

House, Home & Living conditions of older adults

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Session theme

The “graying” of the world population is a well-known and well documented phenomenon (Lewis, 1997). In general, improvements in health care and increasing prosperity have resulted in a steady expansion of the number of elderly over the last 50 years. The growing number of older adults have specific needs, for instance with regard to housing. In Western countries, such as the UK, Australia and the Netherlands, policy advocates ‘ageing in place’ or living at home for as long as possible. However, ageing in place is not always possible for all older adults. In the context of changing health, both bodily and mental decline are possible changes that older adults are confronted with. As a result of these changes, older adults might need to live in institutional settings, or decide to go and live in sheltered accommodation or closed communities. Furthermore, with increasing age, older adults might not feel at home anymore, in either their neighborhood, or their house. They might decide to relocate, for instance to a smaller house, or closer to amenities. Such decisions are life-changing, whether at the scale of real estate, home making or feeling a sense of place, and they bring a variety of emotions and feelings of attachment or detachment with them

This session aims to investigate and discuss research on older adults and their experiences with house, home and living conditions. This can be quantitative or qualitative work on all spatial scale levels. Furthermore we also encourage papers that specifically discuss methodological issues and ethical considerations in the research on older adults. Examples include, but are not restricted to: moving motivations for older adults, home-making in institutions, wellbeing and ageing, rural older adults versus urban older adults, social networks of older adults, real-estate options for older adults and policy research.

Please send paper abstracts of between 250-300 words to Aleid Brouwer (a.e.brouwer@rug.nl) and Louise Meijering (l.b.meijering@rug.nl) by January 5th, 2013.

About the organizers

Aleid Brouwer is assistant professor at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Department of Economic Geography at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. Aleid has done extensive research on firm location from both the behavioural approach as well as from the viewpoint of the Organizational Ecology, using both qualitative as well as quantitative methodology. Her specific interests are: firm demography, international firm (re)location and entrepreneurship as a chance for older adults. <http://www.rug.nl/staff/a.e.brouwer/index>

Louise Meijering is assistant professor at the Population Research Centre (PRC) at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Louise’s main research focus is on research on older adults, and the relation between their experienced well-being and attachment to place. In her research, she typically applied a qualitative methodology, with methods such as in-depth interviews, go-along-interviews and observation. Louise is particularly interested in a participatory research in ageing and health. Further research interests are community, stroke

patients and migration experiences. For more information, see:
<http://www.rug.nl/staff/l.b.meijering/index>