

For celebrating 75 years of India's Independence
"Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav"



PANJAB UNIVERSITY
CHANDIGARH

Department of Geography

Hosts a
WEBINAR

on



PROFESSOR RAJ KUMAR
VICE CHANCELLOR

CANADA'S GEOGRAPHIES OF AGING AND DISABILITIES: WHAT COVID-19 IS TEACHING US



Speaker:

Prof. Mark W Rosenberg

Department of Geography and Planning
Queen's University, Kingston
Ontario, Canada

August 27, 2021
Friday at 7:30 PM (IST)
& 10:00 AM (EDT)

Join with Google Meet



mhp-qpwy-htu

Coordinated by
Prof. Gaurav Kalotra, Chairperson
Department of Geography

Organized by
Prof. Smita Bhutani
Department of Geography

Webinar Report

Title:Canada's Geographies of Ageing and Disabilities: What COVID-19 is Teaching Us

Date: August 27, 2021 at 7:30 PM Indian Standard Time (IST)/10AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Speaker: Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg, Professor of Geography, Professor of Public Health Sciences, and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Aging, Health and Development at the Department of Geography and Planning Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Organiser:Prof. SmitaBhutani, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh

Coordinator: Prof. Gaurav Kalotra, Chairperson, Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh

For celebrating 75 years of India's Independence 'Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav', the Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh hosted a webinar, which was first in the series of events planned to mark this occasion. It was organised by Prof. SmitaBhutani of the Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh and coordinated by Prof. Gaurav Kalotra, the Chairperson of the department. An internationally distinguished scholar in the field of Geography of Ageing, Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg, was the invited speaker. He is a professor of Geography, professor of Public Health Sciences, and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Aging, Health and Development at the Department of Geography and Planning Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

The event was held on August 27, 2021 using Google Meet as the platform. It began at 7:30 PM Indian Standard Time (IST)/10AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), and lasted for an hour and a half. As many as 53 people participated in the webinar, including eminent researchers from diverse fields such as Geography and Political Science, PhD scholars and graduate students. The webinar began with a formal welcome by Prof. Gaurav Kalotra to all the participants joining from different parts of the country. Prof. SmitaBhutani, the organiser of the webinar, introduced the distinguished speaker to the august audience. After which, the speaker gave a fifty-minute presentation on 'Canada's Geographies of Ageing and Disabilities: What COVID-19 is Teaching Us'. It efficiently provided a comprehensive coverage of the situation of older people in Canada, particularly with regard to institutional care and ageing-in-place set-ups. These understandings were further analysed against the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic situation so as to come up with learnings which could help in ensuring health and safety to already vulnerable older people under high-risk circumstances.

The presentation was followed by a vibrant interactive session, wherein many thought-provoking issues were raised. One such issue was of the viability of euthanasia to older people, when faced with critical and terminal life situations. The speaker expressed that if it is solely the wish of the older person and no third party is involved in decision making, this option could be exercised by them. Another participant questioned about who is to be held responsible for the social isolation faced by the elderly, the issue which seems to intensify during emergencies like pandemic situation, – is it the inefficacious government policies/plans or the breaking of social set-ups like families? The speaker responded by saying that both the government and society have a vital part to play towards promoting social inclusion under all circumstances. To him, it appeared imperative to shift the concept of 'ageing-in-place' to 'ageing-in-right-place', wherein promoting ageing in community settings seems to be a better

way to place and integrate older people in the society as opposed to institutional or living-alone-at-home set-ups.

After an hour and a half of deliberations, the webinar concluded with a theme that new ideas would be required to be generated and turned into actions if we want to tackle novel circumstances effectively. Later, a vote of thanks was extended by the coordinator – Prof. Gaurav Kalotra. All in all, the webinar was a timely and pro-active event as it dealt with the ongoing world order – gripped with COVID-19 pandemic, when latest understandings are required to assess our vulnerabilities in order to find solutions as fast as possible. What makes this webinar all the more crucial is its target population, i.e., the older population, who are at high risk from the pandemic. Lastly, this webinar provided a ground for inter-cultural exchange of knowledge and expertise as the Canadian experience was shared by the speaker and the Indian participants actively interacted.

