

Ageing in Europe

Newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe Issue 05/September 2011

NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH NETWORK

The Research Network has had an exciting time this autumn. On September 7-10, 2011, we held sessions in Geneva, Switzerland, at the 10th conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA). In total, we had 23 sessions with 119 presentations. Additionally, we organized a special Meet-the-Author-session, where Bill Bytheway presented his book *Unmasking age: The significance of age for social research* and Julia Johnson spoke on her prize-winning volume, written with Sheena Rolph and Randall Smith, *Residential Care Transformed: Revisiting 'The Last Refuge'*.



Julia Johnson and Bill Bytheway at the Meet-the-Author-session in Geneva

During the conference, several elections took place. Ricca Edmondson, who has been a coordinator of the Research Network for several years, was elected to the Committee of the ESA. We hope this will enable you to feel you can contact her with issues and suggestions about the ESA as a whole and how it can do even more to support sociology in Europe.

In addition, our Research Network elected a new board. On the new board are: Harald Künemund (Chair; University of Vechta, Germany), Kathrin Komp (Vice-chair; Umeå University, Sweden), Jenni Spännäri (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland), Bernhard Weicht (Utrecht University, the Nether-

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lands), Alexandra Lopes (Porto University, Portugal), Magnus Nilsson (Karlstad University, Sweden), Jenni Spännäri (University of Helsinki, Finland), and Albert Banerjee (York University, Toronto, Canada).

Next year, we will organize a conference in Umeå, Sweden and a PhD students' workshop in Portugal. We will inform you about those events on our homepage <http://www.ageing-in-europe.org> and via the mailing list.

We would like to offer you the opportunity of adding your presentation from our conference sessions in Geneva to our homepage. If you would like to share your presentation, then send it to coordinators@ageing-in-europe.org. Thank you!



The new board (from left to right): Harald Künemund, Kathrin Komp, Jenni Spännäri, Albert Banerjee, Ricca Edmondson, Bernhard Weicht, Magnus Nilsson, Alexandra Lopes

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA IN AGEING



European countries collaborate when it comes to ageing research. We all know that many research projects are carried in European collaborations and that those projects can lead to exciting new insights. But what many probably did not know is that the funding of ageing research itself is sometimes organized in collaboration between European countries. The prime example of such collaboration is the European Research Area in Aging (ERA-AGE).

ERA-AGE is one of the European Research Areas established by the European Commission in their Framework Programmes. The European Research Areas work to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research programmes. Their members are managers or owners of national or regional research programmes, who work together to coordinate their activities, mostly by developing joint activities or by mutually supporting cross-national joint calls.

ERA-AGE was established in 2005 and has received funding under Framework Programmes 6 (2005-2009) and 7 (2009-2012). It currently draws together 13 full partners and 6 associate partners from across Europe and Canada committed to greater coordination of ageing research. The partners seek to coordinate existing and future research initiatives, discourage duplication between countries and regions, to build on previous experience and to launch joint projects.

ERA-AGE developed three joint projects since its start: two rounds of the programme “Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe”, which has funded a total of 33 multi-national, multi-disciplinary post-doctoral fellowships for early career researchers, and, a joint research programme on “Active and Healthy Ageing across the Life Course”.

The joint research programme on “Active and Healthy Ageing across the Life Course” is the first European programme of its kind. It is dedi-

cated to the achievement of enhanced and healthy ageing and, in particular, to addressing the major priority established by the European Innovation Partnership in Active and Healthy Ageing: a two-year increase in healthy life expectancy in the European Union by 2020. Twelve funders in nine countries in Europe - Canada, Finland, France, Sweden, Israel, Luxembourg, Latvia, Romania, and the United Kingdom – have committed €4.2 million to fund research projects on this topic of up to three years’ duration. This programme was launched on June 1, 2011, and the deadline for applications is still open.

Call for applications

Applications are invited from multi-disciplinary consortia representing 3 to 5 funding countries. Each funding agency retains control of their funds and, in some cases, has focused funding on specific national issues; applicants must ensure that their national funding criteria are met while developing an over-arching application that addresses the call’s broad aims and objectives:

- Generate new knowledge on the biological, clinical, behavioural, social and environmental factors that enable individuals to live actively and healthily into later life.
- Explore comparatively different models, methods, approaches and good practices in societal responses to increased longevity which emphasise both social inclusion and sustainability.
- Engage in effective knowledge exchange activities that will assist European and other countries to achieve the goal of increasing healthy life expectancy by 2 years by 2020.

