science, multidisciplinarity and user engagement  
• Commissioning panel and peer review

Supporting:  
• Specific project funding  
• Preparatory networks innovation  
• Follow-on funding  
• Programme meetings  
• Programme and project advisory groups  
• User workshops, findings
NDA FOCUS ON USER ENGAGEMENT

User organisations

Older people

Consultants, Advisors & Steering Group

Panels, groups and individuals

Panel of 1000 elders
Voluntary Action Charnwood
Mintoes
U3A, etc.

Participation processes
Participative design
Interactive theatre
Change management
Inclusive/user-centred design

Academic Expertise in Sus-IT

Cognitive psychology
Gerontology
Demography and ageing
Social informatics
3D environments
Assistive technology
Digital media accessibility
Interactive design

Microsoft
Ambient Performance
Dolphin
AbilityNet
London Borough of Barnet
Local Government East Midlands
Charnwood Borough Council
ROL
NIACE
OATS

Representatives of older people (advocacy; policy making)

Help the Aged
Age Concern, etc.

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THE SPECIAL CASE OF OLDER PEOPLE’S INVOLVEMENT

- Consumerism (Tokenism) vs. Empowerment
- A Matter of Human Rights
- Essential for Beneficial Research Outputs
- Support for the New Politics of Ageing
- Pressure from Funding Agencies
THE NDA OLDER PEOPLE’S REFERENCE GROUP

Aims

- To advise the Director on the overall shape, structure and balance of the programme from the perspective of older people.
- To help to monitor outputs from the programme and consider their implications for older people.
- To help to disseminate the outputs from the Programme, especially to older people, and to encourage discussion of the findings.
- To act as a resource to the programme on issues concerning the involvement of older people in all stages of the research process.
- To give advice where requested to individual research projects within the programme.

Meeting in November 2011, London
Key Challenges

- Early involvement of OPRG
- Clear guidelines
- Budget
- Difficulties in communication
- Time and staff resources
- Skills matching to project needs
- Question of representation
- Fit with different disciplines
- Ethics
THE NDA OLDER PEOPLE’S REFERENCE GROUP

Indicators of Success

- Openness on Both Sides (2-way learning)
- Programme Capacity
  - Meeting of OPRG (compare notes, solidarity)
  - Joint meetings
  - Funding and flexibility
- Non-exploitative
- OPRG Representative as Research Team Member
- Regular Information Flow
THE NDA OLDER PEOPLE’S REFERENCE GROUP

Role Potential

- Early input to engagement plan
- Help with project communication
- Training resource
- Input to future research proposals
- Networking resource
- Help with knowledge transfer
- Ambassadorial
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