

ROSEnet COST ACTION (CA 15122)

REDUCING OLD-AGE SOCIAL EXCLUSION:
COLLABORATIONS IN RESEARCH & POLICY

Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion in Europe

Thomas Scharf

ROSEnet COST Action Vice Chair
Newcastle University Institute for Ageing, UK



What is ROSEnet?

- Research networking platform
 - Innovative partnership of policy stakeholders, researchers, and older people
 - Involving 135+ members from 41 countries
- *ROSEnet aims to overcome critical knowledge gaps in research and policy to tackle social exclusion amongst older people in Europe*



Structure

1. Social exclusion in later life
2. Societal and policy challenge
3. ROSEnet objectives and approach
4. Exclusion from social relations



1. Framing Social Exclusion in Later Life

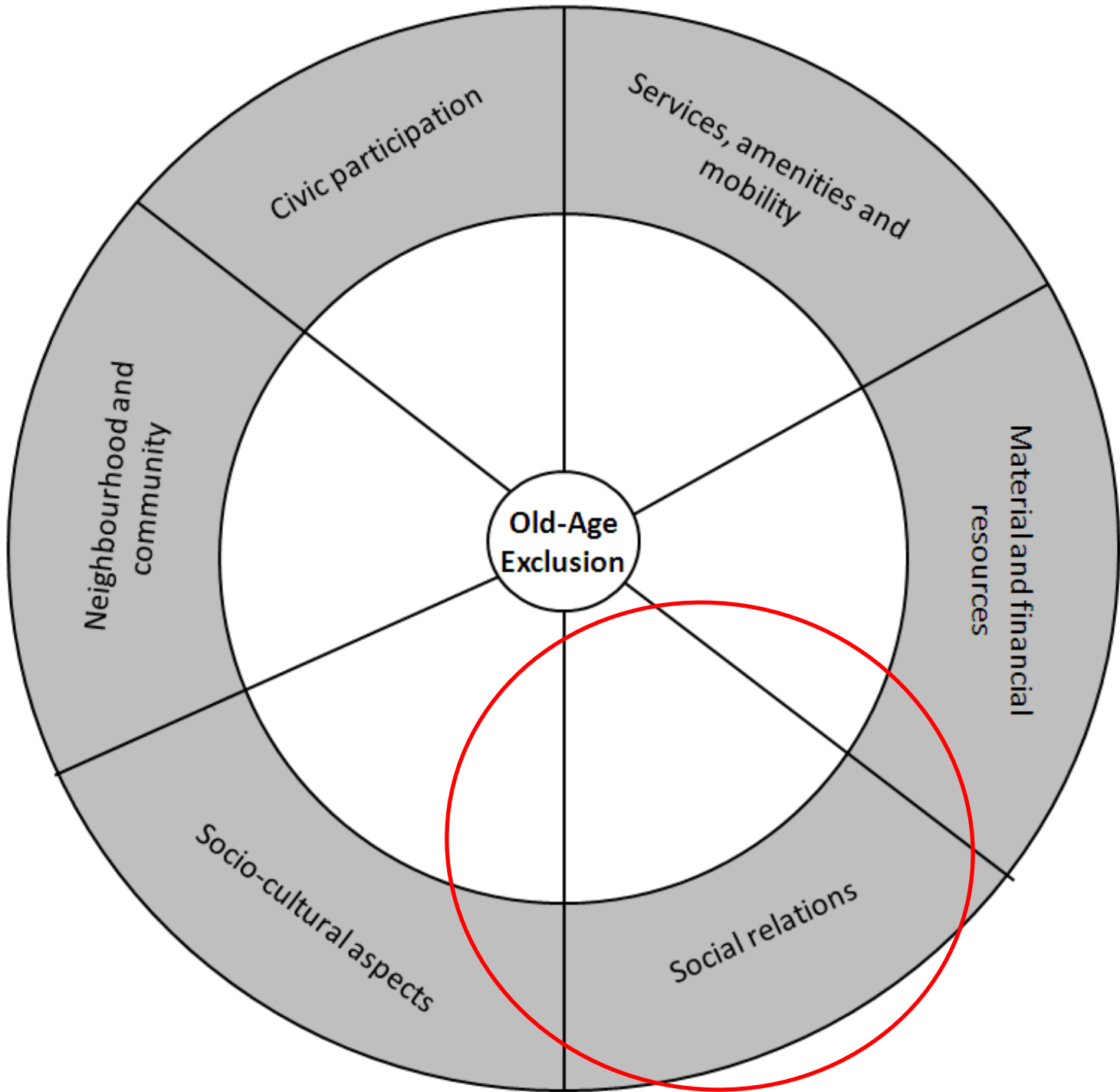
- Exclusion seen as separation of groups/individuals from mainstream society (Moffatt and Glasgow 2009)
- Growing attention on exclusion in research on ageing
 - Individual/group disadvantage (Beland 2007)
 - Relational/distributional (Saunders 2008)
- Contested dimensions of social exclusion
 - People of working age; unemployed people; children
- Fragmented evidence base



