

Improving Older Adults' Eyewitness Testimony

Dr Katrin Müller-Johnson

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

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Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

Currently many Western societies are undergoing a demographic shift. In 2005, 9.6 million people over the age of 65 lived in the UK, constituting about 16% of the population. By 2030 this percentage is predicted to rise to about 20%. In addition to rising numbers, older adults are now also much more active and mobile than previous generations. This increases the chance that they may become witnesses or victims of crimes and that they will be asked to give evidence. Yet, most research on eyewitness memory is based on studies with young adults (often of student age) or with children and only little is known on how the ageing process affects the ability to give accurate eyewitness reports.

This talk will present data on the impact of ageing on eyewitness memory and provide empirical evidence for two innovative approaches of improving older adults' eyewitness accounts.

Dr. Katrin Müller-Johnson is a Lecturer in Applied Criminology at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. She is a legal psychologist with a focus on cognitive and developmental questions, and takes a special interest in the issues affecting older adults in the Criminal Justice System. She has recently completed a British Academy Grant on older adults' eyewitness testimony and will present data from the project in this talk.

This seminar is part of the IoC Public Seminar Series, and is open to all interested in attending. If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on:

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