

Ageing in Europe

Newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe
Issue 13/December 2014

Information from the network

With this last Newsletter of the year we report on the activities of the network from the year as well as our plans for the future. Next March the network organizes its fourth workshop for PhD-students from all over Europe at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. The workshop offers PhD students and early career researchers the opportunity to present their work to their peers and senior academics. The deadline for applications to this event has already passed. We will also organize sessions on Ageing in Europe at the next ESA conference in Prague in August 2015. The call for papers follows later on in the newsletter. For 2016 we have two events planned. First we have a PhD workshop at Chester University, UK, April 5-7. The broad theme of the workshop will be the changing nature of intergenerational relations with reference to the economic and social factors, including cultural constructions of the 'baby boomer' generation. The second event of 2016 is the midterm conference that will be held at Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany, September 14-16. The conference is entitled "Being old in Europe: Discussing Current Research on Labor market-Participation, Retirement Decisions, Self-Perceptions and Activities of the Elderly". More information on these two events of 2016 will follow in later issues of the newsletter.

Apart from information about the events organized by the network, the newsletter also contains a range of reports on topics of interest as well as calls for papers from researchers across the field of ageing in Europe.

Magnus Nilsson

Report from the 2nd midterm conference of the RN Ageing in Europe

From the 18th to the 20th of September 2014, the Research Network held its 2nd midterm conference in Klagenfurt, in the south of Austria. These conferences are organised by the network in the years in which there is no general ESA conference, providing an opportunity for all those involved or associated with the network for Ageing in Europe to meet, to network, and to discuss issues related to the sociology of ageing in a smaller and thus more focused setting. The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS)

hosted the event, entitled **Ageing, Anti Ageing & Ageism: Constructions and Politics of Being Old in Europe** and provided an excellent local organisation for three inspiring days of stimulating key notes, interesting presentations and fruitful discussions.



Due to enormous interest and a high number of submissions, the programme, showing more than 90 speakers from 18 countries, could provide the space for ongoing discussions throughout the three days. Several topical streams, each of which included several sessions, allowed a focused, in-depth debate framed in the context of the following issues:

- Perceptions and constructions of old age
- Body and mind in the process of ageing
- Active ageing and well-being
- Marginalisation and ageism
- Retirement and ageing well
- Care and interventions
- inclusion and human rights
- Anti-ageing and ageism

These discussions were enhanced and inspired by four keynotes given by distinguished international scholars: Josef Hörl (University of Vienna), Julia Twigg (University of Kent), Martin Kohli (European University Institute) and Harald Kühnemund (University of Vechta) provided talking points, inspirations and challenges to the ongoing discussions on ageing in Europe.

The conference experience was certainly enhanced by the warm and welcoming atmosphere Kai Brauer, the local

organiser, and his team created. The Research Network really appreciates the work and dedication put into the organisation, the catering and the perfectly functioning logistics of the event. We also really want to thank the engaged and dedicated volunteers at the CUAS whose help and support allowed for a smoothly running and well catered meeting.



While we are focusing all our attention to the upcoming conference in Prague in 2015 we are also already looking forward to our next midterm conference, coming up in 2016. This time the event will be organised in cooperation with the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, and we are excited about the possibilities to continue, enhance and renew our discussions and debates there.

Bernhard Weicht

Call for papers for the 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association: Differences, Inequalities and Sociological Imagination

RN1 - Ageing in Europe

August 25-28, 2015, in Prague

Europe's population is the oldest in the world - and it is still ageing. This demographic shift affects both individuals and societies as a whole. Ageing is therefore of substantial interest to sociologists and researchers from other disciplines, such as social policy, demography, and economics. It is crucial to recognise that ageing is not a uniform process and that population ageing exacerbates old, and creates new, social inequalities within and between European countries. As a consequence, international comparative research on these issues is vital and the Research Network on Ageing in Europe aims accordingly to facilitate contacts and collaboration among those with research interests in ageing. Our Research Network sessions will allow both the continuation of ongoing discussions and the development of new themes, based within and beyond the conference topic: "Differences, inequalities and sociological imagination".

