



Understanding the views of older adults on ageing, health and gender: a qualitative study

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Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

I currently have not, or have not in the last two years, an affiliation, financial interest or other interest with a corporation or I am not receiving or have not received remuneration or royalties or research grants from a corporation.

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Background

- The experiences and perspectives of people who are 60+ in this study are important to understand the intersection of ageing, health and gender
- Builds on FUTUREGEN's quantitative work
- Propose to examine the ways in which some measures of health and care are gendered, and the resources needed for “ageing well”



Objective

To understand whether views on ageing well vary by sex and social location. The study's findings will be important for future research on the intersectionality of ageing, sex/gender and health.



Research Approach

- Qualitative research study
- Planned in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team with expertise in medicine, epidemiology, rehabilitation science, sociology, economics
- Use of a determinants of health framework (PROGRESS-Plus)



Research Approach

Place

Race, ethnicity, culture, language

Occupation

Gender/Sex

Religion

Education

SES

Social Capital

(Evans & Brown, 2003; O'Neill et al., 2014)

Plus: individual characteristics, features of relationships, time-dependent transitions (Oliver, 2008)



- A qualitative study
- Older adults, 20/site across Canada, Austria, Sweden (60 in total)
- Equal numbers of men, women; participants from a range of living arrangements, socioeconomic status
- Semi-structured interviews (see details on interview questions)
- Use of framework analysis method



- Interview questions cover three areas:
 - 1) How do participants define “aging well”?
 - 2) What factors impact/shape experiences of ageing well?
 - 3) What are participant experiences with living and social arrangements and their impacts on aging, health and gender?



Interview questions: 1) How do participants define “aging well”?

Q1. How would you rate your health? **Q1b.** *Can you tell me what you took into account?*

Q2. Could you tell me, do you think that your income is sufficient to meet your needs? **Q2b.** *Can you tell me why you describe it in the way that you do?*

Q3. If I were to ask you about how you rate your function, how would you do this? **Q3b.** *Would you compare yourself to someone else? Someone younger? Older? An “ideal” you?*

Q4. When I say “aging well”, what comes to mind? **Q4b.** *Can you tell me about circumstances and experiences that have shaped your views?* **Q4c.** *Do you think that your answers might have been different if you were a (man or woman)?* **Q4d.** *Do you think that your answers might have been different when you were younger?*



Interview questions: 2) What factors impact/shape experiences of ageing well?

Q5: What does the term disability meant to you? **Q5b.** *How do you decide whether a change in function is a disability?*

Q6. Do you think that it is possible to age well with a disability? **Q6b.** *If so, why?*

Q7. Do you have experiences of disability, for yourself or with people you are close to? **Q7b.** *Can you describe one of these experiences?*

Q8. Why do you think that some people experience disabilities later in life, while others do not? **Q8b.** *Do you think it makes a difference if you are a woman or a man? Why/why not?* **Q8c.** *Do you think it makes a difference what income or sort of education people have? Why/why not?*



Interview questions: 3) What are participant experiences with living and social arrangements and their impacts on aging, health and gender?

Q9. Could you tell me what kinds of support people need in order to age well?

Q9b.1 *[if support mentioned:] You mentioned [name support]. Could you see there being a challenge for people to get this sort of support? Why?*

Q9b.2 *[if support not mentioned:] If you consider that the likelihood of dependency and disability increases as people get older, would you think that availability of care/ support with personal care and household maintenance is an important part of ageing well for those older people who have difficulties managing on their own? [Prompt: Could you see there being a challenge for people to get this sort of support? Why?]*

Q9c. *Do you think that living with someone impacts support? Why? [Prompt 1: How are your relationships with people in your household a support/or not? Why? Prompt 2: Would that answer be different depending on the relationship you have with people in your household? (e.g. living with a spouse vs. living with a more distant relative or friend)]*



Interview questions: 3) What are participant experiences with living and social arrangements and their impacts on aging, health and gender?

Q10. How important do you think partnerships and social relationships that go beyond the same household are for receiving care and support, should one need it in older age?

Q10b. *Do you think that being a man or a woman makes a difference? Why?* **Q10c.** *Do you think that income or education makes a difference for the experience? Why?*

Q11. Have there been life events that have led to your living arrangements, and that had an impact on your general support and access to care? (want to know about receiving care & changes in partnership status)

Q11b. *Do you think that being a man or woman makes a difference for the experience?* **Q11c.** *Do you think it makes a difference what income people have? Why or why not?*



Interview questions: 3) What are participant experiences with living and social arrangements and their impacts on aging, health and gender?

Q12. As people have been more isolated, there has been a greater focus on caregiving and receiving. Do you think your answers [in our interview] would have been different before the pandemic?



Conclusion

Findings are anticipated to:

- 1) Define participant views on “aging well”,
- 2) Identify factors that impact experiences of ageing well, and
- 3) Explore the impacts of social arrangements on aging, health and gender.



Discussion





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