

Population Ageing Affects All Age Groups



Queen's University
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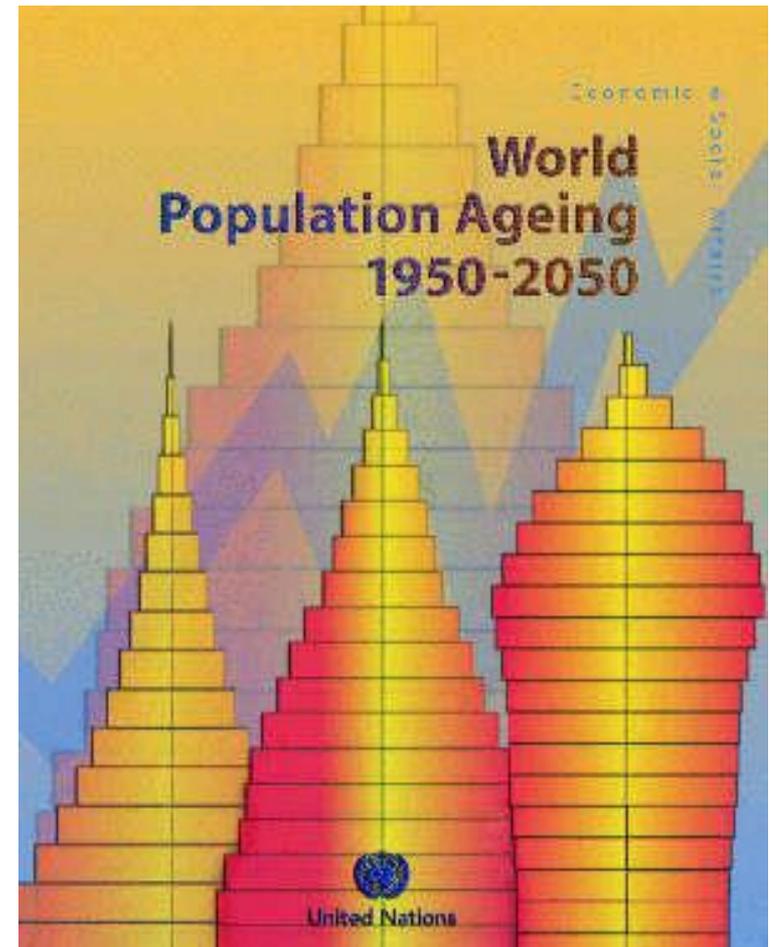
**IMPROVING
CHILDREN'S
LIVES**

What do children think about old age?

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ARK Ageing Programme
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United Nations (2002):

- Unprecedented
- Pervasive
- Enduring
- Profound implications



Policy Response:

- Concerns with rising costs of eldercare, pensions, dependency ratios.
- Focus on those aged over 50.

Global Population Ageing: Peril or Promise?





- Thus, in 2014 the *Kids' Life and Times (KLT) Survey* asked 4,757 10 and 11 year olds about ageing and older people.
- Funded by Improving Children's Lives initiative.
 - When do children think old age begins?
 - How do they view older people?
 - What are their hopes for later life?

Attitudes towards older people

- Majority felt older people were respected in Northern Ireland:
 - ‘People may be disrespectful to you.’
 - ‘I always respect all ages.’
 - ‘I don’t think of them as old people. I just think of them as people who have lasted longer.’
 - ‘They are never old if they are loved. Love cannot wear off.’

Independence

- ‘You would be able to drive and have your own money.’
- ‘Being more independent and having more power.’
- ‘Having more rights.’

When does old age begin?

Northern Ireland Life and Times (adult responses)	Kids' Life and Times (10 and 11 year old's responses)
61-70 years old	30 years old
Average 69 years old	Average 54 years old
	31% answered 'do not know'

‘I think of them as old when they are 48. Sorry to those who are 48.’ (KLT respondent).

Imagining the Future

Life at 40:

‘Work, work and more work.’

‘At NASA, training to be an astronaut and going to the moon.’

‘My dream would be a sports star – but reality a geography teacher.’

Imagining the Future

Life at 70:

- ‘The law won’t let you retire until you are 67 now so by the time I am 67 the number will have increased so probably still working.’
- ‘Sitting on a green armchair with a waistcoat and black shoes watching the television all fit and well.’

Conclusion

- What is means to be old, depends on your current chronological age.
- Inter-generational solidarity evident.
- Children live in an age-segregated world.

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