Editorial

Welcome to our summer issue of the newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe. The focus of this newsletter is the forthcoming ESA conference in Athens. Below you will find the RN1 schedule of presentations. We also include details of our business meeting.

The newsletter also includes a regular feature, drawing upon expert insights on ageing. We are very grateful to Dirk Hofäcker and Jana Grunwald-Waterman for providing a fascinating overview of ageing in Germany.

In addition, the Network is seeking a partner to deliver our 6th PhD workshop. Details feature in this newsletter. These events are a hugely popular and effective forum where PhD and early career researchers can network and share ideas.

We very much hope to see many of you at the conference at Athens. But please also feel free to contact us if you would like to become involved in any of the Network’s activities.

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
Dear colleagues,

Welcome to our special issue of the newsletter of our Research Network, this time mainly dedicated to the programme of the upcoming ESA conference in Athens.

We have had a record number of submissions to the sessions of our Research Network and we are very excited to have been able to put together a programme that includes themes and topics we have been discussing and developing together over the years, combined with sessions on more innovative approaches, theories or empirical aspects of ageing and old age. In addition to our rich programme we have also organised three joint sessions with other Networks. For details on the programme please see later in this newsletter and take a look at the conference website.

I also want to thank everyone on the Board, who has worked hard on putting together all sessions, and many thanks to all of you who have agreed to support the Network by chairing a session. And, of course, I want to thank everyone who submitted their papers to our streams - I am convinced that we all will experience some stimulating presentations, enriching discussions and will have some enlightening thoughts to take home from Athens. I can't wait to meet you all at one of our sessions.

At this point I also want to draw your attention to the business meeting we will hold during the ESA conference. At this meeting all members of the Network will be informed on past events and we will present our plans for the next years. At this biannual meeting we will also elect the new Board for the upcoming period. Since we are committed to involve as many people as possible in the organisational structure of the Board we hope to be able to recruit some new members as well. Please find more information on the business meeting and the call for expressions of interest for Board members later in this newsletter.

Finally, I am very excited to reveal the place of our next midterm conference. After Sweden, Austria and Germany our fourth "Ageing in Europe" midterm conference will take us to Brno in the Czech Republic. The date is not yet confirmed, but it is likely to take place in September 2018. More details on this event will follow in our next newsletters after the ESA conference.

Further to the midterm conference the Network also organises PhD workshops. Previous workshops brought PhD students in ageing to the Netherlands, Germany (twice), Portugal and the UK. We are now seeking another partner institution to co-host the next PhD workshop with us in 2018. If you are interested in cooperating with us with the organisation of this event please see the information later in the newsletter. Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer and I will hopefully see many of you in Athens in August!

Bernhard Weicht

Chair of the Research Network
Ageing in Germany

By Dirk Hofäcker and Jana Grunwald-Watermann

University of Duisberg-Essen

Within Europe, Germany is one of the fastest ageing societies, surpassed only by Italy (destatis 2016a: 18). While by the year 1960, around 17 percent of the German population were aged 60 years or older, this relative proportion has increased substantially to 27 percent by the year 2014 and is projected to rise further to 38 percent in 2050. Increases are expected to be particularly pronounced among the oldest old (aged 80 and over) whose share now lies at around 6 percent and will double to around 13% in 2050 (destatis 2016 a,b). The mere number of older individuals will particularly increase after 2020 when the so-called "baby boomer" generation of those born in the 1960s will reach retirement age (BiB 2013).

Demographic ageing in Germany displays notable regional variations with particularly the “new federal states” in East Germany showing higher shares of older age groups than those in the West of Germany. Explanations for this difference are usually found in the sharp decline of the East German birth rate after the German reunification in the 1990s as well as in the selective outmigration of younger people from East to West Germany for economic reasons (ibid.; destatis 2016a).

