

# Profile of ISG Grandmaster Anthea Tinker CBE, PhD, FKC, AcSS, FRSA

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Anthea Tinker is Professor of Social Gerontology at King's College London in the Institute of Gerontology, located within the Department of Global Health & Social Medicine. She received her Bcom degree at University of Birmingham and her doctorate at City University London.

Anthea has a wide range of research interests, particularly focusing on housing issues, age-friendly environments and technology to support independent living. However, her career in ageing research began fortuitously. She had decided to do a PhD and at the time she was interested in care of small children in hospitals and in older people living with families and younger people. She literally tossed a coin and it came down in favour of older people and housing. In a long and varied career since then she has been on the staff of three universities and three government departments. She has been a professor at King's since 1988 when she became the founding Director of Britain's first Institute of Gerontology. Anthea was a pioneer in the early days of gerontechnology with her work in housing encompassing alarms and emergency responses for older people living at home (Tinker, 1993). She is the sole author of eleven books and co-author of twenty-one books, and has written over 300 articles. She has been

a member of the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG) since 1997.

Anthea teaches Social Policy at King's College. Many hundreds of students owe a debt of gratitude to Anthea, including those who have attended ISG masterclasses, where she has been a mentor on numerous occasions. She is well known for her compassionate and indefatigable approach. This was particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which she helped to support King's College students who were dealing with social isolation and stress. For example, she invited postgraduate students to 'bring your own picnic' lunches in her garden every Friday during the pandemic. They were especially popular with students from abroad who had not been to an English home before. Her experiences also convinced Anthea that technology is a force for good, helping to connect and support people in difficult circumstances. She has no plans to retire, which must be good news to students at Kings College and around the world.

Anthea has had many advisory and consultancy roles, including consultant to the World Health Organization, the European Union, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). She is a member of the Geriatrics Working Group of the European Forum for Good Clinical Practice. She is currently Vice-Chair of the International Advisory Committee of the AGE-WELL Network of Centres of Excellence, funded by the Canadian Government, and which focuses on research and innovation in technology and ageing.

Anthea has received numerous awards and titles throughout her distinguished career. She was awarded the CBE (Commander of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in 2000 in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition for her services to housing for older People. She was recognised as one of the UK's hundred Women of the Year in 2002. From 1998-2000 Anthea was President of the Section of Geriatrics and Gerontology, Royal Society of Medicine, the first time this post had been held by a social scientist. She became Fellow of King's College London in 1998 and was



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elected a Founding Member of the Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences in 1999. She was awarded the title of Fellow of the British Society of Gerontology in 2008 and in 2010 was awarded the Alan Walker prize by the British Society of Gerontology for her significant and lasting contribution to Social Gerontology. In 2016 in Nice she was one of the founding members of the WAGT (World Academy for Gerontechnology).

Anthea Tinker was inaugurated as Grandmaster at the 13th World Conference of Gerontechnol-

ogy in Daegu (Korea) in October 2022, after being granted this title by the previous General Assembly of the ISG in Trondheim (Norway) in October 2020. The Grandmaster title recognises exceptional contributions to the development of the field of gerontechnology in relation to research, education and policy. Anthea qualifies on all three grounds: her outstanding research and publication record; her contribution to education, including ISG Master Classes; and her international reputation and contribution to policy.

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## References

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