

# Ageing in Europe

Newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe

Issue 10/Oct 2013

Dear readers,

An exciting year lies ahead of us. In 2014, the *Research Network on Ageing in Europe* will organize two events: a conference and a PhD student workshop. You will, therefore, have many opportunities to exchange ideas with other ageing researchers from across Europe next year – be it about established topics, such as retirement, or about emerging topics, such as the effects of the economic crisis on older people. We hope to welcome you at these events. Further information on both events will be distributed in future issues of this newsletter and via our mailing list (see <http://www.ageing-in-europe.org>). Just like all activities of the *Research Network* the

conference and the PhD student workshop are organized by volunteers. I am, therefore, particularly delighted that so many committed researchers were elected into the new board of the *Research Network* (see the conference report in this newsletter). Such a strong board ensures that we will be able to support your ageing research through, e.g., the newsletter, conferences and workshops. If you have any questions or suggestions for us, do not hesitate to send us an email. You can reach us via [coordinators@ageing-in-europe.org](mailto:coordinators@ageing-in-europe.org)

Kathrin Komp

Chair of the *Research Network on Ageing in Europe*

## Report from the 11<sup>th</sup> conference of the European Sociological Association

The 11<sup>th</sup> conference of the *European Sociological Association* “Crisis, Critique and Change” was held in the beautiful city of Turin, Italy, on August 28-31, 2013. During the conference around 2500 papers were presented. The number of papers presented in the sessions organized by the *Research Network on Ageing in Europe* added up to around 120. The papers dealt with a wide variety of topics related to ageing and old age from both empirical and theoretical perspectives. We were happy to see so many people attending the sessions, and despite the financial difficulties of many universities across Europe, most countries were represented among the presenters.

The business meeting of the *Research Network on Ageing in Europe* was held on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> August. The meeting was chaired by Harald Künemund (University of Vechta) who informed on the activities of the network since the previous conference of the *European Sociological Association* in Geneva in 2011. The main events organized by the research network were:

- The PhD-student workshop in Porto, Portugal, 5-7 July 2012.
- The Midterm-conference in Umeå, Sweden, 3-5 October 2012.

A new board of the *Research Network on Ageing in Europe* was elected during the business meeting. Harald Künemund, Ricca Edmondson and Albert Bannerjee had decided not to run for re-election. The network is grateful for the efforts and the contributions that they have made for the sociology of ageing during their time on the board.

The new board of the *Research Network on Ageing in Europe* was elected unanimously and consists of:

- Kathrin Komp (Chair – Umeå University, Sweden)

- Bernhard Weicht (Vice-chair – Utrecht University, The Netherlands)
- Jenni Spännäri (University of Helsinki, Finland)
- Marja Aartsen (VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- Dirk Hofäcker (University Mannheim, Germany)
- Alexandra Lopes (Porto University, Portugal)
- Magnus Nilsson (Karlstad University, Sweden)

Magnus Nilsson is now responsible for the newsletter and you can reach him at: [magnus.nilsson@kau.se](mailto:magnus.nilsson@kau.se)



The new board. From left to right Marja Aartsen, Kathrin Komp, Jenni Spännäri, Bernhard Weicht, Magnus Nilsson, Dirk Hofäcker. Missing on this picture: Alexandra Lopes.

## Your membership matters!

After the Torino conference experience it's easy to send a great big THANK YOU to all of our research network (RN) members! You made it possible - and your membership really matters! The number of members of our research network directly affects the number of sessions we are allocated. Also your affiliation fees contribute in full to the funding of our activities, including the midterm conference.

If you're not yet a member of the European Sociological Association (ESA) and/or the research network, please consider joining!

