

A Curated Orientation to Age-Friendly Literature

Age-Friendly 101: How to Connect Your Work and Advance Your Age-Friendly Community Scholarship and Practice

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Rutgers Hub for Aging Collaboration

GSA 2023
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School of Social Work
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Share Your Background



Have you published peer-reviewed articles on age-friendly communities?

Have you been a peer reviewer for age-friendly community articles?

Have you read peer-reviewed articles on age-friendly communities?

Are you new to age-friendly peer-reviewed literature?



Presentation Overview

- Literature Landscape
- Major Journals, Major Disciplines
- Overarching Buckets of AFC Literature
- Our Experience (Systematic Searching Considerations)
- Exploring Your Niche in Age-Friendly Literature

How would you describe
age-friendly literature?

Starting with the Basics: Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Terminology

“Age-friendly,”
the adjective

v.

“age-friendly
community,”
the noun

Google Scholar

age-friendly

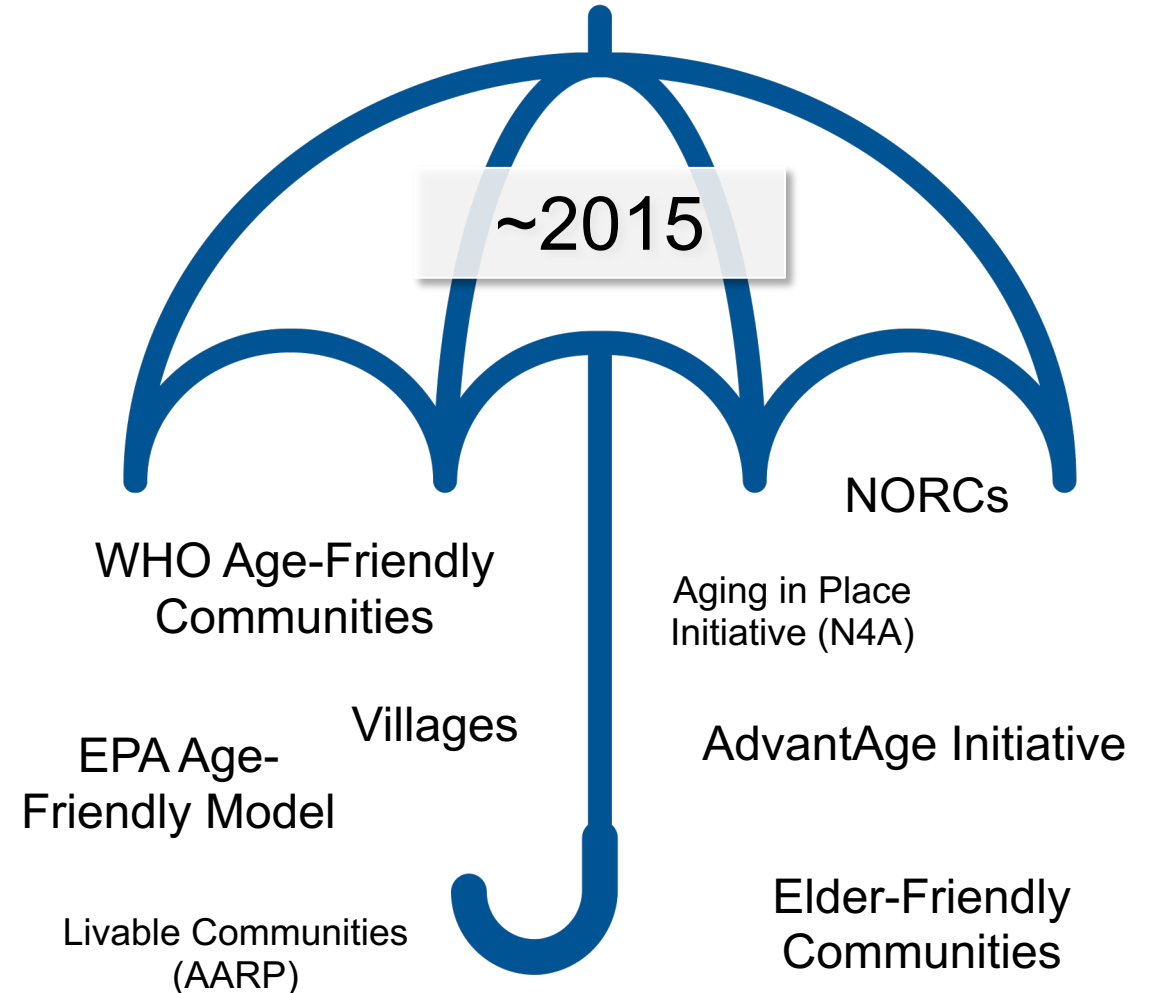
age friendly **communities**
age friendly **cities**
age friendly **environment**
age friendly **hospital**
age friendly **workplace**
age friendly **university**
age friendly **housing**
age friendly **design**
age friendly **transportation**
age friendly **communities canada**

Starting with the Basics: Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Terminology

“Age-Friendly
Community”:
Community Aging
Initiative

v.

WHO-based
initiative/model



Starting with the Basics: Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Terminology