1. Framing Social Exclusion in Later Life

- Agency: people may be excluded against their will or they may choose to be excluded
- Dynamic nature: people may experience forms of exclusion at different points of the life course
- Relativity: people experience forms of exclusion in relation to the particular contexts in which they live
- Multidimensionality: people may be excluded in one or more areas of life (Grenier and Guberman 2009; Walsh et al. 2012)





Features of Exclusion in Later Life

- Multi-level channels – micro, meso and macro
- Cross-cutting mechanisms
 - Socio-spatial context (Dwyer and Hardill 2011)
 - Marginalisation of groups (McCann et al. 2013; Hunkler et al. 2015)
 - Risk-laden life paths (e.g. Arber 2004; Beaulaurier et al. 2014)
 - Constrained choice and power (e.g. Raymond and Grenier 2013)
 - Diminishing role of the state



Old-age exclusion involves interchanges between multi-level risk factors, processes and outcomes. Varying in form and degree across the older adult life course, its complexity, impact and prevalence is amplified by old-age vulnerabilities, accumulated disadvantage for some groups, and constrained opportunities to ameliorate exclusion.

→ Increased prevalence (Chialo 2012)

Old-age exclusion leads to inequities in choice and control, resources and relationships, and power and rights in key domains of: neighbourhood and community; services, amenities and mobility; material and financial resources; social relations; socio-cultural aspects of society; and civic participation.

→ Age-related health declines, contracting networks, reduced-generation opportunities

(Daniel Chipstern and Yvonne 2008)

Old-age exclusion implicates states, societies, communities and individuals.

(Walsh et al. 2017)

2. Societal and Policy Challenge



Societal and Policy Challenge

- National Social Inclusion Action Plans (Warburton et al. forthcoming)
- Headline target of Europe 2020 strategy (European Commission 2010)
 - To lift 20 million people out of poverty and exclusion by 2020
- Concentration on economic aspects
 - Labour market participation as key inclusion instrument (EC 2010)
 - AROPE (at risk of poverty; severe deprivation; household work intensity) (Eurostat 2017)
- Broad misalignment between policy and research



3. ROSEnet objectives and approach



Research Coordination Objectives

1. Synthesise existing knowledge
2. Critically investigate the constructions of life-course old-age exclusion
3. Assess the implications of old-age exclusion across the life course
4. Develop new conceptual frameworks, and their practical application
5. Identify innovative, and implementable, policy and practice



ROSEnet approach

Working Groups

- Economic working group
- Social working group
- Services working group
- Civic rights working group
- Community/spatial working group
- All working groups involve researchers and policy stakeholder members



ROSEnet Research Programmes (Selected)

Exclusion from social relations and health and well-being outcomes

L. Vidovičová (CZ), M. Aartsen (NO), A. Motel-Klingesbiel (SE); A. Lowenstein (IS), A. Wanka (AU), F. Villar (SP), K. Walsh (IE)

Mixed methods; unpacking gender and life-course pathways

Food related poverty and exclusion

G. Lamura (INCRA) and AUSRE, Italy 2017-2019

Social relations and nutritional exclusion – through Italian food practices (low SES)

Social and material deprivation and changes in health

M. Myck, M. Najsztab, M. Oczkowska, Poland/Cross-national, 2018

Using panel data, investigates influence of multi-dimensional exclusion on changes in health

Income and material circumstances and loneliness and isolation - social, health and mobility factors *C. Waldegrave (NZ), C. Cunnigham (NZ) , T.K.*

