PAAR-NET

RE-IMAGINING COMMUNITY AND PLACE

The PAAR-NET WG2 'Community and Place' aims to bridge significant gaps in research and knowledge related to the varied ageing experiences across Europe and beyond. These gaps extend past general ageing issues to critical concerns like social exclusion, marginalisation, cultural disadvantage, and ageism. Using participatory and co-creation approaches, it seeks to address both the challenges and opportunities that occur in community and place settings, to enhance the inclusion of older adults in research, policy-making, and service design.

The challenges include:

Social Exclusion and Marginalisation

Many older adults, particularly those from marginalised groups such as refugees, Indigenous people, migrants, and individuals living in poverty or remote areas, face significant barriers to participation.

Obstacles to Social Inclusion

Impediments include cultural discrimination, social inequality, and the lack of economic resources like inadequate housing and food insecurity.

Addressing Cultural and Socioeconomic Disparities

Participatory approaches must be culturally sensitive and adaptable to the diverse worldviews, values, and needs of older people.

Recognising Intersectionality and Complexity

Participatory approaches require nuanced and equitable solutions that understand the complexity of how age, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status intersect and avoid oversimplistic responses that do not adequately address the issues.

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The opportunities include:

Enhancing Inclusivity: Engaging a diverse range of older adults, particularly those from marginalised groups, leads to more inclusive and effective decision-making and participation.

Participatory Approaches to Cultural Diversity: Developing culturally tailored participatory approaches that reflect unique worldviews, values, and needs of older adults in research, improve policy-making and service design.

Strengthening Local Networks: Local networks, including family, friends, and community institutions, play a crucial role in supporting the inclusion and well-being of older adults.

Developing Tailored Tools and Methods: Developing and applying participatory tools and methods, specifically designed to engage older participants, will foster respect and promote more equitable solutions.

WG2 focuses on the urgent need for contextually sensitive research projects that involve participatory and co-creation approaches with older people in research. It seeks to develop inclusive, effective, and evidence-based strategies that grow out of the authentic involvement of diverse older populations to create fit-for-purpose higher-quality policy-making and practice interventions.

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