Paul Chamberlain
Professor of Design

Design Research Centre
Sheffield Institute of Art & Design
Faculty of Arts, Computing, Engineering & Science
Sheffield Hallam University
P.M.Chamberlain@shu.ac.uk
He with body waged a fight  
But body won, it walks upright.

Then he struggled with the heart;  
Innocence and peace depart.

Then he struggled with the mind;  
His proud heart he left behind.

Now his wars on God begin;  
At stroke of midnight God shall win

The Four Ages of Man, W.B. Yeats
‘Living Rooms’

Maintaining independence at home in later life
ageing population

Pensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>22-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>3-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Office of National Statistics)*

2025  45-60     85-90% of disposable income

*(2001 census)*

• 75% annual house growth - single occupancy

*(Aune K. Sustainable singletons 2006)*
User Research > design concept > product > user evaluation
User Research > design concept > user research > further concepts > product > user research > product development > user user evaluation
U3A...Sheffield 50+...Sheffield Elders...POPPS...Industrial partners
interviews
Tacit knowledge

_Things we don’t know we know_

_‘we know more than we can tell’…(Polanyi)
observation
‘I have washed clothes, cooked, driven a tractor, run a diesel locomotive, vacuumed rugs. This first hand discovery in identifying problems rather than just problem solving, results in more innovative solutions’.

Dreyfuss
User?
Human-centred

All stakeholders engaged in production & consumption
‘Living Rooms’

- Multi sensory approach to design
- Medical / health needs
- Sustainability
- Technology - solution/problem
- Quality of life - desirable products
- Inclusive
‘Living Rooms’

Aim

• 'interfere' with environments,
• create new scenarios
• learn how people perform in them
• develop products and theory
‘Living Rooms’

Role of artefact in understanding users
• communicate with them better
• access their knowledge
• empower them to explore situations
one control fits all
meal mates
biscuit tin buddies
‘Living Rooms’

Thankyou

www.Lab4Living.org.uk
p.m.chamberlain@shu.ac.uk