

Citizen Challenge Area:

Ageless Citizen

How can technology support non-age biased learning, growth and engagement opportunities across an entire life course?

TEAM

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OVERVIEW

What do we mean by ageless? Age may be a number, however, when we look deeper we may find that many of our ideas about age have been influenced by cultural stereotypes or associations with particular notions of self and identity.

Instead of looking at chronological age, as part of our Ageless Citizen Challenge Area, we aim to look through an ageless lens. We wish to unpack and challenge existing biases in digital technologies and systems and reframe opportunities for non-stereotypical understandings of age, learning and ability.

Areas we're interested in exploring

Shared spaces: If the digital economy is to meaningfully support citizenship both for an ageing population and also across the lifecourse, then it is necessary to identify ways in which technology may support generations to work with one another, to see connections between people regardless of age and to promote diverse contributions to society.

Whilst many projects explore how to support intergenerational relationships, we wish to look beyond the generational distinctions and through the lens of 'agelessness'. Despite the attraction of intergenerational programmes, if these are the only programs of activity undertaken they can arguably reinforce ageism and risk homogenising people in older and younger groups.

Get involved:

- Find out more by having a chat with the Ageless Citizen Challenge Area leaders, [Jayne](#) and [Ahmed](#), or contact [Rachel Pattinson, Centre Manager](#)
- Share your project ideas! If you have an idea you'd like the Centre for Digital Citizens support with, we'd love to [hear about it!](#)
- Visit the website: www.digital-citizens.uk

We aim to consider natural groupings of people that are brought together by spaces and common interests, rather than by chronological age. The aim is not to disregard intergenerational programmes, but rather to recognise them in relation to our focus on agelessness. How can we connect people across age, through co-creative research activities involving making, media creation, learning and training and shared interests?

Age and ageing: What if we looked at age as a series of inequalities? Is agelessness about promoting equality, whereby chronological age is taken out of the picture? We aim to explore what age means to each of us. Does 'making age invisible' make us ageless?

Conceptualising people as ageless could mean that we are not thinking about what is 'appropriate' at certain ages. With this in mind, we are considering how people are more, or less, advantaged at particular points in their lives.

Transition and progression: Life transitions, such as into or leaving work for example, don't necessarily happen for people at the same age, and they can look very different for each person. In retirement, some gain funds and freedom, whereas some experience a sudden loss. This is why we wish to move away from engaging with simple stories, and why we aim to develop a richer narrative around life transitions, in and out of work, starting and leaving education, and other transitions across the lifespan. How can we support life transitions through the lens of agelessness?

Providing support: How can we provide support for people across their lifespan? What does support look like for a variety of groups, from children and young people to supporting isolated carers or those with experiences of being economically disadvantaged. How can support be provided through an ageless lens?

From a technology perspective, how do we consider agelessness in relation to supportive technology design? Can we challenge the embedded ageism in digital systems?

Examples of collaboration:

The Later Life Audio and Radio

Co-operative (LLARC): [LLARC](#) highlights older adults' civic contributions in radio and broadcasting by promoting talk-based audio and radio content created by older adults.

LLARC engages older adults in creativity, facilitates skill development & building communities by enabling discussion of a wide range of topics.



Enabling Ongoingness: [Ongoingness](#) is an EPSRC-funded project exploring how we can support positive, continued relationships with people who have died and help people at the end of life put things in place for this.

The project centres on the idea of continuing bonds and using design & digital technologies in gentle, personally meaningful ways.