General call for papers:

The Research Network on Ageing in Europe has been organising outstandingly successful sessions at conferences of the European Sociological Association since 2001. Increased interest in the topic of ageing resulted in a record number of sessions at the Torino conference (2013), and we thank everyone who helped to make those sessions so stimulating and exciting.

At the 12th conference of the European Sociological Association in Prague in 2015, the Research Network will again hold sessions that focus on empirical, theoretical and conceptual aspects of ageing. Papers could fit into the following thematic areas:

- Ageing and the Lifecourse
- Social Inequalities in Old Age
- Ageing Societies and the Welfare State
- Older Workers and Retirement
- Ageing and Technology
- Senior Markets and Consumerism in Old Age
- Formal and Informal Care in Old Age
- Health, Mortality and Quality of Life in Old Age
- Social Networks and Intergenerational Relations in Old Age
- Culture, Values and Images in the Field of Ageing
- Active Ageing and Social Participation in Old Age
- Religion, Spirituality and Ageing

We will also consider papers on the topic of "Ageing in Europe" that do not fit into any of these categories. Papers with a cross-national, comparative focus are particularly welcome. Submissions from early-career researchers are also encouraged. Please note that individuals should not be the first author (i.e. the presenter) of more than one paper. If you require additional information, please contact the RN coordinators (info@ageing-in-europe.net).

Abstract submission deadline: 1st February 2015

Abstract submission platform: www.esa12thconference.eu

For more information see: <http://www.esa12thconference.eu/rn1-ageing-in-europe>

Upcoming events and call for papers

Graz International Summer School Seggau 2015 – *Shifting Perspectives: Europe and the Americas*

Focusing on the emphasis areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America – the summer school will take place from June 28th to July 11th, 2015 at Seggau Castle in Styria, in the wine region close to the Slovene border. Emphasizing on the aspects of shifting perspectives, transformation processes and demographic change, interdisciplinary morning lectures will provide the context for the seven specialized seminar workshops in the afternoon. The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, highly motivated students from all disciplines, who wish to deepen their understanding of current European and International affairs by studying and discussing global developments and challenges in terms of shifting perspectives reflecting aspects of individual, social, political, religious, cultural, literary, regional, economic, cohort and national identities.

Detailed information about the summer school program can be found on the website <http://international.uni-graz.at/en/gusegg/>. Please note that the organizers continually update the website with more information.

At: http://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/bib/bilder/studierende/internat_fokus/sommerschulen/gusegg/GUSEGG_Folder_2015_web.pdf you can find a PDF version of a brochure, containing all relevant information about the summer school.

Please do not hesitate to contact the organizers if you have any questions about the program (gusegg@uni-graz.at). They would be happy to mail you brochures and posters for your institution, so please supply them with an address if you wish to do so.

Special issue call for papers from Quality in Ageing and Older Adults: In the margins or the mainstream? Future directions and innovations in providing inclusive accommodation and support for older LGBTI adults

There is a growing demand for increased choices in housing, enhanced care and provision of person centred support for older adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) who do not feel recognised by current mainstream services and/or who anticipate or experience discriminatory treatment.

We are seeking empirical or theoretical-based papers from international researchers engaged in applied research that present new

arguments on the future directions that housing, social care and other forms of community based provision should take for increasing inclusive service provision to older LGBTI adults.

It is expected that contributing authors will translate key messages from research and theoretical debates into implications for practice with older adults, thus maintaining a practice-orientation to the issue. We also welcome

shorter pieces of up to 1,500 words that reflect practice and promote service user voices.

Possible topics and themes may include (but are not limited to):

- Improving person centred care services for dependent older LGBTI adults living at home
- New models and schemes for housing provision for LGBTI adults in later life
- Older adults' perspectives on future housing and social care services
- Innovations in housing and social care provision for older LGBTI adults
- Gender-sensitive social care for older transgender adults
- Inclusive service provision for end-of-life care
- Social care issues for specific groups of older adults within the LGBTI spectrum
- Mixed models of health and social care in later life
- Enhanced role of inspectorate and other public agencies in monitoring quality of care

We will also have a reviews section which includes books and resources on LGBTI ageing issues more generally.

