

# Ageing in Europe

Newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe

Issue 12/July 2014

## Information from the network

**Ageing, Anti-Ageing & Ageism: Constructions and Politics of Being Old in Europe**  
**Carinthia University of Applied Science, Klagenfurt, Austria, 18-20 September 2014**

The 2014 mid-term conference of the research network is approaching. At the moment there are registered participants from 18 countries. Below you find the preliminary program.

### **Thu.18th of September**

09:00 Conference desk open  
10:00 Poster session open  
11:00 Sessions 1-2-3 (each session with 3 papers)  
12:30 Coffee break  
13:00 Off. Opening Speeches RN1 / CUAS / Government  
14:30 Coffee break  
15:00 Keynote J. Twigg: "Clothing, Embodiment and the Cultural Turn"  
16:00 Keynote J. Hörl: "Elder abuse and the ageist perspective"  
17:00 Sessions 3-4-5  
18:30 Coffee break;  
19:00 Meet and Match I / RN1 Business Meeting  
20:00 Welcome reception

### **Fri.19th of September**

09:00 Sessions 6-7-8  
10:30 Coffee break  
11:00 Sessions 9-10-11  
12:30 Lunch / Meet and Match II  
14:00 Keynote M. Kohli  
15:00 Sessions 12-13-14  
16:30 Coffee break  
17:00 Sessions 15-16-17 (4 papers)  
20:00 Conference Dinner @ Wörthersee

### **Sat.20th of September**

09:00 Sessions 18-19-20  
10:30 Coffee break  
11:00 Sessions 21-22-23  
12:30 Coffee break  
13:00 Keynote H. Künemund  
14:00 Final reflections, end of conference  
14:30 Meet and Match III

For more information and updates on the program see: <http://www.fh-kaernten.at/esa-ageing/esa-ageing.html>

**PhD workshop of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe**  
**"Long live the active!? A critical review of active ageing"**

March 23- 25 2015

University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

**Introduction**

Increases in life expectancy and growing older populations have given rise to a greater interest in old age and aging. In Europe the part of the population aged 65+ is projected to reach 30 % by 2060, and the number of adults over 80 years of age is projected to triple (Eurostat, 2008). This development has far-reaching consequences for the sustainability of pension schemes and health care utilization costs for citizens of Europe and for European societies. The EU therefore launched the year 2012 as the "European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations", to raise awareness of the contribution that older people make to society. It seeks to encourage policymakers and relevant stakeholders at all levels to take action with the aim of creating better opportunities for active ageing and strengthening solidarity between generations.

**The Spring Course**

The Research network on Ageing in Europe therefore developed a Spring Course for PhD students and early career scientists to present and discuss their work with relevant senior scholars and fellow students in this field. The aim of this spring school will be to critically reflect on the field of 'Active Ageing' in general respectively its outcomes and prospects. Presentations by PhD students and lectures by seniors scientists are organized around 5 sub-themes; retirement, social policy & demographics, active aging, resilience and critical perspectives on active aging.

**Themes:**

1. Retirement: Prof Dr Dirk Hofäcker, Univer-

sität Duisburg-Essen

2. An index for Active aging: Prof Dr Ashgar Zaidi, University of Southampton

3. Resilience: Dr. Martijn Huisman, VU-University Amsterdam

4. Critical perspectives on active ageing: Prof Dr Christopher Phillipson, University of Manchester

5. Social Policy & Demographics: Prof Dr Gerhard Naegele, Dortmund

During the Spring School, senior researchers will present their latest insights in their specific field of interest. We invite early and late career PhD-students and post docs in sociology, social policy and related social sciences to present and discuss their work, and receive feedback from the seniors and other participants.