### What do you get?

As an ESA member you get (among other things):

- the online version of the journal *European Societies* for free.
- a discount on conference fees (eg. 2013 regular price: 370 Euros and price for

members: 190 Euros = 49% discount, greater than the ESA membership fee)

When the number of the RN members grows, you get:

- even more possibilities to present
- more inspiring sessions to attend
- bigger and better midterm conference and other activities

#### **What to do?**

Step 1: Become an ESA member (membership fee 150 Euros for two years)

Step 2: Pay the research network affiliation fee (10 Euros)

All of the steps above can be taken at:

<http://www.europeansociology.org/membership.html>

For questions regarding the membership contact Jenni Spannari:

[jenni.spannari@gmail.com](mailto:jenni.spannari@gmail.com)

## **Upcoming events**

### ***Cross-Border healthcare in Europe: Towards a Patient-Centred System***

NH Hotel du Grand Sablon, Brussels

Tuesday 12th November 2013

The ***EU Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare*** seeks to eliminate obstacles hindering patients from receiving treatment in another Member State. Rules for receiving cross-border healthcare and reimbursement of these costs are not always clear and, as such, the Directive provides more transparency and also clarifies who is responsible for quality and safety of care in cross-border settings.

With Member States having until mid-October 2013 to comply with the standards and guidelines set by the Directive, this international symposium provides a timely platform for a constructive debate on the successes and failures of the implementation throughout Europe, and on how to build on these experiences to develop a patient-centred cross-border healthcare system in the years to come.

For more information see:

<http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/DK12-PPE2.php>

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### ***Technology, care and ageing: enhancing independence***

#### ***AKTIVE Final Conference 2014***

8-9 April 2014, University of Leeds, UK

This conference brings together researchers, industry, voluntary sector and local authorities interested in the role of telecare and other technologies in supporting older people at home.

The conference is organised by the AKTIVE project (2011-2014). AKTIVE has focused on understanding the impact telecare technology has on the everyday lives of older people who are prone to falls or who suffer from cognitive impairments (including dementia) and the people who support them to live at home.

The conference will be the conclusion of the AKTIVE project and the key findings of the project will be presented. We welcome this

opportunity to invite other experts and practitioners in this field to contribute. As part of the final conference of this project, we are seeking papers and presentations exploring the role of telecare and other technologies, such as telehealth, in supporting older people at home.

The conference programme will be focused not only on research done in those areas but also on the application of the research in practice by listening to experiences of organisations from the UK and abroad. The objective of the conference is to share a wide range of perspectives on the role of technologies in the lives of older people and to provide delegates with guidance and inspiration for their operations.

Please submit a 250 word abstract, your name and affiliation by 1st November 2013. For details of how to submit see <http://www.aktive.org.uk/callforpapers2014.html>

For further information about the conference or the AKTIVE project:

phone: +44 (0) 113 343 5003

email: [contact@aktive.org.uk](mailto:contact@aktive.org.uk)

web: [www.aktive.org.uk](http://www.aktive.org.uk)

tweet to @AKTIVEproject

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### ***Call for Papers: Lifecourse Stream***

#### ***The theme for the BSA 2014 Annual Conference is: Changing Society.***

The conference will take place at the University of Leeds from 23-25 April 2014.

A focus on the lifecourse can provide a novel lens in which we can enhance theoretical, methodological, policy and empirical knowledge and understanding within Sociology and *Changing Societies*.

We welcome abstracts from across the lifecourse that enhance our sociological knowledge, promote our understanding of age and ageing, and focus on any aspect of the lifecourse.

We welcome submissions from Ageing, Body and Society, the Sociology of Ageing, and any aspect of the Lifecourse.

All paper abstracts and proposals for other events can be submitted online at: <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/bsa-annual-conference/submissions.aspx>

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **18 October 2013**

For further information contact the *Lifecourse* stream coordinators:

Wendy Martin: [wendy.martin@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.martin@brunel.ac.uk)

Julia Twigg: [j.m.twigg@kent.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.twigg@kent.ac.uk)

Alternatively, contact the BSA Events Team: [events@britsoc.org.uk](mailto:events@britsoc.org.uk)

## **Conference Report**

***The Culture, Health and Wellbeing International Conference*** was held in Bristol, UK, from June 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2013. It brought together 390 delegates and speakers from 22 countries to

share, discuss and enjoy presentations, performances and workshops on the themes of: Healthy and Creative Ageing; Global Health Inequalities and Culture; and Culture and the

