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**CARE & AGEING IN ASIA RESEARCH NETWORK [CAARNET] WEBINAR SERIES 2025**

# INAUGURAL LECTURE

## **A Morality Tale, Governmental Tale, and Existential Tale: Ageing in Asia in Contemporary Times**

### **Abstract**

The share of older persons is increasing at an accelerated rate in almost every country around the globe. No wonder that in many societies, ageing is a growing political and personal preoccupation. In this lecture, Lamb argues that old age has many tales to tell. She explores contemporary discourses and experiences of ageing as at once a morality tale, a medical tale, governmental tale, and an existential tale. As a morality tale, old age illuminates ideas about what makes morally “good” and “bad” bodies, selves, and forms of care. When old age tells its tale of medical-scientific aspirations, it reveals how much science follows, and energizes further, the contours of the morality tale. When ageing tells its tale of governmentality, it illuminates the workings of the state in constructing and caring for particular kinds of citizens. As an existential tale, old age tells about the meanings of life and death, and concepts of time and place. Old age has even more tales to tell—surrounding capitalism, sexualities, and more—and that is why scholars across the social sciences and humanities should listen to what it has to say. The lecture's ethnographic materials derive from two decades of fieldwork on age, ageing, and the life course in India, complemented by comparative perspectives from China. Lamb will also bring the Asia-focused materials into dialogue with contemporary trends and globally circulating discourses from North America, as a way to help draw attention to why studies in the Asian context should become more relevant, and to help us recognize the kinds of assumptions underlying models of “good” and “bad” ageing in different national and cultural contexts.



**SPEAKER**

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**TIME: 6:00 PM IST/ 1:30 PM BST/ 8:30 AM ET (BOSTON)**

 **zoom** <https://zoom.us/j/99371397550>

