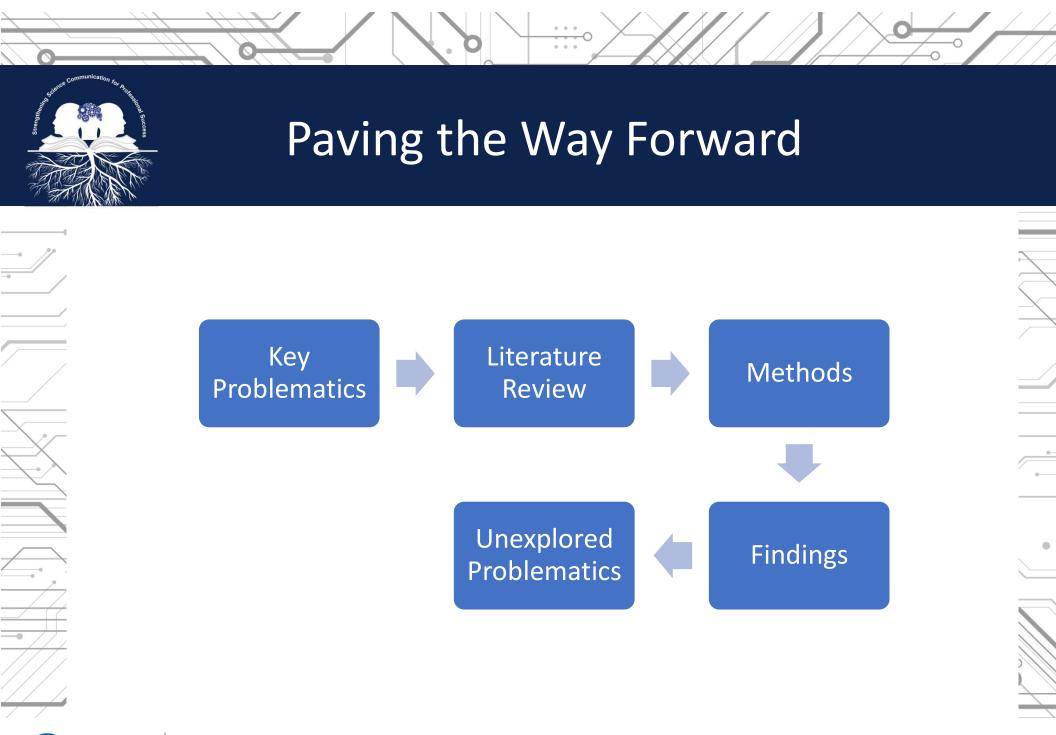
#### What the Aging is Going On: An Ethnography on the Perceptions of Aging at an Old Age Home in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

Sabelo Mpisi Young African Research Fellow

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# Institutionalized Elderly: On Key Problematics

- What and how growing is older is like?
- What is aging?
- How do institutionalized elderly understand the process and experience of aging?
- What languages do they understand their bodies, in rupture, ending, decay, preparation to pass on?
- How do they percept the process and experience of aging?





### Literature Review

#### **Global North**

- Subjective self-making in aging
- Ageist stereotypes
- Admission in old age institutions

#### **Global South**

- Aging from the vantage points of otherselves
- Old age is sociocultural eldership
- Absorbed in familial and social relationships



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# Methodology: Tracing, Finding, Interacting with Aging

- Ethnographic Immersion
  Intensive Participant Observation
  - Life Histories
  - Structured Interviews



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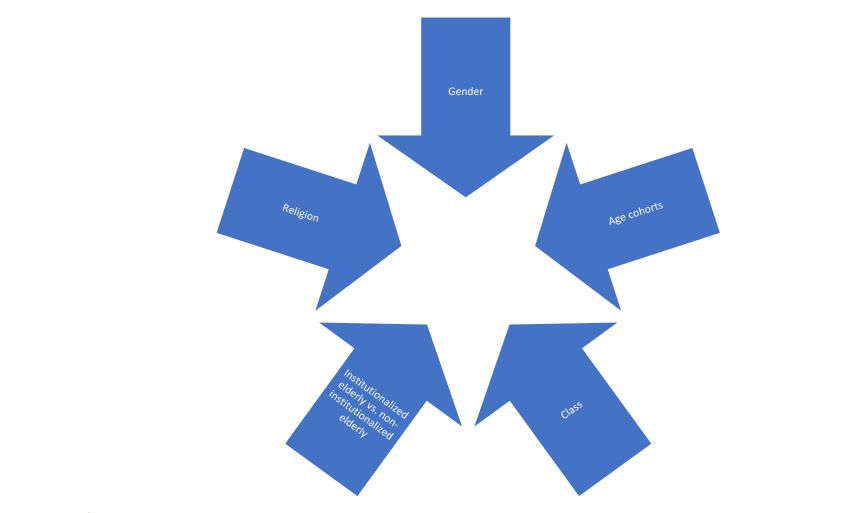
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## Conclusion

- Took seriously institutionalized-elderly-subjectivities
- Aging moves elderly people from familiarity to unfamiliarity
- It takes them away from a sense of self they were accustomed to
- It disturbs and dislocates models, expectations, and ideals of care and caregiving
- It is indexed in social relationships and indexes social relationships
- It needs to be studied in relation to larger social processes



### **Unexplored Problematics**





Research that transforms educational outcomes and increases economic participation

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