

Ageing - Summary of responses and comments:

One response received:

1. Sarah Hean (HSC)
2. Kevin McGhee, Wei-Jun Liang and David Osselton (ApSci)

Alternative name suggestions:

Author	Name suggestion/s	Comments
1. Hean	Wellbeing and Quality of Life of Older People OR Wellbeing and Quality of Life across the Life Span	Kirsty Stanley (HSC): "I prefer the title Wellbeing and Quality of Life across the Life Span because even if the focus is on ageing and the older adult what happens in what leads up to this stage of life can be vitally important. For example research into responses to the transition into retirement place a huge importance on how work itself is viewed. Opening this up would allow wider involvement by researchers interested in different life stages too including interactions between those at different life stages." Sarah Hean (HSC): "Some of our work on financial behaviours with BS shows behaviours are well entrenched before people reach older age. Would be very happy to go with either wellbeing across/through the Life Span {or is this too generic} or wellbeing and quality of life when ageing or something similar...."
2. McGhee, Liang & Osselton	Genomics and Ageing (as a variant or sub-theme perhaps?)	

Brief theme summary:

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1. Hean	The theme focuses on intergroup communication as a means of enhancing older people's quality of life. Two dimensions are highlighted specifically: social and mental wellbeing. Social wellbeing: The theme focuses on reducing social isolation by enhancing older people's communication with peers, community, health/social care professionals and other service providers (we view service providers as all professionals that may enhance the QOL of Older People and do not confine this to health and social care	Lee-Ann Fenge (HSC): "I agree that this theme could embrace a consideration of ageing across the lifespan, but it really does need to major on old age in part due to national demographics, but also because of the age profile of our local demographics. There is a huge potential to pool expertise from across the university into ageing focused research activity (this already exists in DEC and in some of the collaborative work being undertaken by HSC and the Business School). There is also the potential to develop new spheres of ageing

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	<p>professionals alone), in order that their voice is heard in social policy. Professionals, working in multiprofessional, interagency environments, and who offer client-centred services, need to effectively communicate with each other and the client to ensure the quality of life of the older person. This theme explores how these processes can be better streamlined, understood and developed.</p> <p>Mental well being: The mental/cognitive well being of older people is also a theme focus, considering particularly the experiences of older people living with dementia and the associated concepts of vulnerability.</p> <p>We promote a humanistic approach that puts an emphasis on the lived experience of the older person, embodying their life goals and values. Hereby, older people, form part of interprofessional, interdisciplinary or interagency teams rather than the passive recipient of their actions. The theme therefore also focuses on developing these interprofessional teams through exploring and developing Interprofessional training that promotes an understanding of the value maps of both other professionals/agencies and the older person themselves.</p>	<p>research linked to the social capital that older people have and can bring to their communities, as well as being older consumers, tourists, etc.”</p>
<p>2. McGhee, Liang & Osselton</p>	<p>Demographically, the town of Bournemouth is enriched with an older, predominantly Caucasian population. Studies already proposed within this blog forum suggest that data of a phenotypic nature is available within the BU community. By introducing genomics as a tool to enhance the understanding of several themes: <i>Ageing, Health and Wellbeing, Culture and Society</i> and <i>Environmental Change and Biodiversity</i> we believe that expertise within the Forensic and Biological Sciences group (ApSci) can create new opportunities for research.</p> <p>We propose to collect DNA from the Bournemouth geographical area and match this with existing phenotypic data to create a rich knowledge databank that we can share with existing and future genomic collaborative initiatives, leading to high impact papers.</p>	<p>Jonathan Parker (HSC): “For me, this represents an exciting strand within a broader theme. Ageing and gerontological studies cover the spectrum of disciplinary areas and I would suggest genomics is a (very important) sub-theme. Too focused an approach could exclude the development of and interconnections with sociological and policy approaches to ageing, and, associated with those, performative arts based studies and work within the humanities which add to the vibrancy of research in these areas.”</p>

Scope of theme: what is included:

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<p>1. Hean</p>	<p>Research is often related to applied social science type research and</p>	

