

# Innovation and Ageing: the challenges for public policy

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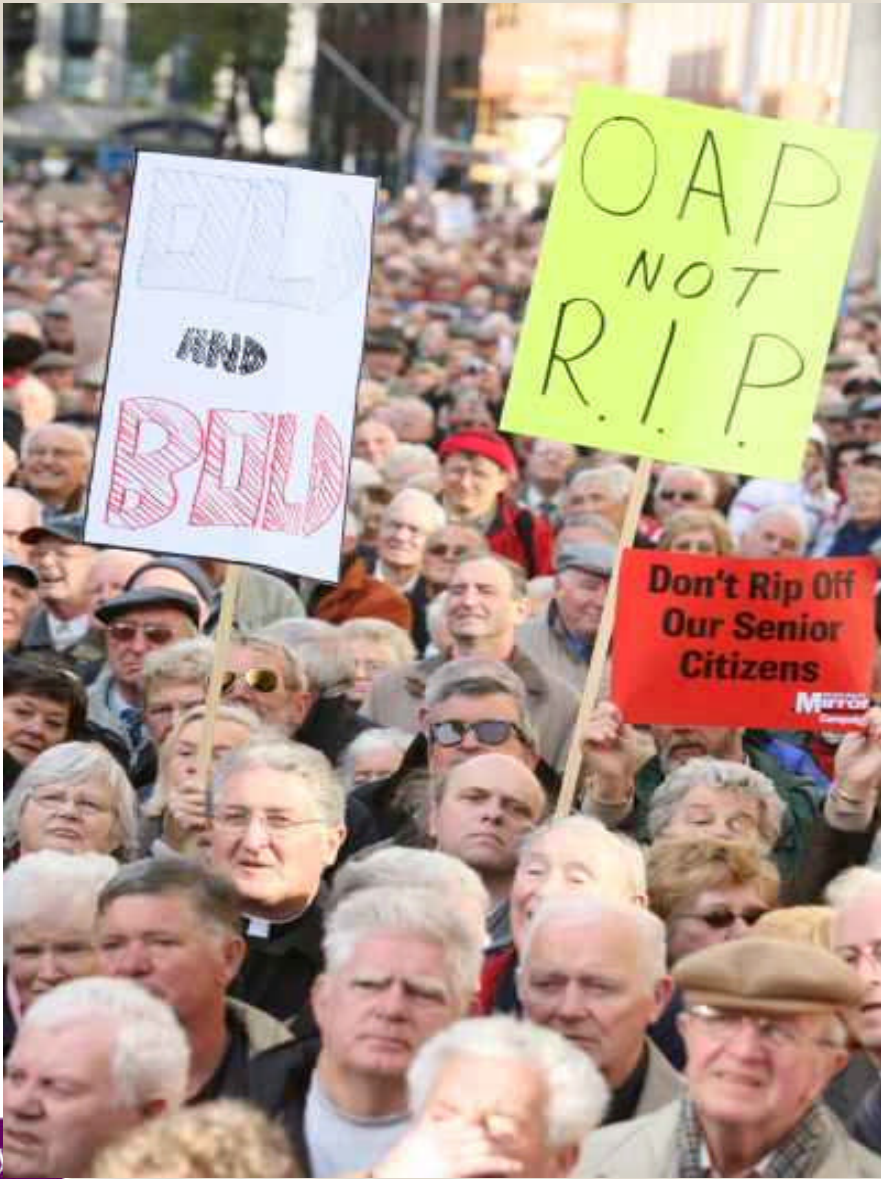


NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh



How old would you be  
if you didn't know how old you are?



