Ageing Research in Ireland: north & south

International Training Programme on Ageing

17 September 2013

Dr Roger O’Sullivan
Overview

• Demography of Ireland – north & south
• Political and administrative system - north & south
• The development of ageing research & gerontology in Ireland – north and south
• Stimulating research co-operation across the island of Ireland
• Ageing research in Ireland – north & south - today
• Ageing research in Ireland - north & south - future
Can you tell the difference?
Context

• One island, two different demographics

• One island, two different systems: politically and administratively

• One island, two research communities
DEMOGRAPHY OF AGEING IN IRELAND
Population is ageing

• 1.1 million people aged 60 and over now live on the island of Ireland

• By 2041:
  – In RoI there will be 1.4 million people aged 65+, three times more than in 2010 (462,000).
  – Number of people aged 65+ in NI will reach almost half a million (496,000), almost one quarter of the total population (24.5%).
  – In Ireland, as a whole, there will be 1.89 million people aged 65+ and 2.44 million over 60, nearly one third of the population.
People aged 60+ as % of total population 2011 – 2041

Ageing Research in Ireland
Old age groups: 75+

Ageing Research in Ireland

CARDI
## North/South comparisons of Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republic of Ireland</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8% of all households are pensioners living alone (CSO, 2006).</td>
<td>13% of all households in 2008-09 were pensioners living alone (NISRA.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.4% of people aged 65+ live in rural areas compared to 50.6% in urban areas (CSO 2011).</td>
<td>32% of people aged 60 to 74 live in rural areas, and 28% of people aged 75+ live in rural areas (McGee et al., 2005).</td>
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</table>
ONE ISLAND – TWO SYSTEMS
Two different systems: politically

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republic of Ireland</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legislative branch</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dáil Éireann has 166 elected Teachtaí Dála (TD’s). There are 60 nominated or</td>
<td>• The Northern Ireland (NI) Assembly is made up of 108 elected Members of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elected members of Seanad Éireann.</td>
<td>Legislative Assembly (MLAs) across 18 constituencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Executive branch</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The executive branch is a Cabinet which consists of the Taoiseach and Ministers.</td>
<td>• The powers of the Northern Ireland Assembly do not cover “reserved” matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There are 15 Government Departments.</td>
<td>or “excepted” matters (policy areas which are the responsibility of the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>government including issues such as tax, immigration and foreign affairs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• There are 11 Government Departments including the Office of the First Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Deputy First Minister.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Local government</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• There are 29 Local Authorities or County Councils, five Borough Councils and five</td>
<td>• There are 26 Local Authorities or Councils in Northern Ireland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Councils.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Two different systems: administratively

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health system</th>
<th>A mix of public and private health service provision. Older people (70+) apply for a means tested medical card for free GP care and prescriptions, hospital care.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NI is part of the overall UK health system but responsibility is locally devolved to NI. The UK operates a universal public healthcare coverage system – free at point of access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term care</td>
<td>The Nursing Homes Support Scheme “Fair Deal”, provides financial support to people who need long-term nursing home care. €36,000 of wealth will not be counted in the Financial Assessment. The HSE then pays the balance of your cost of care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If have over £23,250 in capital (savings, investments and property including the value of your home), your local Health and Social Care Trust will assess you as being able to meet the full cost of your residential care or nursing home. If you do not have any assets in NI when requiring residential care, it will be provided for free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>Contributory pension ROI: EUR 230.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic state pension NI: £107.45.</td>
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</table>
Three publications covering these areas
DEVELOPMENT OF AGEING RESEARCH
Development of Ageing Research & Gerontology in Ireland – north and south: 1948 - 2005

• NI - Geriatric Medicine developed in Northern Ireland at the onset of the NHS in 1948.
• Irish Gerontological Society (IGS) established in 1951.
• First appointed consultant in Geriatric Medicine (St James*) ROI 1964.
• The Queen’s University of Belfast Department of Geriatric Medicine established in 1976.
• Irish Society of Physicians in Geriatric Medicine, founded in 1979.
• The National Council for the Aged – 1981 - renamed NCAOP
• Mercer's Institute for Research in Ageing was founded in 1987 – St James Dublin.
• St James Trinity Department of Geriatric Medicine established 1999.
• Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre established in Trinity in 2005
• Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, established NUI Galway, 2005
The Atlantic Philanthropies

• A limited life foundation dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people.
• $6 billion in grants around the world
• €770 million to Irish universities, North and South.
Ageing Research