Submission deadline: 1 April 2015

Before your submit please read the guidelines for authors:

http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/journals/author_guidelines.htm?id=qaoa

Please submit your paper via the online submission system. NB Please ensure that you submit to the special issue area.

<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/qaoa>

If you have any questions or for additional information please contact the guest editors:

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See more at:

<http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/authors/writing/calls.htm?id=5880#sthash.J7Z3NI77.dpuf>

4th International Workshop on the Socio-Economics of Ageing

30 October 2015 at ISEG, Lisboa University, Lisbon, PORTUGAL

Throughout the world the age structure of populations is changing rapidly. The ageing of societies has profound implications and the analysis of the challenges and opportunities that are offered to today's policy makers is crucial to guarantee an adequate welfare level in the future.

Research on ageing transcends disciplinary boundaries and this is reflected in the multiple dimensions covered in the workshop. We welcome submission of theoretical, empirical and policy papers. The suggested topics include,

but are not limited to, the relation between population ageing and the following:

- Economic policies in ageing societies.
- Effects of the current crisis on the older population.
- Life-cycle consumption and saving profiles.
- Labour market behaviour.
- Well-being or happiness.
- The economic status of the elderly.

- *Poverty, income distribution inequality, and social exclusion.*
- Living arrangements and care arrangements.
- Intergenerational transfers, both public and private.
- The human rights of the aged.
- Insurance.
- Population ageing in developing countries.
- Databases and statistics for research on ageing.

Proposals containing the title, name(s) of author(s), institutional affiliation(s) and an extended abstract (2-3 pages) should be submitted by e-mail to pcma@iseg.ulisboa.pt until the 12th of May 2015. Decisions will be taken shortly after that. All submissions are peer reviewed.

After acceptance, registration with a fee of 100 Euros will be required. Presented papers will be published in the conference CD-ROM proceedings.

The participation in the workshop is an opportunity to explore common interests with other researchers and to create research networks. In order to improve the quality of feedbacks, this workshop will have assigned discussants. Every presenter will have his/her paper commented and should be prepared to review a paper. The deadline for the reception of the full paper is the 4th of September 2015. Formatting guidelines for the full paper will be provided in due time.

Keynote Speaker: Vincenzo Galasso, Università Bocconi, Italy

Organisers: Paula Albuquerque and Francisco Nunes

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 12 May 2015

For more information see:

<http://pascal.iseg.utl.pt/~socius/IWSEA2015>

The Nordic network for research on older people's housing-meeting

18-19th March 2015, University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland

Nordic network for research on old people's housing is open for all researchers interested in Nordic research on housing, ageing and old age. The network organises annual meetings in different cities in different Nordic countries. In the meetings the participants have a chance to present their own research, exchange information, plan collaboration, and familiarize

themselves with national and local housing options available for older people. In 2015 the meeting is in Jyväskylä, Finland.

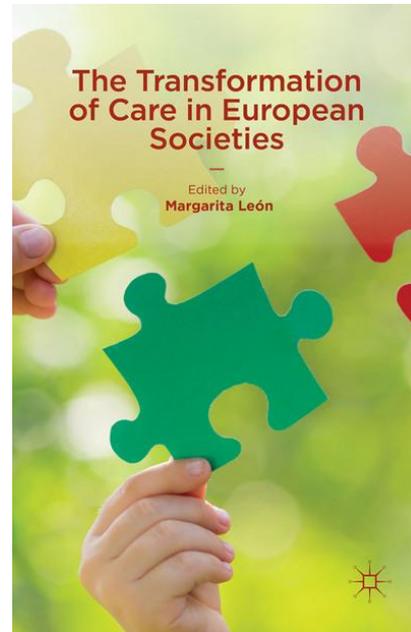
For information about the Jyväskylä meeting contact outi.jolanki@jyu.fi, and about the Network: catharina.nord@liu.se, and mari-anne.abramsson@liu.se.