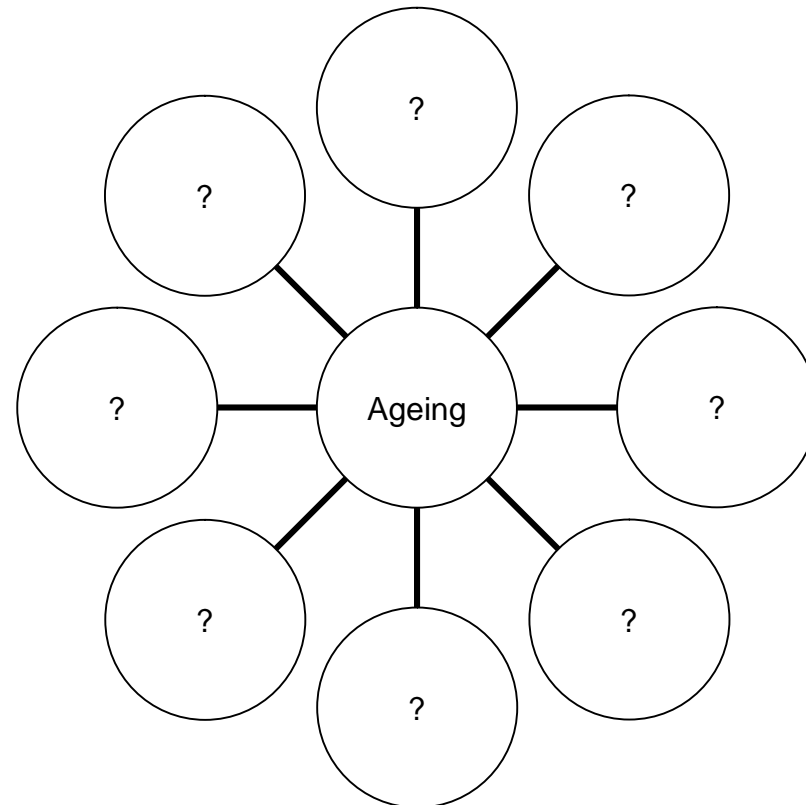


# The Longevity Revolution

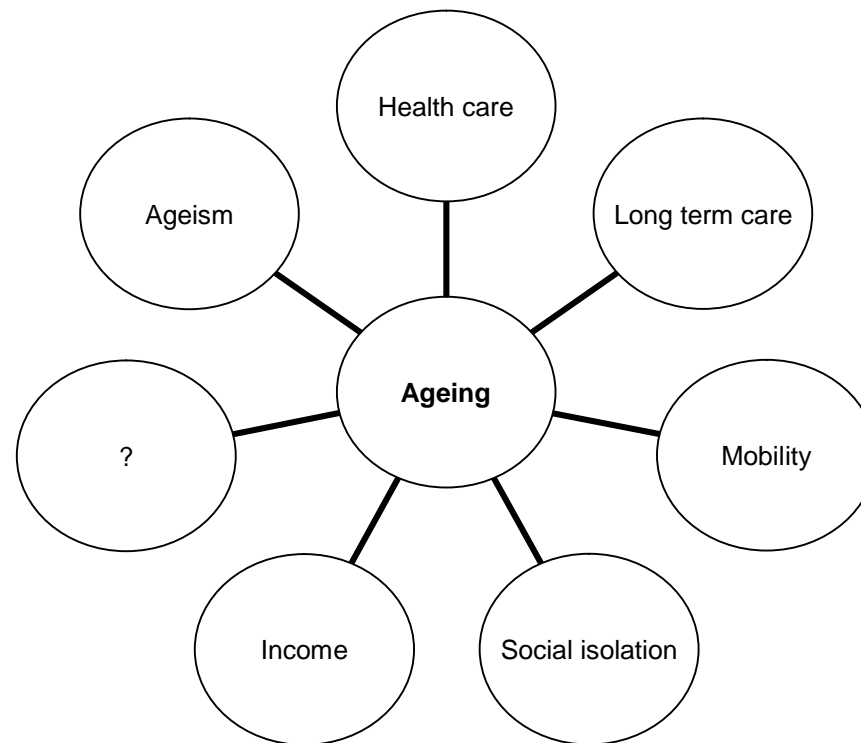
- Why plan for an ageing population?
- Challenges of longevity for Public Policy
- Contribution of Social Science



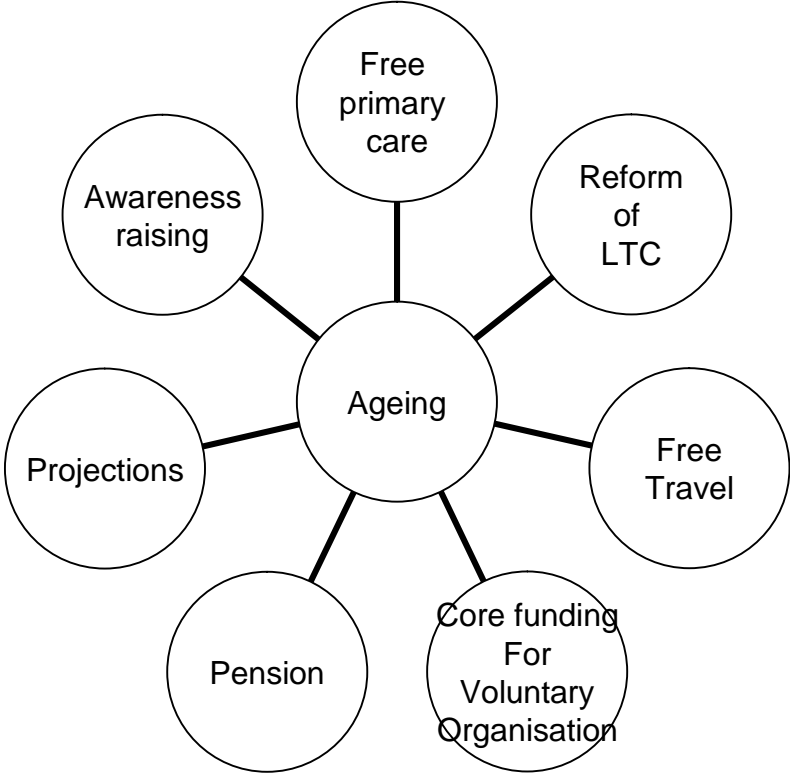
# The Challenges for Public Policy



# The Challenges for Public Policy



# Current policy response



## Conceptualisation of Ageing as a Policy Challenge

- Adjustment of the welfare state (political economy of ageing)
- Technology will deal with it (industrial and medical development projects)
- Budget for it (the economics of ageing)
- Majority rule (democracy and demography)