The ERA-AGE secretariat is coordinating the call. For more information on ERA-AGE and on the call, visit <http://www.era-age.group.shef.ac.uk/>. The deadline for pre-proposals is 3 October 2011.

Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is becoming even better!

SHARE is a database of micro-data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of Europeans aged 50 and over. The panel data of SHARE was collected in 2004, 2006 and 2010, and retrospective life-histories were collected in 2008. In the current wave, SHARE is collecting information in 20 countries, ranging from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. The data will be released in 2012 and include additional information on social networks as well as innovative biomarkers.

SHARE is coordinated centrally at the Munich Center for the Economics of Aging, Max-Planck-Institute for Social Law and Social Policy, and funded by the European Commission, the US National Institute on Aging, the German

Ministry for Education and Research, as well as various national funders.

Today, SHARE is a major pillar of the European Research Area and in 2010 it therefore became the first ever European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). Becoming an ERIC gives SHARE a new legal status which provides it with many of the advantages enjoyed by major international organizations. Each researcher can therefore expect to gain access to even more cross-national longitudinal data on ageing through the SHARE-project.

More information on SHARE is available on <http://www.share-project.org>. You can also



register to use the SHARE data free of charge on this website.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Events

Conferences

A New Visibility: Changing Representations of Aging Bodies in European Media

November 10-13, 2011, Atlanta, USA

The conference of the National Women's Studies Association contains three panels on old age: "A new visibility: changing representations of aging bodies in European media", "Live to be a hundred: creative interventions in cultural narratives of the fourth age", and "Feminist transformations: deploying feminisms in death and dying".

Conference organizer: National Women's Studies Association

Registration: Now open

See also: <http://www.nwsa.org/conference/>

New Temporalities of Old Age

January 5-8, 2012, Seattle USA

The conference of the Modern Language Association contains two panels on old age: "New temporalities of old age", "Performing identity in late life".

Conference organizer: Modern Language Association

Registration: Now open

See also: <http://www.mla.org/convention>

Changing images of old age – an international perspective on future-oriented policies for senior citizens and generations

December 12, 2011, Berlin, Germany

The German Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is organizing this conference to facilitate an international exchange on instruments, topic and implications of a scientific reporting on older citizens. The conference will be in German and English. Conference organizer: German Center for Ageing Studies

Registration: Now open

See also: <http://www.konferenz-altersbilder.de>

Developing a national dementia strategy

January 18, 2012, Dublin, Ireland

The Irish government has made a commitment to develop a National Dementia Strategy by 2013. As part of this overall initiative, an extensive research review on dementia has been commissioned, the key findings from which will be presented at this conference.

Conference organizer: School of Social Work, Trinity College Dublin

Registration: Now open

See also: <http://www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie/livingwithdementia/>

The Right to aging

January 25-27, 2012, Dijon, France

This conference deals with aspects of citizenship, social inclusion, and political participation of older people. It aims to share academic knowledge, and to highlight good practice, experimentation and innovative projects in the field of gerontology.

Conference organizer: International network of research on age citizenship and socio-economic integration & Interregional Gerontology Center of Bourgogne Franche-Comté

Deadline for submission of poster presentations: October 10, 2011

For more information email:

poster.symposiumreiactis@gmail.com

Other events

Seminar “Employment and retirement”

November 4, 2011, Manchester, UK

This is the third seminar of the ESRC funded

series: “Rethinking Retirement”. It includes presentation by Helen Barnes, Ben Baumberg, Dianne Bown-Wilson, Vanessa Beck and Kene Henkens.

Seminar organizers: David Lane, Sarah Vick-erstaff, and Wendy Loretto

See also: <http://www.rethinkingretirement.org>

Courses on qualitative research methods

January-May, 2012, Oxford, UK

The Health Experience Research Group at the University of Oxford organizes numerous courses that can be beneficial to ageing researchers, such as “Introduction to qualitative research methods” and “Introduction to media content analysis”.

