

# Ageing in Europe

Newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe

Issue 06/2012

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### PhD workshop of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe

**“Researching age and generations in times of  
crisis and change”**

5-7 July 2012

University of Porto, Portugal

Ageing societies have been a topic of both academic and political discourses for some decades. Similarly the relationship between generations has received much attention in the context of work, leisure, care and welfare services. The last years have furthermore seen an intensification of pressures and challenges for national welfare states and the European social and economic area. This PhD workshop focuses on challenges, benefits and circumstances of researching age and generations in the current social, political and economic climate. Attention will be given to the conceptualisation, planning, carrying out and use of research related to ageing and generations. This workshop presents a unique opportunity to discuss these very topical issues and to receive feedback from participants and experienced experts in the field.

The contributions can cover any topics in the field of ageing and generations. Possible questions might -for example- include (but are not limited to):

- What are the generational consequences of economic and social pressures in European welfare states?
- How can these pressures be conceptualised and/or operationalised in research?
- How are issues of age and generations portrayed in the discussions on the current crises?
- How do different national political, economic and social systems react to the economic challenges in relation to older people?
- To what extent are national care arrangements affected?
- What can research contribute to an understanding of the future for old age security systems?

We invite PhD-students in sociology, social policy and related social sciences to submit abstracts linked to the topic **“Researching age and generations in times of crisis and change”**. The contributions may focus on conceptual, methodological and/or empirical questions.

**During the workshop**, participants will have the opportunity to present their papers and

receive feedback from senior researchers and the other participants.

Senior researchers acting as discussants will be:

**Andreas Hoff** – Professor of Social Gerontology at the University Zittau-Görlitz (Germany). Until January 2011 he was a James Martin Senior Research Fellow of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing and Head of the Research Programme “Intergenerational Relationships, Families and Communities”. His research interests include: intergenerational relations; family care; migrant care workers; assisted living technologies; ageing in Central and Eastern Europe; social exclusion of older people; cross-nationally comparative research.

**Trudie Knijn** - Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Science at Utrecht University (Netherlands). She is the head of the Centre for Social Policy and Intervention Studies (SOPINS), co-chair of the board of ESPAnet, coordinator of the National Associations of ESPAnet, member of the executive committee of the Network of Excellence Reconciling Work and Welfare (RECOWWE), and co-coordinator of the research programme Pathways to Work. She has published widely on comparative social policy analysis, care, gender and welfare states.

**Hans-Joachim von Kondratowitz** – Senior Advisor at the German Center of Gerontology. He is a political scientist and sociologist and has conducted research on social historical and medical constructions of old age and the history and sociology of family relations, personal networks and different forms of solidarity. His research interests include: welfare-systems; social gerontology; sociology of medicine; nursing research; Social policy at local authority district level.

**Constança Paúl** - Professor at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences Abel Salazar, University of Porto (Portugal), and the Director of UNIFAI, a research centre that is internationally recognized as an excellence centre for its work on ageing related themes. She is a member of the team of the European Master in Gerontology and the author of several publications on ageing issues.

**Manuel Villaverde Cabral** - Professor of Sociology and the director of the Ageing Institute at the University of Lisbon (Portugal). He is an expert on a series of ageing related topics and currently coordinates a team of international researchers that are based at the Ageing Institute.

**Karin Wall** – Professor of Sociology and senior research fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences (ICS) of the

University of Lisbon. She studied sociology at the University of Geneva and holds a Ph.D in sociology from the latter. She has carried out national and cross-national research in the areas of sociology of the family and social policies affecting families. Her research interests include demographic trends and changing family patterns, family interactions and social networks over the life course, gender and family, the reconciliation of work and family life, family policies in Europe, social care, migrant women and families.

#### Deadlines:

- **Abstracts** with a maximum of 200 words should be **submitted by 15 March 2012**.
- The participants will need to submit a complete version of their papers **by 3 June 2012**.
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To **apply** please submit your abstract to:

Alexandra Lopes at [aslopes@letras.up.pt](mailto:aslopes@letras.up.pt). For further information please don't hesitate to contact us.

The **participation fee** is € 100 for participation at the 2 day workshop, 2 nights of accommodation on campus (extra nights can be booked for € 30 per night), coffee breaks and workshop materials.

For this workshop there is a maximum of 20 participants. Participants will be offered the opportunity to participate in the presentation Emerald's Guides to Getting Published. The presentation will provide helpful insights which enable prospective authors to give their papers the best possible chance of acceptance and publication in international journal. Participation will be free of costs.

