Ageing in a Diaspora: (Im) Mobilities of First Generation Pakistani Migrants in the United Kingdom

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- **Focus of Presentation:**

    – Introduction to Ageing, Diasporas and Mobilities

    – The 'New Mobilities Paradigm' (NMP)

    – Exploring Post-migration Mobilities of Diaspora

    – Exploring Post-migration Immobilities of Diaspora

    – Future Considerations

Introduction to Ageing, Diasporas and Mobilities

- **Research Locations & Settings:**

  - Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Sattar, 2012)
    - Localised Mobilities

  - Luton (Ali, 2008 & 2012-)
    - Tourism-related Mobilities

Mobilities
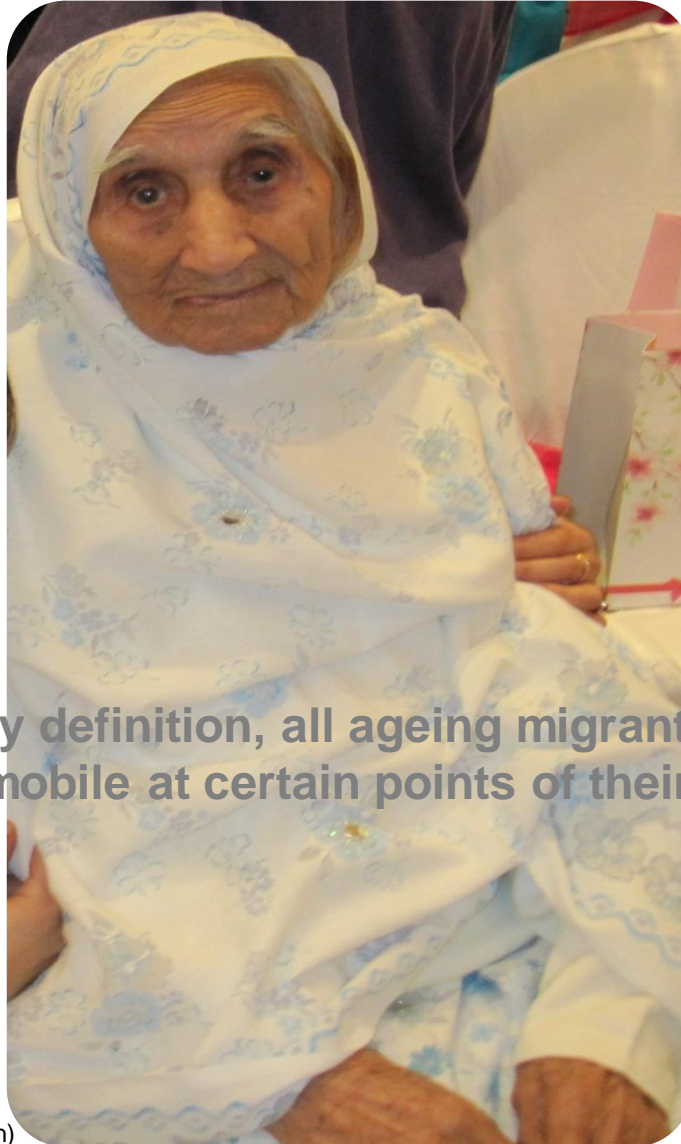
Immobilities

IMISCOE* (2013): By definition, all ageing migrants have been physically mobile at certain points of their life.
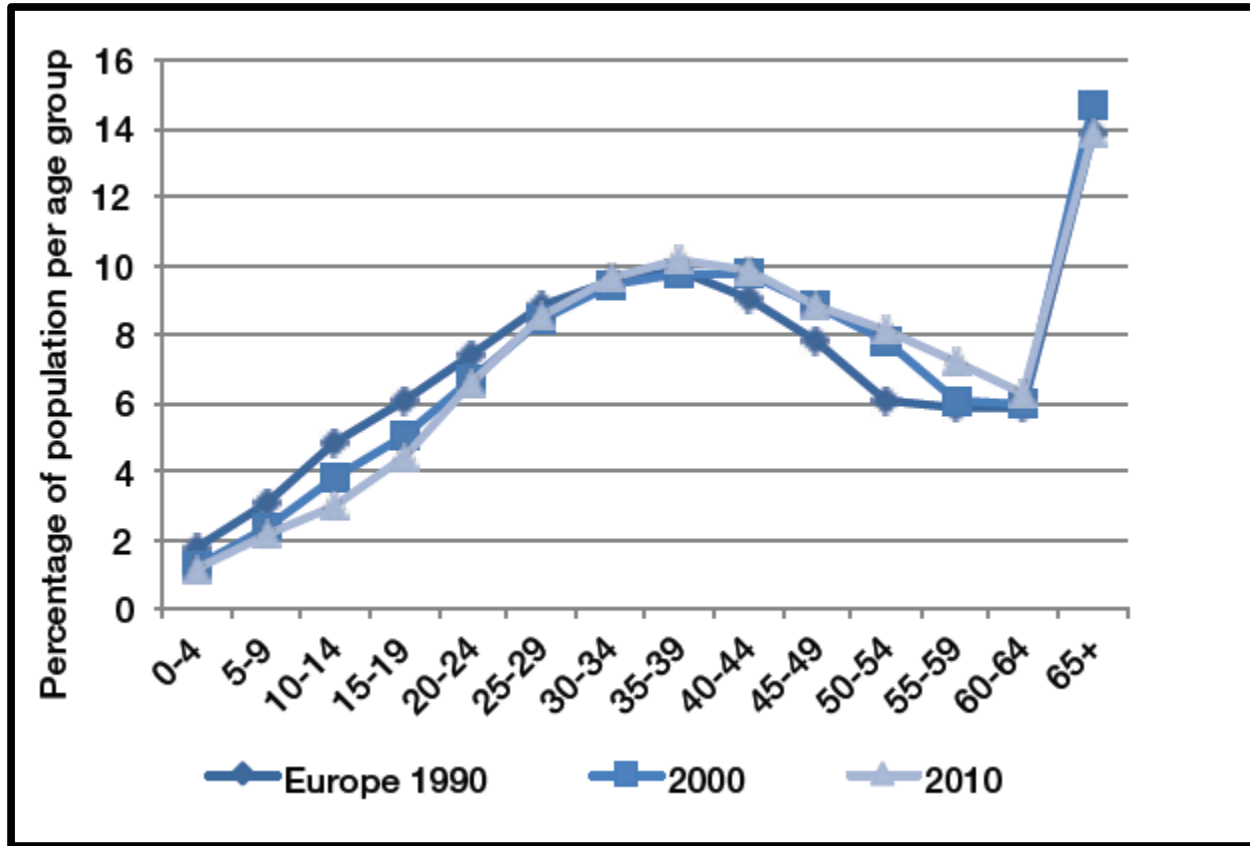
- **Ageing Migrants in a Diaspora**
  - There are now **215m first-generation migrants around the world**: that's 3% of the world's population. If they were a nation, it would be a little larger than Brazil.
  - 40% more than in 1990
  - If migrants were a nation, they would be the world's fifth-largest

