



Ageing in Europe

Newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe

Editorial

Dear Readers

I am delighted to edit my first newsletter issue of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe, following Magnus Nilsson, who made a valuable contribution the past years and has all our best wishes and thanks. Our newsletter is an important tool to engage all members of the research network and involve anyone, who is interested in research on ageing. We aim to provide a reliable source of information within the field, but also a forum for sharing ideas. We want to promote debate upon gerontological issues and we will give special emphasis to generating discussion, by welcoming your constructive feedback on the content of the newsletter. In light of the above statements we're having a facelift, including some new colours to refresh our look. In terms of the content, we are introducing a permanent column to host international experts in ageing research to briefly comment on important breaking news. We are honoured in this issue to host a brief comment by Professor Sheila Peace, who draws attention to the plight of older refugees, associated with the recent UN International Day of Older Persons. Moreover, Andrzej Klimczuk has been invited to open an innovative approach of book reviews that we wish to host, on an ongoing basis. In this edition, Andrzej critically reviews his own recently published book. There is also an article by the editor, attempting to open a series of informative articles on describing ageing in each one of the European countries, to encourage intellectual discussions on a specific national basis. In addition, a thorough look on the upcoming events might be useful as extremely interesting stuff is forthcoming. Finally, our new Chair of the Network, Bernhard Weicht presents the new members of the board elected at our recent ESA conference in Prague. We wish them a creative route towards the goals of the network.

Enjoy your reading!

Christos Pliakos



How can I join?

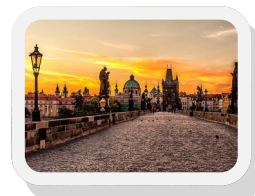
Visit our website and fill in the registration form online and we will do the rest!

www.ageing-in-europe.net

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Professor Sheila Peace

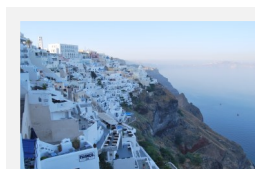


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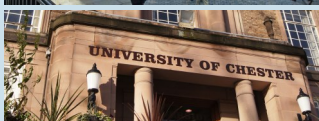
Christos Pliakos

Edward Tollhurst

Bernhard Weicht

Mark your diary:

In April (5th-7th) we will organise our 5th PhD workshop in Chester, UK



Then, next September 14-16, 2016 our traditional Mid-term conference takes place, in Frankfurt, Germany



Message from the Chair of the Research Network Ageing in Europe

Dear Researchers,

I hope you've had a great summer and a not too overwhelming start into the new term. Each term and each year bring the opportunity for something new. This also counts for us as a Research Network. Faithful readers will have noticed immediately the new design of this newsletter and there are more things to come. Every ESA conference marks the end of the term of the board and, of course, the beginning of the new term. Over the next two years the Research Network Ageing in Europe will again provide exciting opportunities for you to network, present your own and evaluate and be inspired by other's research – all in a thrilling international setting.

In April (5th to 7th) we will organise our already 5th PhD workshop, this time at the University of Chester in the UK. This format not only provides the unique opportunity to discuss your research with other students as well as with experts in the field, but also offers a great space to connect transnationally with other early career research in the field of ageing.

Next autumn (September 14th to 16th, 2016) then our already traditional mid-term conference takes place, this time in Frankfurt, Germany under the title "Ageing in Europe: Beyond the work-centred lifecourse?". Being focused entirely on the theme of ageing the midterm conferences have proven to be a fantastic forum for discussion and debate and we're thus looking forward to meeting all of you in Frankfurt.

You will find information on these and many other events and opportunities later in this newsletter. We will also look back at the 12th ESA conference which brought together many of us in the beautiful city of Prague and we will present to you the new board elected at the business meeting. Importantly, a research network only exists because of the involvement of its members. So please attend our workshops and conferences, use our mailing list, get involved in the network so that we can all together make another step in our communal endeavours of researching and understanding processes of ageing, old age, work and retirement and all related dynamics and discourses.