New Publications of Interest

The Transformation of Care in European Societies

Edited by Margarita León

By bringing together the work of leading international scholars in the field of care, this book aims to explore the nature and extent of the 'care deficit' problem in European societies and how effective the different care systems are in dealing with these problems through policy innovation. This volume combines theoretical and conceptual debates, cross-national comparisons and analytically-driven case studies. Using interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies, this book explores the similar challenges which various European countries currently face, and the wide variety of responses that are being offered.



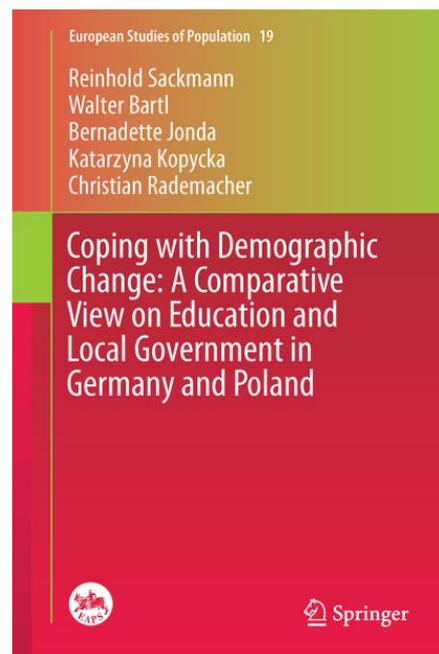
Coping with Demographic Change: A Comparative View on Education and Local Government in Germany and Poland

By: R. Sackmann, W. Bartl, B. Jonda, K. Kopycka, C. Rademacher

Series: European Studies of Population, Vol. 19

- Examines the ways societies cope with demographic change
- Offers an international comparison of Germany and Poland
- Details an innovative response to shrinkage in the education field

With many OECD countries experiencing a decline in their populations, this book offers a theoretical model of coping with demographic change and examines different strategies that societies have used to come to terms with demographic change. In particular, it details the different ways that Germany and Poland have tried to cope with this challenge and reveals three conflicting strategies: expansion, reduction, and phasing out.



Coverage includes:

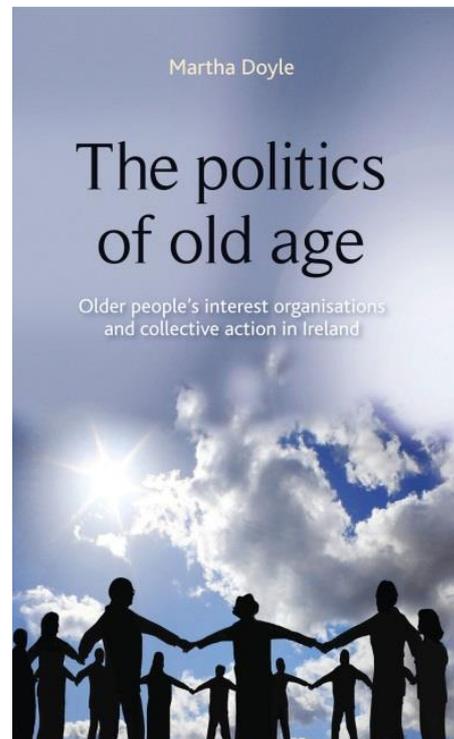
- How and why demographic change was used in Poland to expand the education system
- The variance of linkage between demographic change and growth rates in different fields of education in a German Bundesland
- Modes of reflexivity and personnel policy in German and Polish municipalities
- Effects of demographic change and forms of coping on fiscal capacity and unemployment rates in German municipalities.

Coping with Demographic Change examines how and why societies cope with these detrimental effects. It conceptualizes the challenges a society faces as a result of demographic change and focuses on the processes by which actors, organizations and nation-states try to cope with this new situation.

'The politics of old age: Older people's interest organisations and collective action in Ireland'

By Martha Doyle and published by Manchester University press

The book explores the ideological debates which surround how old age and the rights and welfare entitlements of individuals in later life is conceptualised. It provides an insight into the complexity of older people's representation and reveals how the power older people's interest organisations exercise, their legitimacy and existence remain highly contingent on government policy design, political opportunity structures and the cultural and socio-economic milieu.



