CALL FOR PAPERS

ESA 2013 – Crisis, Critique and Change.
August 28-31, 2013
The next European Sociological Association conference will be in Turin, Italy this August. The conference calls for research, explanations and reflections on the causes of the crisis and its effects, both on the political agenda, and on individuals’ and family lives. The conference is looking for sociological contributions to foster an understanding of the crisis and the dual role of critique in interpreting and affecting change.

Abstract submission deadline:
1st February 2013
Submit via: http://www.esa11thconference.eu

ESA 2013 RN01 - Ageing in Europe
August 28-31, 2013
In conjunction with the 11th conference of the European Sociological Association in Turin, the Research Network on Ageing in Europe will hold sessions that focus on empirical, theoretical and conceptual aspects of research on ageing. These sessions will continue on-going discussions, open new areas of inquiry, and engage with the overarching conference theme “Crisis, Critique and Change.” Papers with a cross-national, comparative focus and papers by early career researchers are particularly welcome. Individuals should not be the first author (i.e. the presenter) of more than one paper. Papers may fit into the following thematic areas:

- 01RN01 Ageing Societies and the Welfare State
- 02RN01 Ageing in the Crisis
- 03RN01 Critical perspectives on Ageing
- 04RN01 Diversity, Inequality and Equity in Ageing Societies
- 05RN01 Formal and Informal Care and Older People
- 06RN01 Health, Mortality and Quality of Life in Older Age
- 07RN01 Informal Networks and Intergenerational Relations in Older Age
- 08RN01 Norms, Values and Images in the Field of Ageing
- 09RN01 Senior Markets and Consumerism in Older Age
- 10RN01 Interculturality, Cross-Cultural Comparisons and Ageing
- 11RN01 Biography, the Life-Course and Older Age
- 12RN01 Activities and Time Use in Older Age
- 13RN01 Ageing and Mobility
- 14RN01 Ageing and Technology
- 15RN01 Retirement and the Labour Market in Older Age
- 16RN01 Ageing in Europe (open)

Abstract submission deadline: 1st February 2013
Submit via: http://www.esa11thconference.eu

Third International Workshop on the Socio-Economics of Ageing
October 25, 2013
This third international workshop will bring together researchers who are interested in the socio-economics of ageing to present and discuss research papers in Lisbon, Portugal. Keynote speaker will be Kène Henkens, of the Netherlands. 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 growth.
• 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.
• Effects on the family.
• Insurance.
• Population ageing in developing countries.
• Databases and statistics for research on ageing.

**Deadline for extended abstract submission:** May 12, 2013
Submit proposal containing the title, name(s) of author(s), institutional affiliation(s) and an extended abstract (2-3 pages) by e-mail: topcma@iseg.utl.pt

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**Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology**
XVIII International Sociological Association
World Congress of Sociology
Yokohama, Japan
July 13-19, 2014

“An incredibly sensitive community of academics and professionals such as the International Sociological Association, aware of the social transformations taking place in the world, cannot and should not be absent from a debate on inequality. The great tradition of multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary works in which the most complex problems of the present day world are addressed; its unique condition of being academically, scientifically, regionally, institutionally and organically plural make it ideally qualified to face the challenge of contributing to this international exchange, from which an intellectual and moral force can emerge in order to achieve drastic changes in the manners, forms of reasoning and scopes of the decisions to be taken in the world to ensure the preservation of human life and societies.”

**Abstract submission:** June 3, 2013 - September 30, 2013

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**REPORT**

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

Old age has many images, with the one of a crisis regaining momentum. In its mid-term conference, the “Research Network on Ageing in Europe” explored how the image and situation of older people change with the co-occurrence of economic crisis and demographic change. In doing so, the conference tackled questions ranging from the sustainability of pension schemes to the self-perception of older migrants.

The conference entitled “*Ageing in the light of crises: Economic crisis, demographic change, and the search for meaning*” took place in Umeå, Sweden, on October 3-5, 2012. This conference was organized in cooperation with the Swedish Gerontological Society and the Department of Sociology at Umeå University. In total, more than 70 researchers from across and beyond Europe came together to participate in this event.

The conference programme was rich in academic and social activities. The academic part of the programme consisted of eleven sessions during which the participants presented their research, and of four keynote speeches. The keynotes speeches were delivered by: Sara Arber (University of Surrey, the United Kingdom), Stefan Svallfors (Umeå University, Sweden), Harald Künemund (University of Vechta, Germany), and Ricca Edmondson (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland). The social programme featured two highlights: the conference dinner, and the conference reception. The reception took place at the Västerbottens museum, which is dedicated to the culture and history of the region around Umeå. During the reception, the conference participants learned about the Sami population in Northern Sweden and experienced a campfire in the Sami style.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting the conference: Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Forskningsrådet för Arbetsliv och Socialvetenskap, Umeå University, the European Sociological Association, the Welfare State Working Group at Umeå University, and the Department of Sociology at Umeå University.