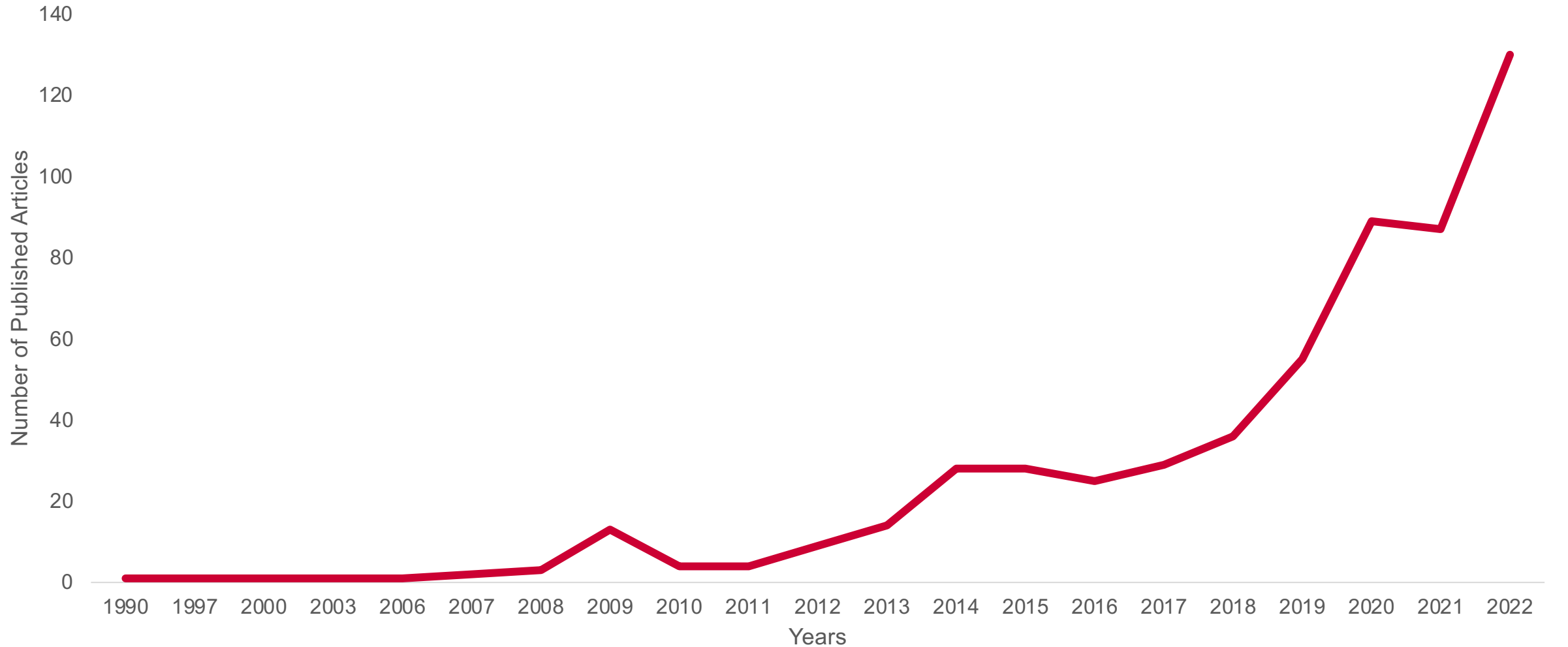
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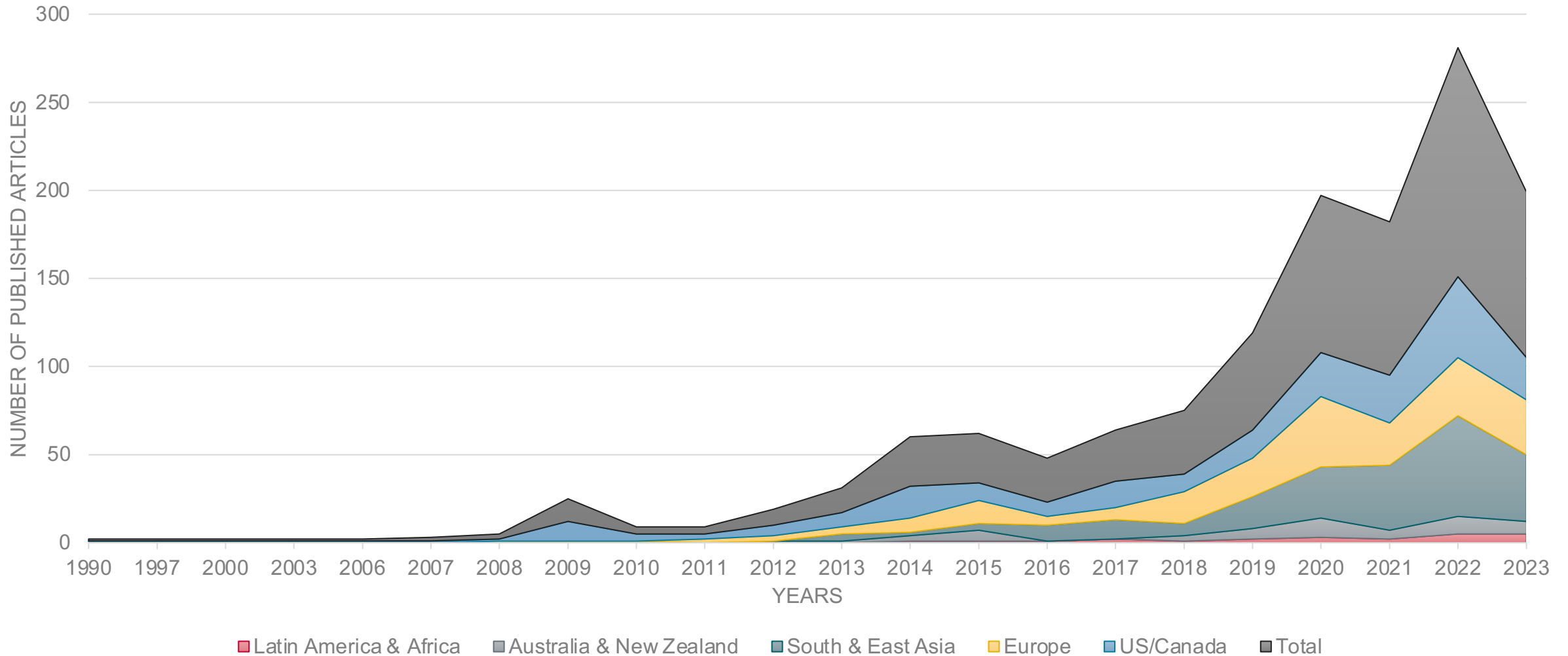


