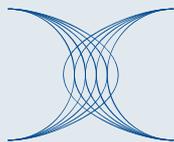


Supplementary items for Agenda Item 4.2.1

(Oxford will be invited to lead discussion on this topic)



The Challenge of Devising Health And Long-Term Care Policies in Response to Population Ageing in Asia, Europe and the Pacific

**Sarah Harper and Kenneth Howse,
Oxford Institute of Ageing,
University of Oxford**

The aim

Our aim of this research is to compare and analyse the health policy challenges of population ageing in societies that are differentially ageing within different welfare regimes. The great strength of the IARU collaboration is that it enables us to study policy challenges and responses in countries with striking differences both in demography and in the existing institutional arrangements for providing health and long-term care.

The Oxford Institute of Ageing will take the lead in this collaborative study, working with institutions from four of the other IARU countries: Denmark, China, Singapore, and Australia. This provides an excellent opportunity to consider countries which have already aged, those that are rapidly ageing and those that can expect a significant increase in their older populations in the near future. Alongside expertise in policy analysis, it is also a truly multi-disciplinary project combining expertise in Philosophy, Sociology and Economics from Oxford, Economics and Anthropology from Copenhagen, Demography from ANU and Beijing, and Sociology and Anthropology from Singapore.

It is hoped that results from this research – which requires only modest funds and should be completed in a relatively short timescale – will put the research network in a strong position to bid for further research funding.

The context

What all these countries have in common is the prospect of the continued ageing of their older populations. Demographic projections point to continuing improvements in mortality rates in the older-old and as a consequence there will be very substantial increases in both the absolute and the relative size of this segment of the population. Unless these changes are offset by large reductions in the prevalence of late-life disease and disability, they will put considerable additional pressure on

existing systems for health and long-term care.

Despite the shared prospect of the ageing of the older population, however, the demographic pressures are not the same. Although by 2025 the process of population ageing will be more advanced in Denmark and the UK than in any of the other study countries, the rate of increase in the relative size of the elderly population is much greater in the Asian countries, mainly because of the recent steep declines in fertility in China and Singapore. Australia sits between these two scenarios with steady but moderate population ageing.

The welfare systems are also very different in the five countries. Denmark has one of the most comprehensive public welfare regimes in the world. Although the UK and Australia spend roughly comparable proportions of their national income on health and social care, they have more mixed systems with greater reliance on private finance and family care. There is high reliance on family care in Singapore – and greater still in China, which is still in the throes of modernising its health care system.

The research

The collaboration has already identified three broad population models

1. The European countries of Denmark and the UK have completed their population ageing, and now face an increase in the oldest old. Their challenge appears to reflect the necessity of increasing the economic contribution of the young active older segment of the population (50-70), while shifting resources from this segment (via reduction in pension expenditure) to the growing frailest oldest-old segment (80+).
2. Australia is experiencing steady simultaneous ageing of both the young and oldest old. Their challenge appears to reflect the necessity of distributing resources from much younger populations to both segments of the older population.
3. China and Singapore are experiencing rapid ageing of their population structures due to low fertility and falling mortality. Their challenge reflects the necessity of establishing new health and long term care structures, to cope with the increase in chronic long term conditions, in a relatively short period of time.

In order to model the complexity behind these broad generalisations, the proposed collaborative project would

- Undertake detailed demographic modelling of future population change for each country
- Undertake a review of existing national policies, elucidate major and important differences in policy challenges, and formulate new policy recommendations which might allow the redistribution of national resources in a fair and just manner across the generations.

Outcomes

- National policy briefing papers (IARU Briefing Papers on Ageing)
- Research papers

- Collaborative text to be published by a major publishing house such as OUP

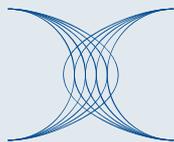
Budget Justification

1. Oxford principle investigator and project management salary (60% for 6 months)
2. Oxford Admin costs
3. Data collection and secondary analysis in 5 countries
(Copenhagen have independently applied for funding from the Danish Research Council)

Budget

Kenneth Howse - 60% 6 months:	£18,800 (non FEC)
Data analyst	£10,000 (non FEC)
Admin:	£ 5,000 (non FEC)
National Data collation @ £4000 per country (Copenhagen, Beijing, Singapore, ANU)	£16,000
	£49,800

March 2008



The Health Policy Challenges Arising Out of Population Ageing — Workshop, Oxford January 2008

**Sarah Harper and Kenneth Howse,
Oxford Institute of Ageing,
University of Oxford**

Following a IARU workshop hosted by the University of Copenhagen in 2006 on *Ageing, Longevity and Health*, the Oxford Institute of Ageing took an active role in developing two research projects on the health policy challenges arising out of population. These were subsequently merged into one project which was approved by the IARU VCs in spring 2007.

OIA then decided to take the initiative in developing the collaboration further by arranging and hosting a second workshop in Oxford in 2008. This included researchers from Copenhagen, Tokyo, NUS, and PKU. ANU wanted to send at least one participant but was unable to do so. This was funded by Oxford University.

The aims of the Oxford workshop were to secure:

- Commitment to pursuing collaborative research project on health policy challenges of ageing populations
- Agreement on objectives of research and how to achieve them
- Agreement on division of project into separate work streams
- Commitment to produce detailed ideas on next steps within agreed timetable.