This newsletter is also the first one under a new editor. We want to thank Magnus Nilsson for his work over the last years and we wish Christos Pliakos all the best with this important task.

I hope this newsletter provides you with an interesting, informative and enjoyable reading. If you want to know more about the network itself, our get in touch with us, please visit our website under www.ageing-in-europe.net or send us an email at info@ageing-in-europe.net.

Bernhard Weicht

Chair of the Research Network Ageing in Europe



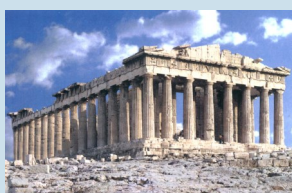
Report from the 12th conference of the European Sociological Association by Bernhard Weicht



Your next appointment:

**ESA 2017
ATHENS
GREECE**

The 13th ESA Conference



This year's conference of the European Sociological Association took us to the Czech Republic, to the beautiful historic city of Prague. Under the theme "Differences, Inequalities and Sociological Imagination" thousands of sociologists and social scientists from Europe and beyond gathered to share and discuss each other's work, thoughts and ideas.

Being aware of the fact that the ongoing financial crisis has already affected university departments in many European countries dramatically, preventing many scholars from attending large international conferences, we were delighted that the streams organised by our research network still receive impressive interest and engagement. More than 100 papers in 23 individual sessions, complemented by 10 contributions in the poster session presented the breadth and depth of European scholarship and research in the areas of ageing and later life.

For the Research Network the ESA conferences also provide the possibility for our required business meetings during which we first reflected on the past two years and the many events organised, followed by an outlook on things to come and the election of the new board.



Three former board members (Kathrin Komp, Alexandra Lopes and Daniela Craveiro) had decided not to run for re-election. The network is extremely grateful for all their efforts and the contributions that they have made for the sociology of ageing during their time on the board. Among them was our chair, Kathrin Komp who, after 8 years on the board stepped down. We are, however, excited that at the general assembly of the ESA it was announced that Kathrin Komp was elected for the ESA Executive Committee. We once again want to thank here specifically for all the hard work she put into the network and all the things she has done and wish her all the best with her new role. At the business meeting it was also decided that Kathrin will be joining our advisory board together with former chairs and vice chairs of the Research Network.

In addition to retaining some longer serving members we are also excited that we could recruit three new members to the board. The new board of the Research Network "Ageing in Europe" was elected unanimously and consists of:

Bernhard Weicht (Chair), University of Innsbruck, Austria

Dirk Hofäcker (Vice-chair), Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Marja Aartsen, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Lucie Galcanova, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Magnus Nilsson, Göteborg University, Sweden

Christos Pliakos, University of Central Lancashire, UK

Jenni Spännäri, Helsinki University, Finland

Justyna Stypinska, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Edward Tolhurst, Staffordshire University, UK

With this group of engaged and motivated people we are convinced to continue the work of the network and serve the sociology of ageing in Europe. Apart from our own events we are already looking forward to the 13th conference of the European Sociological Association which will take place in 2017 in another European centre for history: Athens, Greece.

Best of Europe's experts in ageing research

Commentaries On Breaking News



Sources:

<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-country-information/geography/>

United Nations (2013) World Population Ageing, 2013, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. ST/ESA/SER.A/348 pp94-95

Professor Sheila Peace, president of British Society of Gerontology comments on:

The International Day of Older Persons and the plight of older refugees.

Since 1990, through the UN, we have celebrated *The International Day of Older Persons* on October 1st and this year we need to draw attention to the plight of older refugees whether moving across the world to escape hostility or remaining in their home countries while their kin seek security, safety and refuge elsewhere prepared to face long journeys and terrifying ordeals. The media shows us that many of those moving through Europe are young active men but this is not the only group and women on their own and families with children of all ages are many of those people. These images also show that all generations are fleeing though some are left behind.



Syria dominates our thinking with life expectancy at birth now be in the mid-70s, and globally the less and least developed countries are ageing more rapidly than the most developed.