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	<p>service evaluations.</p> <p>Developing rigorous theoretical models to guide research and practice in the theme is central.</p> <p>Quantitative research: secondary data analysis of service records and cross sectional and longitudinal surveys.</p> <p>Qualitative research: a range of perspectives (phenomenology, grounded theory etc) through focus groups, interviews and practice observations. Practice development/service enhancement methodologies are also relevant.</p> <p>Members of our OPCD programme apply their expertise in user involvement, social capital, social isolation, social networks, working with vulnerable groups, mental health, Dementia, Complementary Therapies, Interprofessional working and Education to this theme.</p> <p>We focussing these skills on improving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the outcome of Wellbeing and Quality of life • the population group of Older People. <p>To give a flavour of the types of project that fit under this theme, see below:</p> <p>Previously funded Projects in Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the Mid Essex Memory Assessment and Support Service Care (<i>Programme themes: Dementia, Older people</i>) (<i>Funder: NHS</i>) • Evaluation of a Women worker in Criminal Justice System (<i>(Programme themes: mental health, intergroup communication)</i>) (<i>CoFunders: NHS/Criminal Justice System</i>) • Evaluation of the South West Mental Health Assessment, Advice and Reports in Court Proceedings Pilot (<i>(Programme themes: mental health/ intergroup communication)</i>)(<i>CoFunders: NHS/CJS</i>) • <u>E</u>volving theory in interprofessional education seminar series CROSS INSTITUTIONAL (<i>Programme themes: Intergroup communication; Funder: ESRC</i>) • Current Funded Projects in Programme • Exploring the impact of friendship clubs on social isolation for the older age group” – commissioned by. 2008-2011; (<i>Programme themes: Older People, social wellbeing</i>) (<i>Funder: Brendon care</i>) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge Transfer Partnership: Building a business/social enterprise model to support older people self funding their own care (CROSS SCHOOL: HSC-BS))(Programme themes: Older people, intergroup communication) (Funder: ESRC/ HTB)</i> • <i>Exploring older people's experiences of wellbeing and financial literacy during an Economic Down Turn (CROSS SCHOOL: HSC-BS) (Programme theme: Older people, quality of life, intergroup communication) (Joint Funders Institute of chartered accountants Scotland, Bournemouth Foundation)</i> • Bids submitted • <i>Interagency working London: evaluation of Focus teams liaising between Medium Secure Unit and CMHTs: (Short listed tender interview completed, Awaiting outcome: Programme theme: (Mental health, intergroup communication) (Funder: NHS)</i> • <i>Economic impact of social organisations: SW form: shortlisted for interview: Sarah Hean, John Fletcher, Charlie Monkcom (CAB) Presentation July 2011 CROSS SCHOOL (HSC-Tourism)(Programme theme: Older people, quality of life, Mental health, intergroup communication)(Funder: Big Lottery. SW Forum)(Awaiting outcome)</i> <p>Bids planned for term ahead: Dementia bid: mapping the care pathway from the perspective of the patient: CROSS INSTITUTIONAL (Programme theme: Older people, dementia) (Funder ESRC)</p>	
2. McGhee, Liang & Osselton	Gene x environment interaction; population genetics; psychological genetics; cognitive genetics; cancer genetics; cardiovascular genetics; genetics of ageing; biological ageing; toxicogenomics, functional genomics; cellular ageing; Alzheimer's, dementia.	

Scope of theme: what is excluded:

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1. Hean	Drug control trials or laboratory trials are out of our remit.	
2. McGhee, Liang & Osselton	Not entirely sure – open for discussion.	

Which big societal questions are addressed by this theme?

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1. Hean	<p>The Big Society promotes a move away from state support for social action to an increased reliance on community involvement and support of these activities. This places particular pressure on third/voluntary sector organisations to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of state funding and services. These organisations are finding it increasingly important to be accountable for the social and financial impact of any state funding they do still receive and they need to develop their organisations financially to be increasingly independent of state funding. In an increasingly ageing population, those third sector organisations supporting older people are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>This theme explores both the social impact (specifically on the quality of life of older people) and financial implications of these services. We anticipate that novel interagency partnerships between the private, public and third sector will be key to the way the Big Society is managed and that the theme will contribute to this by developing an understanding of these opportunities and how they work.</p>	
2. McGhee, Liang & Osselton	<p>Societal question: What is my risk of developing an illness e.g. Cardiovascular disease*?</p> <p>It is known that <i>fatty streaks</i> can appear on the major arteries of children as young as one year old. Through environmental influences such as diet, nutrition, exercise and co-morbidity, the risk of an individual child developing atherosclerosis in later adult life can change in response to a number of lifestyle factors. However, at a cellular level individual variation in genes involved in atherosclerosis pathogenesis influence how one's lifestyle factors modify that risk (and vice versa). By combining data from health science, social science and psychology with biological data such as DNA, a greater understanding of the profound interaction between genes and environment can be achieved (*This can be substituted for any</p>	

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	<p><i>disease of your choice).</i></p> <p>Can you pose these questions? If the phenotypic data is already available (i.e. social, health status, psychological study) then yes we can. In collaboration with HSC, DEC and others we would have to obtain DNA from individuals from the Bournemouth area and then link the genomic data with the phenotypic data. This will require enormous computing power and experts in e.g. the statistical package 'R' as well as genomics expertise from ApSci</p>	

How do these link to the priorities of the major funding bodies?

