

Ageing, Place, and Everyday Wellbeing: Insights from Roma Communities in Urban UK Settings

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Abstract:

Across the globe, populations are ageing at an unprecedented rate. However, not all communities share the benefits of increased longevity. Among Roma populations in Europe, life expectancy remains significantly lower, by up to ten years or more, than that of the majority population, reflecting entrenched health and social inequalities. This presentation draws on findings from *RomaPlaceAge*, a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UKRI. The research explores the stories, lived experiences, challenges and aspirations of Roma aged 40 and over in three UK locations with significant Roma populations: Govanhill (Glasgow), Luton, and Peterborough. Drawing on in-depth semi-structured interviews, go-along (walking) interviews and photo diaries with over 70 members of the Roma community, the presentation examines how ageing is shaped by cultural values, intergenerational roles, exclusion from services, and the socio-economic context of place. Findings show that mainstream services often fail to meet the specific needs of Roma communities. In response, the project supports the co-creation of local, place-based hubs designed to promote healthy ageing through culturally appropriate and community-led approaches. This presentation will share insights into the complex interplay of culture, gender, language, and mistrust in institutions, and reflect on how inclusive, participatory strategies can foster better support for Roma as they age.