Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

• **Paper / Proposal Title:**

From design strategy to real – world social networks; the value of systematic community engagement in planning for ageing in place: findings from ODESSA, a trans-disciplinary international study for an ageing-in-place framework.

• **Format:**

Presentation

• **Author(s) Name:**

Professor David Morris, Dr Manjit Bola, Dr Tulika Gadakari, Professor Karim Hadri.

• **University or Company Affiliation:**

University of Central Lancashire; University of Sheffield.

• **Abstract (300 words):**

Ageing populations, socio-demographic changes and economic challenges are key factors in driving the need for an evidence - based approach to future ageing-in-place policy and practice. ODESSA, a three year collaborative study involving the universities of Central Lancashire, Sheffield, Tsinghua, (Beijing) and Dauphine (Paris) contributes to this evidence base through its study, concluding in 2018, to produce an ageing-in place framework, capable of guiding development and practice across the three participating countries. ODESSA has been explicitly concerned to integrate deliberative community engagement and a participative research approach into the study process, from elements concerned with strategic development, design and age-specific technologies to those considering the value of individual social and community networks as sources of support, citizen participation and sustainability.

The paper will focus on findings from the study's work on social and community networks, describing the process through which community members became researchers of own localities, setting this in a contextual description of Connected Communities, an earlier five year Big Lottery funded programme which explored the key themes and dimensions of community capital through local, social and community network analysis:

https://www.thersa.org/.../community-capital-the-value-of-connected-communities

It will also describe the approach taken to service user and community engagement more generally, including the multi country focus group work established as a participative approach to address mainstream housing design and assistive technology needs. The paper will summarize the ways in which the work of ODESSA has been synthesized to create findings with shared practical value from trans-disciplinary work in countries with significant socio-political and cultural diversity. In presenting the study's preliminary findings, the presentation will provide for shared reflection on the value of participation both for the design of a strategic ageing-in-place framework and for its implementation as a guide to action on connecting communities for social support and citizen contribution in ageing.

- **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

David Morris PhD, BA, DASS, CQSW, FRSA

David Morris is Professor of Mental Health, Inclusion and Community at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and as founding Director of the Centre for Citizenship and Community, leads a wide ranging research portfolio of projects based on Connected Communities, a five year collaboration with the RSA. From 2004 to 2009 he was Director of the cross – government National Social Inclusion Programme (NSIP) at the Department of Health with responsibility for strategic implementation of the Social Exclusion Unit's report on mental health.

David has founded and led a number of programmes in the field of social inclusion and community engagement contributing nationally and internationally in a broad range of advisory and consultative roles to the development of policy and practice. He has a particular interest in the application of community engagement methodologies to the possibilities and social challenges of ageing and in relation to dementia where he has undertaken work as a member of the Prime Minister's national Champions Group.

With a professional background in social work and management of mental health services in social care, David's career has spanned statutory and voluntary sectors, Central and Local Government, social care, health and academia. He is a Fellow of the RSA.

Manjit Bola PhD, MSc, FRSA

Manjit joined the University of Central Lancashire in 2001, and since then has led on a number of Community Engagement research projects and courses which have been delivered on a national basis. The research projects have included working with a diverse range of community groups. The methodologies applied include action research; participatory, community engagement and social network approaches. More recently, Manjit has worked on the five year Connected Communities study together with the Royal Society for the Arts (RSA) and the London School of Economics (LSE). This action research project analysed how different interventions build and sustain individuals' personal networks. She is currently working on a Euro-China collaborative project – ODESSA, which is focused on meeting older people's needs in terms of long-term care by exploring the relationships between the living arrangements and environments of older people and the design of care delivery from technological, financial, political and social perspectives. Manjit's contribution to this project concerns exploration of the role of social and community networks in supporting healthy ageing in place. In addition to her research interests, Manjit has extensive teaching experience which includes designing, developing and delivering undergraduate, post graduate, bespoke and CPD courses.

Tulika Gadakari PhD, MArch, BArch

Dr. Tulika Gadakari is a Research Associate at the University of Sheffield funded by the Economic and Social Research Council of UK (ESRC) working on a Euro-China collaborative project that finds innovative ways of helping older people to age in their own homes to aid independence, care delivery and better communities.

As an architect, Tulika specialises in intelligent building technologies, age-friendly design and sustainable architecture. She is particularly passionate about using smart environments as a means of promoting ageing-in-place and achieving energy-efficient, cost-effective and socially sustainable architecture. Having completed her PhD in 2014, she has held teaching, research and bid development positions at the University of Sheffield, University of Central Lancashire and University of Wolverhampton, with over 10 years of added architectural practice experience.

Karim Hadjri PhD, MPhil, Dip.Arch

Professor Karim Hadjri is an architect, and holds a Master of Philosophy (1989) and a Doctor of Philosophy (1992) in housing studies completed at the Joint Centre for Urban Design at Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK. He has worked as a scholar in the United Kingdom (Queen's University Belfast), UAE and Saudi Arabia, and managed academic units and research centres in both Cyprus and Colombia. He has been teaching architecture at undergraduate and postgraduate levels since 1993. He is currently Chair in Architecture at the University of Sheffield.

His research explores the influence of the built environment on various user groups, including people with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments. Karim's current research interests are concerned with the challenges of designing age-friendly environments, as well as enabling environments particularly for people with dementia.