Deadlines:

- Abstracts with a maximum of 200 words should be submitted by November 15, 2014

- Registration: December 15 2014: € 200,- The participants will need to submit a complete version of their papers by February 15, 2015

To register send abstract to:

[m.j.aartsen@vu.nl](mailto:m.j.aartsen@vu.nl)

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

Organisers on behalf of the ESA Research Network Aging in Europe:

Prof. Dr. Dirk Hofäcker, University Duisburg-Essen and Dr. Marja Aartsen, VU-University Amsterdam

## Upcoming events

### EAST Research Network

#### Workshop on Depopulation of Rural Areas in Central and Eastern Europe: Causes and Consequences

Oxford Institute of Population Ageing  
22-23 September 2014

This EAST Research Network Workshop will provide an opportunity for members of EAST to share research, policy and practice on this important topic. The two day workshop also provides an opportunity to discuss emerging issues with colleagues and provides an ideal platform for developing future research collaboration.

The programme will include plenary lectures, paper presentations, discussions, and poster sessions.

Speakers include:

Professor Ewa Fratzczak (Warsaw School of Economics, Poland)

Professor Andreas Hoff (University of Zittau-Görlitz, Germany)

Professor Russell King (University of Sussex, United Kingdom)

Dr. Agnes Nemenyi (University Babes-Bolyai, Romania)

Dr. Zsuzsa Szeman (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary)

We are inviting papers and poster presentation.

Deadline for submissions is 30th of June 2014

Programme and registration form available at: <http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/research/regions/europe/east/events>

### IAGG-ER 2015 Congress in Dublin

On behalf of the Irish Gerontological Society and the networks of researchers and educators active across the island of Ireland, Ireland is proud to host the IAGG-ER 2015 Congress in Dublin.

The Irish Gerontological Society is an all-island society (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) and is one of the oldest societies in the world dedicated to research in ageing. It is a strongly interdisciplinary Gerontological society, with all four pillars of gerontology represented in its governance and membership, and a strong belief that progress in making an age-attuned world on a scientific basis lies in ensuring equipoise and mutually respectful relationships between the interlocking pillars of gerontology. This is a position it has promoted in its communications and engagement

with the IAGG and IAGG-ER over many years.

The Irish Gerontological Society has also been to the fore in promoting the Demographic Dividend - at their joint Congress with the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society in Dublin in 2010, 300 older Irish people joined us for an opening session which included Nobel-laureate poet Seamus Heaney discussing Ageing and the Poetic Spirit, and a symphony concert of music of mature creativity.

This broad and positive approach is reflected in the themes of our special issues of journal *Irish Ageing Studies Review*: Creativity and Ageing; Technology and Ageing; Exercise and Ageing; Gerontology Education; Long-Term Care and Income Security and Ageing. Our PhD study days also cover this palette of acti-

vities. In the spirit of engaging with all four pillars of gerontology, we have appointed four internationally recognized Irish academic leads to ensure a dynamic European Scientific Subcommittees in each of the pillars of gerontology represented by the Congress. The Congress theme – Unlocking the Demographic Dividend – aims to tap into the growing awareness that gerontological research can help us to understand the collective and personal benefits that we gain from population ageing, a better understanding of the barriers to realizing the full potential of the demographic dividend, and the advances in gerontological science which allow these barriers to be overcome in the most effective way possible.

We will illustrate this with a strong narrative of late life creativity through the arts and as-

sociated activities of the congress, as well as within the themes of the congress symposia and keynote lectures. We are confident that the synergy of the energies, vision and drive of the IGS, the active programmes on ageing in Ireland, and IAGG-ER will lead to a dynamic, productive and groundbreaking Congress in Dublin in 2015.

#### Important Dates

15 September 2014 00:00 GMT - Symposium submissions (including symposium overview and individual symposium abstracts)

15 October 2014 00:00 GMT - Individual paper and poster abstract submissions.

12 December 2014 - Author notification.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.iaggdublin2015.org/index.html>

### **3rd Annual Conference of the British Society of Gerontology**

University of Southampton, Highfield Campus from 1 -3 September 2014.

The Centre for Research on Ageing (CRA) at the University of Southampton is proud to host the 43rd annual conference of the British Society of Gerontology (BSG).

The BSG brings together researchers, practitioners, educators, policy-makers, students and other stakeholders. The members are drawn from the social and behavioural sciences; humanities; medicine; health; housing; social care; nursing; policy arenas and voluntary agencies. The BSG was established in 1971. It provides a multidisciplinary forum for

researchers and other individuals interested in the situations of older people, and in how knowledge about ageing and later life can be enhanced and improved.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers are Professor Pearl Dykstra, from the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Toby Porter, the Chief Executive Officer of HelpAge International, and Professor James Nicoll, professor of Neuropathology at the University of Southampton.

