



Transitions, choices and health at older ages: life course analyses of longitudinal data.

POLICY SEMINAR – Wed 2 December 2009

Aim: To summarise the results of research, funded by UK joint research councils' Programme New Dynamics of Ageing and consider their implications for policy.

Date: Wed 2nd December 2009. **Location:** UCL, Gower St, WC1E 6BT - Haldane Room.

Time: 13.00 – 16.00 (followed by tea).

Chair: David Blane, Professor of Medical Sociology, Imperial College London

Format: Four x 20-minute presentations each followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

RSVP by Mon 23 Nov: p.crowley@ucl.ac.uk (places limited; please indicate any special needs) .

Programme:

13:00-14:00: Sandwich lunch

14:00-14:30: Employment and health around State Pension Age. Richard Wiggins, Professor of Quantitative Social Science, Institute of Education

Abstract: Despite big improvements in death rates in middle age and big changes in patterns of women's and men's labour force participation, the excess mortality risk attached to unemployment and permanent sickness in the 10 years before the State Pension Age remained as large in 2001-2006 as it was in 1971-1976.

14:30-15:00: Paid employment, informal caring and health around State Pension Age.

Bola Akinwale, Researcher, Imperial College London.

Abstract: The combination of paid employment and informal caring around the State Pension Age is associated with a reduced risk of premature death. The evidence suggests that it is unlikely that this finding is due to selection of healthy people into the combined roles.

15:00-15:30: Does the welfare state make a difference? Employment and health around State Pension Age in England & Wales, Finland and Italy. Seeromanie Harding, MRC Senior Scientist, PHSM Glasgow.

Abstract: Early retirement was associated with better health outcomes in Italy than in Finland or England & Wales. The case of Finland suggests that more egalitarian societies, with more developed welfare states, do not necessarily deliver better health. Instead, the case of Italy suggests that the level of regional autonomy and historical context are also important

15:30-16:00: Policy implications. Caroline Needham, former Research Manager, *Age Concern-Help the Aged*.

Abstract: The final presentation will consider the implication of these findings for people making the transition from late middle age to early old age; and suggest how policy makers and voluntary sector organisations can help maximise their quality of life.

16:00: Tea (end of seminar)

New Dynamics of Ageing is a unique collaboration between five UK Research Councils - ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC and AHRC - and is the largest and most ambitious research programme on ageing ever mounted in the UK
<http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk/>

Project: Transitions, choices and health at older ages: life course analyses of longitudinal data.