Course organizer: Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford

Registration: Now open

See also:

<https://www.oxforduniversitystores.co.uk/browse/product.asp?catid=165&modid=5&compid=1>

Publications

Books

Population ageing in Central and Eastern Europe: Societal and policy Implications

Edited by: A. Hoff

This book focusses on the processes underlying rapid population ageing in Central and Eastern Europe. It discusses, among other things, the main drivers behind this development, the implications for policy, healthcare provision, workforces, and the quality of life.

Published: 2011

Publisher: Ashgate

Mental health and care homes

Edited by: T. Denning & Alisoun Milne

This book brings together both clinical and research perspectives to help the care home sector deliver high quality care to residents and support to staff. This area is reviewed by a range of experts including residents, family carers, staff, researchers and clinicians.

Published: 2011

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Nursing older adults

Edited by: J. Reed, C. Clarke & A. MacFarlane

This textbook provides adult nurses with the principles and practice insights needed to deliver exceptional care in partnership with older adults.

Published: 2011

Publisher: Open University Press

Long-term care in Central and South Eastern Europe

Edited by: A. Österle

This book studies long-term care in Central and South Eastern Europe, a region so far sparsely covered in the comparative long-term care literature. It provides an overview of common and diverse challenges, whilst analysing the organisation, provision and financing of long-term care and the roles of family, civil society, private sector and the state in a broader comparative perspective.

Published: 2011

Publisher: Peter Lang

Gender, generations and the family in international migration

Edited by: A. Kraller, E. Kofman, M. Kohli & C. Schmol

Family-related migration is moving to the center of political debates on migration, integration, and multiculturalism in Europe. This volume highlights the diversity of family-related migration, questions simplistic assumptions about migrant families in public discourse, and discusses the state's role in shaping family-related migration, practices, and lives.

Published: 2011

Publisher: Amsterdam University Press

Doing succession in Europe: Generational transfers in family businesses in comparative perspective

Edited by: I. Stamm, P. Breitschmid & M. Kohli
Family enterprises make up the majority of all businesses across Western Europe and succession is critical for their survival. This volume discusses generational transfers in family businesses from the perspective of the family, capitalism, the welfare state, and law.
Published: 2011
Publisher: Budrich

Age discrimination and diversity. Multiple discrimination from an age perspective

Edited by: M. Sargeant
This volume discusses the discrimination against older people that results from a failure to recognise their diversity. By considering the unique combinations of discrimination that arise from the interrelationship of, e.g., age and gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic class, the contributors demonstrate that the discrimination suffered is multiple in nature.
Published: 2011
Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Book Tip

Key Concepts in Social Gerontology

Written by Judith Phillips, Kristine Ajrouch and Sarah Hillcoat-Nallétamby
Sage, 2010

This book explains the main concepts of social gerontology in essays of 50 key terms. Each essay starts out with a concise definition of the key term. Then important perspectives on each concept are described, and current developments and recent research results are critically discussed. Some essays also provide suggestions for further reading, and cross-references between the key terms make it possible to gain a deeper understanding of the topics.

The essays are solidly researched and well structured. I, therefore, consider this book a rich source of information on social gerontology.

Because the concepts are taken from a wide range of disciplines, e.g. social work, nursing, geriatric medicine and sociology, not every chapter may be useful for everyone. But all in all, this book is a very helpful collection of essays. Students as well as academics who are interested in studying old age and ageing could use it as a reference book and a starting point for further research.

This book tip was written by Elena Wiegand, Master's student at the University of Bamberg, Germany.



Do you want to write a book tip for the next newsletter? Then contact Kathrin Komp kathrin.komp@soc.umu.se

Other announcements

SHARE Frailty Instrument Calculators

Calculators of the Frailty Instrument for Primary Care of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE-FI) are now available online at <https://sites.google.com/a/tcd.ie/share-frailty-instrument-calculators/>

Peter Townsend memorial book prize

This year, the Peter Townsend memorial book prize was awarded to the book "Residential Care Transformed: Revisiting 'The Last Refuge'", edited by R. Smith, J. Johnson & S. Rolph. See also <http://www.bris.ac.uk/news/2011/7874.html>

This newsletter was put together by the Research Network on Ageing in Europe (European Sociological Association). More information on the Research Network is available on <http://www.ageing-in-europe.org>. The Research Network is not responsible for the content of the websites referred to.