Webinar Screenshots

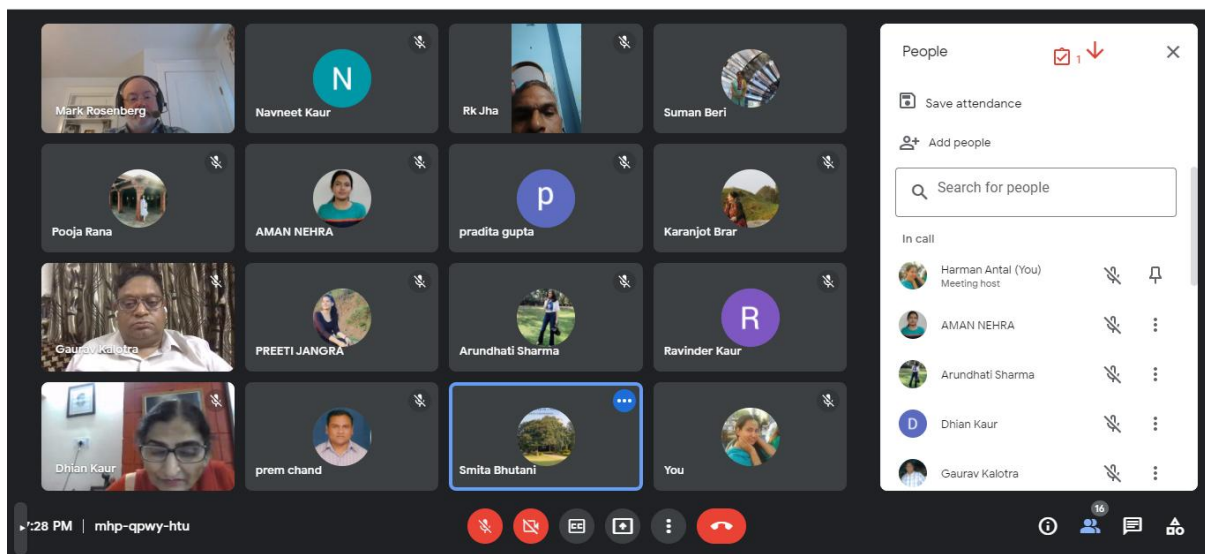


Figure1: Before beginning the webinar

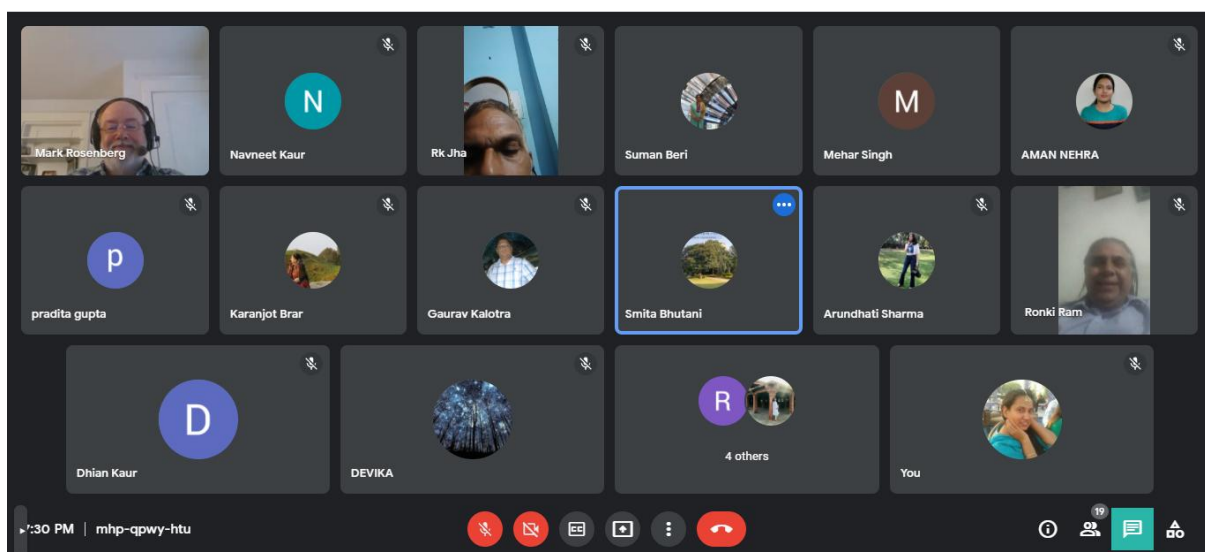


