Ageing, health and urban wellbeing

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1. HULAP UK (Belfast) and Brazil (Curitiba)
2. Actor Networks and assemblages
3. Policy discourses, disconnections and clusters
4. Comparative responses
5. Implications for research and practice
HULAP STUDY

Belfast

Curitiba
Literature and networks

- Ageing in place, de-institutionalised health and care in the community (Liddle et al., 2014)
- Age Friendly Cities (AFC) (WHO, 2007; Emlet and Moceri, 2012)
- Lifetime neighbourhoods, adaptation and retrofitting place (Nefs et al., 2013)
- Age neighbourhoods and the suburbs (Nijman and Clery, 2015)
- Physical activity, walkability and ageing (Todd, et al., 2016)
- Isolation, loneliness and perishing familial and social networks (Hagan 2014; JRF, 2012)
- Older people as active producers of their own place, services and social interaction (Stewart et al., 2014)
- Older people are reified and displaced by more profitable demographics (Peck et al., 2013; Liddle et al, 2014)

Latour (2005) that assemblages can be understood via 5 dimensions:

1. the nature of groups
   - Actor identification and legitimacy
2. the nature of action
   - The modalities of actor working and network mapping
3. the nature of objects
   - Governance arenas, speech and symbolic representation of issues
4. the nature of facts;
   - How evidence is created, translated and used
5. the type of studies
   - The discursive nature of policy and how, and who, produces it and ultimately receives it
Local authority and intermediate agencies; focused on ‘growth’ competitiveness and infrastructure

Strategic territorial policy planning, urban policy and urban regeneration. Strongly connected to the property economy favouring densification, youth lifestyles and creative economies.

Older people seen largely as a housing challenge.

Local ageing with strong participatory dimension and governance mechanisms. Weak connection with land use policies, agencies and most of all resources.

Diverse, innovative and responds to multiple needs but inward focused civic action. Some evidence of Shadow State roles and responsibilities.
Local Development Plan 2020-2035

Shaping a liveable place
Promoting development that enhances the health and well-being of communities, neighbourhoods and places.

Creating a vibrant economy
A strengthened Belfast as the regional economic driver.

A green and active place
A protected, enhanced and attractive natural setting, promoting uniqueness and accessibility to all who live, work and enjoy the city.

A smart connected and resilient place
Improving connectivity and supporting the efficient movement of people, goods, energy and information to create a dynamic and innovative 21st century city with the capacity for adaptation to environmental challenges.

LP4 – Specialist accommodation for older people preferred option
The Local Development Plan will contain specific policies to address the most acute needs of the community as identified in an up-to-date strategic housing market. This will include:

- Homes for older people – Setting locational criteria to ensure specialist housing for older people, including retirement villages and care-related facilities, will provide ease of access to relevant services and facilities such as shops, public transport routes and health facilities. Proposals will need to be accompanied by evidence that the homes or bed spaces meet identified community needs.
- Lifetime Homes – Requiring an appropriate proportion of new homes on strategic housing sites to be built to Lifetime Home standards so that they are adaptable enough to match changing needs of people throughout their lifetime.
Moos (2015, p.2) sees as the ‘contemporary lifestyles, demography and socio-economic conditions of the young playing out in the (urban) landscape’.

A variant of gentrification but also connected with densification and planning frameworks that emphasise compactness, competitiveness and the ‘creative class’.

Respond to the interface between the housing and labour markets lifestyle amenities and cultural assets.

‘The downtowns have become increasingly attractive to young adults (on the) contrary, older adults have been increasing in concentration in suburban neighbourhoods (p.9).
Curitiba - municipal forms of service and care
Innovative practices

• Local responses to loneliness; getting older people socially and spatially connected
• Dementia friendly communities service delivery
• Governance and mobilisation of older people as an active political lobby
• Social economy cluster; creating alternative mobility circuits, but also responsibilisation and state downloading
Implications and next steps

• Universal policies (AFC) have their limitations
  – Important for integrating actors and resources but also downloading to the local and the third sector
• Spatial scale and neighbourhood focus
  – Focus on whole of city approaches or targeted neighbourhoods, especially the suburbs
• Connectivity and urban assets
  – Urban policies and programme leverage
• Everyday spaces of encounter and the meaning of place to older people
  – Socio-psychological responses to the street, pavement and public arenas