Recent Growth in AFC Literature

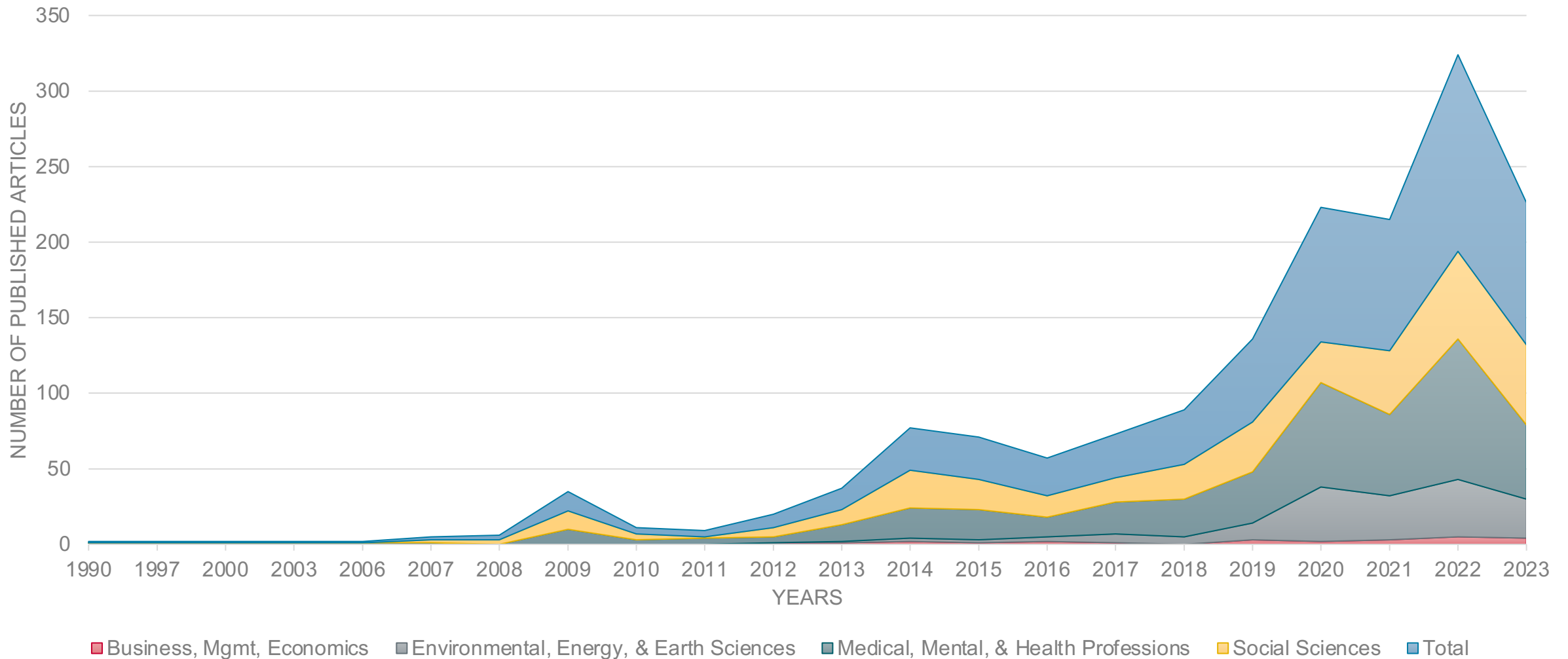


Author analysis search terms available upon request (discussed further late in presentation)

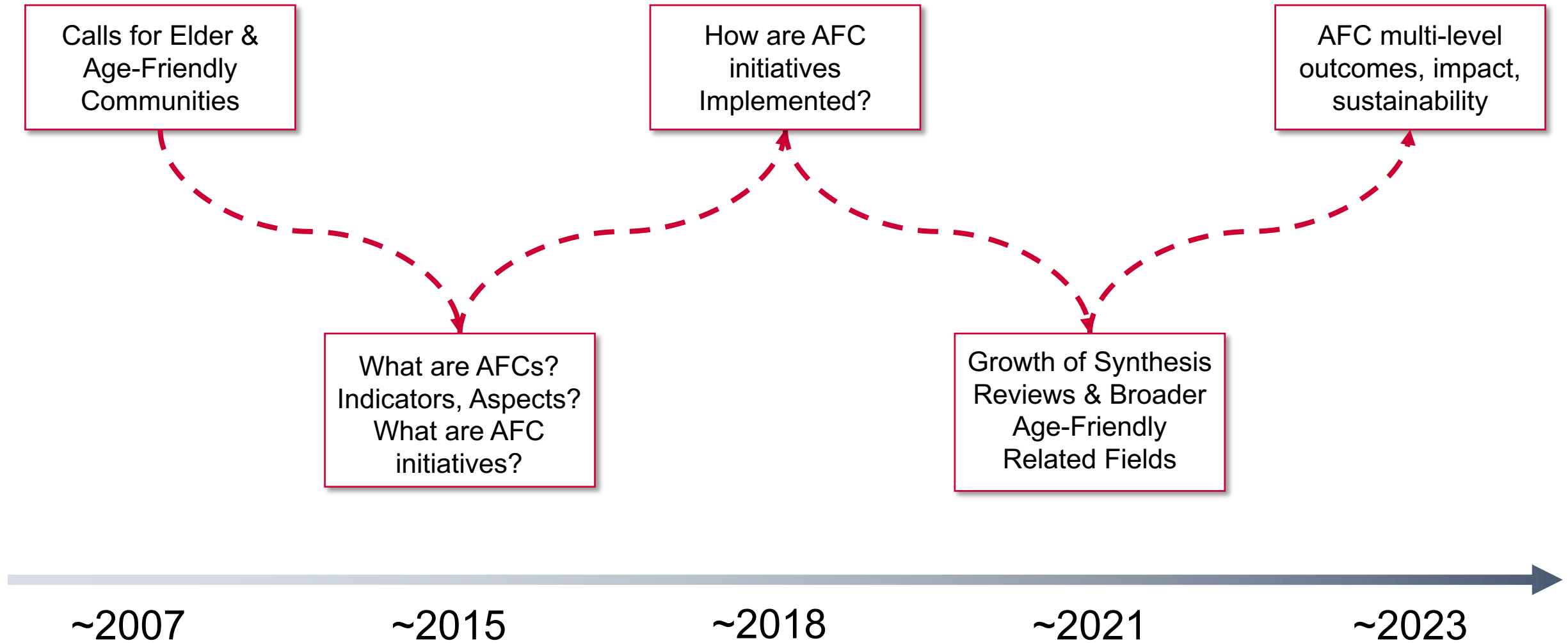
Recent Growth & Diversification of AFC Literature - Geography