(The Economist, 2011a and 2011b)

- **Ageing Migrants in a Diaspora: Age Distribution (Europe)**

Source: United Nations Population Division, Trends in international migrant stock: Migrants by age and sex, cited in Zlotnik, 2012)

The 'New Mobilities Paradigm' (NMP)

- In the flat world of maps, sharp lines show where one country ends and another begins. The real world is more fluid. Peoples do not have borders the way that parcels of land do. They seep from place to place; they wander; they migrate.

(The Economist, 2011b)

- **Issues of 'Connections', 'Meetingness' and 'Networks'**
  - Urry (2000, 2003, 2010)

Conceptual underpinnings at the centre of the 'new mobilities paradigm' are 'connections', 'meetings' and 'networks', which stimulate the movement of people, populations, and objects at local and global Connections, meetings and networks are laden with obligations to come together, face-to-face, for legal, economic, familial, social, object, events and obligations to place.

- **Diasporic Networking & Obligations**
  - UK Pakistani Diaspora (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne)
    - Religious Spiritual Networking
    - First-generation Pakistani Men
    - Linked to (Local) Spiritual Mobilities
    - Connecting, Meeting and Networking
  - UK Pakistani Diaspora (Luton)
    - Cultural Diasporic Networking
    - First-generation Pakistani Women
    - Linked to Diaspora Tourism Mobilities
    - Connecting, Meeting and Networking

- **UK Pakistani Diaspora (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne)**
  - Localised Spiritual Mobilities
    - Religiously Orientated Journeys
      - Pillars of Islam: *Salāt* (prayers)
      - Funeral prayers: Salāt ul-Janaza
      - Condolences: 'afsos'

    - Social and Spiritual Capital

    - Connecting, Meeting and Networking = unites first-generation Pakistani migrants

- **UK Pakistani Diaspora (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne)**
  - **Future (Localised) Micro Mobilities**
    - Mobilities require economic resources

    - Physical aspects

    - Isolation and Loneliness

    - Funding cuts – voluntary services for the elderly

- **UK Pakistani Diaspora (Luton)**
  – Ali and Holden (2006: 230):

These (Urry's, 2003) familial, social, place and event obligations) are not only obligations but also duties rooted in numerous rituals and practices of the Pakistani community, that is, burials, weddings and gift-giving. […] tourism participation has become a means of communicating or networking, thereby strengthening ties between the Pakistani diaspora.

- **UK Pakistani Diaspora (Luton)**
  - Diasporic Networking

- **UK Pakistani Diaspora (Luton)**
  - **Future (Localised) Micro Mobilities**
    - Immobility and the old

    - Funding cuts and community groups

    - 'Death' of the return visit

    - Impact on diasporic networking…

- **UK Pakistani Diaspora (Luton)**
  - Diasporic (de-)networking

- **Concluding Thoughts**

  Ageing Victoriously?

  Use of digital technologies?

  The future of face-to-faceness?

- Selected References
  – Economist, The (2011a) The Magic of Diasporas, November 19th 2011, Available from: http://www.economist.com/node/21538742

  – Economist, The (2011b) Mass Migration in the Internet Age is Changing the Way that People do Business, November 19th 2011, Available from: http://www.economist.com/node/21538700

  – Sheller, M. and Urry, J. (2006) The New Mobilities Paradigm, Environment and Planning A, 38, pp. 207-226.

  – Urry, J. (2010) Social Networks and Mobile Lives, in: A. Elliot & J. Urry (Eds) Mobile Lives, pp. 1-10, London: Routledge.