The picture shows conference participants listening to Prof. Künemund deliver one of the three keynote addresses.

PhD Workshop: Researching age and generations in times of crisis and change.

On July 5-6, 2012 the Research Network on Ageing in Europe organized its third PhD workshop “Researching age and generations in times of crisis and change.” The workshop focused on the researching age and generations in the current social, political and economic climate. The workshop focused on a number of complex issues, including intergenerational relationships and solidarity in relation to care, social networks and intergenerational transfers. There also were three engaging keynotes presentations by Hans-Joachim von Kondratowitz, Andreas Hoff and Marjolein Broese van Groenou that stimulated lively debate among the participants. We would like to thank the workshop organizers Alexandra Lopes at the University of Porto and Bernhard Weicht at Utrecht University as well as the main workshop sponsors: the University of Porto – especially the Institute for Sociology and the Faculty of Arts (FLUP) – and the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).
Active Ageing Index 2012 for 27 EU Member States
by Asghar Zaidi, Katrin Gasior, Maria M. Hofmarcher, Orsolya Lelkes, Bernd Marin, Ricardo Rodrigues, Andrea Schmidt, Pieter Vanhuysse and Eszter Zólyomi
A new Policy Brief from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna

The European Commission’s Directorate General on Employment, Social Protection and Inclusion and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research have undertaken a research and policy advice project, called: the ‘Active Ageing Index’ project, constructing the Active Ageing Index (AAI), which was launched during the Closing Conference of the EY2012, 10 December 2012, Nicosia, Cyprus. The AAI is a newly developed tool that offers national and European policy-makers a way to measure and promote the untapped potential of the older population. The index makes use of a dashboard of diverse indicators, organized under four distinct domains:
(1) Employment of older workers;
(2) Social activity and participation of older people;
(3) Independent and autonomous living of older persons; and
(4) Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing.
Thus, the AAI shows the differential extent to which European older people living across EU Member States have and can realize their potential with respect to employment; healthy, independent and autonomous living; and to undertake other unpaid family, social and cultural contributions to the society in a given country. In this pursuit, the AAI offers the all-important breakdown of results by gender. The AAI will be available online during 2013 and accessible to researchers and policymakers for use and further extension. The tool would, therefore, allow policy-makers to set their own targets, adapted to the specific circumstances of their country.

For further information please contact: Asghar Zaidi, mailto:Asghar.Zaidi@soton.ac.uk or mailto:Zaidi@euro.centre.org

Publications


Edited by Daniel Beland and Kathrin Komp

Summary:
Population ageing is currently one of the main drivers for welfare state reforms. Policy-makers have sought to reform welfare systems to protect the growing number of older people from poverty and support them when their health declines. However, population ageing and economic crises have also raised the question of how far an extension of social protection is financially viable. To ensure a sufficient supply of resources to distribute, policy-makers have begun to focus more strongly on the potentials of healthy older people who could be productive through a prolonged working life, volunteering, or care-giving in their families. This supplement discusses the old age policies guided by the idea of protection and those guided by the idea of production and provides international examples for both kinds of policy-making.
Conferences and Events

What is Old Age? New Perspectives from the Humanities
University of Warwick, UK.
February, 23 2013

The conference will draw on the expertise of scholars from across the humanities to offer new perspectives on the ways in which we define and explain old age. The key objective of the day will be to gather a range of responses to the question “What is old age” and to explore the range of responses to it that have appeared in different times and places.

See:
http://www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/oa

IAGG: International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
World Congress, Seoul, Korea
June 23-27

The largest international congress of its kind will bring together leading gerontologists, geriatrics scholars, policy decision-makers, professional activists, related companies, and researchers.

Regular registration until April 2013
See: http://www.iagg2013.org

Book Tip

Dementia Studies
Written by Anthea Innes
Sage Publications
Year of publication: 2009

This book charts the development of dementia studies from a sociological and social science perspective. It draws upon the theoretical framework of the sociology of knowledge and sociology of health and illness to explore the construction of “what we know about dementia” – focusing on three main approaches to dementia: biomedical, social-psychological and social-gerontological– as well as how these knowledges shape research, policies, politics and care. The book further contextualizes dementia by considering the political, economic and social concerns surrounding dementia and dementia care, while not losing sight of the impact of dementia on families and carers. The book concludes with a chapter that proposes a model for dementia studies, grounded in the sociology of knowledge, that is reflexive, attentive to power-knowledge relations, and seeks to develop a research agenda that incorporates the values of social inclusion and citizenship. The book is easy to read and engaging. It will be of particular interest to students and researchers wanting a critical, sociologically oriented overview of dementia, and the thinking and research that has constructed this rapidly developing body of knowledge.

This book tip was written by Albert Banerjee, Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

If you would like to write a book tip for the next issue of the newsletter, please contact Albert Banerjee at balbertb@yorku.ca

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.