Recent Growth & Diversification of AFC Literature - Discipline



Topical Trends in AFC Literature





International Hubs of Age-Friendly Research

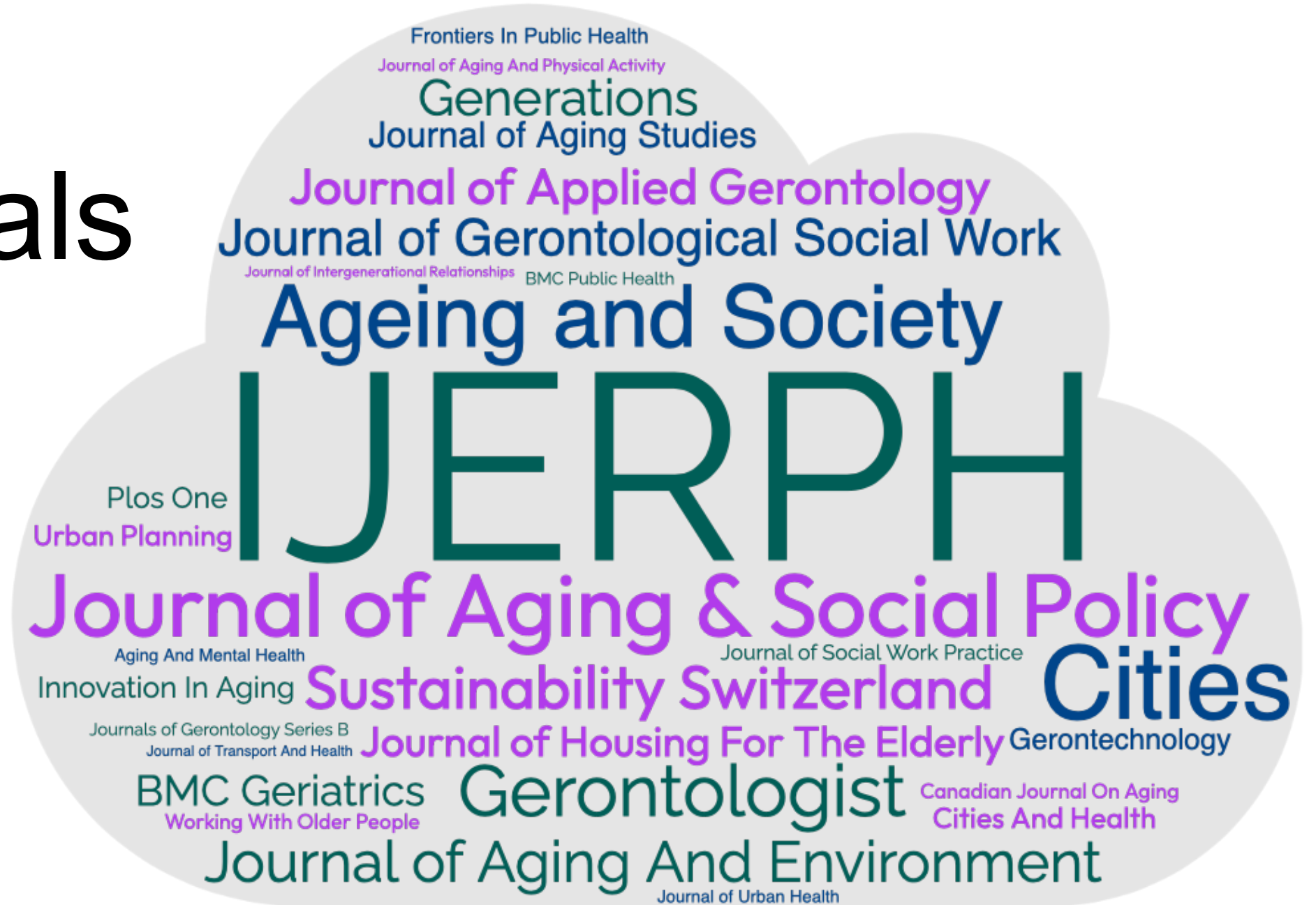
(Torku et al., 2021; Rémillard-Boilard et al, 2021)

Major Disciplines

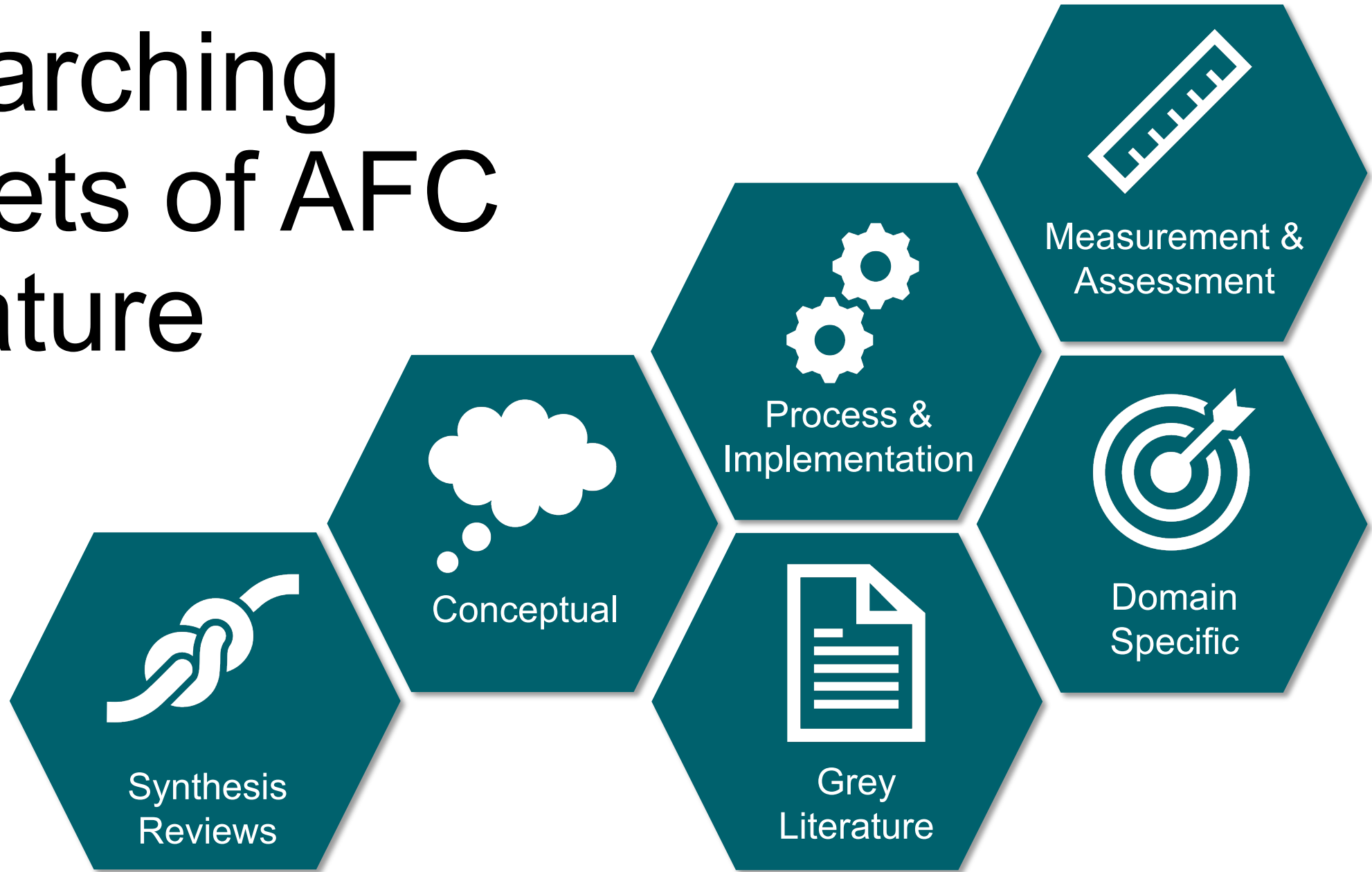
- Built & Natural Environment
- Gerontology & Geriatrics
- Physical & Mental Health (General)
- Public Health
- Social Policy & Public Management
- Social Work
- Urban Planning, Policy, Studies



Major Journals



Overarching Buckets of AFC Literature



Measurement & Assessment

Articles exploring indicators, dimensions, and multi-level outcomes, often of broad community age-friendliness rather than AFC initiatives

Example Papers:

- Buckner et al., 2018
- Lee & Kim, 2020
- Zhang et al., 2020
- Chu & Zhang, 2022
- Kim et al., 2022



Measurement & Assessment – Article Highlight

Chu & Zhang,
2022



International Journal of
*Environmental Research
and Public Health*



Article

Do Age-Friendly Community Policy Efforts Matter in China? An Analysis Based on Five-Year Developmental Plan for Population Aging

Yongqiang Chu ¹ and Huan Zhang ^{2,*}

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² School of Social Development and Public Policy, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, China

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Abstract: (1) Background: The study will examine whether local governments' policy efforts on age-friendly communities (AFC) promote older adults' social participation in China. The extensive scope of AFC makes measuring policy efforts very challenging. The study attempts to introduce the developmental planning and goal-setting theory in public policy literature to answer this question. (2) Methods: We look at the Eleventh Five-Year Developmental Plan for Population Aging in subnational governments and CHARLS (the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study) baseline dataset from 2011, with data on policy strength and social participation of older adults. By using multilevel linear models, we regress social participation at the individual level on the policy strength of age-friendly communities at the provincial level. (3) Results: The results show that policy strength on AFC does vary substantially among provinces within China. And the interaction between policy strength of physical environment of local governments and community infrastructures is positively associated with social participation of rural older adults in China. (4) Conclusions: We conclude that policy efforts of local governments on the physical environment of age-friendly communities have effectively promoted the social participation of rural older adults in China. Policy makers could integrate physical infrastructures into their rural revitalization strategy to improve the wellbeing of Chinese older adults.

Keywords: age-friendly community; social participation; policy efforts; older adults; physical environment; China



Citation: Chu, Y.; Zhang, H. Do Age-Friendly Community Policy Efforts Matter in China? An Analysis Based on Five-Year Developmental Plan for Population Aging. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2022**, *19*, 13551. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192013551>

Process & Implementation

Articles exploring the implementation and development of AFC initiatives – the practice or work of creating AFC initiatives and AFC community change

Example Papers:

- Plouffe & Kalache, 2011
- Neville et al., 2021
- Rémillard-Boilard et al., 2021
- Greenfield et al., 2022
- Russell et al., 2022



Process & Implementation – Article Highlight

Remillard-
Boilard et al.,
2021



International Journal of
*Environmental Research
and Public Health*



Article

Developing Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: Eleven Case Studies from around the World

Samuèle Rémillard-Boilard ^{1,*}, Tine Buffel ² and Chris Phillipson ²

¹ Research Centre on Aging, CIUSSS de l'Estrie—CHUS, Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, QC J1K 2R1, Canada

² School of Social Sciences, Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA), The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PR, UK; tine.buffel@manchester.ac.uk (T.B.); christopher.phillipson@manchester.ac.uk (C.P.)

* Correspondence: samuele.remillard-boilard@usherbrooke.ca

Abstract: Developing age-friendly cities and communities 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 Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, connecting 1114 (2020 figure) cities and communities worldwide. Despite the expansion and achievements of the Network over the last decade, little is known about the progress made by cities developing this work around the world. This article addresses this research gap by comparing the experience of eleven cities located in eleven countries. Using a multiple case study approach, the study explores the key goals, achievements, and challenges faced by local age-friendly programs and identifies four priorities the age-friendly movement should consider to further its development: (1) changing the perception of older age; (2) involving key actors in age-friendly efforts; (3) responding to the (diverse) needs of older people; and (4) improving the planning and delivery of age-friendly programs. The article concludes by discussing the research and policy implications of these findings for the age-friendly movement.



Citation: Rémillard-Boilard, S.; Buffel, T.; Phillipson, C. Developing Age-Friendly Cities and

Keywords: age-friendly cities; ageing; policy; case studies; Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities; World Health Organization

Domain Specific

Articles exploring a specific topic or domain related to age-friendly or from an age-friendly perspective, ranging in fields and methodological approaches



Example Papers:

- Aboderin et al., 2017 (Slums)
- Codd, 2020 (Prisons)
- De Biasi et al., 2020 (Public Health)
- Mahmood et al., 2022 (Housing)
- Bayar & Oğur, 2023 (Climate Change)

Domain Specific – Article Highlight

Aboderin
et al., 2017



International Journal of
*Environmental Research
and Public Health*



Article

Toward “Age-Friendly Slums”? Health Challenges of Older Slum Dwellers in Nairobi and the Applicability of the Age-Friendly City Approach

Isabella Aboderin ^{1,2,3}, Megumi Kano ^{4,*}  and Hilda Akinyi Owii ¹

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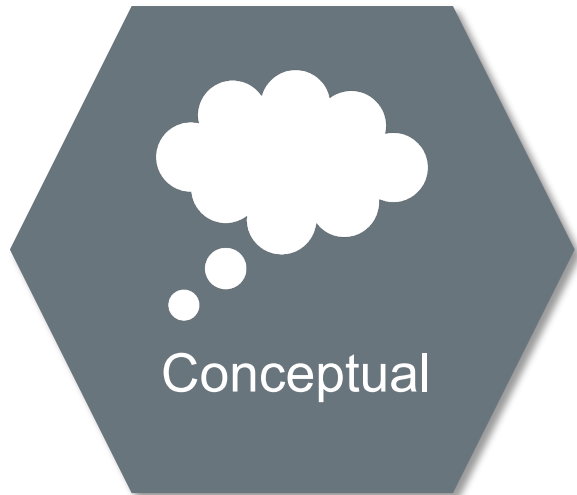
Received: 31 August 2017; Accepted: 18 October 2017; Published: 20 October 2017