Social Determinants of Wellbeing. 63% of delegates stated that they had a particular interest in Healthy and Creative Ageing. The Daiwa and Sasakawa Foundations supported a special symposium on creative approaches to care of older people in Japan. Dr Yukimi Uchide, General Director of the Social Welfare Foundation Tenjin-kai in Ofunato, Sizzle Ohtaka, singer and performance artist, and Dr Herbeth Fondevilla, Associate Professor at Tsukuba University attended the conference

and contributed to the symposium. Other sessions included an experiential workshop on dementia presented from Wales; the arts in residential care in Finland and the UK; work with isolated older people with dementia in Cornwall and work with indigenous populations in Australia.

More information about the conference programme can be found at [www.culturehealthwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.culturehealthwellbeing.org.uk).



Photo: Clint Randall

## New Publications of Interest

### ***First ever global 'index' to measure wellbeing of older people***

Professor Asghar Zaidi at the University of Southampton working with HelpAge International and an international expert group has developed the Global AgeWatch Index to help highlight the varying quality of life and wellbeing that older people experience in countries around the world.

Global AgeWatch Index 2013 is the first quantitative measure of its kind to focus on the wellbeing of older people on a worldwide scale. The Index compares the experiences of older people from 91 countries around the world and ranks them in order of quality of experience.

The Index focuses on older people's income security, health status, employment and education capabilities and the enabling environment of societies in which they live. It builds a strong case for better policies and services to improve their lives in many countries – especially in developing countries.

The Index does not simply demonstrate the best and worst places for people to grow old, but is also a tool to encourage countries to recognise the challenges of their ageing populations. It reveals some surprising global and regional comparisons and indicates Gross Domestic Product per capita, a proxy for country's wealth and standard of living, does not necessarily lead to better welfare outcomes for older people.

Future work of the Global AgeWatch programme will include yearly updating of all

### ***Intergenerational Justice in Aging Societies***

By: Pieter Vanhuyse

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna  
<http://www.euro.centre.org/vanhuyse>

Population ageing has led to a renewed popular and theoretical interest in the notion of justice between the generations, but efforts to measure it in practice have lagged behind. At the request of the Bertelsmann Stiftung, I therefore propose a simple snapshot measure of intergenerational equity for 29 OECD countries around 2010. Sustainability is the underlying notion: 'enough and as good' ought to be left by each generation for the next. The measure is composed of four dimensions. Three dimensions capture policy outcomes that leave legacy burdens towards future generations (public debt, ecological footprints, child poverty). The fourth dimension captures the pro-elderly spending bias of welfare

the relevant data and also coverage of additional countries. A breakdown of data by gender is high on the agenda for future development of the Global AgeWatch Index, and there is also an aspiration that the Index will be extended to include a domain on political and civil rights of older people.

For an in-depth analysis of the Index results, including a table of overall country rankings (page 17), see the Insight Report, downloadable from:  
<http://www.helpage.org/global-agewatch/> (a summary is available at: <http://bit.ly/17Wt5ia>)  
For a detailed description of the methods, and the indicators used, see the Methodology Report, downloadable from:  
<http://www.helpage.org/global-agewatch/>

states. These dimensions are aggregated into a synthetic intergenerational justice value, using a benefit-of-the-doubt weighting method to respect the preferences of democratically elected governments. The reports discusses cross-national results and concludes with a number of policy conclusions for boosting intergenerational justice, ranging from the obvious (early childhood investment) to the radical (proxy votes for children).

Short summary:  
<http://www.openpop.org/?p=583>

Reference:

Vanhuyse, Pieter (2013), *Intergenerational Justice in Aging Societies: A Cross-national Comparison of 29 OECD Countries*, Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung.