Discussions about demographic ageing have become more widespread in recent years and have focused on various different aspects. In the following, we will sketch some selected issues that governed public discourses in recent years

Work, Retirement and the Policy of Active Ageing

Driven by economic crises in the 1970s, Germany had long followed a labor market policy oriented at the paradigm of ‘early retirement’. While the official retirement age was set at age 65, multiple early exit pathways through early pensions or other welfare state programs (such as unemployment or disability insurance) allowed older workers to exit from employment well before reaching their 60s (Ebbinghaus and Hofäcker 2013). Only after the mid-1990s, labor market policies were reconsidered against the background of demographic ageing and employment up to or beyond normal retirement age were increasingly fostered (Eichhorst 2011, Hofäcker and Naumann 2015). Such policies of “active ageing” (Jepsen et al. 2002, Hofäcker et al 2016) included both raises in the retirement age (see below) and the closure of early exit options as well as increased direct support for older workers employment (e.g. through supported jobs or lifelong learning). Together with a generally favourable economic situation, these reforms promoted a substantial increase in the employment rate of older individuals in Germany, surpassing the Lisbon target of 50% among those age 55-64 already by the year 2010. Notably, this upward trend has not been halted by the economic crisis (Hess 2016a). Recent literature thus has described Germany as a country that has successfully reversed early exit (e.g. Ebbinghaus and Hofäcker 2013). Yet, latest research suggest that motives for working longer differ substantially between social classes: while those with high human capital predominantly work up to or even beyond retirement age for intrinsic reasons, those with lower human capital more often are forced to work longer for financial reasons, given that previous early retirement incentives are no longer available. (Hofäcker and Naumann 2015, Hess 2016b)

Pension systems and the financial situation in old age

By the year 2015, around 20 million pensioners were registered (e.g. Deutsche Rentenversicherung 2016). As in many other European countries, demographic ageing in Germany has led to several adjustments in national
pension systems. As part of a recent pension reform in 2012, the legal retirement in Germany will gradually be lifted from 65 up to 67 years for those born 1964 and after. Pensions in Germany have long been based on a strong public pension pillar, aiming to preserve the previous standard of living also in old age. Its comparatively generous replacement levels have led to a situation where poverty and deprivation risks of older individuals are below those aged 18 to 64 years (destatis 2016a). Yet, in face of demographic change, public policies increasingly have aimed to reduce the statutory pension rates and to diversify the sources of old age income. In the future, pensioners will need to rely more on additional company pension schemes or additional own private retirement provisions. The German government is supporting private responsibility with the so called “Riester-pension” where own private savings are supplemented by state-funded top-ups. Yet, the trend towards increasing privatization of old age income is discussed controversially (e.g. Deutscher Bundestag 2016, Schäfer 2017). One major criticism has been that not all older people are in the situation to privately save for old age and that thus, age poverty may increase. This holds for example for the unemployed, those in lower income strata, migrants and the lower-educated. Women also often face considerable pension gaps due to their more often interrupted working careers than men and their higher incidence of part-time work. Finally, it is expected that the increasing spread of atypical work forms, such as fixed-term employment or low-wage employment, may further increase poverty risks (e.g. BMAS 2016, Deutscher Bundestag 2016, Loose and Thiede 2013, Schäfer 2017).

Care for older people in Germany
Throughout the recent discussions about demographic change, an increasing need for age-related care has become clearly visible. The number of those in need of care has increased by 30 % between 1999 and 2013 (e.g. Nowossadeck et al. 2016). By 2015, a total of 2.86 million people were considered to be in need of care (destatis 2017). It is expected, that the demand of care will continue to increase substantially in the future. A special law, the so called “Pflegestärkungsgesetz” (“Law for the strengthening of care”) introduced in the beginning of 2017 is an attempt of accommodating to this trend. For example, a more detailed differentiation of care levels, expanding the previous three-stage classification to five different classes, is intended to ensure better and more targeted care to individuals, thoroughly considering individual care demands (e.g. Deutscher Bundestag 2016, destatis 2017).