The Oxford workshop fixed on a working title for the project:

What are the policy challenges of the ageing of older populations: changing needs for health and long term care?

and identified three key questions:

- What are the social and health challenges arising in different countries in the light of changing demography and epidemiology?
- How do capacities for providing long term care adjust/respond to changing demands and needs?
- What are the emerging national policy configurations addressing ageing populations

and four analytical themes:

- Explaining the impact of differences and inequalities (e.g. on patterns of long term care; utilization and outcomes of health care services)
- Understanding ideology and culture as drivers/mediators of adjustment
- Exploring the adjustment of formal and informal health care systems to changing demands and needs
- Exploring and understanding individual engagement

The workshop identified four key components: demographic change, institutional change, individual choice and policy challenges.

Each of the partners will be involved in developing the themes and addressing the questions

What are the social and health challenges arising in different countries in the light of changing demography and epidemiology? (Oxford; Peking; ANU; Singapore)

How do capacities for providing long term care adjust/respond to changing demands and needs? (Oxford; Peking; ANU; Singapore; Tokyo; Copenhagen)

What are the emerging national policy configurations addressing ageing populations? (Oxford; Copenhagen)

Exploring the adjustment of formal and informal health care systems to changing demands and needs (Oxford; Peking; ANU; Singapore; Tokyo; Copenhagen)

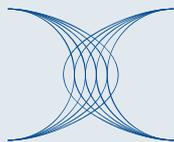
Explaining the impact of differences and inequalities (Peking; Oxford; ANU)

Understanding ideology and culture as drivers/mediators of adjustment (Singapore; Copenhagen)

Exploring and understanding individual engagement (Oxford; ANU; Tokyo; Peking)

Outcomes

1. Singapore have agreed to host a workshop in June 2008, funded by NUS, addressing the first question “What are the social and health challenges arising in different countries in the light of changing demography and epidemiology?”. This will involve external policy and academic speakers and a substantive policy paper for discussion to be prepared by Oxford and Copenhagen.
2. Oxford and Copenhagen have taken the lead on the question “*What are the emerging national policy configurations addressing ageing populations?*”. Copenhagen is in the process of preparing a proposal for the Danish Research Council; Oxford has prepared a research proposal for the Vice-Chancellors meeting in April 2008



Letter from Oxford Institute of Ageing

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30th March 2008

To
Professor Ewan McKendrick
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(Research, Academic Services and University Collections)
University Offices

Request for IARU involvement and funding of the annual Oxford Ageing Spring School

The first **Oxford Institute of Ageing Spring School** ("*The Multi-disciplinary Toolkit for Global Ageing Research*") will take place from 13 to 18 April 2008.

The intent of the Spring School is to provide the next generation of researchers on "Ageing" issues with necessary and innovative tools. This forum will provide a unique opportunity for interaction between leading experts and emerging researchers in all aspects of bio-demographic, social and behavioural research into individual and population ageing. A combination of key note lectures, workshops and discussion groups on the themes of '*Demographic and Population Change*', '*The Ageing Brain*', '*Institutions and Civil Society*' will be held from Monday 14 April to Thursday 18 April 2008. A Welcome Reception will take place on Sunday, 13 April (7-9pm) at the Museum for Natural History.

Applications and participants:

We received over 100 applications from a wide range of disciplines and from every corner of the globe, from academia, NGOs, and the corporate world. This overwhelming response sends a clear message that we are filling a much needed gap. 87 participants will be attending.

The decision was based on the merit of the candidates, the need for acquiring the skills offered by the Spring School and the impact of this knowledge on the research in their local community or field of work. Priority was given to pre- and post- doctoral students and emerging researchers in developing countries.

Funding:

Initial funding has been secured from the Nuffield Foundation, Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the Department of Geratology at University of Oxford and the National Institute of Aging (NIH/NIA). This has allowed us to offer bursaries to worthwhile candidates with particular focus on applicants from developing and transitional economies.

Programme:

In terms of the content of the school, we have structured the programme to include a lecture by a leading expert in the field followed by a workshop where a facilitator will engage the participants in acquiring hands-on tools to apply this learning to their own research.

One very important element are three sessions where we will focus on participants setting personal objectives to ensure that the skills they acquire and information they receive benefits them directly in their own research. We have sought the expertise from a member of the Saïd Business School to ensure that these sessions meet these objectives.

We also wish to facilitate informal networking opportunities. We will set up times where participants may gather with those with common interests and expertise to identify areas of mutual collaboration and establish ongoing links.

Impact:

We hope that each participant will find this experience of tremendous benefit to his/her ongoing research in global ageing and will leave the school with additional tools to take on greater local challenges. Additional benefit will be a network which will be maintained after the Spring School (website, newsletters).

Future plans for IARU involvement:

- The Oxford Institute of Ageing is currently seeking sustainable funding arrangements for the forthcoming Spring Schools. The 2008 School is using substantial support (in cash and in kind) from the Institute's core funds.
- The Spring School is initially intended to run to 2010; ideally, it would have established by then in the global academic community (comparable to the RAND Summer School) as a training and networking event for emerging researchers from all over the world.
- With regard to the "IARU Global Summer Program" for undergraduate students from 10 IARU universities, the Spring School could be a valuable addition to IARU's aim of capacity building and training of undergraduate and graduate students. [At the moment, Oxford is represented in this IARU programme through the "Summer Programme in History, Politics and Society" administered by Continuing Education].
- The Spring School on Global Ageing could join forces with IARU and keep 10-15 places in the 2009 Spring School for candidates from IARU universities; speakers/teachers from IARU universities could be invited; the Spring School could also carry the IARU name/logo; ideally, candidates from IARU could apply for their own funding from their institutions; in addition, further support in the form of bursaries for participants from other developing and transitional economies could be granted by IARU.

We should like Vice Chancellors Committee to consider as a first step the allocation of £10,000 to enable us to offer 10 bursaries for the 2009 Spring School to candidates from developing and transitional economies.

Amount requested: £10,000

Sarah Harper