

Anne-Marie Creamer

Convenor for HeArD, UAL

Email: [a.creamer@arts.ac.uk](mailto:a.creamer@arts.ac.uk)

**HEARD**

Health, Arts and Design Research Hub

# UAL x LDF: Ageing Societies: A Global Response

# Introducing HeArD, UAL

**HEARD**  
Health, Arts and Design Research Hub

- A new grassroots Health, Arts and Design Research Hub at University of the Arts London with 75 members from across UAL, in both arts, health, and design disciplines. Beginning in 2019 & bringing together artists, researchers, students, and practitioners from across the UAL community, HEARD initial phase has been responsive, and grassroots driven.
- HEARD is **first** transdisciplinary Health Humanities research hub by a specialist arts university in the UK. UAL as an arts university with scope to develop ambitious art & design led partnerships with intersectoral impact.

# Introducing HeArD, UAL

**HEARD**  
Health, Arts and Design Research Hub

- HEARD is curious about aesthetic, social, and political ideals within health and medicine and the role art and design can play in querying established ideologies
- We think the relationship between arts and design in relationship to health is profound.
- We think it is important that artists and designers are not adjunct to health sector arts-design research but are central to driving change and creating new knowledge.
- We aim to find the right questions, tell new stories, and shape a more equal future. This is something that is increasingly urgent given the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis and the period of profound societal challenge and change.

# HeArD – Now?

- In the UK, the Wellcome Trust is currently calling for researchers to work together across sectors to meet marked need of addressing health and climate change, infectious disease, and mental health.
- In 2019, ahead of the pandemic, the World Health Organization called for intersectoral action on arts health and well-being, that strengthens “synergy between sectors supporting health through the arts”

# HeArD – Now?

- The COVID-19 global pandemic and effects of climate change have heightened recognition that we are living in a time of accelerated change, unprecedented in human history - all of which directly threaten human health. But these changes also bring opportunities to protect and improve health – for HeArD & UAL, as an arts specialist university, how we can help this understanding and efforts to respond appropriately.
- The beneficial role of the arts in health is increasingly accepted and comes on the back of two decades of major increase in research into the effects of the arts on health and well-being, alongside developments in practice and policy activities in different countries.

# Research into Art & health

- The Arts Council of England commissioned a comprehensive evidence review of evidence of the ways the ways arts impact health
- In the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing advocated for the policy of ‘Creative Health’, across national government bodies and arts organizations, regarding art projects as a type of ‘complex intervention’ into the realm of health.
- A recent WHO Health Evidence Network synthesis report (2019)-summarizes an extensive evidence base showing how the arts sector plays an important role in promoting good health, preventing numerous mental and physical health challenges, and supporting the management and treatment of acute and chronic conditions.
- Gordon-Nesbitt, R (2017) *Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing* (All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing)
- Fancourt D, Finn S. *What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review* [Internet]. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2019. (Health Evidence Network synthesis report, No. 67.) Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK553773/>

# Research into Art & ageing

- Why Population Aging Matters, A Global Perspective, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 2007
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing <http://www.ifs.org.uk/elsa/>
- U.S. Census Bureau International Data Base <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html>
- U.S. National Institute on Aging <http://www.nia.nih.gov/>
- World Health Organization Study on Global Ageing and Adult Health <http://www.who.int/healthinfo/systems/sage/en/index.html>
- An Ageing World, U.S. Census Bureau; <https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=3d832796999042daae7982ff36835e2e>