Registration closes 1st August 2014

[www.southampton.ac.uk/bsq2014](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/bsq2014)

**Call for Papers: Playing Age**  
**University of Toronto, Feb. 27-28, 2015**

The symposium “Playing Age” offers a humanistic exploration of aging, old age, and inter-generational relations. Seminal theorists of play, from Johan Huizinga to Roger Caillois, claimed that rule-bounded games and mimetic enactments create a “magic circle” in which conflicts within the self and the community can be negotiated at a safe remove. More recently, performance and game theorists have insisted that even playing within the bounded precincts of a stadium, a theatre, or a video game influences everyday conduct, particularly when we play with volatile topics like inter-cultural representations, social class, race and gender. This symposium asks how aging and old age can be investigated through playing, specifically the playfulness of artistic representations, and whether aging is uniquely available for or resistant to imaginative inhabitations.

As British historian Pat Thane maintains, old age “cannot simply be a social construct, an artifice of perception, or fashioned through discourse – unquestionably bodies age, change, decay – but the images, expectations, and experience of older men and women have been constructed in different ways at different

times and for differing people at any one time.” Until recently, there has been relatively little attention paid to the stories and images produced by artists about aging and old age and how these aesthetic representations interrelate with medical and political norms and expectations. These imaginative constructs are crucial precisely because they offer insight into the “images, expectations, and experience” that have changed and, in some cases, been forgotten over time. To broaden the view of aging and old age beyond biomedical and social science terms, this symposium explores works produced by a host of sound artists, video game designers, theatre and performance artists, film makers and authors—works that enable us to recognize aging and old age as not only a biological process but also as malleable, culturally mediated experiences.

For more information as to the questions addressed by the symposium, submission requirements, and deadlines, please visit the following website:

<http://playingage.wordpress.com>

**23NKG2016**  
23<sup>RD</sup> NORDIC CONGRESS OF  
**GERONTOLOGY**  
TAMPERE • FINLAND

**19–22 June 2016 in Tampere, Finland.**

On behalf of the Nordic Gerontological Federation (Nordisk Gerontologisk Förening), we invite you to share with your colleagues the most recent findings, ideas and innovations

about ageing. Our ageing society urgently needs scientific knowledge to enable longer lives to reach their full potential. Better ageing means a better society for all. The theme of

the congress is therefore 'Good ageing – better society'.

The Nordic congresses traditionally emphasise multidisciplinary perspectives on ageing and the life course. 23 NKG is a meeting place for all researchers and professionals, whether they are in social sciences, health research, medicine, nursing, biology, humanities, services research or any other field of scientific enquiry.

The main track of the congress will include scientific sessions on all aspects of ageing. Our special aim is to create sessions at which experts from different core disciplines can meet and learn from each other.

23 NKG is also a place for meeting old and new friends, for enjoying the conference's

social programme and Tampere's many cultural attractions.

All scientific sessions will be in English.

The congress venue will be Tampere Hall, located in the middle of Tampere, close to the University of Tampere's main building and to many hotels.

The congress is arranged in collaboration with the Gerontology Research Centre (GEREC), Societas Gerontologica Fennica, the Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research, and Finnish Geriatricians.

Deadline for abstracts is February 27, 2016

For more information see: [www.23nkg.fi](http://www.23nkg.fi)

### **Ageing: Between Science and Politics**

12th-13th March 2015, University of Luxembourg

Since the mid-twentieth century, the ageing population has gradually become a major challenge in the industrialised countries for both politics and research. For long, interest in these topics has been sustained by the evolution of the age pyramid, 'alarmist demography' (Katz, 1992) along with the fear of a 'decline' in population.