Out of the 2.86 million in need of care, a share of 73 % (2.08 million) obtained care at home, with 1.38 million of them being cared for by their relatives and 0.69 million receiving assistance from outpatient care services. The remaining 27 % (0.78 million) were provided for in inpatient care (destatis 2017). Family-based informal care is predominantly taken over by women. The compatibility of work and care has increasingly turned into a challenge, as recent family policy and labour market reforms increasingly call for female employment. In order to improve such reconciliation, the nursing time law (“Pflegezeitgesetz”) and the family nursing time law (“Familienpflegezeitgesetz”) were strengthened to achieve a better and more flexible balance between care and work. According to the new legislation it now is possible to take a break from normal work for a period of at most 24 month to care for close relatives, while still making contributions to statutory pensions and unemployment insurance. Financial benefits are intended to buffer income loses throughout the period of care. The intention is to facilitate the re-integration of carers into employment, and provide financial security for women after a period of family-based care. (e.g. Beck 2015; Deutscher Bundestag 2016; Nowossadeck et al. 2016).

Levels of Intergenerational support
Looking at the rather generous support of the German state for care, low levels of intergenerational reciprocity and declining solidarity in families could be expected. The intergenerational contract built into the German social security systems oriented at a pay-as-you-go system grants the responsibility for the financing of pensions and care services of the older population largely on current employees. Given demographic change, it thus could be assumed that intergenerational relations would suffer. Yet, figures show that there nonetheless exists an intense exchange between the generations characterized by a well-developed pattern of “give-and-take”. The older people are not just the recipients of benefits but also the supporters of the younger ones. On the one hand, members of the older generation take care of grandchildren and thus may help their children to better reconcile work and parenthood, in face of the still partly inefficient provision of early childcare. Furthermore, they may provide financial support to their adult children, who are often in education. On the other hand, the younger generation provides care to their parents or other close relatives. Results from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe from 2004 show, that 38 % of those aged 65-74 years
supported their children while 42% of the people aged 75 and over received help from their children (Schmidt, Raab and Ruland 2009). Taken together, older and younger people mutually take over important intergenerational tasks in this way. Thus, existing research finds no signs of a conflict between the generations, but instead a high level of family solidarity (e.g. Schmidt et al. 2009, Brandt 2009, Deindl and Isengard 2011).

References

Hess, Moritz (2016): Expected and Preferred Retirement Age in Germany. Zeitschrift für Gerontologie und Geriatrie (Early Access)
RN1 Ageing in Europe Business Meeting
Thursday, 31st August
7.30pm to 8.30pm
Intercontinental - Ypsilon III

Chair: Bernhard Weicht, University of Innsbruck
Chair: Dirk Hofäcker, University of Duisburg-Essen

The Research Network's biannual business meeting is taking place at the ESA conference in Athens. Please see the time and specific location stated above.

It would be great to see as many members and interested academics and researchers at the meeting as possible.

The meeting is very valuable as it enables the Network to consider its recent activity and also its future direction. Updates on events such as the midterm conference and PhD workshop will also be offered.

At this business meeting we will be seeking new Board members. We are committed to representing a diversity of perspectives, academic approaches, and methods. In addition, the Board benefits by being represented by members from a range of nations across Europe and also those at different stages of their academic/research careers.

Members can be involved with particular tasks, such organisation of events, managing finances, and editing or contributing to the website, newsletter or social media accounts - as well as supporting the Board with all day-to-day-activities. Involvement with the Board is great for networking and getting to know other researchers in the field of ageing across Europe. It can also be a valuable enhancement to your CV.