The country not only sees millions fleeing but for those who remain more than half will have been forced to leave their homes with migrants from Iraq also moving alongside them.

At the beginning of 2015 countrymeters reported that Syria had the following population age distribution with a high number of younger people:

35.2	61	3.8
-	- percentage of population under 15 years old	
-	- percentage of population between 15 and 64 years old	
-	- percentage of population above 64 years old	

Source: <http://countrymeters.info/en/Syria> - accessed Oct 1st 2015

It is more common for those researchers concerned with the challenge of migration and global demographics to address issues relating to: 'return migrants' - people who may have decided to return to their country or place of origin both within and between countries. They have may have control over these decisions. Or people who may be 'family-joining migrants' - seeking to be nearer to others for emotional attachment and support. In contrast 'amenity-seeking migrants' may be a more affluent group coping with cultural change and language differences as they move seasonally, often post-retirement, in search of a different environment. But, of course these migrants differ totally to those seen as 'labour migrants' moving across the world looking for employment opportunities rather than refuge. For some they will come to be the carers of older people in other countries and also become first generation immigrants where they will live to experience old age not in their native homeland but in a new found ageing in place.

At this time we need not only to consider the impact of global movement for people of all ages but to recognise the effect on those in later life who may become disengaged from those to whom they are attached in places that are unfamiliar.

Sheila Peace

President of the British Society of Gerontology

REVIEW MY BOOK

Reviewing your own work

could be a challenging

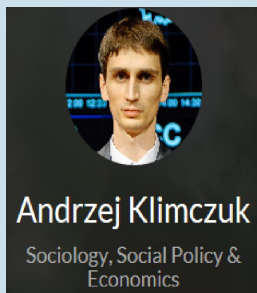
exercise of self-reflection.

But who knows better than

the author himself?

BOOK TITLE

Economic Foundations for Creative Ageing Policy, Volume I: Context and Considerations
Publisher Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN 9781137466105



<http://andrzejklimczuk.com/>

aklimczuk@gazeta.pl



The current discussion about ageing policy is focused mainly on two policy ideas promoted by the international organizations. The first is the concept of “active ageing” supported by the World Health Organisation and the second is the idea of “productive ageing” that is used by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. In practice, however, both of these ideas have many similarities and in some interpretations are reduced to pragmatic goals concerned with cost-effectiveness in the labour market, health services, and long-term care services.

The core goal of my book is to introduce an early analysis of the creative ageing movement. In my opinion, this social movement may be seen in a fairly broad way because entities and organizations working in the creative ageing field are not only focused on such activities as arts, education, and rehabilitation for older adults. These entities are inventing and promoting technological and social innovations for ageing populations that are implemented mainly on the local and regional level. Thus, these actions and interventions may be seen as a bottom-up development of ageing policy, which takes place in different places of the globe. However, I need to underline that the movement is already crystallized and institutionalized mainly in Anglo-Saxon countries while the entities in other welfare regimes undertake similar actions under various titles, mottos, and brands.

I define the creative ageing policy as a process of engaging older adults in creative activity, which aims to shift from highlighting their problems to indicating their potential (capital). Having said that my book focuses on constructing positive solutions for an ageing population and in particular cover theoretical analysis and case studies of good practices that could be popularized internationally. I hope that this book will help with the dissemination of the concept of the creative ageing and with an understanding of complex social, economic, and political challenges related to population ageing.

The hardest part of my work on this book was to construct a clear theoretical model, which combines many seemingly distant concepts related to the silver economy, the social and solidarity economy, and the creative industries. As a result, the book was divided into two volumes. The first volume focuses on social gerontology issues and sociological and economic theories related to creative ageing. The second volume will bring closer look at practice of creative ageing, relations of this policy idea with other public policies on ageing, the management of creative ageing programs, and best practices.

Another important issue while writing the “Economic Foundations for Creative Ageing Policy” was to gather various examples of innovative programs of organizations of older adults. Thus, the book mentions about, for example, creative arts therapies, rehabilitation in the community, arts and health in hospitals, health promotion and the arts, volunteering, senior entrepreneurship, service robotics, intergenerational programs, and age-friendly cities. One of the important assumptions is that ageing occurs on all continents and proceeds even more rapidly in the countries of the Global South than in the countries of the Global North. Thus, there is a need for a non-Eurocentric approach to ageing policies. Writing from a multidisciplinary and international perspective is extremely challenging.

I think that even if the book is published, there is still a lot of space for further research on creative ageing. The main part of the book as well as contributions by Harry R. Moody, Kathrin Komp, and Łukasz Tomczyk contain many unanswered questions that were raised in more or less literal way.

Andrzej Klimczuk



ventions

Presenting 'Ageing in Greece' has a special interest for sociologists and gerontologists due to the combination of being a Mediterranean country with an engendered family-centred model of care provision, while facing an emergency situation of drastic reforms in the welfare system that definitely affect vulnerable groups and especially older people. But there is more than these scientific reasons we should be interested in Greece's ageing case. And that is the ESA next conference meeting which is scheduled to be held in Athens between 22nd and 26th August 2017.

Ageing in Greece within the financial crisis: A spotlight at the host of next ESA conference

by Christos Pliakos

Demography of ageing in Greece

According to Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT., 2014) in the next few years the percentage of the population of Greece at age 65 and over is growing steadily and is expected to arrive in 2050 to about 32% (from 18.8% in 2010), speculating almost a doubling of the ratio. This can be generally attributed to three particular reasons: extended life expectancy, a dramatic decline in fertility rate and the recent immigration tension of young people due to the financial crisis. Life expectancy at birth in Greece is almost 80.7 years, half a year higher than the OECD average of 80.2 years (OECD, 2014). Furthermore, in 2012, the birth rate in Greece was 9 births per 1,000 residents, while the same rate in 1980 was 15.36. Moreover, due to the recent eruption of unemployment, particu-

larly highly educated young people seeking for a job, are immigrating in increasing numbers and further accelerating population ageing. Nine out of ten of those, hold a university degree and more than 60% have a master's degree, while 11% hold a PhD (Triandafyllidou & Gropas, 2014).



Care for older people in Greece

Care for older people in Greece has been characterised as a 'family affair' since public provision has been limited and the family carries the main caring responsibilities' (Ministry of Health and welfare, 1999). Women hold the burden in caring for all family members as they provide the most of informal care within the Greek family representing a percentage of 80.9% of family cares (Triantafyllou et al, 2006). Long term care services providing accommodation are delivered by public bodies, or private companies and some voluntary or religious organizations and are limited in 'Nursing Homes' schemes or 'Elderly Care Units'. There is no other type of specialised housing or other suitable accommodation for older people like in other European countries and the residential choice in later life remains limited between ageing in place or moving to an elderly care unit. Due to the importance of family ethics in Greece but also to the shortage of available places, the number of older people living in those institutions is extremely low (1% according to 2011 census data).

Community care was formally introduced in 1979 via the establishment of the first 'Open Care Centers for Older People' (KAPIs). These are membership clubs operating at a neighbourhood level and providing a variety of day care services to older residents. Services include creative activities, physiotherapy, guided tours to museums and archaeological sites, day excursions and city walks (Amira et al, 1986). Domiciliary care was introduced only in the late 1990s via the programme "Home Help" for older people to meet the need for basic care services of older dependent people who live alone, have little or no family support and lack sufficient financial resources (Daniilidou et al, 2003). In 2001 a new community programme, the 'Day Care Centers for the Elderly' (KIFIs) was established in urban areas. KIFIs have the purpose to provide daily care services through trained staff and specially equipped premises to frail older people, especially those with chronic health related problems, who are unable to receive care from informal networks. In sum, since the '80s time, there's been a continuous effort to move away from hospital and residential care by supporting community care services; trying to bring together older people with the rest of the community and meet their preferences to improve their quality of life; fighting against the risk of social exclusion; facilitating reconciliation of work and family life for informal care givers and reducing the costs (Ministry of Health and Welfare, 2002).

