



Report

Ageing Societies: Change, Challenge and Chance

Report Prepared by Yiu-tung Suen

**(Photos in this report taken by:
Norainie Ahmad and Seung-min Park)**

Friday 4th December 09

Postgraduate Conference on Ageing Studies

Sponsors: Oxford Institute of Ageing and St. Antony's College



Main Summary

The 'Ageing Societies: Change, Challenge and Chance' Postgraduate Conference, sponsored generously by Annual Fund and Conferences and Speakers Fund of St. Antony's College and Oxford Institute of Ageing, took place on 4th December 2009.

Professor Margaret Macmillan, Warden of St. Antony's College and Professor Sarah Harper, Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing, addressed the conference. The keynote speech was given by Professor Sarah Harper on 'Global Ageing Societal Challenges and the Capacity to Adapt'. The expert panel discussion forum was chaired by Dr. George Leeson, Deputy Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing, with speakers including Mr. Paul Cann, Chief Executive, Age Concern Oxfordshire, Mr. Jonathan Herring, Fellow in Law, Exeter College, University of Oxford, Professor Paul Higgs, Professor of the Sociology of Ageing, University College London and Professor Chris Phillipson, Professor of Applied Social Studies and Social Gerontology, Keele University.

The conference was attended by more than 70 participants from 8 countries including UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, France, Czech Republic and Lithuania. Students came from more than 10 disciplines including Gerontology, Sociology, Social Policy, Anthropology, Demography, Politics, Health Sciences, Health Psychology, Education, Social Work and History. Students' presentation topics were of an amazing variety, with discussions on geographic locations including Western Europe, UK, US, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Korea, South Africa, Belarus, Philippines, rural Malawi and rural Bangladesh.



From conference participants:

'I definitely came away from it feeling accomplished and ready to take the next step in my career and studies.'

'A thematic structure of the conference was very helpful for my research and, of course, many colleagues gave inspiration to me.'

The Morning session was held at Dahrendorf Room and Deakin Room, St. Antony's College.



Left and Right: Conference Delegates

Conference Welcome

Professor Margaret Macmillan, Warden of St. Antony's College and Professor Sarah Harper, Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing, addressed the conference.

Professor Macmillan expressed that as the most international graduate college at University of Oxford and specializing in Social Sciences, St. Antony's was especially happy to host the event. Professor Sarah Harper also welcomed the participants to the conference, and noted that the scale of the event signified the growth in students' academic interest in ageing.



Left: Professor Sarah Harper, Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing

Right: Professor Margaret Macmillan, Warden of St. Antony's College



Professor Margaret Macmillan, Warden of St. Antony's College with Students with research interests in ageing at St. Antony's College

Left to Right: Patricia O'Neil, Jacobus Hoffman, Professor Margaret Macmillan and Yiu-Tung Suen

Keynote Speech



Professor Sarah Harper, Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing

The keynote speech of the conference was given by Professor Sarah Harper, Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing. The title of the speech was 'Global Ageing Societal Challenges and the Capacity to Adapt'. The thought-provoking speech touched upon intergenerational transfers, responsibilities of individuals and governments in ageing societies and similarities and differences of ageing populations across the globe.

Student Participants

After the keynote speech, two parallel student presentation sessions 'Ageing and Work Panel' and 'Ageing and Gender' were held at Dahrendorf Room and Deakin Room. In each panel, five student presenters spoke about their research projects in turn, and joined other speakers for questions and answers for half-an-hour.



'Ageing and Work' panel, Dahrendorf Room



'Ageing and Gender' panel, Deakin Room



Lunch at Dining Hall, St. Antony's, provided a chance for networking among participants.

After the first student panel, participants had lunch at the college dining hall which provided a chance for networking.

Two parallel student presentation sessions 'Ageing, Care and Health' and 'Ageing and Intergenerational Relations' were held in the afternoon.



'Ageing and Intergenerational Relations' panel, Dahrendorf Room



'Ageing, Care and Health' panel, Deakin Room

Expert Discussion Forum

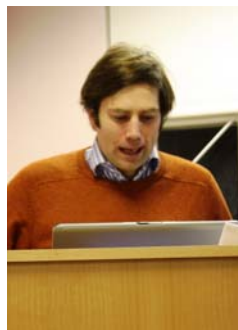
After the second student panel, the delegates were welcomed to Oxford Institute of Ageing at the new site on Banbury Road.