Figure 2: Welcome by Prof. SmitaBhutani (Organiser)

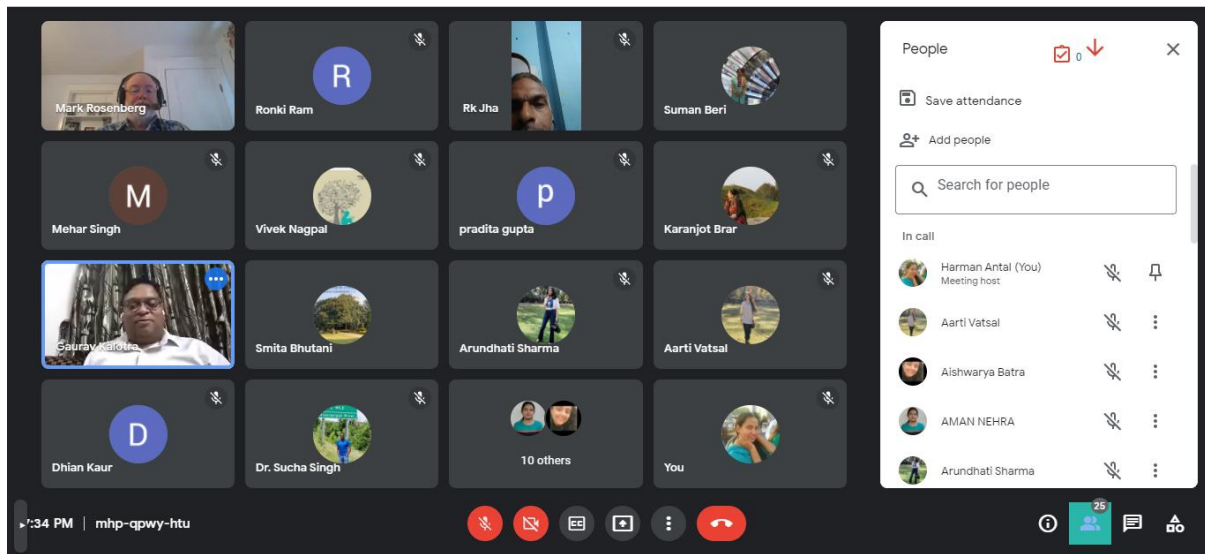


Figure 3: Welcome by Prof. Gaurav Kalotra (Coordinator)