However, the provision of elderly care in Greece has been on the edge of a transition (WHO, 1996). It is argued that the ageing of the population along with the westernization of the Greek society has put great pressure on the engendered family-centred model of service provision (Bagavos, 2001) and eventually people of third age will trigger an extreme demand in healthcare and social services in the near future (Economou, 2012). It is therefore expected, that the poor welfare structure and nursing home network will face major difficulties in responding future demands to support the increasing needs for institutional and non-institutional care of Greek ageing population (Kondilis et al, 2013).

Older people in the context of the Greek debt crisis

In ancient Greece, starting with Homer's epic Iliad revealing the iconic figure of Nestor, to continue down through the centuries to Plato's era with his character of Cephalus in *The Republic*, there has been a literary tradition showing great respect to older people and their intellectual power. But things have been drastically changed in the years of 'late modernity'. It's been said that Greece has experienced an economic crisis on the scale of the US Great Depression of the 1930s. The recession affected the Greek economy by cutting around ¼ of its size totally, recording the largest contraction of an advanced economy since the 1950s (Rodgers and Stylianou, 2015). In fact, since 2010, when the first bailout loan package was agreed with the 'troika', the conditionalities of strict austerity measures and structural changes that were imposed had severe social effects. Despite European Union's rescue programs and Greek efforts youth unemployment rate jumped to a record high of 59.5% (Kraatz, 2015)) while according to the OECD Employment Outlook, total poverty in Greece reached 13%, or 2 percentage points higher than the OECD average and the second highest in the EU. Most importantly, older people have persistently faced a higher poverty risk than the total population. In fact the poverty rate for people 65 years or over rose, from 22% to 24%, while the combined at-risk-of-poverty and/or social exclusion aggregate rate reached 34% among old-aged people (75 years or over) (Petmesidou, 2013). Furthermore, an estimated 800,000 Greeks are without medical access due to a lack of insurance or poverty (Kentikelenis et al, 2014). Additionally, significant increase in indirect taxes (electricity, food, heating oil) and special levies (e.g. 'extra' property levy) have been applied targeting the middle classes but affecting mostly the vulnerable groups. Finally, considerable cuts in current and future pension schemes and social benefits have put older people deeper in poverty risk.

Conclusion

Population ageing in Greece has no difference comparing to the rest of the world in straining social insurance and pension systems and challenging established models of caregiving and social support. Especially due to poor welfare structure and lack of specialized housing, elderly care remains a family affair in

Greece, although it is strongly challenged by the westernization of the Greek society. Older people in Greece suffer nowadays by 'the discontents of postmodernity era', to borrow a catchy title introduced by professor Bauman, who made an important reference on the Greek 'management through uncertainty' during his recent lecture at the 12th ESA conference opening ceremony in Prague. Due to the financial crisis, more than ever, older Athenians are pressured by the 'risk society', experiencing pensions' reductions, unemployment in their family and huge transformations in the Greek welfare system. And it's not only the young Greeks whose 'biographies' are no more 'lives of a linear narrative', as Sennet argued. It is the older Greeks indeed, obliged now to acquire in their old age 'flexibility skills' (Sennet, 1998).

However, latest IMF reviews reflecting the business environment, suggest that Greece is still ranked relatively low, but is the country with the largest improvements, concluding that Greece is slowly but surely emerging stronger out of the crisis (IMF, 2014). Thus, it seems that the sun still shines in Greece. The bright sun and the blue sea historically has shaped a Greek characteristic, on having an optimistic attitude against any difficulties throughout the years. In this case, it is expressed with a sincere smile, revealing a promise for a great traditional host of the next ESA conference in 2017, which is scheduled to be held in the city of Plato, where some of the founding sociological principles and ideas were born.