People should contact us at info@ageing-in-europe.net prior to the Conference with questions, or expressions of interest.
# ESA 13th Conference, Research Network on Ageing in Europe (RN1) Schedule

## Date: Wednesday, 30/Aug/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Supplementary Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>RN01_01a_IC: Active Ageing &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Eleanna Galanatki, Athens University of Economics and Business</td>
<td>RN01_01b_IC: Care Policies Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Alexandra Lopes, Porto RN01_01c_IC: Inequalities Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Hans-Joachim Reinhard, University of Applied Sciences Fulda</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>RN01_02a_IC: The Oldest Old Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Cosima Rughinilia, University of Bucharest</td>
<td>Francesco Barbabella, National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing (INRCA)</td>
<td>RN01_02b_IC: Technology &amp; Innovation I Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Justyna Stypinska, Free University Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>RN01_03a_IC: Theoretical Concepts and Discussions</td>
<td>Sandra Torres, Uppsala University</td>
<td>RN01_03b_IC: Retirement Timing Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Minna Zechner, Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences</td>
<td>RN01_03c_IC: Technology &amp; Innovation II Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Harald Künemund, University of Vechta</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>RN01_04a_IC: Care</td>
<td>Teppo Kröger, University of Jyväskylä</td>
<td>RN01_04b_IC: Theoretical Concepts and Discussions Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Kathrin Komp, Helsinki University</td>
<td>RN01_04c_IC: Care and Social Investment Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Tine Rostgaard, KORA</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>RN01_05a_IC: Portrait of Old Age Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Jenni Spännäri, University of Helsinki</td>
<td>RN01_05b_IC: Work Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Daniele Zaccaria, Golgi Cenci Foundation</td>
<td>RN01_05c_IC: Ageing &amp; the Welfare State Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Andreas Motel-Klingebiel, Linköping University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>RN01_06a_IC: Ageism &amp; Discrimination Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Janina Sohn, Sociological Research Institute (SOFI) at Göttingen University</td>
<td>RN01_06b_IC: Intergenerational Relations and Policies Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Dirk Hofacker, University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
<td>RN01_06c_IC: Family &amp; Relationships Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Andreas Mergenthaler, Federal Institute for Population Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td><strong>RN01_BM: Business Meeting</strong> Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Dirk Hofacker, University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
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## Date: Thursday, 31/Aug/2017

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>RN01_04a_IC: Care</td>
<td>Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Teppo Kröger, University of Jyväskylä</td>
<td>RN01_04b_IC: Theoretical Concepts and Discussions Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Kathrin Komp, Helsinki University</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td><strong>RN01_05a_IC: Portrait of Old Age Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</strong></td>
<td>Jenni Spännäri, University of Helsinki</td>
<td>RN01_05b_IC: Work Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Daniele Zaccaria, Golgi Cenci Foundation</td>
<td>RN01_05c_IC: Ageing &amp; the Welfare State Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Andreas Motel-Klingebiel, Linköping University</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>RN01_06a_IC: Ageism &amp; Discrimination Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Janina Sohn, Sociological Research Institute (SOFI) at Göttingen University</td>
<td>RN01_06b_IC: Intergenerational Relations and Policies Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Dirk Hofacker, University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
<td>RN01_06c_IC: Family &amp; Relationships Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Andreas Mergenthaler, Federal Institute for Population Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td><strong>RN01_07a_IC: Ageing &amp; Migration I Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</strong></td>
<td>Claudia Vogel, German Centre of Gerontology</td>
<td>RN01_07b_IC: Sexuality &amp; Intimacy Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Bernhard Weich, University of Innsbruck</td>
<td>RN01_07c_IC: Social and Political Participation Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Luule Sakkeus, Tallinn University</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>RN01_08a_IC: Active Ageing Policies Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>David Valentine Wright, University of Brighton</td>
<td>RN01_08b_IC: Work &amp; Transition to Retirement Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon II Chair: Emma Garavaglia, State University of Milan Bicocca</td>
<td>RN01_08c_IC: Ageing &amp; Health Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Martina Brandt, TU Dortmund</td>
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<td>3:30pm</td>
<td><strong>RN01_BM: Business Meeting</strong> Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Dirk Hofacker, University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
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## Date: Friday, 01/Sep/2017