#### Organisers:

Alexandra Lopes, University of Porto,  
Portugal [aslopes@letras.up.pt](mailto:aslopes@letras.up.pt)

Bernhard Weicht, Utrecht University, Netherlands [b.weicht@uu.nl](mailto:b.weicht@uu.nl)

**Mid-term conference  
of the Research Network on Ageing in  
Europe**

**“Ageing in the light of crises: Economic  
crisis, demographic change and the  
search for meaning”**

October 3-5, 2012

Umea University, Sweden

Ageing is often discussed in the context of crises, both at individual and at societal level. People might, for example, experience age-related physical decline or change in social role as crises. Public and academic discourses frame as ‘crises’ issues in volunteering, pension sustainability, or health care demand and supply in the context of aging societies. Discussion of economic crises and demographic change often portrays ageing as a struggle with dwindling resources. Even highlighting what are intended to be positive approaches, such as active or successful aging, has been criticized as a potential source of individual crises, namely for those who, for a variety of reasons, are not easily classified as “productive” or “active”. But are these various linkages between aging and crises justified? Do they foster solutions or do they cause new crises?

This conference brings together scholars from across Europe to discuss developments in ageing and old age. Such developments could, for example, relate to:

- Older workers, retirement, and pensions
- Formal and informal care arrangements
- Active and productive aging
- Social inequalities and poverty in old age
- Effect of population ageing on generational solidarity and welfare states

- Effects of the economic crisis and of globalization on life-courses
- Images, attitudes, coping-strategies and ageing.

We welcome quantitative, qualitative and conceptual papers. Contributions from scholars in the early stages of their careers are very welcome.

**Abstract Submission:**

You can submit your **abstract** of max. 200 words **until June 15, 2012** via the conference homepage: <http://eventus.trippus.se/crisis2012>

The **conference fee** is 2500 SEK. Members of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe receive a reduced fee of 2000 SEK. The fee includes the conference material, the welcome reception, the conference dinner, two lunches and refreshments on all three days.

**Keynote speakers** are Sara Arber (Surrey University, UK), Stefan Svallfors (Umea University, Sweden), Harald Kuenemund (University of Vechta, Germany), and Ricca Edmondson (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland).

The Mid-term conference of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe is organized in cooperation with the Department of Sociology at Umea University, Sweden, and the Swedish Gerontological Society.

For more information, visit the conference homepage or email Kathrin Komp: [kathrin.komp@soc.umu.se](mailto:kathrin.komp@soc.umu.se)

**World Conference on technologies and  
technology use to serve the aging society  
(Gerontechnology)**

June 26–29, 2012

Eindhoven, The Netherlands

In the last week of June in the European Year for Active Aging 2012 the next world conference of the ISG, International Society for Gerontechnology will take place in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. This year in cooperation with the ISARC, International Symposium of Automation and Robotics in Construction.

Under the theme “Who is afraid of aging?” all aspects of the aging society are included, such as quality of life (including leisure and pleasure), home care, life-long working, retrofitting existing buildings and infrastructures, and the associated new technologies, such as ICT, automation and robotics. We start from the rights and needs of the end-user of built environments. Special emphasis is on the world of the construction industry.

Papers are solicited pertaining to gerontechnology, automation in construction, robotics in construction and other collaborations of technology and gerontology. To **submit an abstract** for an oral presentation, please download the template from the website. Closing date for the submission of abstracts has been extended to **February 15, 2012**. Please see the website: <http://www.futuresiteconferences.nl/index.php/isg-isarc/ISGISARC2012>

**The Society for Social Medicine’s  
56th Annual Scientific Meeting**

September 12 to 14, 2012

London, UK

The Society for Social Medicine’s 56th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) will be held in London, jointly hosted by LSHTM and UCL. It will be preceded by a number of one-day meetings. The call for abstracts is now open, the Society welcome abstracts on health services research, epidemiology, public health, statistics, sociology, psychology, health policy and/or mixed methods research. **Abstracts can be submitted** only via the conference website at [www.ssmconference.org.uk/](http://www.ssmconference.org.uk/) until **Monday 19th March 2012**.

Successful presenters will be notified by mid-May and must confirm by the end of May that they will present. (This will allow applicants for free places to know if they have been successful before the 31st May deadline).

Unlike some conferences, the Society’s ASM does not pre-specify themes. The topics covered depend on what abstracts are submitted. The highest-scoring abstracts are offered oral presentation slots, regardless of topic; it has been confirmed that the scoring by the peer-reviewers reflects the quality of the abstracts, not the discipline of the reviewers. As a reminder, the following is the Society’s opening statement:

*“Social medicine is the study of health in its widest sense. It recognizes the broad determinants of health - income and poverty, education, environmental factors such as housing and transport - as well as health care and genetic influences. The Society aims to promote the development of scientific knowledge in social medicine. This covers a range of subjects including epidemiology, the medical and health needs of society, the provision and organization of health services and the prevention of disease”.*

## NEWS

### **Easy way to pay your Research Network**

**Membership:** ESA membership can pay for RN affiliation by credit card on the ESA Website under "Membership"

<http://www.europeansociology.org>

**2012** is the **European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations**. For more information check out the following link:

<http://europa.eu/ey2012/ey2012main.jsp?catId=971&langId=en>

### **Age UK Bulletin**

Age UK has a new monthly e-bulletin for people who are interested in policy and research issues regarding the older population. The

bulletin is a round-up and summaries of publicly available reports, commentary, calls for funding, calls for submissions to government consultations and responses, and much more in the UK and abroad. To subscribe go to: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/professional-resources-home/knowledge-hub-evidence-statistics/>

### **North American Network of Aging Studies**

Suzanne England from NYU is creating a similar collaboration to ESA's Research Network on Ageing in Europe, focusing on the North America context. If you are interested in participating, send her an email at: [Suzanne.England@nyu.edu](mailto:Suzanne.England@nyu.edu).

## Events

### **27th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International**

March 7-10, 2012

London, UK

Conceived as 'three conferences in one', under the theme Science, Fact, Fiction, parallel sessions will focus on these three strands bringing them all together into plenaries and debates. The conference is aimed at professionals, scientists, researchers, policy makers, people living with dementia, informal and professional carers and all Alzheimer association staff and volunteers alike. For more information see:

<http://www.adi2012.org/en/home.aspx>

### **12th International Stockholm/Springfield Symposium on Advances in Alzheimer Therapy**

May 9-12, 2012

Stockholm, Sweden

This conference will have a strong focus on new and future pharmacological therapies of Alzheimer disease. Particular emphasis will be given to new therapeutic targets, discovery of new drugs and outcomes of clinical trials. For more information see:

<http://www.siumed.edu/cme/alzheimer/>

### **IFA's 11th Global Conference on Ageing**

May 28 – June 1, 2012

Prague, Czech Republic

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) will organize its 11th Global Conference on Ageing from May 28th to June 1st 2012 in Prague, Czech Republic. Four main themes:

- 1) Older Persons and Development
- 2) Advancing Health and Well-being into Old Age
- 3) Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments
- 4) Connected Technologies.

For more information see;

<http://www.ifa2012.com/>

### **British Society of Gerontology Annual Conference**

July 11th-13th 2012

Keele, UK

Abstract deadline (for papers, posters and symposia) February 24, 2012

Conference themes:

1. Theory and methodology
2. Critical gerontology/critical perspectives
3. Ageing and the arts and humanities
4. Intergenerational perspectives
5. Understanding dementia
6. New ageing populations
7. Cross-cultural perspectives
8. Environment and ageing
9. Pensions and income maintenance

Plenary debate on 'The Future of Research into Ageing': speakers confirmed as:

- o Sally-Marie Bamford (International Longevity Centre-UK):
- o Mark Gorman (HelpAge International)
- o Philly Hare (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)
- o Peter Lansley (University of Reading)

For further details see: <http://www.keele-conferencemanagement.com/bsg2012>

### **21st Nordic Congress of Gerontology**

June 10-13, 2012

Copenhagen, Denmark

The 21st Nordic Congress of Gerontology is organized by the Danish Society of Gerontology and the Danish Society of Geriatrics in Copenhagen and is entitled "Dilemmas in Ageing Societies". The theme points to challenges of aging societies and questions that arise from theory and empirical studies about aging and older people's lives. For more information see:

<http://www.21nkg.dk/>

### **8th World Congress on Active Ageing**

August 12-17, 2012

Glasgow, Scotland

Held every 4 years, this showcase event will take place over 5 days in the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre adjacent to the historic River Clyde. It brings together scientists and practitioners, experts and enthusiasts from a range of professional interests and disciplines involved in the promotion of Active Ageing. For more information see

<http://www.wcaa2012.com/>

## Book Tip

### **Ageing, Health, and Productivity: The Economics of Increased Life Expectancy**

Edited by Pietro Garibaldi, Joaquim Oliveira Martins and Jan van Ours  
Oxford; Oxford University Press  
Year of publication: 2010

Scholars and policy-makers often view longevity with concern because it challenges economies and welfare states. Garibaldi, Oliveira Martins and Van Ours, however, suggest that longevity can facilitate economic growth if suitable measures are implemented. Their edited volume explains this perspective.

The first part of the book discusses the interrelation between “Health expenditures, longevity, and growth”. It argues that longevity often goes hand in hand with an increasing healthy life span. Consequently, health expenditures can remain stable even when populations age. Besides, high health expenditures might promote economic growth. The second part of the

book describes the connection between “Age and productivity”. It underlines that productivity does not necessarily decline when workers age and that workplace adaptations can help older workers.

Admittedly, the book takes on a rather economic perspective, which might seem a bit unusual to some gerontologists, especially those with a strong sociological background. However, it is exactly this economic perspective that can bring new arguments into gerontological discussions on the effects of population ageing. I therefore found this book, in particular the first section on health and longevity, enjoyable and thought provoking.

*This book tip was written by  
Kathrin Komp, PhD, postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology, Umea University, Sweden.*

**To submit announcements, events, book tips etcetera for the next issue of the newsletter contact**

**Albert Banerjee at [balbertb@yorku.ca](mailto:balbertb@yorku.ca)**

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*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.*