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1. Hean	<p>The theme is congruent with the RCUK, cross council theme of Ageing: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing: realising economic, social and health gains of healthy ageing while reducing dependency, costs and inequities later in life.</p> <p>By way of example, the funded project exploring the quality of life during and economic downturn and financial literacy in older people highlights the economic gains of health and wellbeing in older populations.</p> <p>The currently funded KTP is developing a business model for older people self funding their own care. This is particularly relevant to reducing dependency and costs in the older population</p> <p>The evaluations/tenders that fall under this theme are increasingly being asked to address the links between cost effectiveness and social impact. Our tenders on the a) economic impact of social organisations b) interagency working: London respond to this trend through a focus on cost effectiveness of wellbeing interventions, the financial impact of social interventions and the social impact of financial investment.</p> <p>The research councils, the ESRC, specifically emphasises the importance of interdisciplinary working. Thematically and operationally our bids to date are interdisciplinary: crossing school, professional, academic discipline, academic institution and public/private/third sector boundaries.</p>	
2. McGhee, Liang &	Of the seven research councils forming RCUK, two have current themes on <i>genomics and ageing</i> (BBSRC and MRC) and one further	

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Osselton	<p>council's (ESRC) theme investigating <i>social science</i> and <i>culture and science</i>. The MRC has recently closed the Phase III call with Phase I seeing the creation of three fully funded centres: Edinburgh, Newcastle and UCL. The Edinburgh centre already has a paper in press (Molecular Psychiatry) combining a Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) with a vast array of phenotypic data, of which McGhee is a co-author (Davis et al, 2011). By combining data on the local population already available within eg HSC, with the proposed collection of DNA from Bournemouth and surrounding areas, it allows BU to enter collaborations on an international scale addressing the 'big questions' posed by the three councils above. Furthermore the Wellcome Trust's strategic plan 2010-2020 has five main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the health benefits of genetics and genomics • Understanding the brain • Combating infectious disease • Investigating development, ageing and chronic disease • Connecting environment, nutrition and health <p>Under the proposed BU theme of ageing, at least four out of the five Wellcome themes above can contribute to some aspect of ageing whilst facilitating multi-disciplinary research between schools and indeed, other institutions. By creating a repository of genomic and phenotypic information, it allows BU to enter collaborations with research intensive universities, increasing our prospects for high impact papers.</p>	

How does this theme interlink with the other BU themes currently under consideration:

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1. Hean	Links with the Health and Wellbeing theme.	
2. McGhee, Liang & Osselton	<p><i>Ageing</i> links with the BU themes: <i>Health and Wellbeing</i>, <i>Culture and Society</i> and even <i>Environmental Change and Biodiversity</i>, opening up further avenues for funding. It takes little imagination to identify ageing with health and wellbeing but with culture and society this may require some more imagination. For example, by comparing different populations e.g. China and UK and looking at both their environmental and social structure we can then infer how these</p>	

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	<p>variables combined with genomics have an impact on <i>health and wellbeing</i> as well as <i>healthy ageing</i>.</p> <p>By stretching our imagination even further, it is possible to link <i>Environmental Change and Biodiversity with Ageing</i>. For example, one could take the view that as an individual grows older the environment, in which they live both locally and globally, is constantly under change. Sustainable fish stocks as a topical example has an effect both environmentally within the world's oceans but also affects humans as a source of food and nutrients. It would be interesting to research how the ageing process and cognitive outcome of a five year old child now will be in 60 years' time when compared to a 65 year old individual now and the foodstuffs available to them as a five year old child in 1951. Environmental, Biochemical, Genetic and Toxicological studies can all contribute to this theme.</p> <p>This is obviously only one example of how several research themes can join together and we welcome discussion from colleagues on the suggestions we have raised.</p>	

Further comments from interested academics, groups and/or Schools:

- None stated.