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<th>Session</th>
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<th>Chair</th>
<th>Supplementary Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>RN01_09a_P: Social Networks</td>
<td>Panteion</td>
<td>Håkan Jönson, Lund University</td>
<td>RN01_09b_P: Ageing &amp; Migration II Location: Panteion Chair: Anna Kordasiewicz, University of Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td><strong>RN01_10a_P: Elder Care</strong></td>
<td>Panteion</td>
<td>Areti L. Ethymiou, Cyprus University of Technology</td>
<td>RN01_10b_P: Health &amp; Disability Location: Panteion Chair: Judith Kaschowitz, TU Dortmund University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>RN01_07a_IC: Ageing &amp; Migration I Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</strong></td>
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<td>RN01_08c_IC: Ageing &amp; Health Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon I Chair: Martina Brandt, TU Dortmund</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td><strong>RN01_BM: Business Meeting</strong> Location: Intercontinental - Ypsilon III</td>
<td>Dirk Hofacker, University of Duisburg-Essen</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td><strong>RN01_11a_P: Inequality and Marginalisation</strong></td>
<td>Panteion</td>
<td>Barbara Barbosa Neves, The University of Melbourne</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Joint session schedule with other Research Networks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date: Friday, 01/Sep/2017</th>
<th>11:00am - 12:30pm</th>
<th>RN01_RN13_09a_P_JS: JOINT SESSION: How do Increasing Childlessness and Limited Family Support Affect Older Adults?</th>
<th>Panteion</th>
<th>Dirk Hofäcker, University of Duisburg-Essen</th>
<th>Joint Session of RN01 Ageing in Europe and RN13 Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives</th>
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| 2:00pm - 3:30pm | RN01_RN16_10a_P_JS: JOINT SESSION: European Health Policy and Ageing Societies: Challenges and Opportunities | Panteion | Angela Genova, University of Urbino | Edward Tolhurst, Staffordshire University | Joint Session of RN01 Ageing in Europe and RN16 Sociology of Health and Illness |

| 4:00pm - 5:30pm | RN01_RN21_11b_P_JS: JOINT SESSION: Advanced Quantitative Analysis in Ageing Research | Panteion | Marja Johanna Aartsen, Oslo and Akershus University College | Jolanta PEREK-BIALAS, Jagiellonian University | Joint Session of RN01 Ageing in Europe and RN21 Quantitative Methods |

For the full list of presentations within these schedules, please visit: [https://www.conftool.pro/esa2017/sessions.php](https://www.conftool.pro/esa2017/sessions.php)
The Research Network on Ageing in Europe convenes a regular PhD workshop for doctoral students and early career researchers. This has proved a very popular event for those in the early stages of their research careers within sociology and other social scientific disciplines. Our most recent workshop was delivered in 2016 in collaboration with the University of Chester in the UK.

The format for each workshop is devised in collaboration between the Research Network and the host organization. In previous workshops an appealing feature of the process has been extent of time afforded to each student’s presented paper. Following each presentation, feedback is offered by a designated academic lead and this opens up broader discussions with the group. Students therefore obtain valuable input into their work from their peers and more senior academics.

A principal aim of the workshops is to ensure a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere that encourages an open exchange of ideas. This allows students at various stages of their studies to engage with the process, from those devising their initial plans, to those at a later stage of their studies seeking to express their findings. The workshop thus enables attendees to forge collaborative associations with other researchers that will support them in the early stages of their careers and beyond. Previous events have also been enhanced by the delivery of presentations by keynote speakers.

The Network is seeking a host organisation to deliver our 6th PhD workshop. This can be any higher education institution from across Europe. The workshop is a really rewarding event for all involved, so we certainly encourage you to be involved. If you feel that you might like to deliver the workshop at your organization, please email info@ageing-in-europe.net to set up an informal discussion, or you can speak to us at the forthcoming conference in Athens.

The workshop will take place in 2018 - the exact date can be set to fit in with your organisation’s requirements.
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

Stay connected: