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**CTD: 09BP- BIO-CULTURAL APPROACH, POPULATION STUDIES AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
SUB-DOMAIN: AGING AND THE AGED**

**PANEL TITLE:
STRUCTURAL DETERMINANTS OF BIO-CULTURAL ISSUES OF AGEING
IN A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**

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ABSTRACT

Ageing of populations is now a global phenomenon which is affecting various countries differently depending on the level of socio-economic condition the country is in. Ageing takes place in a social context and as such the bio-cultural aspects of ageing remains embedded in the social structure and organisation of the specific society. The circumstances of traditional societies largely differ from the industrialised or urban contexts due to the variation in existing cultural values and social structure. The developed countries have a functioning institutionalised social security system while the developing or underdeveloped countries are still grappling with provision of basic amenities to their marginalised sections. The bio-cultural issues of ageing can range from, but not limited to, well-being, quality of life, health, functionality to coping with environment. As these aspects lie embedded in the cultural value system, it is important to understand them in a cross-cultural perspective. They can be used to evaluate what constitutes a good old age in different social contexts. Manifestations of such issues in later life have their foundation in early part of the life of individuals. Therefore, it is necessary to understand these aspects in the life course perspective.

The aim of the panel is to bring into focus the various structural determinants of bio-cultural aspects of ageing in a cross-cultural perspective and find ways to deal with them.

Keywords: Ageing, Bio-cultural aspects, social structure, Cross-cultural

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