• Traditionally, ageing research in Ireland

  – Small but enthusiastic research ‘community’ working in silos of research in terms of disciplines and sectors

  – Health the main focus of ageing research

  – Handful of island of Ireland research initiatives on ageing - estimated at just over 2% of the total research on ageing and older people (CARDI 2008)
ONE ISLAND – BUILDING ONE RESEARCH COMMUNITY
CARDI’s Mission

In 2007 CARDI was established to advocate and advance the ageing research agenda by identifying, coordinating, stimulating and communicating strategic research on ageing and older people as a means to improve the lives of older people in Ireland (North and South) especially those who are disadvantaged.
CARDI’s Role

• Promote all Island interdisciplinary approach to ageing research
• Show how research can affect policy and services to improve the lives of older people
• Disseminate ageing research and explain its relevance – Translation briefings, reports, commission research
• Build the research community - seminars and networking events
Oiling the wheel

The all Ireland collaborative research grant programme was launched in January 2009 with three objectives:

• To support and enable cross-border and interdisciplinary research collaboration on ageing and older people

• To stimulate research activity on the priority needs of older people within a policy and practice context in Ireland

• To increase the capacity of the ageing research community in Ireland
Criteria Calls – 1 - 3

• Collaboration in terms of geography and disciplines
• Comparative information
• Relevant to policy frameworks and strategies
• Involvement/engagement of older people
• Cross-sectoral research partners – work with those of special interests
• To build research capacity by involving new researchers
Specific Data Mining Programme

• A specific programme focused on data mining launched August 2010 and again December 2012.

• The objectives and criteria for this programme were distinct from CARDI’s previous funding programmes
  – To support analysis of existing quantitative data from an all-Ireland perspective, where appropriate supplemented by analysis of qualitative data
  – To stimulate research activity on the priority needs of older people within a policy and practice context in Ireland
Results

• Between January 2009 & February 2013
  – 5 calls
  – Over 170 applications
  – In excess of €6,000,000 requested
Results of Calls

• In Call 1: 3 researchers per application but this more than doubled to 7 researchers per application in Call 3.
• Increase in NGO involvement - Call1: 12.9%, Call 2: 27.7%; Call 3: 20.8%
• In the 5 calls 50% of grants were given to people who were new to ageing research/emerging researchers
• Economics, Public Health, Nursing and Medicine were most likely to be part of a successful interdisciplinary collaborations
• Rise of economics and social policy of ageing
CARDI Projects Supported

• 32 island of Ireland projects were funded:
  – Breadth of ageing studied - poverty - physical activity
  – 5 research networks
  – 13 focused on data mining
  – Awards ranged between €2000 and €85,000
  – Time scale ranged between 3 and 18 months.
  – Majority were 3+ disciplines per application
Special journal edition on CARDI

• 2012:
  – Volume 13 issue 1
    Special edition: Insights into ageing in Ireland
• Learning from grant programme
• 5 grants featured
AGEING RESEARCH - PRESENT
In 2010 CARDI profiled the Universities and Higher Institutions across Ireland working on ageing research:

- 15 institutions and major programmes
Academic Institutions involved in ageing research in Ireland – north and south

[Logos of various universities and institutions]
The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), a study of a representative sample of 8,000 people living in Ireland over the age of 50, charting their health, social and economic circumstances over a 10-year period.
Ageing research in Ireland – major projects

The TRIL (Technology Research for Independent Living) Centre was established in 2007. It is an initiative to explore the physical, cognitive and social consequences of ageing and develop technology solutions to address them. Largest interdisciplinary research team in Europe.
Ageing research in Ireland – major projects

Northern Ireland Cohort Study for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NICOLA) - a comprehensive, long-term study of 8500 people aged 50+ to understand development and ageing in Northern Ireland.
Ageing research in Ireland – major projects

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a longitudinal, multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of more than 40,000 individuals aged 50 or over across 16 countries in Wave 3.
Age Specific Centres in Ireland – north and south

Netwell Centre

Irish Centre for Social Gerontology

Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre

NICOLA
Understanding Today for a Healthier Tomorrow

The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing

Mercer’s Institute for Successful Ageing

CASALA
Centre for Affective Solutions for Ambient Living Awareness

The Dementia Services Development Centre

CARDI
Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland
WHERE TO IN THE FUTURE?
Ageing Research – Moving Forward
Follow-up

For more information on CARDI or on ageing research in Ireland generally see www.cardi.ie

Email me at roger@cardi.ie

Thank you for your time and interest