Tamsese

Mixed methods; data analysis; Older Māori and Pacific People

4. Exclusion from social relations





EXCLUSION FROM SOCIAL RELATIONS IN LATER LIFE

The ROSEnet Social Relations Working Group

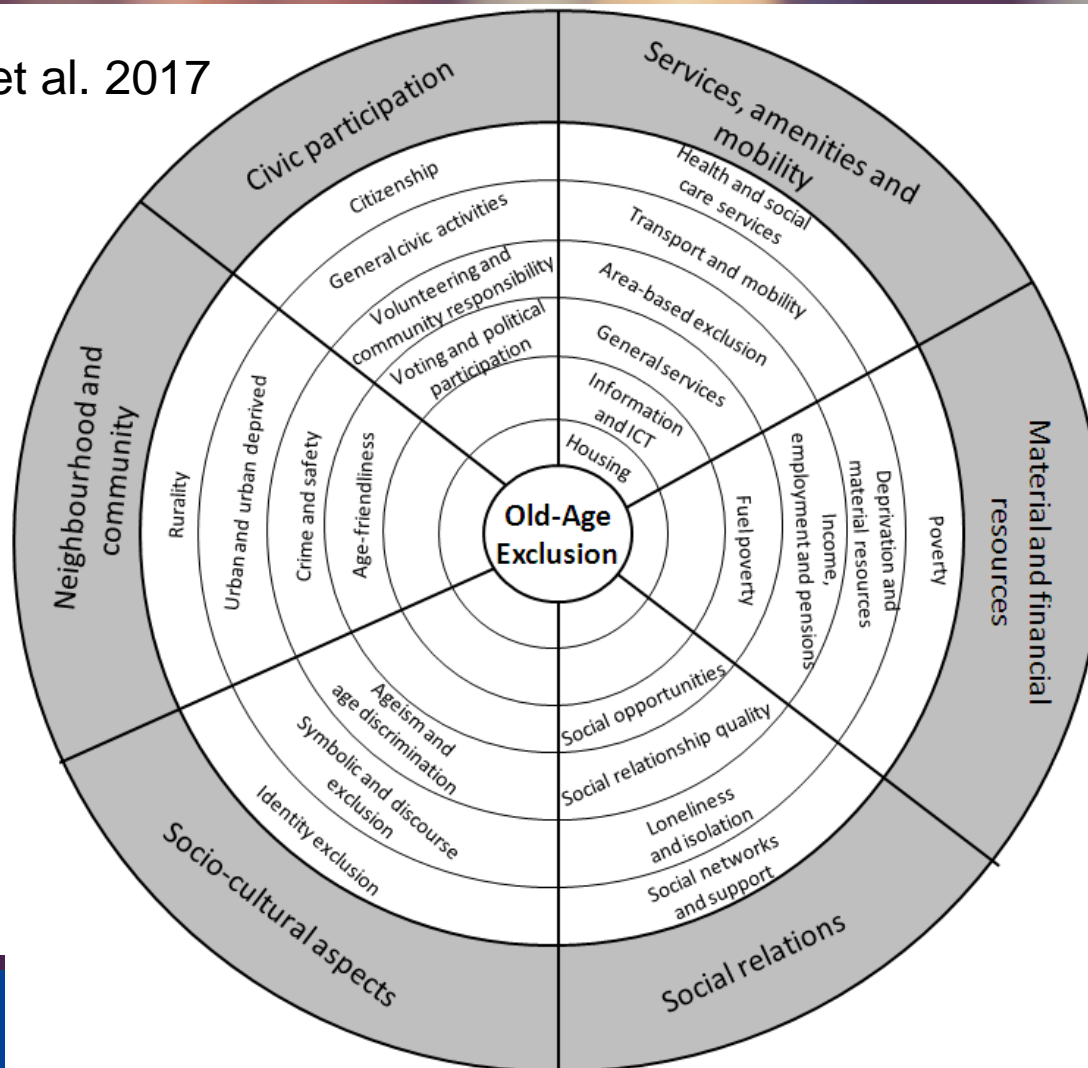
Authored by: Marja Aartsen, Nicole Valtorta, Lena Dahlberg,
Sofie van Regenmortel, Charles Waldegrave and Trudy Corrigan

ROSEnet Briefing Paper Series edited by Thomas Scharf and Kieran Walsh

ROSEnet Briefing Paper Series No.1

Social exclusion and ageing adults

Source: Walsh et al. 2017



Individual impacts of loneliness

Evidence links individuals' loneliness to:

- Reduced quality of life
- Premature mortality
- A broad range of physical and mental health conditions (e.g. sleep disorders, risk of cardiovascular disease, low self-esteem, dementia, depression)
- Increased use of medications
- Increased alcohol consumption



Broader impacts of loneliness

Social and economic impacts that reach beyond individuals:

- Impacts on families, friends and neighbours
- Impacts on communities (e.g. community-based interventions to tackle isolation and loneliness)
- Impacts on broader society (e.g. increased use of health/social care services; GP consultations; emergency admissions to hospital; re-admission to hospital; entry into institutional care)

