

Hometown: Local Places, Then and Now

“Population Ageing presents social, economic and cultural challenges to individuals, families, societies and the global community. It is how we choose to address the challenges and maximize the opportunities of a growing population that will determine the future of humankind.”

– Ageing in the Twenty-First Century: A Celebration and a Challenge
(United Nations Population Fund Report, 2012)

In response to the challenges and opportunities associated with the ageing demographic of the 21st century, the DCU Intergenerational Learning Programme together with the ASU Office of Gerontological & Interprofessional Initiatives are developing collaborations that promote the positive aspects of ageing in an innovative teaching, learning and research environment, inclusive of all generations in higher education.

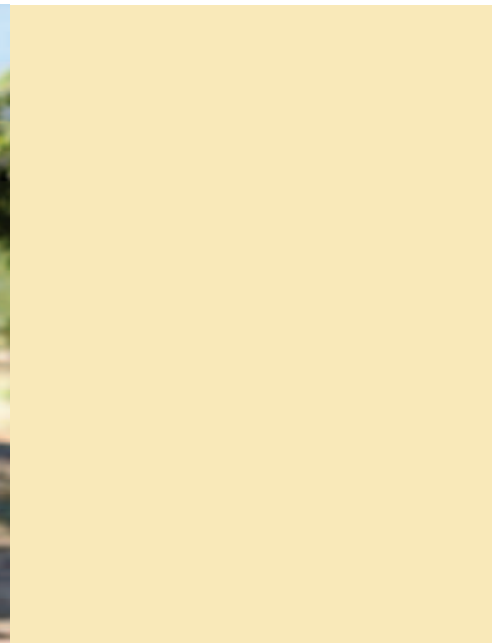
Our initial collaboration is “Hometown: Local Places, Then and Now,” which follows from the successful DCU “Collaborating on Intergenerational Stories.” DCU was one of only nine universities worldwide to receive a Photowings and AshokaU Insight Grant Winner for this project in 2013. The Hometown project will bring older and younger people together to engage in dialogue and share their stories of local places past and present. Shared stories of heritage and culture, and stories of rural and urban places past and present are explored through videography and other multimedia.

Through conversation and sharing photographs and stories, the project highlights the benefits of collaboration between universities in an international context. This is chiefly through engaging university students across all fields of study with older people in a reciprocal learning experience that values the potential of both generations in our communities and in helping to develop our economies.



This collaboration, as part of the wider Age-Friendly University Initiative between our institutions, offers other benefits, including:

- Promoting opportunities and sharing best practices in intergenerational learning at the national and international level
- Developing new pathways for teaching, learning, and research in universities that embrace abundant ageing and the longevity dividend as a key initiative
- Fostering an international university partnership approach which embeds an awareness of the need to eliminate ageism and stereotyping
- Promoting the positive dimensions of the engagement of older people in higher education for the greater good of society



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Dr. Trudy Corrigan

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In addition to her role at ASU, Dr. Kennedy is core faculty with the Arizona Geriatric Education Center, University of Arizona, and an international Age-Friendly University Initiative team member. She has 17 years of direct practice and administrative experience serving elders and their families through the provision of health, behavioral health and social services in home, community-based, in-patient and skilled nursing facility settings.

Dr. Kennedy is recognized nationally as a leader in gerontological social work education and promotes the development of interprofessional education and practice competencies in students, faculty and healthcare professionals. Her research on geriatric education centers resulted in the development of strategies to foster sustainability of educational initiatives and has been subsequently published as a book. Her research interests include the sustainability of educational initiatives, interprofessional education and practice, and the cultural construction of happiness.

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Dr. Corrigan is a researcher and lecturer in the School of Educational Studies. Her research interests are in adult education and lifelong learning and, in particular, in researching intergenerational learning across generations. She is currently engaged in an EU project that evaluates the benefits of intergenerational solidarity in societies across Europe. She is also interested in promoting the benefits of ageing and breaking down stereotyping related to ageism. Her doctoral thesis explored intergenerational learning as an emerging pedagogy. This was the basis for the current DCUILP, which began in 2008.

Dr. Corrigan is vice chair of the DCU Age-Friendly University Initiative, which is part of the wider International Age-Friendly University Initiative team in collaboration with ASU and the University of Strathclyde.

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