



The Open University



Loughborough
University

The TiKL Newsletter

May 2010

Transitions in Kitchen Living Project

part of the New Dynamics of
Ageing Programme



new dynamics of ageing
a cross-council research programme

Pilot work develops interview procedures, schedules and visual records

Between December 2009 and February 2010 the research teams have been carrying out pilot interviews with six people living in Loughborough, the London Borough of Haringey and Surrey. All participants were older women ranging in ages from ** to **, and whereas those in Loughborough lived in mainstream housing (detached, semi-detached and bungalow), those in the south-east lived in sheltered housing (Housing Association) and private retirement housing.

Each respondent took part in two recorded interviews; the first involving an oral history of their experience of the kitchen across the life course guided by a topic list, and the second focusing on living with their current kitchen and involving a more structured schedule also discussing issues of health and well-being. At the end of the first interview the researchers ask the participant if they would like to take any pictures of aspects of their current kitchen that could be discussed at the second interview. Digital cameras can be left with participants should they wish to take any pictures alongside a visual record sheet, but if the person does not want to take pictures the researchers can take directed pictures. They also make a sketch of the current kitchen layout and equipment. The researchers have drafted information sheets and consent forms which have also been piloted.

Links with the Thomas Pocklington Trust

The Thomas Pocklington Trust is a leading provider of housing, care and support services for people with sight loss in the UK. The charity also funds R & D on sight-loss issues and publishes reports and guidance. Following a conversation between researcher John Percival and Anthony Slater, Lighting Manager for the Thomas Pocklington Trust, Sheila Peace arranged to meet with him and discuss the potential for the assessment of kitchen lighting throughout the main fieldwork. The team have bought light meters and have agreed to take a number of lighting assessments within the kitchens both within natural light and with electric lights noting the time of day .

A record of the external lighting will also be taken to contextualise the readings. This material alongside information regarding the participants' visual aptitude will provide important information for the research. The team will liaise with Thomas Pocklington Trust about these findings. In March, Martin Maguire was able to attend the launch of the Trust's 'Light for Sight' good practice framework and the Trust will become members of the Advisory Group for the TiKL study.

Moving into the Main Fieldwork Period (March 2010 onwards)

Now that we have finalised a set of schedules for the main interviews the two teams are busy recruiting 48 participants (24 in Loughborough; 24 in Bristol) and keeping a record of specific main characteristics: housing type (covering both mainstream and supportive on a 3:1 ratio), age and sex. Whilst we are aware that cultural issues may have a specific influence on the use of the kitchen, this is not a primary issue and members of minority ethnic groups will be included if they meet the main criteria. The teams are reviewing specifications after every 8 interviews have been completed in both locations.

To gain participants the researchers are going through a range of local gate-keepers e.g. voluntary bodies; social services staff; housing managers before contacting potential participants. The fieldwork period will continue through the summer months and as interviews are completed they are sent for transcription and a system of anonymisation. A dossier will be compiled for each participant and different data sets will be able to be analysed comparatively for individuals and cross-sectionally with regard to specific data sets. During the second year of the research a small number of people will be asked if they would be willing to be videoed within their kitchen to demonstrate a specific issue to emerge from the interviews that will be useful for the proposed kitchen guide. These ideas will be discussed with the Advisory Group at the October 13th, 2010 meeting.

Sheila Peace takes part in training programme for PhD students connected to NDA projects

The New Dynamics of Ageing programme has a large number of PhD students who are attached to different projects. Professor Alan Walker has been organising a number of one-day events for the students and at the last of these on February 25th at Sheffield University, Sheila ran a session on ' Ways of addressing the question: collecting, analysing and presenting ageing research', while Professor Tony Warnes from Sheffield University considered 'Publishing from your research'. This was a lively day and Sheila will take part in other events for the PhD students some of whom are the full-time contract researcher on the project and undertaking their PhD part-time. Our PhD student Rachel Scicluna attended this meeting and made some cross-programme links.



Transitions in Kitchen Living Website

The website for the TiKL project is currently under construction, details will be published as soon as the website is ready.