Abstract: A majority of urban residents in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and other developing regions live in informal settlements, or slums. Much of the discourse on slum health centres on younger generations, while an intensifying agenda on healthy ageing as yet lacks a systematic focus on slums. Similarly, the global age-friendly cities (AFC) movement does not, thus far, extend to slums. This paper examines the particular challenges that a slum-focused age-friendly initiative in SSA may need to address, and the relevance of present AFC indicators and domains for initiatives to advance the health and well-being of older slum dwellers. The analysis builds on the case of two slum communities in Nairobi, Kenya. It analyzes two bodies of relevant evidence from these settlements, namely on the health and social circumstances of older residents, and on the local application and measurement of AFC indicators. The findings point to a set of unsurprising, but also less obvious, core health and social adversities that an age-friendly initiative in such settlements would need to consider. The findings show, further, that the current AFC domains and indicators framework only partly capture these adversities, but that there is potential for adapting the framework to be meaningful for slum settings. The paper concludes by underscoring the need for, and opportunities inherent in, the pursuit of an “age-friendly slums” initiative going forward.

Keywords: urban; slums; age-friendly; ageing; sub-Saharan Africa

Conceptual

Articles that explore the theoretical or conceptual dimensions of the AFC model and/or the nature of creating AFC community change

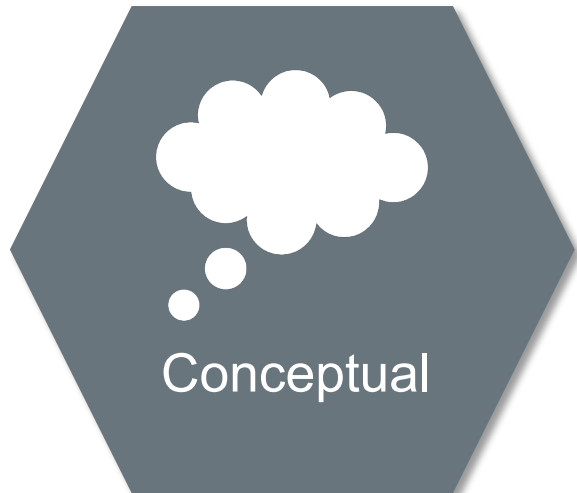


Example Papers:

- Menec et al., 2011
- Greenfield et al., 2015
- Buffel & Phillipson, 2018
- Greenfield et al., 2022
- Guillemot & Warner, 2023

Conceptual – Article Highlight

Greenfield
et al., 2015



Age-Friendly Community Initiatives: Conceptual Issues and Key Questions

Emily A. Greenfield, PhD,¹ Mia Oberlink, MA,² Andrew E. Scharlach, PhD,¹ Margaret B. Neal, PhD,⁴ and Philip B. Stafford, PhD⁵

¹School of Social Work, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick. ²Center for Home Care Policy and Research, Visiting Nurse Service of New York. ³School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley. ⁴Institute on Aging, Portland State University, Oregon. ⁵Center on Aging and Community, Indiana University, Bloomington.

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Received August 15 2014; Accepted January 14 2015.

Decision Editor: John Williamson, PhD

Public policy and programs for older adults traditionally have focused on the delivery of benefits to targeted individuals. Over the past decade, age-friendly community initiatives (AFCIs) have developed as a paradigm shift in contrast to this predominant focus. AFCIs engage stakeholders from multiple sectors within a typically local geographic area to make social and/or physical environments more conducive to older adults' health, well-being, and ability to age in place and in the community. We describe three general categories of AFCIs, including community planning approaches, support-focused approaches, and cross-sector partnership approaches. Following from this conceptual overview, we posit four key policy-relevant questions with implications for the expansion of AFCIs, including what public policy supports are necessary for the implementation of AFCIs across diverse communities, how entities outside of aging can be engaged to collaborate, to what extent advocates for various models can work together, and how the outcomes of these initiatives can be rigorously evaluated. We conclude by discussing how AFCIs are germane to the primary issues highlighted by the 2015 White House Conference on Aging.

Synthesis Reviews

Recent trend of increased synthesis reviews of AFC initiatives, as well as related age-friendly topics



Example Papers:

- Lui et al., 2009
- Steels, 2015
- Menec & Brown, 2022*
- Torku et al., 2021
- Forsyth & Lyu, 2023

*Original publication date: 2018

Synthesis Reviews – Article Highlight

Menec &
Brown, 2022



JOURNAL OF AGING & SOCIAL POLICY
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08959420.2018.1528116>

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group



Facilitators and Barriers to Becoming Age-Friendly: A Review

Verena Menec and Cara Brown

Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

ABSTRACT

This interpretive review examined the empirical evidence of the factors that facilitate or hinder the implementation of age-friendly community and city (AFCC) initiatives. Thirteen studies were included in the review. Findings show three themes: enablers (consisting of the subthemes of multilevel leadership and a common vision, effective governance and management, and diverse partnerships); process-related factors (e.g., linking to other strategies); and contextual factors (e.g., rural/urban). Moreover, several underlying influencers intersect with these themes, such as how age-friendliness is conceptualized. This review shows that there is a need for more process evaluations. The AFCC movement would also benefit from drawing on other relevant work, such as literature in the areas of coalitions, public administration, and political studies.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 23 March 2018
Accepted 24 June 2018

KEYWORDS

Age-friendly communities;
age-friendly cities; literature
review

Gray Literature

Reflecting the origins of AFC conceptual and practice model, much of AFC key literature is developed by the World Health Organization



Example Papers:

- WHO, 2002
- WHO, 2007
- WHO, 2018
- WHO, 2020
- WHO, 2023

Gray Literature – Article Highlight

WHO, 2007



Our Experience: AFC Interpretive Review

- Part of an international, multi-disciplinary team exploring ways in which public sector actors are involved in AFC work in US and Canada (currently under review)
- Conducted Interpretive Review (type of theory-building synthesis review)
- Insights from this experience informed this presentation – specifically our recommendations and considerations for conducting a systematic search of AFC literature