End of working life policy. Towards a convergent European model?

By Jacques Wels

Since the end of the 1960s, the EU15 member countries have implemented early retirement mechanisms for older workers. This trend increased over decades, to reverse from the mid-1990s on. Gradually, the states,

particularly under the influence of supranational policies, have limited access with a greater or lesser success. This paper examines changes in employment statuses of those aged 45-69 for the period 2000-2010 in

the member countries of the EU15. Three indicators of policy change are mobilized : dependence, convergence and rupture. Through a hierarchical clustering method, done separately for men and women, we show that changes in the decade have affected, marginally, more configurations of countries in the case of men than in women. For women, groups of countries were more stable, showing the embedded nature of initial policies. However, despite these

“dependencies,” we find that, for both sexes, all countries converge to similar results. Leaning on these findings, we show that the convergence phenomenon can be partly explained by a proliferation of composite statuses on the labour market, corresponding to both de-standardization and re-institutionalization of career paths.

Here is the link to the article:

http://www.cairn.info/resume.php?ID_ARTICLE=SOCIO_053_0233

Colour consultation with dementia home residents and staff?

By Beatrice Godwin. *Quality in Ageing and Older Adults*. 2014 15(2)

Purpose: Government guidelines promote service user consultation without providing extensive advice on people in later dementia. Seen as too difficult to involve, they are effectively excluded from influencing service provision, especially institutional care residents. This hard-to-reach group presents methodological challenges. The purpose of this paper is to explore innovative approaches, offering even those with fragmented or lost speech the opportunity to contribute to decisions about their care.

Design/methodology/approach: This specialist dementia home consultation included staff and every resident, irrespective of the level of their communication impairment. Consultation on potential colour schemes took the form of a ballot. Staff helped develop an unpatronising, person-centred approach. Visual aids supported communication, de-emphasising the spoken word and promoting inclusion.

Findings: The majority of residents appeared to express an opinion on the potential decor. Others chose a colour while not necessarily grasping the context. The approach engaged all except four.

Research limitations/implications: Even people with moderate/advanced dementia may be enabled to participate in consultation. Further research needs to refine methodology to include everyone and clarify the interpretation of results.

Practical implications: Service providers may widen their expectations of inclusivity in consultation exercises.

Originality/value: This consultation is important to researchers and practitioners because it explores ways of communicating, which avoid privileging the spoken word, revealing seldom-recognised abilities in people with moderate/advanced dementia.

Other events of interest

ESRC Seminar Series

Ageing and physical activity

There are currently more people over the age of 60 than ever before, with the number of over 60s set to increase by 50% in the next 25 years. People generally become less physically active as they grow older and these demographic changes will pose significant challenges to our population's health and wellbeing, with significant implications for health and social care costs.

Whilst the links between physical activity and good health are well established, many older adults remain inactive. To overcome this trend, we need to know more about how different environments can enable or deter physical activity in older age. This includes people's physical environments, such as their access and proximity to woodlands, parks and the coast, and also their social and cultural environments like ethnicity and gender.

If we can understand the competing factors that people must overcome to remain physically active as they grow older, we can help shape these experiences to help enable such a lifestyle.

This seminar series aims to do just that and will bring together academics from diverse subject areas that include sociology, psychology, geography, sport and health sciences. It will involve policy makers, health and social care practitioners, physical activity and sport providers, and those working within the voluntary sector, to explore specific issues relevant to the physical, social and cultural environments that can impact upon physical activity in older age.

Leading experts from the UK and abroad will share their knowledge and direct discussions with seminar participants. This process will advance what we currently know about the topic and also identify aspects that we don't know about that require more research. It will also enable a large group of people from research, policy and practice backgrounds to establish a network that will share and develop knowledge in the area.

For more information:

<http://seminars.ecehh.org/about>

Information

IAGG-ER 2015 8th Congress Congress

Dublin 23-26 April 2015

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.