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- IMF Country Report No. 14/151, June 2014

Upcoming events

PhD workshop of the ESA Research Network on Ageing in Europe, 2016



Advancing the study of ageing through innovative methodologies

Tuesday 5th April (early afternoon) to Thursday 7th April (early afternoon)
University of Chester, UK

Overview

It is well documented that societies are ageing, with the average age in Europe set to continue rising throughout the twenty-first century. This demographic trend presents substantial social policy challenges, as the number of people of retirement age increases in relation to those in paid employment. However, it is not just that people are living longer, but that the subjective meanings people attach to their own ageing are also changing. For example, rising longevity and a relatively affluent retirement are expanding the possibilities of later life for many. A simple division between young and old is thus increasingly misleading as the lifecourse become more complex and diverse. With changes occurring at both macro and micro-levels of the social fabric, it is vital that social scientific research is methodologically equipped to engage with the multifaceted challenges of ageing.

The Spring Workshop

Participants will present on their submitted paper and will receive valuable feedback on their work from their

peers, and senior academics. The aim of this workshop is to critically reflect on the changing nature of ageing in societies. This will enable consideration of the empirical challenges of addressing experiential, relational and sociocultural dimensions of ageing. Participants will be able to discuss how they are applying the methodology of their research to the explication of these dimensions. We welcome applications from PhD-students and early-career academics/researchers in sociology, social policy and related social sciences.

Senior academics will also deliver keynote presentations at the workshop. Confirmed keynote speakers are:

- Professor Mary Beth Happ, Ohio State University
- Professor Paul Higgs, University College London
- Professor Chris Phillipson, University of Manchester

Apply

Abstracts with a maximum of 250 words should be submitted by **30th November 2015**

To apply, please send your abstract to **Dr Edward Tolhurst: e.tolhurst@staffs.ac.uk**

Workshop cost: €200 – including accommodation for two nights, and all meals.
(€190 for members of the ESA's RN1 network)



For any further information, please don't hesitate to contact Edward.

**The Future
of Ageing Research
Post REF 2014
Lessons and Issues
for Social Gerontology
Research Funding,
Research Advances,
Research Impact**

The Wellcome Collection, 183
Euston Road, London, NW1
2BE, UK

**November
11th 2015**

www.britishgerontology.org



Upcoming events

Program

10.00 – 10.30 a.m. Coffee and Registration

10.30 – 10.35 a.m. Professor Sheila Peace,
President of the British Society of Gerontology
- Opening Address

10.35 – 10.40 a.m. Dr Debora Price, President
Elect of the British Society of Gerontology and
Professor Gordon Wilcock, Past Vice President
for Academic Affairs for the British Geriatrics
Society - Chairs Introductions

10.40 – 11.00 a.m. Anna Dixon, CEO of the
Centre for Ageing Better - *Ageing Better, what
works, developing the contribution of the Cen-
tre for Ageing Better?*

11.00 -11.20 a.m. Professor Alan Walker, Uni-
versity of Sheffield - *Learning from the Re-
search Council Programmes, expectations and
realities: Growing Older and New Dynamics of
Ageing*

11.20 – 11.35 a.m. Comfort Break

11.35 – 11.50 a.m. Joy Todd, Strategic Lead for
Health and Human Behaviour Research at ESRC
*Following 'Life-long Health and Well-being':
where next for RCUKs*

11.50 – 12.35 p.m. James Pickett (Alzheimer's
Society); Jackie Marshall-Balloch (Innovate UK);
Sarah Harper (Foresight on Ageing Lead) - *Out-
side the Research Councils: priorities for the
future*

12.35 – 12.45 p.m. Discussion from the floor

12.45 p.m. LUNCH

1.40 – 1.45 p.m. Chairs, Past Presidents: Pro-
fessor Robin Means and Professor Mim Ber-
nard - Introduction to afternoon - *Impact and
what social gerontologists as a multi-
disciplinary researchers can learn and contrib-
ute*

1.45 – 2.00 p.m. Professor Janet Finch, REF
Panel C lead - *Reflecting on REF 2014: Issues
for Ageing Research – Publications, Environ-
ment and Impact*