Left: Expert Discussion Forum at Lecture Theatre, Oxford Institute of Ageing

The panel was chaired by Dr. George Leeson, Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing. The four distinguished speakers, including Mr. Paul Cann, Chief Executive, Age Concern Oxfordshire, Mr. Jonathan Herring, Fellow in Law, Exeter College, University of Oxford, Professor Paul Higgs, Professor of the Sociology of Ageing, University College London and Professor Chris Phillipson, Professor of Applied Social Studies and Social Gerontology, Keele University spoke on the challenges and chances that ageing populations bring. The panel discussed a range of issues including diversity among older people, legal protection for older people, a new 'old age', consumption, critical gerontology, rural and urban ageing, global ageing, the bridge between theory and practice and many others. Student participants were invited to join the debate in the second half of the forum and actively engaged.

Professor Sarah Harper, Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing, concluded the conference and encouraged participants to stay in touch and further network and collaborate.



From Left to Right

Chair: Dr. George Leeson, Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing

Panelists:

Mr. Paul Cann, Chief Executive, Age Concern Oxfordshire

Mr. Jonathan Herring, Fellow in Law, Exeter College, University of Oxford

Professor Paul Higgs, Professor of the Sociology of Ageing, University College London

Professor Chris Phillipson, Professor of Applied Social Studies and Social Gerontology, Keele University

Feedback from Participants

‘The topics chosen were indeed thought provoking and the expert panel was particularly engaging... I definitely came away from it feeling accomplished and ready to take the next step in my career and studies.’

‘I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was very well organised, with some interesting presentations, and exciting key speakers.’

‘I was much impressed with the conference and all of participants. Especially, a thematic structure of the conference was very helpful for my research and, of course, many colleagues gave inspiration to me.’



‘Thank you very much for organizing the conference, I heard many interesting things and that is thanks to you!’

‘It really was an enjoyable event and good to meet so many people interested in ageing.’

‘I had a fantastic day and as well as the informative presentations I found the networking particularly enjoyable.’

‘I want to congratulate you on putting together such an interesting conference. I found it very helpful and enjoyable.’

Acknowledgements

All Speakers in the Conference (in alphabetical order):

- Mr. Paul Cann, Chief Executive, Age Concern Oxfordshire
- Professor Sarah Harper, Professor of Gerontology and Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing
- Mr. Jonathan Herring, Fellow in Law, Exeter College, University of Oxford
- Professor Paul Higgs, Professor of the Sociology of Ageing, University College London
- Dr. George Leeson, Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of Oxford Institute of Ageing
- Professor Chris Phillipson, Professor of Applied Social Studies and Social Gerontology, Keele University

St. Antony's College, University of Oxford:

- All Board Members of Conferences and Speakers Fund
- All Board Members of Annual Fund
- Warden, Professor Margaret Macmillan
- Bursar, Mr. Allan Taylor
- Domestic Bursar, Mr. Peter Robinson
- Registrar, Ms. Margaret Couling
- Development Director, Ms. Emma Tracy
- Accommodation & Conference Co-ordinator, Ms. Karin Leighton
- Steward, Mr. Tony Squirrel
- VP Academic, Graduate Common Room, Mr. Matthew Lee
- Secretary, Graduate Common Room, Ms. Christine Murphy

Oxford Institute of Ageing, University of Oxford:

All Staff and Students, especially:

- Dr. Andreas Hoff
- Ms. Debbie Alder
- Ms. Angelika Kaiser
- Ms. Sue Marcus

All Support Team Members (in alphabetical order):

- Ms. Norainie Ahmad
- Mr. Brian Beech
- Ms. Yuko Fujiwara
- Ms. Francesca Ghillani
- Mr. Jaco Hoffman
- Ms. Beatriz Jiménez
- Ms. Jiweon Jun
- Ms. Patricia O'Neil
- Mr. Seung-min Park
- Mr. Atulya Saxena
- Mr. Chien-Chun (Josh) Tzeng

For Their Support, Love and Encouragement, as always:

- Family and friends in Hong Kong
- Ms. Anne Fuentes
- Mr. Jowel Canuday
- Mr. Daniel Cojocar
- Ms. Roselyn Lemus
- Mr. Yasushi Sukegawa

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