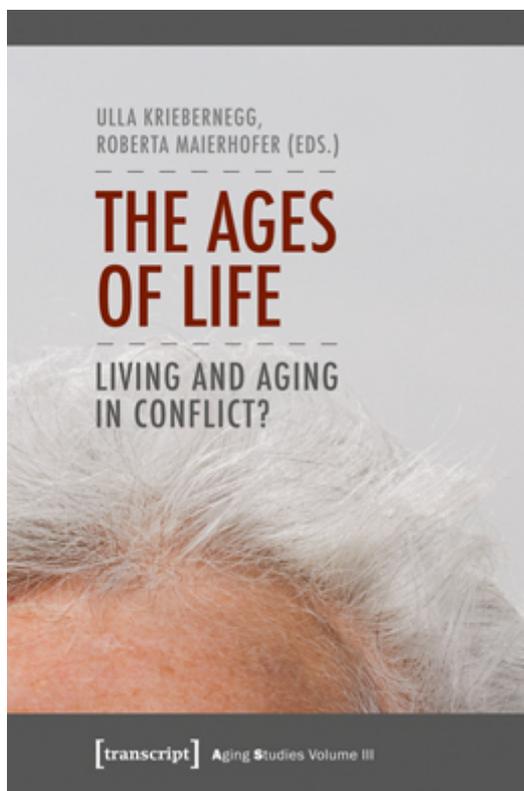
### ***The Ages of Life: Living and Aging in Conflict?***

By: Ulla Kriebner, Roberta Maierhofer (eds.). Bielefeld: transcript, 2013.

The binary construction of »young« and »old«, which is based on a biogerontological model of aging as decline, can be redefined as the ambiguity of aging from a cultural studies perspective. This concept enables an analysis of the social functions of images of aging with the aim of providing a basis for interdisciplinary exchange on gerontological research.

The articles in this publication conceive the relationship between living and aging as a productive antagonism which focuses on the interplay between continuity and change as a marker of life course identity: aging and growing older are processes which cannot be reduced to the chronology of years but which are shaped by the individual's interaction with the changing circumstances of life.

<http://www.transcript-verlag.de/ts2212/ts2212.php>



### ***Older Workers in an Ageing Society. Critical Topics in Research and Policy.***

Globalization and Welfare series

By: Philip Taylor (ed.). Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013

Prolonging working lives is high on the agenda of policy makers in most of the world's major industrialized nations. This book explains how they are keen to tackle issues associated with the ageing of populations, namely the funding of pension systems and predictions concerning a dwindling labour supply. Yet the recent history of older workers has primarily been one of premature exit from the labour force in the form of redundancy or early retirement. Add to this a previously plentiful supply of younger labour and it is clear that much of industry will be unprepared for the challenges of ageing workforces.

<http://elgaronline.com/view/9781782540090.xml>

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### ***Older People and Alcohol: New Publication***

Many public health campaigns on the misuse of alcohol are aimed at younger age groups. However, there is evidence that alcohol misuse is increasing in people over the age of 65. For a variety of reasons, alcohol misuse among these older people may go unnoticed (Department of Work and Pensions, 2013).

This edition of the CARDI "Focus on . . ." series looks at alcohol misuse among older people across the island of Ireland and asks if more could be done in policy and social work terms to address the associated health and welfare issues among older age groups.

[http://www.cardi.ie/userfiles/Focus%20on%20alcohol%20misuse%20among%20older%20people%2002\\_8\\_13%20jh.pdf](http://www.cardi.ie/userfiles/Focus%20on%20alcohol%20misuse%20among%20older%20people%2002_8_13%20jh.pdf)

***Assisted Living Platform - The Long Term Care Revolution: A study of innovatory models to support older people with disabilities in the Netherlands***

By **Anthea Tinker, Jay Ginn** and **Eloi Ribe** at the Institute of Gerontology, Department of Social Science, Health and Medicine, King's College London for the Technology Strategy Board.

This study was undertaken to see what can be learned from the experience of the Netherlands about long term care in order to inform policy, research and practice in the UK.

Of particular interest is that while the two countries are very similar in demographic profile and the experiences of the older generation, it is notable that according to official statistics older individuals remain disability-free for nearly half a decade longer in the Netherlands than in the UK.