On the one hand, ageing has become a specialisation in many disciplines: medicine, sociology, psychology, to name but three. New 'regions of knowledge' (Bernstein, 2007) have been emerging, but unevenly so over time and across space: the sociology of ageing in France, cultural gerontology on the American continent, gerontology and geriatrics all over the world (Achenbaum, 1995; Moulaert, 2012; Leborgne-Uguen, Pennec, 2012). How has ageing become a delineated object and what

are the limits that differentiate it from other fields of knowledge? Which features create the contexts for its progressive specialisation? Which epistemological issues do these areas of knowledge face? What effects do they or can they have on their objects?

On the other hand, welfare states also target specific parts of the population for both social and health policies, such as elderly people, people with loss of autonomy, 'seniors' or older workers. In Europe, most twentieth-century laws in this field are economic in nature. With the advent of industrial society and the concomitant 'institutionalisation of the life course' (Kohli, 1986; Grootz 2009), the object of this legislation has been the livelihood/relief of those who are too old to ensure their survival through work. The implementation of pensions, the mandatory assistance for

the elderly poor, or the financial compensations for their 'dependency', all these 'managing' laws retain a biological approach to ageing. They are based on the idea of a natural decline that must be compensated while representing a threat to national economics. But does this apparent consensus not eclipse local differences?

In addition, we particularly want to question the relationship between policies and knowledge that legitimises and underpins these laws. Which expertise is required? Who holds it? Which hierarchies exist between fields of knowledge in political discourses and actions? Which links are established between production of specific knowledge and the production of ageing policies? How do science and politics nourish each other? To what degree does this division follow a specialisation justified by its object on the one hand, and a division of intellectual and political labour on the other?

The 'biomedicalisation' (Foucault, 1976) of elderly persons has already been partially described and studied. But what about the role of social sciences in the circumscription of ageing issues? Research in the social sciences has shown little interest in their own effects on the object of ageing. And yet, the growing attention to professional practices, the professionalization and lifelong-learning of professional and informal caregivers, etc. seems to mobilise and re-contextualize knowledge from the humanities and social sciences. What effects has the use of such knowledge on the 'field'? In return, how does this use impact on the disciplines and the production of knowledge?

- Deadline for the submission of proposals in any of the three languages: **July 31th 2014**

- Reply from the scientific board to the speakers : **September 15th 2014**

Contact : [framag.conference@uni.lu](mailto:framag.conference@uni.lu)

### **Building an evidence base for active ageing policies: Active Ageing Index and its potential**

Brussels, 16–17 April 2015

Organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL).

Population ageing is a worldwide phenomenon and policy challenges associated with it are of growing importance. Ensuring active participation of older people in the economic, political and social lives of their societies is one of the goals of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), a global framework outlining policy vision to cope with population ageing, adopted in 2002. The 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations also encouraged policymakers and other stakeholders in the Mem-

ber States of the European Union to take steps towards enhancing opportunities for active ageing in the areas of employment, participation in society and independent living.

In order to design successful responses to the challenges of population ageing, there is a need for a sound evidence base, and in particular, for evidence that allows for comparisons and policy learning across different institutional settings.

The Active Ageing Index (AAI) developed in 2012 aims to serve as an evidence tool:

- to monitor (and compare) active ageing outcomes at different levels: international, national, and subnational

- to indicate the untapped potential of older people for more active participation in eco-

conomic and social life and for independent living

- to promote a more active role and greater autonomy of older people in ageing societies
- to use for mutual learning and advocacy of most appropriate active ageing related policy measures.

The index is constructed from 22 individual indicators that are disaggregated by gender and grouped into four distinct domains. The detailed information on AAI including Methodology paper can be found here:

<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/AAI/Active+Ageing+Index+Home>

UNECE and the European Commission's DG EMPL are organising an International Seminar on "Building evidence base for active ageing policies: Active Ageing Index and its potential". The Seminar will be dedicated to the studies focusing on how to achieve better outcomes — measured, for instance, by AAI — through appropriate policies including those that address life course determinants of active and healthy ageing. The seminar aims to bring together researchers, civil society representatives, policymakers and other stakeholders. It will provide a multidisciplinary forum for those interested in the use of AAI and other research to enhance the knowledge about

ageing and older people and lead to the development of better policies. Participation in the event is free of charge and open for all interested in the topic.