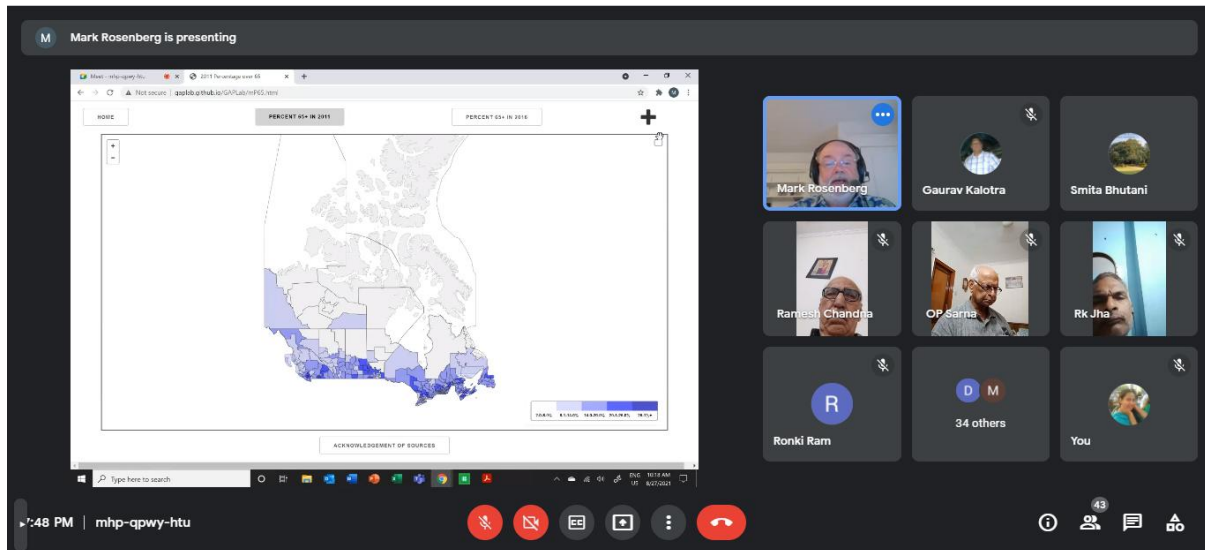


Figure 4: Presentation by Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg in progress

