

Application to SALC Research Networking Fund 2012-13

Lead researcher: Professor Tim Parkin, Classics and Ancient History, Division of ARC

Title of proposed research network: **Ancient Perspectives on Retirement**

Outline of Proposed Research Network:

Retirement from the workforce, and state vs. individual roles in providing support, financial and otherwise, are controversial factors in modern societies. The longstanding assumption that retirement as such is a modern phenomenon, a consequence of society's industrialisation, is currently being challenged; retirement seems to have been a not uncommon concern in classical antiquity. To develop our understanding, Sam Jones, one of my PhD students, and I will establish a network of people working on historical aspects of retirement from both literary/historical and archaeological perspectives; we shall also explore issues relating to retirement, such as ageing and health. The ageing society has been identified as one of the societal challenges Manchester research should address: in conjunction with MICRA, we aim to face this challenge. We shall launch the project with a three-day workshop here in Manchester in June which will bring together around a dozen academics and postgraduate students from the UK who are working on archaeological and historical aspects of ageing and health in classical antiquity.