2.00 – 2.20 p.m. Professor Gail Mountain and
Ms. Surinder Bangar - *Analysis of Ageing Re-
search in the REF Impact Case Studies – value
to BSG members*

2.20 – 2.40 p.m. BSG Members/REF Sub-panel
Members for UoA 22: Social Work and Social
Policy - Professor Judith Phillips and Professor
Alison Bowes and Professor Jane Falkingham
and for UoA 23: Sociology - Professor Sara Ar-
ber

2.40 – 3.10 p.m. Panel discussion with ques-
tions from the audience

3.10 – 3.40 p.m. David Sinclair, CEO ILC-UK
and Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director Age
UK – *Improving the impact of gerontological
research: perspectives on the 'future of ageing
research' from the NGOs*

3.40 – 4.00 p.m. Sheila Peace, President of the
BSG and Chris Phillipson, Past President - *Key
Issues and Next Steps: the role of a Learned
Society*

Conclusions and Thanks

4.00 p.m. TEA & PASTRIES

British Society of Gerontology

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Email: info@britishgerontology.org

Website: www.britishgerontology.org

Upcoming events

8th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations (ESFR)

Changing Family Relations –
Gender and Generations

August 31 - September 3, 2016

TU Dortmund University, Germany



**Deadline for submissions
Symposia:**

December 31, 2015

Oral Presentations:

February 14, 2016

Poster presentations:

April 15, 2016

www.esfr2016.tu-dortmund.de



Megatrends like globalization, increasing migration, the neo-liberal transformation of labor, individualization and pluralization as well as demographic ageing profoundly influence families today. The relations between family members, generations and genders undergo profound changes. They are not only at the center of these trends but also serve as mediators for social change, becoming a focus of political interventions with respect to equity, justice, and well-being. Despite of such measures, families are often challenged to find their own ways to deal with the consequences of these megatrends, particularly during the different 'rush hours of life' and in times of welfare state retrenchment. Exploring the links between societal, family and individual change and establishing macro-micro level mechanisms is thus more relevant than ever, and a genuinely multidisciplinary task.

The 8th ESFR congress shall therefore provide a forum for family researchers from different backgrounds and at all career stages to discuss their latest research projects with an interdisciplinary and international audience. We invite anthropological, demographic, economic, educational, gerontological, political, legal, methodological, psychological, social work and sociological perspectives on families. Presentations focusing on the links between macro level change and family life, intergenerational and gender relations over time and across countries are especially welcome.

Confirmed keynote speakers are Professor Dieter Ferring (University of Luxemburg), Professor Gunhild Hagestad (NOVA, Norway), Professor Helma Lutz (Goethe University Frankfurt; Germany), Professor Tina Miller (Oxford Brookes University, UK) and Professor Eric Widmer (University of Geneva, Switzerland).

- Presentations will encompass a broad range of topics including but not limited to:
- Life course, ageing and intergenerational relations
- Family relations and migration
- Gender and sexuality
- Couple relationship

- Work and family life
- Care and welfare policies
- Parenthood and family formation
- Children and childhood
- Family conflicts and domestic violence
- Family law and policy
- Family and inequality
- Pluralization of family forms

We invite international symposia of 3-4 presentations plus discussant. Proposals should include a short title of the symposium (12 words maximum) and a 600 word (maximum) description of the symposium. The latter should encompass an outline of the symposium topic as well as titles, speakers and a short abstract of each presentation. It is expected that each symposium includes speakers from more than one country.

The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2015.

Furthermore, we invite oral presentations of papers, if possible linked to the topics mentioned above. Submissions should include a short title of the paper (12 words maximum) and a 250 word (maximum) abstract that provides information e.g. about the research question, the sample and method, type of analysis and main or expected results.

Deadline for submissions is February 14, 2016.

Finally, the conference provides possibilities for poster presentations. Similar to paper presentations, poster submissions should include a short title of the paper (12 words maximum) and a 250 word (maximum) abstract that provides information about the research question, sample and method, the type of analysis and main or expected results.

Deadline for submissions is April 15, 2016.

