

2020-06-17

***ABSTRACT FOR THE HALFTIME REVIEW:***  
**INVOLVING CITIZENS AND PROFESSIONALS IN RESEARCH ON AGEING AND  
HEALTH**

**Joakim Frögren**

**Background**

Involving citizens and professionals in research on ageing and health is believed to increase both the relevance and quality of the research. However, the participatory approaches employed are equivocal and the conceptual apparatus ambiguous. Whilst there are indications of positive outcomes there are also concerns and opaqueness, for example in relation to methodology.

**Aim/Method**

The overarching aim is to increase the understanding of the involvement of citizens and professionals in research on ageing and health; how such efforts are perceived and how professional know-how and citizens' ways of knowing could contribute to the research area. Additionally, the aim is to provide insights of the potential and pitfalls of various participatory approaches and thereby contribute to the methodological development in the field.

Study I explored the wicked problem of providing accessible housing for the ageing population in Sweden, with a specific focus on the identification of critical aspects in decision-making, using the Research Circle methodology and deductively applying a framework from transdisciplinary science.

Study II investigates the awareness of and attitudes towards public involvement in research on ageing and health among 60+ citizens in Sweden, through a survey analysed descriptively and through multivariable regression analysis.

Study III inquires how senior citizens in Sweden experience being involved in a mass experiment targeting housing accessibility, applying a mixed method approach.

Study IV elucidates potentials and pitfalls related to the establishment and maintenance of mechanisms for involving professionals and citizens in the context of a research centre for ageing research, through an abductive qualitative analysis of documents and interviews.

### **Preliminary results**

Study I: The findings indicated that the framework proved a useful grid for analyzing the data and illustrate the wickedness of the problem.

Study II: The preliminary descriptive results indicated that receiving feedback of one's efforts was a strong motivating factor for involvement.

### **Significance**

In addition to the theoretical contribution, this dissertation will facilitate future deployment of participatory efforts and thus contribute to the relevance and quality of research on ageing and health.

### **Publications**

**Frögren, J.,\*** Jonsson, O.,\* Haak, M., Slaug, B., & Iwarsson, S. Exploration of the wicked problem of providing accessible housing for the ageing population in Sweden.

Submitted. \* Equal contribution.

Frögren, J., Schmidt, S., Kylén, M., Jonsson, O., Slaug, B., & Iwarsson, S. Awareness of and Attitudes towards Public Involvement in Research on Ageing and Health among 60+ citizens in Sweden. In progress.