We are delighted to announce that President Michael D. Higgins has accepted our invitation to open the congress. Meanwhile, we continue to promote this prestigious event enthusiastically worldwide. Our endeavours have been attracting strong national and

international attention and are validated by the 109 symposium submissions and over 1300 abstract submissions that we have received to date. In view of this early bird registration has been extended to the 31st December 2014.

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

The VISAL project

After two years of hard work and very effective European cooperation, the VISAL project is now finished.

Started in November 2012, with support from the EC Lifelong Learning Programme, the project aimed at empowering elderly VI persons through the creation of an informal course led by trained facilitators. A specific toolkit was also developed to provide methodology for coordinating, preparing, facilitating and evaluating the seven sessions composing the course. It is available in Croatian, Dutch, English, German and Slovak at <http://goo.gl/Fxwt53>. Translations in French, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian and Spanish are underway.

During the project 169 elderly VI persons from Austria, Croatia, Slovakia and the UK participated in 126 VISAL sessions which were split into two rounds so as to improve the toolkit. National conferences were also held at the end of the project so that former VISAL participants could exploit their new confidence and social skills by organising an event. Such

events enabled issues of high importance for elderly blind and partially sighted persons to be discussed, including lifelong learning and participation in society.

The innovative aspect of the VISAL approach is that non-formal learning opportunities are offered to VI elderly people that enable them to take up a more active role in their local community if they want to. Organising meeting opportunities for VI seniors to talk about their daily lives and how they can influence the community in which they live was new.

VISAL looks for small-scale changes, rather than for major alterations, and participants reported the project had a positive impact on different aspects of their life, i.e. involvement in community associations, groups, clubs, in contacts with friends and family. They now take decision more easily and are aware of their influence.

A final dissemination conference was held in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 2-3 October 2014. Attended by 65 delegates from 24 different

European countries, it was the opportunity to present the toolkit, practice VISAL sessions, listen to former participants' stories, and find concrete solutions to help them organise VISAL courses in their countries as new VISAL ambassadors. The conference also reasserted the need for VI organisations and elderly organisations to collaborate more to meet the challenge of an ageing population together. Conference proceedings including a report and audio recordings are available on a dedicated webpage at <http://goo.gl/c374dX>.

Please visit the VISAL website at www.visal-project.eu. You will find all the necessary materials to organise courses in your country: resources (toolkit, additional exercises and additional evaluation forms, train-the-trainer manual, project evaluation), media (videos, pictures, audio broadcasts), testimonials and stories from VISAL participants, as well as a section on VI and ageing.

For more information on VISAL, you can contact Gary May, EBU Information and Communication Officer at ebuinfocom@euroblind.org

Opportunities

Fully funded PhD studentship at Glasgow Caledonian University

We welcome applications for a fully funded PhD studentship at Glasgow Caledonian University entitled Ageing in sport: Challenging women's invisibility: http://www.gcu.ac.uk/media/gcalwebv2/research/phdopportunities/gsbs2014/GSBSPHDproposal_Olderwomeninsport_FS_ET_Oct14.docx

The deadline for applications is 19th December, with interviews to take place early in the new year and the studentship starting soon after.

The project would be designed to chart the history and explore the place of current cohorts of older women in sport, either as practitioners or as spectators, throughout the life course and in the present. The research would provide some context to account for the invisibility of older women in sport and is part of a wider concern with physical activity and prolonged sitting in later life.

The project will be supervised by Dr Fiona Skillen and Dr Emmanuelle Tulle, both members of the Sport and Identities research cluster in the Glasgow School for Business and Society. We are looking for candidates with a background in the social sciences and/or the Humanities, or if from any other discipline with a commitment to approaching issues of gender, sport and physical activity critically.

It is anticipated that the research will be qualitative and training in qualitative methodology and research methods will be available.

More information is available here: <http://www.gcu.ac.uk/research/phdresearchopportunities/>.

To access the rationale for the studentship please click on the Sport and Identities link and/or contact Dr Fiona Skillen fiona.skillen@gcu.ac.uk or Dr Emmanuelle Tulle: e.tulle@gcu.ac.uk.