More information and the platform for submissions can be found at

www.esfr2016.tu-dortmund.de



The University of Manchester

**Manchester Institute
for Collaborative
Research on Ageing**

**What makes an
age-friendly city?**

**November
13th 2015**

**Age and the
body: Identity
and image in**

later life

**December
4th 2015**

**Register online for these
FREE seminars**

**[http://
www.micra.manchester.
ac.uk/events/](http://www.micra.manchester.ac.uk/events/)**



Upcoming events

What makes an age-friendly city?

Friday 13 November 2015

Seminar 10am-4pm (registration from 9.30am)

Meeting rooms 1 & 2, The Nowgen Centre, 29 Grafton Street, Manchester, M13 9WU

International perspectives on policy and practice. One day seminar exploring the ways in which urban and city environments can contribute to 'healthy' and 'active' ageing.

The aim of the day's events will be to illustrate how social science research can contribute to creating age-friendly urban environments from the perspective of older people, policy makers and businesses. We will bring together researchers from a range of disciplines, such as urban sociology, social gerontology, urban planning and architecture, policy makers and representatives of older people's groups and businesses to present and discuss findings from the most up-to-date research. Our target audience will be people who are working to develop age-friendly environments within the UK. This will include local government, housing trusts, community organisations, voluntary sector and private sector organisations as well as older people themselves.

Speakers include:

- Dr Sophie Handler, Research and Planning Officer (Age-friendly Cities), University of Manchester/ Manchester City Council and Chair of the RIBA working group on Research and Ageing
- Professor Chris Phillipson, Social Gerontology and Sociology, The University of Manchester
- An-Sofie Smetcoren, Belgian Ageing Studies, Free University Brussels
- Dr Martin Hyde, Sociology, The University of Manchester
- Andrea Winn, Curator of Community Exhibitions, The Manchester Museum
- Co-researchers, the Manchester Ageing Study
- Chris Ricard, Whalley Range Community Forum and Age-Friendly Whalley Range Steering Group

Age and the body: Identity and image in later life

Friday 4 December 2015

Seminar 2.00pm – 4.00pm (free networking lunch from 1.00pm)

Meeting rooms 1 & 2, The Nowgen Centre, 29 Grafton Street, Manchester, M13 9WU

Speakers:

- * Professor Julia Twigg, Professor of Social Policy and Sociology, The University of Kent
- * Professor Julie-Marie Strange, Professor of British History and Dr Sasha Handley, Senior Lecturer History, The University of Manchester

Chair: Professor Chris Phillipson, Professor Sociology & Social Gerontology, The University of Manchester

Since at least the eighteenth century, consumer markets have responded to the needs of ageing populations. Some of these aids have had practical functions, such as walking sticks, pain relief, or com-modes, while others have addressed issues of personal appearance, such as hair dye, 'anti' ageing cosmetics or false teeth. At this seminar, Professor Julia Twigg (Sociology, University of Kent) and Dr Sasha Handley and Professor Julie-Marie Strange (History, University of Manchester) present research on how men and women respond to changes in ageing bodies today and in the past. Drawing on case studies, the presentations consider how changes in the ageing body's appearance and function can challenge our personal identities and afford opportunities to develop our image and identity in new ways. The second half of the seminar will invite discussion with a panel on the issues raised around identity and image in later life with representatives from Age UK, the Whitworth Art Gallery and the independent living/mobility aid industry.



Research Network on **Ageing in Europe**

We are an association of researchers who are interested in ageing. We aim to facilitate contacts and collaboration among these researchers, and to provide them with up-to-date information. To reach these goals, we organize conferences and workshops, edit a newsletter, and maintain an email list. Because we are part of the European Sociological Association (ESA), many of our members work in sociology. However, we also have members who work in, for example, social policy or psychology.

Visit our homepage, where you can find information on all of our activities.

<http://www.ageing-in-europe.net/>



If you have any questions ... do not hesitate to contact us.

[info @ ageing-in-europe.net](mailto:info@ageing-in-europe.net)