The website will include a section on n Methods, Events, Publications and Impact together with details about the TiKL team, the and the other projects currently being conducted under the auspices of the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme

A section will also include information regarding the TiKL Advisory Group including contact details for members of the group together with profiles and any links to companies and organisations they would like to be included.

Action! It would be appreciated if you could let Karen Francis, Project Secretary, have a profile (if not already supplied) together with website details.

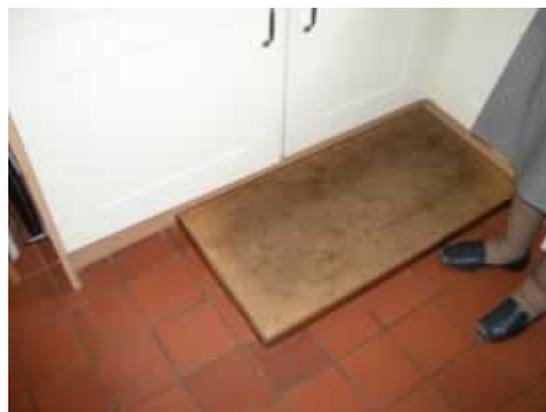
Please contact Karen on 01908 654271 if you require further information.



Rachel Scicluna – Older Lesbians

Rachel Scicluna who has a charter studentship attached the 'Transitions in Kitchen Living' project and funded through The Open University is busy making plans for her research and reading widely across a range of literature from: anthropology, gerontology, sociology, social geography, architecture, design.

Rachel's topic is Older Lesbians and Kitchen Space: The Other Side of the Female Story in the Kitchen and she has been making contact with Lesbian and Gay Older People's groups in London, now volunteering on a monthly basis to help to run a regular film night. She is watching how the main project has developed its methods and will be reporting on her ideas at her probationary review during the summer.



Alan Blackwell monitors NDA projects

Alan Walker, Director of the NDA Programme has asked Alan Blackwell, Reader in Interdisciplinary Design at the University of Cambridge to mentor and support those projects in the programme that meet an 'Arts and Humanities' brief. They include the TiKL study and the following projects:

Lorna Warren (PI) Uni of Sheffield - 'Representing Self, Representing Ageing' – use of creative arts to negotiate and challenge images of ageing

Andrew Newman (PI) Newcastle Uni – 'Contemporary Visual art and identity construction – well-being amongst older people'.

Sue Hallam (PI) Uni of London – 'Promoting social engagement and well-being in older people through community supported participation in musical activities'.

Phillip Tew (PI) Brunel Uni – 'Fiction and the cultural meditation of ageing'.

Mim Bernard (PI) Keele Uni – 'Aged and Stages : the place of the theatre in representations and recollection of ageing'.

Through an on-line system CamTools, Alan intends to develop : A wiki , providing shared reference information; a journal to a provide blog diary of engagements and a system of email announcements. We will let you know how this is going.

As you will see these projects range across the Arts brief and the TiKL project is located here because of its design remit. We are also linked to other studies in the programme which focus on 'Nutrition in Later Life'



NDA Meeting in Birmingham 12th & 13th April 2010

Sheila, Martin and John were able to attend the two day meeting of the NDA programme in Birmingham and it was good to see that OPAG member Theresa Leforte was also present. The main theme of the two days was how the findings of the programme can make an 'impact' and presentations were given by the Research Councils, independent consultants and academics whose work has already become influential in terms of public policy. The TiKL project group is already thinking of ways in which findings may become a resource for both professionals and the lay public. As we get to understand our data this will be a focus for discussion with the Advisory Group.

Also, on the agenda for this away event were issues of importance to all projects such as 'what we can learn about the ethical implications of our work' and 'how we can archive our material'. The UK Data Archive outlined a project which will target a small number of NDA projects for archiving. We will have a resource that could benefit from this remit. Finally, this event also included a morning session for post-doctoral staff on the NDA programme which Sheila was asked to co-run with Dr. Tony Maltby, independent research consultant.

