



The IGPS, in conjunction with the [Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit](#), [NZ Association of Gerontology](#) and the Research Centre for [Maori Health and Development at Massey University](#) invite you to the following public seminar:

**Challenging Inequalities? Critical reflections on the social impacts of ageing research – T. Scharf**  
**The impact of rurality, disadvantage and population turnover on social isolation and loneliness - V. Burholt**

**Professors Tom Scharf and Vanessa Burholt (25 mins each)**

Tom Scharf's initial research on ageing in deprived urban communities in the early 2000s, and more recently in old age social exclusion has been very influential in public policy and professional practice. It has also underpinned a series of collaborations with Manchester City Council, with Age-Friendly Manchester now regarded as an international model for urban local authorities. This work provided a foundation for establishing the Campaign to End Loneliness, which now has a supporter network of over 1400 groups and individuals.



Vanessa Burholt's international research focuses on older people's attachment to people and places and she has published over 50 papers and book chapters on rurality, loneliness, support networks, intergenerational relationships, ethnicity and migration. She was Principal Investigator for the South Wales arm of Cognitive Function and Ageing Study (Wales) and has recently completed work on Dementia and imagination: connecting communities and developing well-being through socially engaged visual arts practice.

Date: Tuesday 31st October

Time: 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Venue: Old Government Buildings Lecture Theatre 3 (ground floor of main building)

RSVP: [igps@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:igps@vuw.ac.nz)

*Thomas Scharf is Professor of Social Gerontology in the Institute of Health & Society at Newcastle University and leads the 'Economic and Social Impacts of Ageing' theme in the University's Institute for Ageing.*

*Vanessa Burholt is Professor of Gerontology and Director of the Centre for Innovative Ageing (CIA) in the College of Human and Health Sciences at Swansea University; and Director of the pan-Wales Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research (CADR).*