

Principles and Values in conducting research

ACT takes the ethical and political dimensions of conducting research on ageing in a digital world seriously.

The ACT mandate encourages researchers, partner organizations, colleagues, and students to consider the following feminist principles in conducting research with older adults and on the subject of ageing:

Age/ing Awareness

Acknowledge age as a significant social category and ageing as a relational process. Foster age/ing awareness.

Context Matters

Ageing is a part of a whole way of life lived in different contexts and historical moments. How might we understand what it means to age “in time” and in a specific location?

Dynamic Intersectionality

Ask how ageing intersects with other forms of difference, genders, abilities, classes, sexualities, languages, religions, races/ethnicities. If intersectionality is dynamic, and ageing is contextual, there is not just one life course.

Heterogeneity

Celebrate the ageing process and old age(s) as diverse and heterogeneous, and take care not to “lump” all older people into an undifferentiated mass.

Critical Reflexivity

Encourage ongoing critical reflexivity in research on ageing in one’s own work as well as the work of others.

Inter and Intra-Generational Specificity

Treat working with individuals of various generational backgrounds as an opportunity to understand both inter- generational and intra -generational specificities.

Counter Ageism

Identify and challenge ageism and age discrimination. Question ageist clichés, whilst acknowledging lived ageing realities.

Inclusivity and Systemic Power

Pay attention to who is included and excluded from the research agenda and how this might be systemically perpetuated. Consider how one’s research engages with empowerment and social-justice activism.

Mutual Respect

Carry out research founded on the principles of mutual respect and reciprocity.