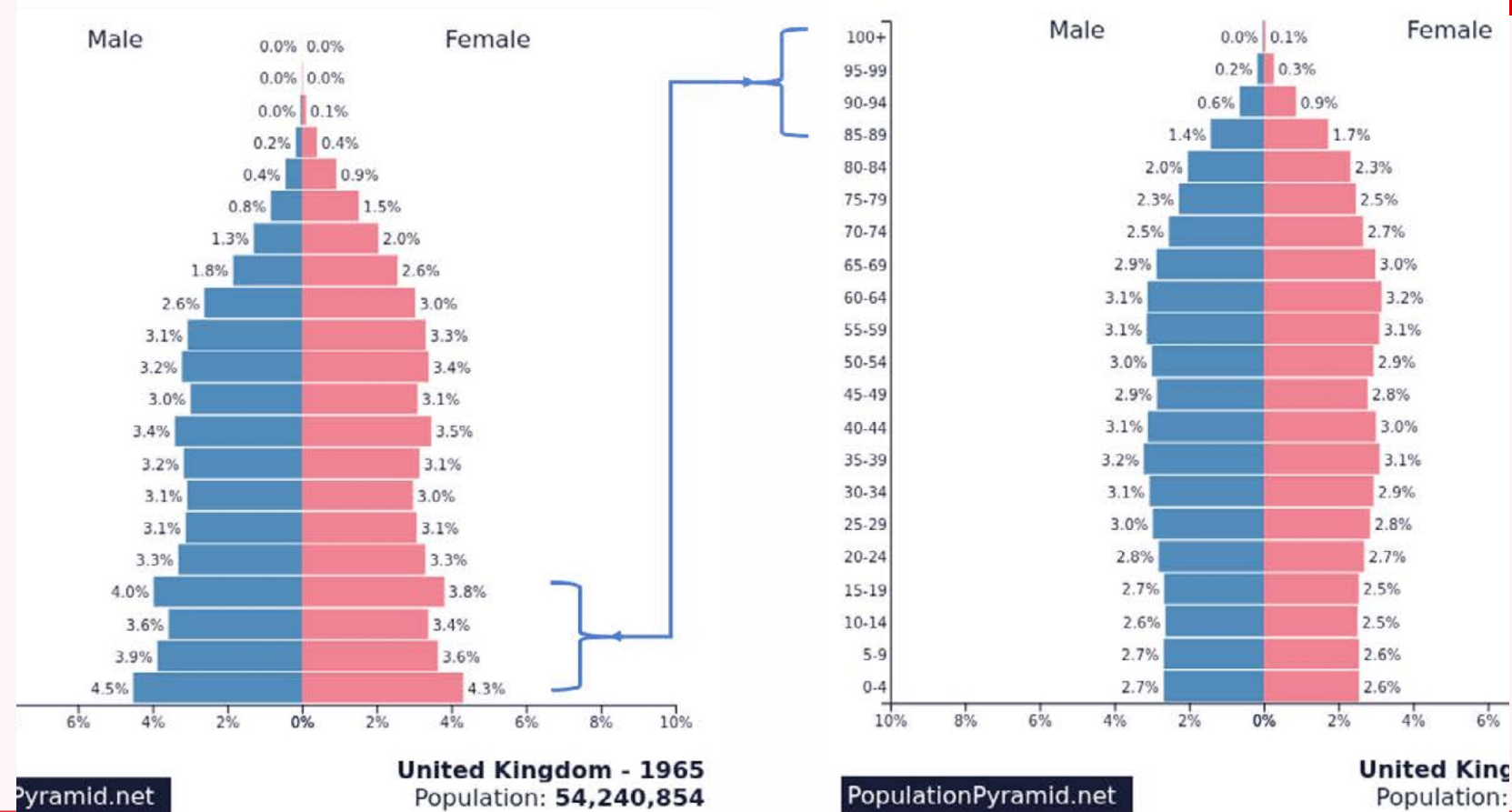
# UK & Global Ageing

**HEARD**

Health, Arts and Design Research Hub

SOURCE: ROYAL SOCIETY, 2020, HEALTHY AGEING CONFERENCE

Change in UK population pyramid from 1965 to 2050<sup>2</sup>.