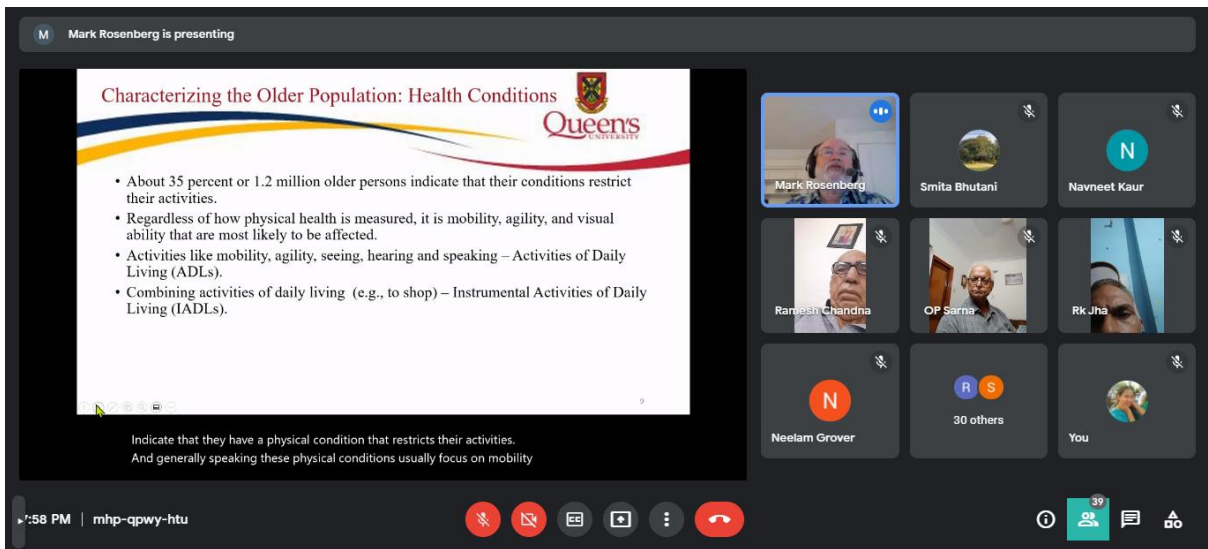


Figure 5: Presentation in progress

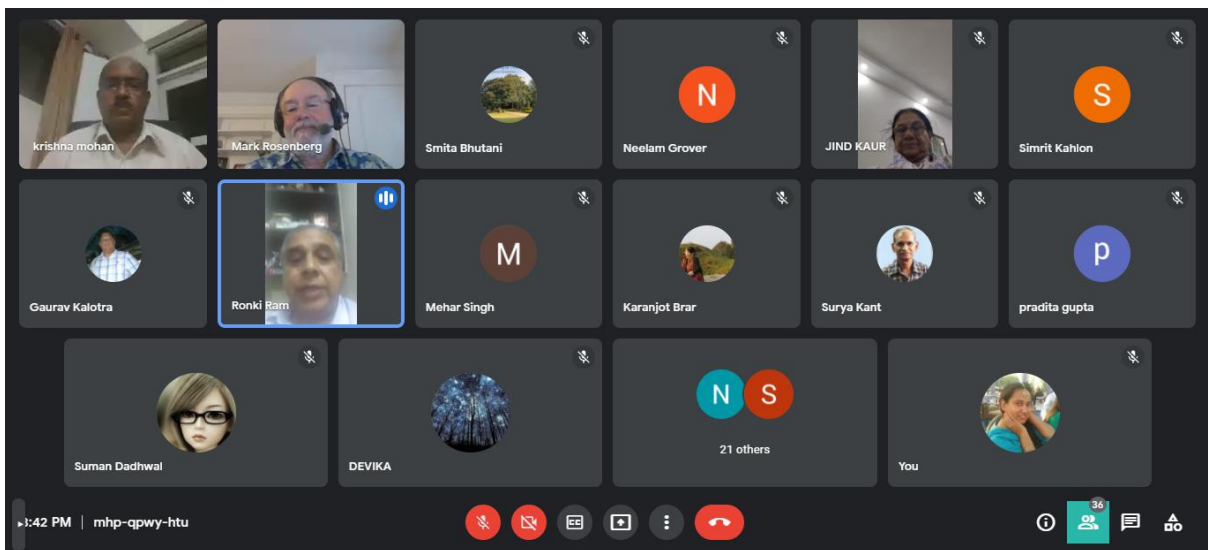


Figure 6: Interactive session after presentation

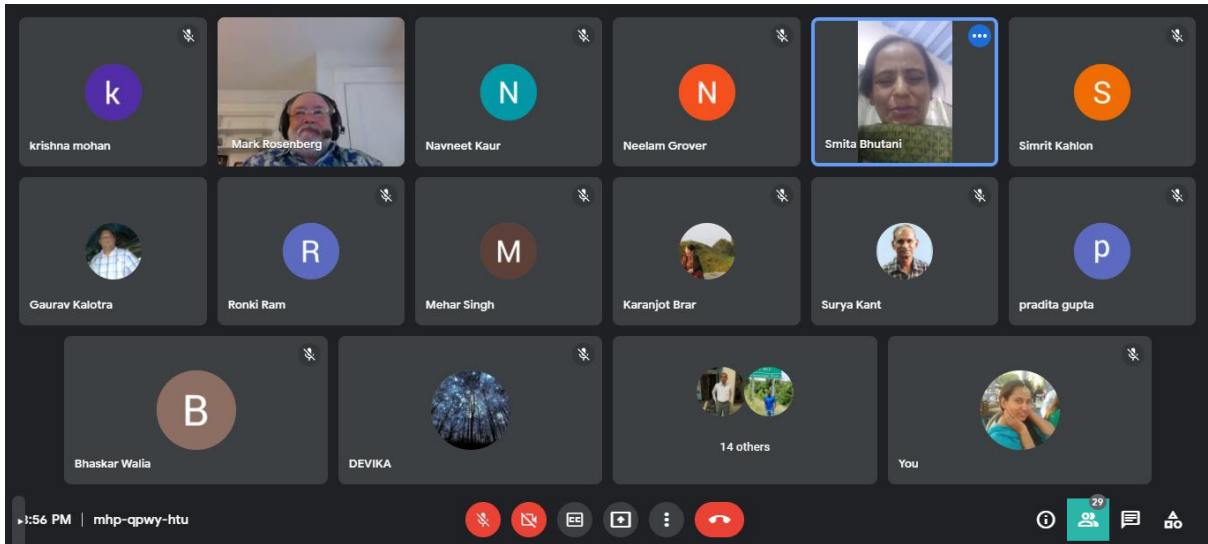


Figure 7: Interactive session after presentation

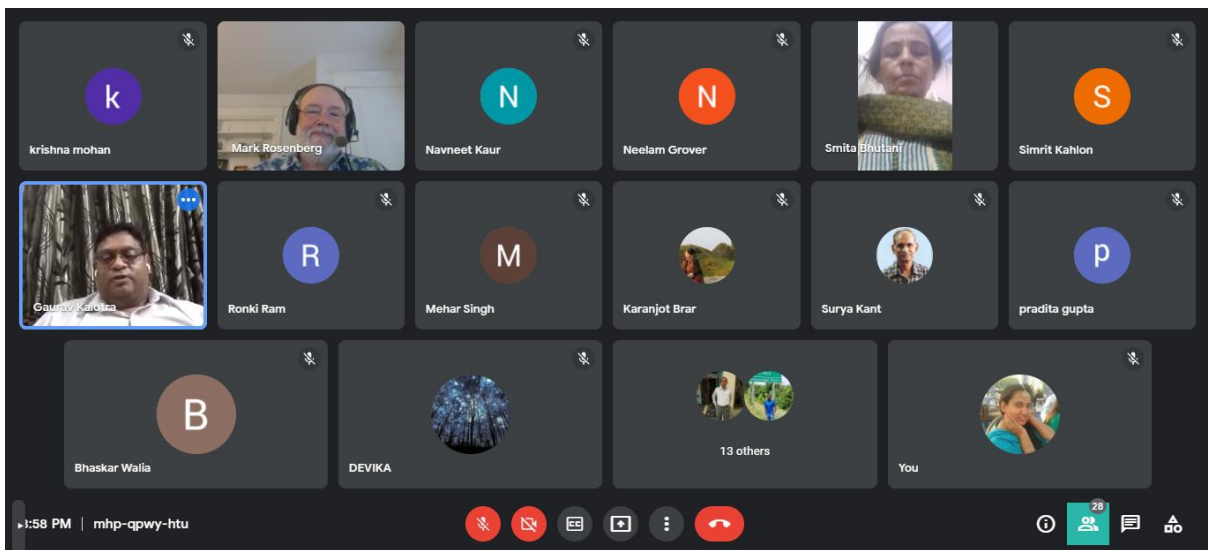


Figure 8: Vote of thanks by Prof. Gaurav Kalotra

Abstract of the presentation by Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg

Canada's Geographies of Aging and Disabilities: What COVID-19 is Teaching Us

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Abstract

Population aging is a global phenomenon. According to the United Nations, high, middle, and low-income countries are experiencing population aging as the proportions of people aged 60 and over increase rapidly relative to the young and working age populations in this century. As an example, Canada's older population is projected to continue to increase in the coming decades to over 25 percent of the total population of the country. This presentation is divided into four parts: the characterization of the older population of Canada prior to COVID-19, an analysis of "aging-in-place" versus institutional care, a review of the COVID-19 situation in Canada, and what COVID-19 is teaching us about the challenges that the older population face in a pandemic world. Although the differences between Canada and India are substantial, policy makers, service providers, and older people and their families and friends, can learn from the experiences of each other.