

SLLS 2023 Seminar Series: Session 2

Thursday 23rd March 16:00 – 17:00 (London, GMT)

Elaine Douglas, Co-PI of Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) Study

An Overview of the Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) Study: Its Sample, Published Work, and Future Plans

Abstract

Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) is a study of people aged 50+ in Scotland. It collects data on their health, economic and social circumstances. It uses this information to help researchers understand the lives of Scotland's older people.

HAGIS is the first comprehensive Scottish study to follow older people over time - the intention is to re-interview members of the study at intervals of two years (subject to funding). HAGIS is part of the Health & Retirement study family of longitudinal ageing studies. Together, these studies cover more than half the world's population aged 50+. It is possible to compare the lives of older people in Scotland with those of older people across Europe, or in the USA or China. These comparisons provide many opportunities for cross-country learning and shaping better policies and practices.

The HAGIS pilot study (2015-17) had a representative sample of 1057 adults aged 50+ living in Scotland. The survey responses were linked to administrative data, in particular, the Scottish Morbidity Records which include hospitalisations, in-patients, out-patients, and accident & emergency data going back to 2012.

The HAGIS COVID-19 Impact & Recover study (2020-22) revisited the original pilot sample and also extended the sample to include respondents from the Generation Scotland Scottish Family Health Study. We developed a scale to measure Worries Emerging from the Covid-19 Pandemic (WECP) to understand how concerns during the pandemic may affect social, health and economic behaviours.

The pilot study was supported by the National Institute on Aging in the United States and the Nuffield Foundation in the UK. The COVID-19 study was funded by the UKRI Covid Fast Response Award. Data will be available shortly from the UK Data Service.

Elaine Douglas will provide an overview of the HAGIS study, its sample, published work, and future plans.

www.hagis.scot