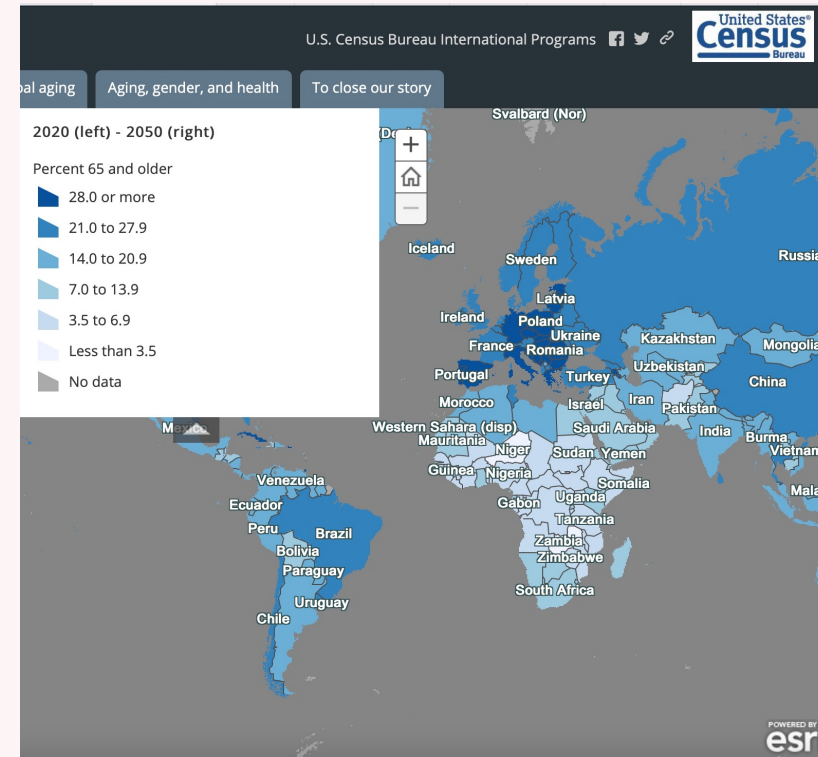
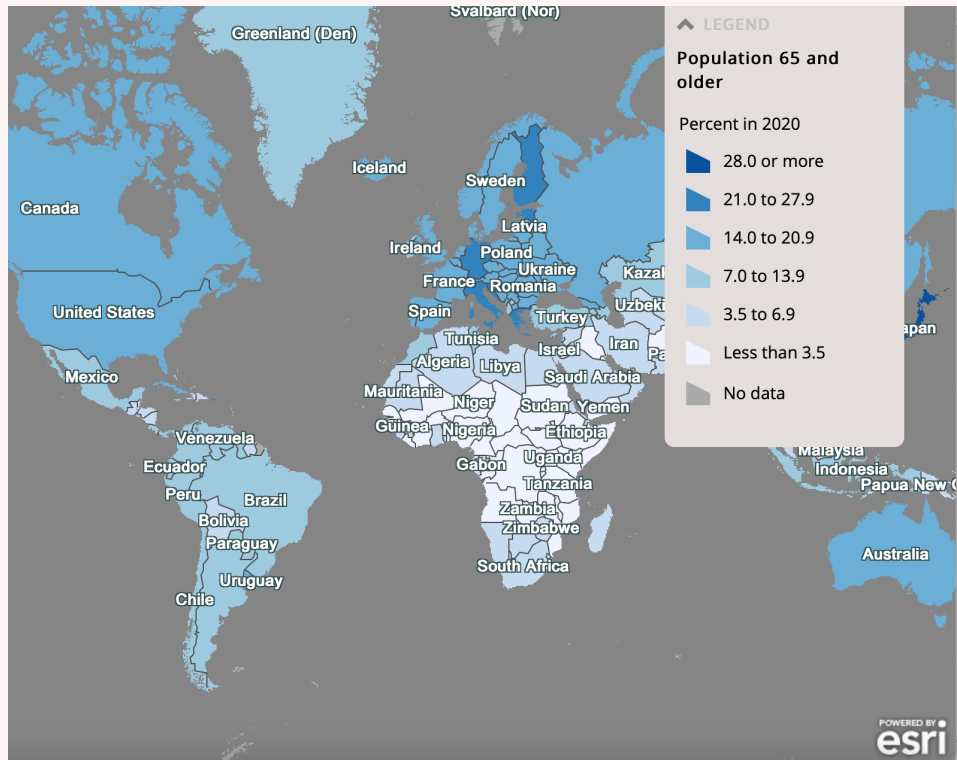


# Global Ageing Trends 2020 – 2050- USA National Census Bureau

**HEARD**

Health, Arts and Design Research Hub

SOURCE: USA NATIONAL CENSUS BUREAU:



# Questions:

**“Staying healthy in old age is one of the big challenges facing society . Success will depend on innovations in research, and health and social care systems that benefit people of all ages and backgrounds .”**

- **Venki Ramakrishnan, President of the Royal Society**

# Questions:

**“We want to keep people healthier for longer before they die . The aim is not to make people live longer – that’s happening already – the problem is this period of ill health at the end of life .”**

- **Dame Linda Partridge FMedSci FRS, University College London .**

# Questions:

**HEARD**

Health, Arts and Design Research Hub

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION,  
2022:

- Populations are ageing worldwide. People now live on average 20 years longer compared to 50 years ago. However, the opportunities that these extra years provide are heavily dependent on healthy ageing: not merely the absence of disease, but the creation of environments, opportunities, and policies that enable us to be and do what we value as we age.



The screenshot shows a news article from the World Health Organization. The header includes the WHO logo and navigation links for Health Topics, Countries, Newsroom, and Emergencies. The main image is a portrait of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a green jacket, against a black background with teal circular graphics. Below the image is the article title and a short introductory paragraph.

**The Healthy Ageing 50: A call for leaders transforming the world to be a better place in which to grow older**

We have gained an extra 20 years of life. It is time to honour those who are working to make the extra years healthy.

# Get in touch!

**HEARD**

Health, Arts and Design Research Hub

Remember if you want to join **HeArD** – Please get in touch:

**Anne-Marie Creamer**

**Convenor for HeArD, UAL**

**Email: [a.creamer@arts.ac.uk](mailto:a.creamer@arts.ac.uk)**