<http://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/type/resource/?cid=8933&msg=0>

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**Assisted Living Platform - The Long Term Care Revolution**

By **Anthea Tinker, Leonie Kellaheer, Jay Ginn** and **Eloi Ribe** at the Institute of Gerontology, Department of Social Science, Health and Medicine, King's College London for the Technology Strategy Board

This report outlines the case for a revolution in long term care and captures some of the supporting material that has aided the development of the Technology Strategy Board's 'long term care revolution' programme. It includes evidence about the views of older people and their carers in the UK, lessons from abroad, the implications for industry/providers and makes recommendations to government and industry leaders.

<http://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/type/resource/?cid=8934&msg=0>

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Two new publications from **International Longevity Centre – UK**.

'**Working Longer: an EU Perspective**' presents a view of policies in place to enable people to stay in work up to retirement age and beyond. The report looks at the current situation for older workers across the EU including new figures from pan European datasets, proposes the case for supporting working longer, and reviews legislation, policy change and other support at both an EU-wide and Member State level on this issue. In a thematic analysis of the issues it highlights areas where EU institutions and Member States need to do more to support older workers.

For more information:

[http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/index.php/publications/publication\\_details/working\\_longer\\_an\\_eu\\_perspective](http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/index.php/publications/publication_details/working_longer_an_eu_perspective)

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'**The burden of constipation in our ageing population**' is a European review of the evidence and policy on constipation in older people, particularly those living in residential care settings. Though highlighting the impact of constipation on those affected in terms of pain, quality of life and emotion wellbeing, the review seeks to improve knowledge and understanding of this issue. It also aims to highlight the impact of untreated or under-treated constipation on healthcare resources, and to identify and evaluate existing guidance and guidelines on diagnosis and management of constipation, and to highlight where gaps exist.

For more information:

[http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/index.php/publications/publication\\_details/the\\_burden\\_of\\_constipation\\_in\\_our\\_ageing\\_population](http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/index.php/publications/publication_details/the_burden_of_constipation_in_our_ageing_population)

## Opportunities

### **CARDI launch €1 million Leadership programme**

CARDI has announced a leadership programme worth €1 million to promote ageing research over the next three years. It will appoint up to five researchers who can spearhead the next generation of leaders in research on older people and ageing issues. The closing date for applications is 31 October 2013. See [www.cardi.ie](http://www.cardi.ie).

### **International Training Programme on Ageing**

CARDI in conjunction with [The Institute of Aging of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#) and [The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing \(TILDA\)](#) hosted an international training programme on ageing from 17 – 19 September 2013 at Trinity College Dublin. Presentations are now available at [www.cardi.ie](http://www.cardi.ie)

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### **Qualitative Research Methods courses at University of Oxford**

The Health Experiences Research Group, Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford announces its new course programme in qualitative methods. For details and to make a booking, go to:

<https://www.oxforduniversitystores.co.uk/browse/product.asp?catid=165&modid=5&compid=1> For enquiries, contact Caroline Jordan [hergadmin@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hergadmin@phc.ox.ac.uk) or Jenny Hislop [jenny.hislop@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.hislop@phc.ox.ac.uk)

Introduction To Qualitative Interviewing (2-days): 16-17 January 2014

Analysing Qualitative Interviews (2-days): 5-6 February 2014 & 29-30 April 2014

Introduction To Qualitative Research Methods (one week): 7-11 April 2014

Introduction To Media Content Analysis (1 day): 6 March 2014

Introduction To Focus Groups (1 day): 14 March 2014

## **Other events of interest**

### **CARDI unveils new website**

CARDI is delighted to launch its brand new website [www.cardi.ie](http://www.cardi.ie). It hopes to improve the user experience for frequent visitors as well as attracting new ones. CARDI welcomes all feedback on the new site to [info@cardi.ie](mailto:info@cardi.ie)

### **E-Government report launch event**

The findings from a commissioned research study on the theme of e-government & older

people in Ireland, north and south will be launched on Friday 25 October in Belfast. The launch event will include presentations from the lead researcher Professor Irene Hardill, University of Northumbria. Other speakers will include Bill McCluggage, Chief Information Officer, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, Ireland. Attendance is free but you must register in advance. You can [book online](#), by email [events@cardi.ie](mailto:events@cardi.ie) or by telephone 0044 28 90690066.