

UNESCO RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Keeping Engaged: Choices for Active Ageing

Speakers

Emeritus Professor Gillian Boulton-Lewis has made a significant contribution to research in learning across the lifespan and in a range of content areas. She is recently involved with research programs in early childhood and ageing. Her work demonstrates a deep interest in how people learn. She has published extensively on learning in early childhood, school mathematics, university, the workplace, and ageing. She has edited 4 books, published 21 book chapters, 78+ refereed journal articles (more in preparation), made numerous international conference presentations and obtained \$1,500,000+ in competitive external research funding as well as university and consultancy funding.

Professor Laurie Buys is a Professor in the School of Design, Faculty of Creative Industries at Queensland University of Technology and Leader of the Secure and Resilient Infrastructure Theme in QUT's Institute for Future Environments. She has over 100 refereed publications and has been successful in securing over \$3.8M in major national research grants covering her research interests: community liveability, consumer energy use, social sustainability and active ageing.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Friday 16 May 2014

D4-P-03 (HKIEd)

Abstract

Keeping engaged: Older Adults Continuing to Participate in Employment and Learning Activities

This is an interpretive – descriptive analysis of 41 open questionnaires. The sample consisted mainly of academics from the Western world including Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The research addresses the question of why some academics want to continue their work beyond 65. The main motivation for continuing academic activities was strong interest and commitment to their discipline. Some also gave social, financial, and other reasons. They described barriers, including finance and facilities, and support needed to maintain their activities. In all but two countries' institutional and government policies made it possible for them to stay involved even if this required a personal effort. Almost all of them would have liked better support or recognition from their universities. The results suggest that some older academics want to continue working voluntarily and universities should more actively engage older academics in continuing activity.

Maximising Community Liveability for Older People

Like other major cities, Brisbane (Australia) has adopted policies to increase residential densities to manage urban growth and minimise the negative impacts of urban sprawl. This objective hinges on urban neighborhoods' being amenity-rich spaces, reducing the need for residents to leave their neighbourhood for everyday living. The purpose of our study was to understand the role of neighbourhood walkability and urban movement/transport, broadly conceived, in shaping liveability for older people. Linking a quantitative and qualitative method design, this presentation explores the range and diversity of everyday travels of 12 urban older people. While high density living in inner-urban areas is a consistently utilised strategy for managing the impacts of population growth, it is important to understand and maximise the liveability of high density areas for older people.

Enquiries Tel: 2948 6329/ 2948 8761 or email at kwoksy@ied.edu.hk/ hcs0@ied.edu.hk