Our Experience: AFC Interpretive Review

| Inclusion Criteria | Exclusion Criteria |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer-reviewed article• Articles focusing on deliberate/organized age-friendly cities and communities (AFCC) programs• Articles focusing on programs or municipal actions spanning multiple domains of livability (e.g., built environment, social engagement, mental/physical well-being)• Articles with concrete examples or evidence for public sector involvement in relation to age-friendly work (even if brief)• Articles focusing on community evaluation/assessment that mentioned public sector involvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studies of geographies outside Canada and the United States• Not available in English• Published prior to January 2010• Review articles• Articles focused on public sector involvement in only one domain of livability outside the context of an AFCC program (e.g., an article on housing or physical therapy specifically)• Articles focusing on community evaluation/assessment with no mention of public sector involvement |

Searching for Age-Friendly Articles

- Key terms and phrases related to age-friendly:

- Age-friendly
- Age-friendly city
- Age-friendly community
- Age-friendly place
- Age-friendly environment
- Aging-friendly city
- Aging-friendly community
- Elder-friendly community
- Lifelong community
- Lifetime neighborhood
- Livable community
- Aging-in-Place
- For all ages

- Note: include both British and American English spellings

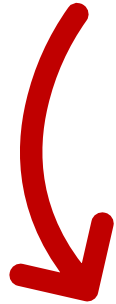


Sharing Our SCOPUS Experience

Modified Search of Torku et al., 2021

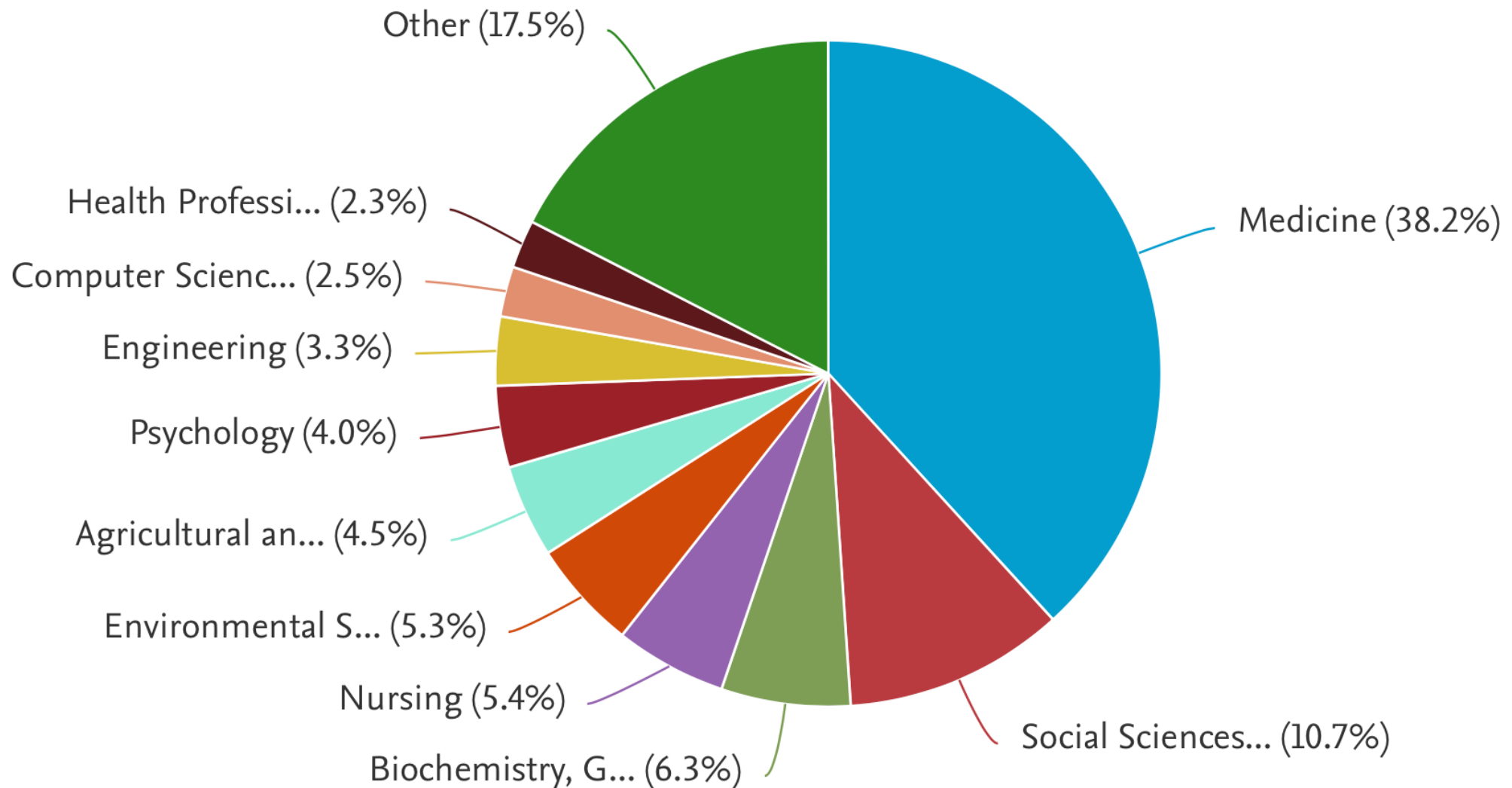
TITLE-ABS-KEY ('age-friendly city' OR 'elder-friendly community' OR 'liveable community' OR 'lifetime neighbourhood') AND DOCTYPE (ar OR re) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, 'English'))