The topics of interest include the following:

- Comparing 2012 AAI results in two or more countries and identifying possible explanatory factors within the context of policy differences across the countries
- Identifying life course determinants of diverse active ageing outcomes observed in the AAI calculations
- Highlighting AAI as an effective monitoring and advisory tool for policymakers at subnational and local levels
- AAI disaggregation across subgroups and identification of potential for better outcomes
- Evaluation of AAI as an effective evidence base for policymaking purpose
- Contextual analysis and clustering of countries to identify factors underlying active ageing outcomes and capacities for active ageing.

Deadline for abstracts: 15 September 2014  
18:00 GMT.

For more information see:

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Active\\_Ageing\\_Index/Call\\_for\\_papers/Call\\_for\\_papers\\_AAI.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Active_Ageing_Index/Call_for_papers/Call_for_papers_AAI.pdf)

### **The national conference on re-ablement in elder care (Rehabilitating)**

2-3 October 2014

Middelfart, Denmark

organized by the Danish Gerontological Society (DGS)

Presentations will be in Danish/Nordic language, and the event is open for national, Nordic

and international researchers and practitioners.

For more information:

<http://gerodan.dk/nb/forside/national-konference-om-aldring-og-samfund/>

### **Europe's Ageing Demography.**

An ILC-UK Population Patterns Seminar Series event, supported by Partnership,  
Wednesday 5 November 2014;  
Brussels

Throughout 2014, ILC-UK, supported by specialist insurance company, Partnership Assurance Group plc (Partnership), has been undertaking a series of events to explore the



relationship between our changing demography and public policy.

The sixth and final event in this *Population Patterns Seminar Series* will explore Europe's ageing demography. Europe is currently facing unprecedented changes - by 2050 it is predicted that more than a third of the European population will be over 60 years old as a result of rising life expectancies and low birth rates. These changes pose major economic, budgetary and social challenges. In the EU, age related spending is projected to rise from an annual cost of 25% to 29% of GDP between 2010 and 2060. At the same time, there are set to be far fewer people of working age to support the ageing populations - by 2060 the dependency ratio is predicted to drop to under two working-age people for every person aged over 65. At a time when many countries have not yet emerged or are still recovering from the effects of recession, the increasing costs of an ageing population cannot be absorbed by the state. Instead, policy changes will need to be enacted that ensure economic sustainability.

At this event we will advance this debate, which is currently being played out in both the media and political circles, by releasing our 'European Factpack' of demographic statistics. This booklet provides statistics on a range of topics from life expectancy to housing supply,

from pensions to the use of new technologies amongst today's older generations. In 2013, we released our 'UK Factpack' which attracted national media attention and was well received by key policy makers. The 'European Factpack' aims to build on this success by providing the public, private and third sectors with the most up-to-date information on Europe's changing demography.

During the discussion we will explore:

- What are the ramifications of Europe's changing demography, both for individual countries and Europe as a whole?
- What policy changes will need to be enacted to ensure Europe's economic sustainability?
- How should the public, private and third sectors react to findings of the 'European Factpack'?
- Are there any areas of the Factpack that could be expanded to help policy-makers, journalists and opinion formers?

For more information:

[http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/index.php/events/ilcuk\\_population\\_patterns\\_series\\_the\\_full\\_series](http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/index.php/events/ilcuk_population_patterns_series_the_full_series)

A full agenda will be available closer to the event date.

Register your interest in this event by emailing [events@ilcuk.org.uk](mailto:events@ilcuk.org.uk), and we will contact you as soon as registration opens.

## New Publications of Interest

### Wealth, inequalities and ageing

Two new reports launched by CARDI (Thursday 12 June, 2014) reveal stark inequalities in wealth and income among older people in Ireland.

The research finds that while older people possess significant wealth in terms of assets,

large income differences exist between the richest and poorest older people and this gap is widening over time. The reports stress the need to address inequalities among older people and ensure that the poorest older people are protected against cuts to income. Go to [www.cardi.ie](http://www.cardi.ie) to read the research.

### Principi, A., Jensen, P. H. and Lamura, G. **Active Ageing: Voluntary Work by Older People in Europe**, Bristol, The Policy Press.

