than those in the MHAS. Cognitively impaired individuals in the MHAS were more likely to be living with a spouse only. In both nations approximately one-fifth of the cognitively impaired live alone. Conclusion: Cognitive impairment is associated with differential living arrangements in Mexico and the U.S. We discuss the policy implications of this growing burden for both nations.

SESSION 1080 (SYMPOSIUM)

DEVELOPING AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY

Chair: C. Phillipson, *Manchester Institute for Research on Ageing, Manchester, England*

Co-Chair: T. Buffel, *The University of Manchester, Manchester, England*

Developing what has been termed ‘age-friendly cities and communities’ (AFCC) has become an important area of work in the field of public policy and ageing. This reflects the increasing importance of older people within urban as well as rural communities; the importance of the physical and social environment for maintaining quality of life; and the emphasis in community care policies on promoting ‘ageing in place’. This symposium will provide an assessment of a range of initiatives underway to develop age-friendly communities, drawing upon examples from Europe and North America. An-Sofie Smetcoran and colleagues address how age-friendly social environments can support frail older people to ‘age actively in place’. Their discussion highlights that this approach could be particularly beneficial to those who lack the means to improve their situation and to those more reliant on their immediate locality for support, providing improved prospects for ‘ageing well in place’. Samuele Remillard Boillard examines age-friendly activity in Brussels, Manchester and Montreal, providing a critical overview of the success factors and challenges influencing the development and evolution of policies in these cities. Kieran Walsh and Anna Urbaniak review findings from a project exploring the impact of critical life transitions on experiences of old-age exclusion, and the role of place and community in mediating these experiences. Finally, Tine Buffel and Chris Phillipson will conclude the symposium by outlining a ‘Manifesto for the Age-Friendly Movement’, focusing on issues around: challenging social inequality; widening participation; coproducing age-friendly communities; and integrating research with policy.

A MANIFESTO FOR THE AGE-FRIENDLY MOVEMENT: DEVELOPING A NEW URBAN AGENDA

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Developing ‘Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (AFCC)’ has become a key part of policies aimed at improving the quality of life of older people in urban areas. The World Health Organization has been especially important in driving the ‘Age-Friendly’ agenda, notably through its Global Network of AFCC. Despite the expansion and achievements

of the Network, challenges remain in responding to the growth of inequality and the impact of economic austerity on aging policies. Against the background of these limitations, this paper sets out a ‘Manifesto for the age-friendly movement’ aimed at raising the aspirations of what is now a world-wide movement. The areas covered in the Manifesto are: challenging social inequality; widening participation; co-producing and co-designing age-friendly communities; encouraging multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary collaboration; and integrating research with policy. The paper concludes with a discussion on developing age-friendly work as a contribution to a new agenda for urban aging.

TOWARDS AN ACTIVE CARING COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS

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This study addresses how age-friendly social environments can support frail older people to ‘age actively in place’. A qualitative study was performed involving 11 focusgroups (e.g. older residents, volunteers, professionals) in two disadvantaged neighborhoods in Brussels. Findings indicate five key issues crucial to consider when creating supportive age-friendly social environments: 1) the decreasing availability of kinship support networks; 2) the significance of neighbors in the support networks; 3) the idea of making existing connections and networks ‘visible’; 4) the multi-dimensional relational aspects of support; and 5) the need to move beyond care and support. The discussion highlights that although age-friendliness could have a significant impact on all age groups living within a given neighbourhood, it could be particularly beneficial to those who lack the means to improve their situation and to those more reliant on their immediate locality for support, providing new support prospects for ‘ageing well in place’.

DEVELOPING AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES: LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF BRUSSELS, MANCHESTER, AND MONTREAL

S. Remillard-Boillard, *The University of Manchester, Manchester, England, United Kingdom*

This paper presents the findings of a cross-national study comparing age-friendly developments in three large urban centres: Brussels (Belgium), Manchester (UK) and Montreal (Canada). Drawing on a series of in-depth interviews conducted with 45 local key stakeholders, this paper aims to present different approaches to creating age-friendly cities. This theme is developed by, first, examining different strategies cities have used to develop their age-friendly work; and second, by presenting a number of success factors and challenges influencing the development, implementation and evolution of age-friendly policies. Given the wide variety of contexts in which age-friendly policies are developed, this paper argues that understanding how cities operationalise