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Gardner, Abigail S ORCID logoORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2994-741X (2025) Exploring walking interviews as a means to elicit data on Sound, Environment, and Ageing: Bringing the Outside into Care Homes. In: British Society of Gerontology 54th Annual Conference, 25 - 27 June 2025, University of Surrey. (Unpublished)

Official URL: https://www.britishgerontology.org/events-and-courses/bsg-annual-conference

EPrint URI: https://eprints.glos.ac.uk/id/eprint/15626

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Exploring walking interviews as a means to elicit data on Sound, Environment, and Ageing: Bringing the Outside into Care Homes

This paper assesses the use of walking interviews as part of a two-year interdisciplinary project on sound, ageing and care homes. The UKRI funded Sound, Environment, and Ageing: Bringing the Outside into Care Homes (SAGE) develops and examines the use and feasibility of a sound-based intervention consisting of natural soundscapes to restore nature connection and improve mental wellbeing for older people in long-term care. Whilst acknowledging New Mobilities literature (Edensor 2010, Merriman and Pearce 2017) that problematize the term 'walking', the paper explains the methodology's efficacy and suitability to the project's aims and spotlights two key findings that have emerged from these interviews. These centre on temporal and sensory entanglements. The first focuses on trans-temporal sensory orientation, that is how participants expressed their experience of nature connection through sound as bringing them into the present and/or the past. The second addresses the multi-sensory nature of listening whereby participants' comments suggest the prevalence of sensory entanglements in listening experiences. In both instances, the paper examines how these entanglements/engagements are impacted by the ageing process.