## Key research question

Can society innovate to adjust to an ageing population?



What do you need to consider before we begin  
to address this question?



What is the national context in which  
innovation occurs?



## ‘Hybrid’ system of social protection

‘Hybrid’ refers to Ireland’s mix of means-tested, insurance-based and universalist income support and service arrangements’

(National Economic and Social Council 2005)



## Policy design in a 'hybrid' system

- Healthcare: two tier system, free primary care for over 70s.
- Long term care: privatisation, catastrophic costs, reform programme.
- Mobility: universal free travel on public transport

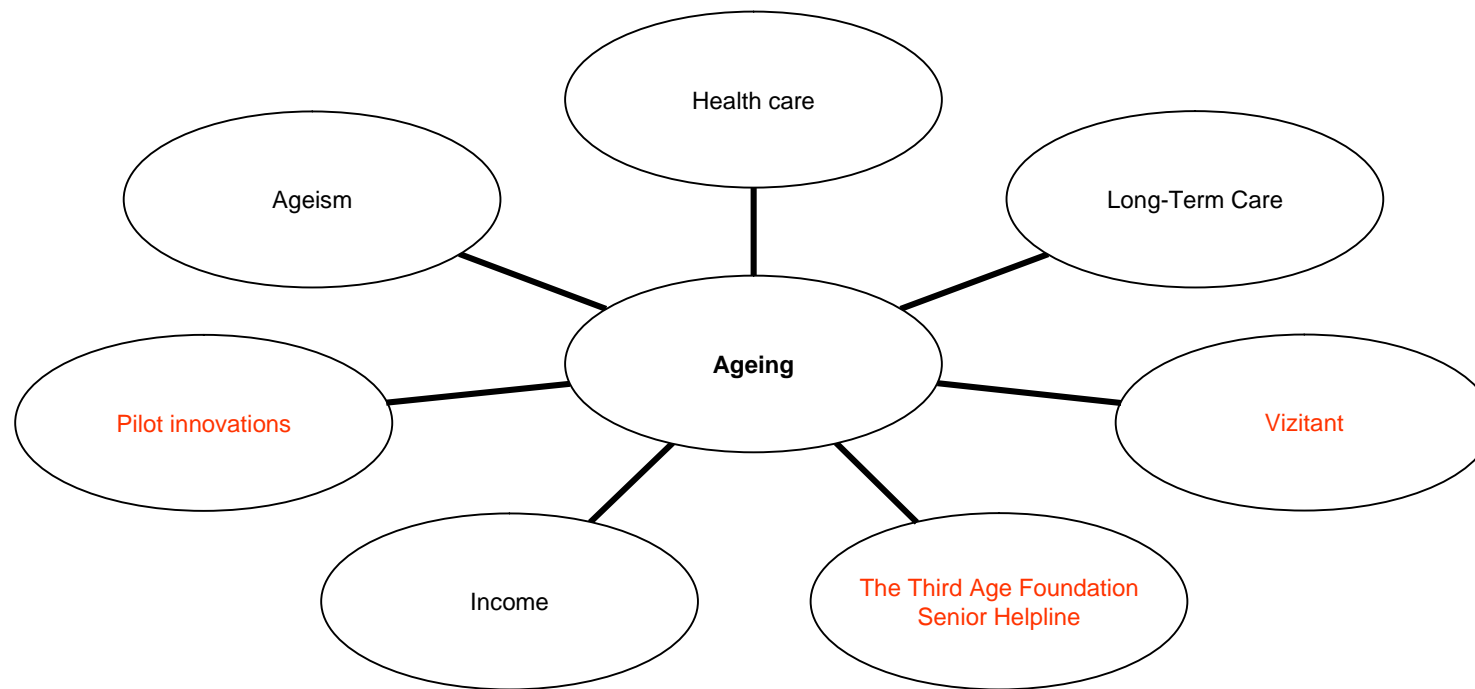


## Policy design in a ‘hybrid’ system of social insurance

- Social isolation: family, charities meet need
- Income: means tested pension
- Projections: no clear plan on future of demographic ageing



# Space for Innovation



# Innovation and Ageing