Our Initial Query



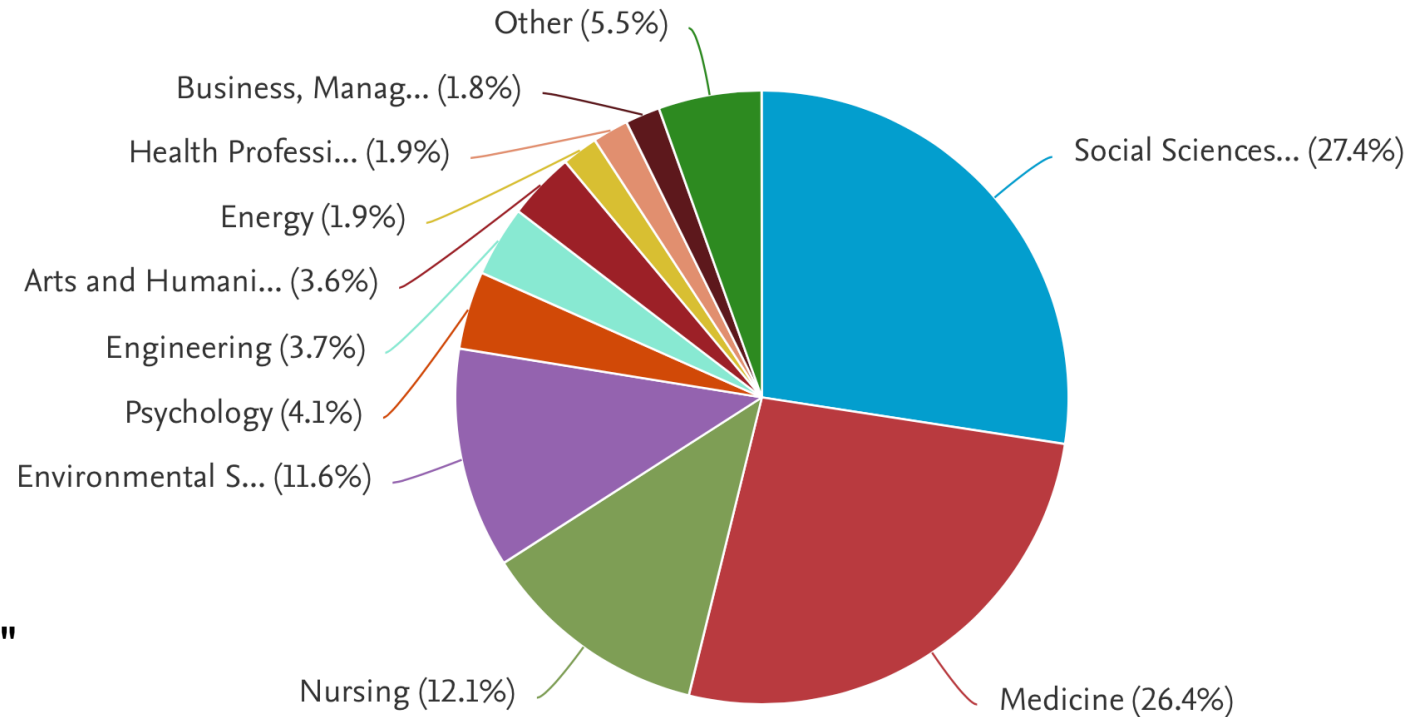
TITLE-ABS-KEY ("age-friendly cit*" OR "age-friendly communit*" OR "elder-friendly communit*" OR "livable communit* for all ages" OR "age-friendly place*" OR "age-friendly environment" OR "for all ages" OR (("livabil*") AND ("aging"))) OR "aging-friendly cit*" OR "aging-friendly communit*" OR "aging-friendly place" OR "aging-friendly environment" OR "ageing-friendly cit*" OR "ageing-friendly communit*" OR "ageing-friendly place*" OR "ageing-friendly environment" OR "age-friendly" OR "aging-friendly" OR "ageing-friendly")

Initial Query Results



Final Query

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("age-friendly cit*" OR "age-friendly communit*" OR "elder-friendly communit*" OR "livable communit* for all ages" OR "age-friendly place*" OR "age-friendly environment" OR "aging-friendly cit*" OR "aging-friendly communit*" OR "aging-friendly place" OR "aging-friendly environment" OR "ageing-friendly cit*" OR "ageing-friendly communit*" OR "ageing-friendly place*" OR "ageing-friendly environment" OR "age-friendly polic*" OR "lifelong communit*")



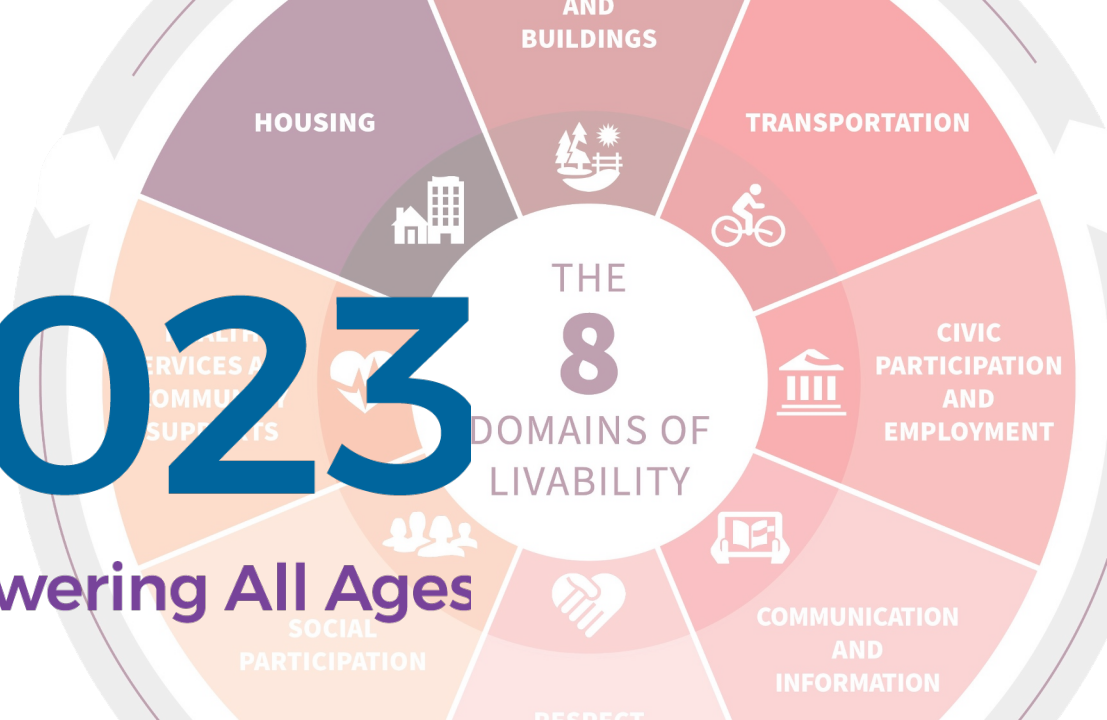
Iterative Modifications

- Aging-in-place & livable communities tended to yield results on individual experiences of aging
- “For all ages” alone was common in (bio)medical abstracts
- Recommend removing “age-friendly” (and related variation) – introduced large degree of variation and tangentially related content



GSA 2023

Building Bridges > Catalyzing Research > Empowering All Ages



Exploring the AFC Landscape at GSA

Starter Library



Import articles discussed today to
your Zotero, Mendeley, or Endnote
library with .RIS file

Group Discussion

1. What is one way that you will use something you learned today?
2. What is one thing you are curious to learn more about?



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THANK YOU

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