'Active ageing' has become a key phrase in discourses about challenges and remedies for demographic ageing and the enrolment of older adults into voluntary work is an important dimension of it. The pattern and factors conditioning volunteering among older people has so far been an under-researched topic in Europe and this is the first book to study volunteering among older people comparatively and comprehensively.

In this topical book older people's volunteering is studied comparatively in eight European countries representing different kinds of welfare regimes, at the structural, macro, meso and micro levels. Overall it highlights how different interactions between the levels facilitate or hinder older people's inclusion in voluntary work and makes policy suggestions for an integrated strategy.

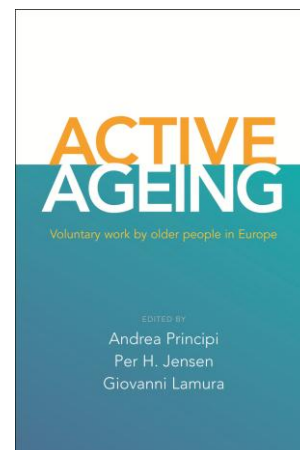
This book provides important new insights for academics and students interested in ageing

societies, active ageing and voluntary work. It will also be of great value for policy makers and practitioner in third sector, older volunteers and voluntary organisations.

For more information:

<http://www.policypress.co.uk/display.asp?ISBN=9781447307204>&

To purchase the book with a 50% discount, please write an e-mail to: [a.principi@inrca.it](mailto:a.principi@inrca.it)



## Innovation in Long Term Care

– two new research\* reports from the Institute of Gerontology, Department of Social Science and Medicine, King's College London

**'Assisted Living Platform – The Long Term Care Revolution'** (Tinker, A., Kellaher, L., Ginn, J. And Ribe, E., 2013).

This report reviews radical alternatives to conventional institutional long-term care, with examples of new policies and initiatives mainly from Europe. These are assessed for their capacity to promote disabled older people's independence, dignity and autonomy, placing them centrally in the design and decisions about their own care and achieving what is best for them and their informal carers. A key focus is examination of various housing solutions that allow the older person to retain their unique identity and the sense of living in a 'home-like' environment, albeit with suitable human support and technological aids.

**'Assisted Living Platform – The Long Term Care Revolution: A study of innovatory models to support older people with disabilities in the Netherlands'** (Tinker, A., Ginn, J., Ribe, E., 2013).

This case study of long term care in the Netherlands – a country demographically similar to the UK- compares policy trends in the two

countries. Interviews with key Dutch academics, service providers and NGOs, as well as visits to innovatory schemes, provide promising ideas for possible adoption in the UK. The financial risk of having a chronic condition is shared across the population through contributory social insurance, avoiding the stress of heavy costs falling on vulnerable individuals. According to official statistics, older Dutch individuals remain disability-free for nearly half a decade longer than in the UK. The explanation may lie in the more egalitarian and socially-cohesive culture, a lower poverty rate among older people, a person-centred approach to social care and the emphasis placed on housing-with-care designed to maintain social interaction, including between generations.

Both reports published in September 2013, are now online at

[www.housinglin.org.uk/pagefinder.cfm?cid=8932](http://www.housinglin.org.uk/pagefinder.cfm?cid=8932)

\*research funded by the Technology Strategy Board

***Alive and Kicking at All Ages. Cultural Constructions of Health and Life Course Identity.* Edited by Ulla Kriebner, Roberta Maierhofer, and Barbara Ratzenboeck. transcript, 2014.**

*Alive and Kicking at All Ages. Cultural Constructions of Health and Life Course Identity* is an interdisciplinary collection of essays contributing to a re-conceptualization of aging and life course identity. The wide scope of the articles presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the publication series of the *European Network in Aging Studies* (ENAS) is product and mission at the same time. It is only a starting point for an investigation into the deconstruction of our understanding of normative human behavior.

Once we stop talking about universal concepts that seemingly shape our life courses, we will be able to overcome preconceived notions of what it means to be and grow old.

More information on the current volume of the *Aging Studies Series* can be found at <http://www.transcript-verlag.de/ts2582/ts2582.php>.

## Opportunities

### The University of Edinburgh

#### **Dementia: International experience, policy and practice An online part-time postgraduate opportunity in Dementia**

This flexible programme offers a unique opportunity to learn with an international recognised team, enabling students to focus on service development and practice in a climate of changing and increasing international focus on dementia care.

#### Courses:

We offer a wide range of courses as part of this programme, with September and January intake. Choose to study courses individually for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or to combine them to form a Masters, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate

#### Programme delivery

The courses in this programme are all part-time and are studied entirely using e-learning. Courses are taught through a combination of independent study, self-reflection and online activity using a range of technologies.

Students will experience a high level of tutor contact and interaction during this programme due to its online nature.

Check out our promotional video at:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools->

[departments/health/issh/studying/msc-dementia](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health/issh/studying/msc-dementia)

Who should apply?

- Staff, volunteers or carers with experience of dementia care
- Those looking to learn more about how to link new knowledge to practice using online learning
- Those with an interest in online learning
- UK, European and International students who meet the entrance requirements: there is no fee distinction

Apply online by visiting

[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health/issh/studying/msc-dementia](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health/issh/studying/msc-dementia) and follow the Apply Now link.

Contact

For further information please contact: [dementia@ed.ac.uk](mailto:dementia@ed.ac.uk)

## Other events of interest

### Information

#### **Interdisciplinary Research Project on *Representations of Age and Aging***

Project leader: Roberta Maierhofer, research associate: Barbara Ratzenboeck

A current research project at the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz, Austria, explores cultural representati-

ons of age and aging. The research project "Cultural Narratives, Processes and Strategies in Urban and Regional Representations of Age and Aging" is supported by funds of the National Bank of Austria (Oesterreichische Natio-

nalbank, Anniversary Fund, project number: 15849) and focusses on how an understanding of aging is reached through an interaction with customs and rituals. How can processes and strategies of identity construction over the life course be identified in regard to rituals? And which methodologies can be developed for interdisciplinary and intersectional research in this context? Besides answering these questions, one important project aim is also the broad dissemination of research results in order to support the development and

linking of research institutions and networks in the emerging field of Aging Studies. Cooperation and exchange with partners of the *ENAS Working Group InheritAGE*, an international and interdisciplinary expert group in the field of Age and Aging Studies, will help achieving this major project goal.

More information on the project and the *ENAS Working Group InheritAGE* can be found at: <http://interamerikanistik.uni-graz.at/en/research/cultural-narratives-of-age-and-aging/>

### Active ageing index (AAI)

Asghar Zaidi, Professor at Centre for Research on Ageing, participated in the 52nd Session of the Commission for Social Development, advocating that the UN's post-2015 sustainable development agenda 'leave no one behind' must be age inclusive. He asserted that the data revolution that is required in support of the newly developed sustainable development goals demands better quality and additional age-disaggregated data and its analysis.

Over two side events, Professor Zaidi - the main architect behind the world's first Global AgeWatch Index - joined representatives from UN Member countries, UN agencies and civil society to present and discuss how the Index can be used as an innovative tool to profile global ageing and promote policies on well-being and quality of life of older people in a world of rising life expectancy. "The compilation of statistical evidence in the form of composite indices, such as the EU's Active Ageing Index and the Global AgeWatch Index of HelpAge International, will be essential in monitoring the new global post-2015 sustainable development framework and also holding governments accountable," he commented.

Published in October 2013 by HelpAge International, the Global AgeWatch Index highlights the connection between social policy and the wellbeing of older people, as well as expose the huge gaps in our knowledge and international data sets which routinely exclude information required for prevalence of poverty, abuse, HIV prevalence and many others in people over the age of 50. The Active Ageing Index (AAI), published during the 2012 European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, is a tool to measure the untapped potential of older people for active and healthy ageing across European countries. It measures the level to which older people live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities as well as their capacity to actively age.

The two documents for the two events can be found at:

<http://www.cpc.ac.uk/resources/downloads/13Feb.pdf>

<http://www.cpc.ac.uk/resources/downloads/14Feb.pdf>