

Ageing in Europe

Newsletter of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe

Issue 09/July 2013

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE RESEARCH NETWORK BOARD

We will elect a new Research Network Board during our business meeting at the upcoming conference in Turin (August 28-31). Colleagues who are interested can nominate themselves or other suitable candidates for this board. Researchers at all stages of their career can stand for the Board, but they should ideally be specialized in the sociology of ageing and be familiar with the activities of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe. A precondition for candidature is to be in good

standing with the Research Network, which means that the person concerned has paid their membership fee to the European Sociological Association, together with their additional Research Network Membership fee. If you would like to be a candidate for election or to nominate somebody else, please send us an e-mail. If you would like to know more about the Board before you make a decision, you can, of course, also e-mail us. You can reach us via coordinators@ageing-in-europe.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Journals

Problematizing Gendered Ageing in the New Economy

Gender Work and Organization

This special issue seeks to challenge the 'add age and stir' (to paraphrase Bernard et al, 2001) approach to ageing at work. Rather than view ageing as a post-hoc theoretical or empirical consideration when researching gender, masculinity or sexuality, submissions are encouraged to explore how ageing and gender *inter alia* is experienced, disrupted, challenged. The editors also invite papers to explore the intersections, clashes and power differentials that emerge in the dialectical constitution of gender, age and ageing in the New Economy.

Particularly welcome are papers that focus on those individuals or groups who sit on the margins of organizations and organizing systems, either empirically, including the long-

term unemployed or discouraged or groups often ignored in current accounts that implicitly equate 'work' with a traditional notion of paid, fixed labour or theoretically, such as a studies which challenge Western-centric conceptions of ageing.

Deadline for paper submissions is November 30, 2013.

For more information: Dr. Kathleen Riach (kathleen.riach@monash.edu), Prof. Wendy Loretto (wendy.loretto@ed.ac.uk) or Dr. Clary Krekula (clary.krekula@kau.se).

"Popularizing Dementia" – Public Expressions and Representations of Forgetfulness

Aging Studies: Thematic Volume Fall/Winter 2014

Eds.: Mark Schweda (Göttingen) & Aagje Swinnen (Maastricht)

We would like to invite contributions from a range of disciplines, such as the humanities, social and cultural gerontology, cultural studies, philosophy and bioethics, as well as from different national backgrounds. Possible questions are: What are the theoretical and critical implications of the popularization of dementia? What problems does it involve? For example, how does it change public and professional perceptions of healthy and unhealthy aging? Where does popular culture promote a demedicalization of dementia and initiate alternative, creative or critical counter-discourses that help to express a fuller range of perspectives? And where does it just reproduce and enforce reduced, distorted or otherwise problematic images and stereotypes of dementia, e.g. the focus on cognitive decline and memory loss, that obscure or repress other viewpoints? What influence do different national cultures, health care systems and socio-political traditions have on the ways dementia is culturally framed? How can the perspectives of those affected be recognized and communicated in popular culture?

Deadline for abstract submission September 15, 2013

Please submit an abstract and a short CV to Mark Schweda (mark.schweda@medizin.uni-goettingen.de). Abstracts should comprise approximately 1.000-1.250 words and give information on the research topic and question, the theoretical and methodological approach pursued, and the main arguments and conclusions. Prospective authors will be asked to submit their full manuscripts (10.000 words maximum, exceptions possible) by March 15th 2014. All manuscripts will undergo peer review.

For more information contact: Mark Schweda or Aagje Swinnen (a.swinnen@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

Conferences

2nd Conference of the European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS)

8th International Conference on Cultural Gerontology

April 10-12, 2014

National University Ireland, Galway,

This conference – “Meaning and Cultures, Exploring the Life course” – aims to deepen empirical, theoretical and reflective approaches to the field of cultural gerontology. It will explore ways in which practices and interpretations shape the experience of ageing, making its impacts more or less habitable and offering resources that human beings can shape and change. The creation and experience of meaning during the life course is a central feature of this topic. Equally, it will be important to challenge social processes connected with ageing that promote exclusion and inequality, and the narratives that support or excuse them. The Conference will thus welcome research into the process of ageing in its diverse cultural and social manifestations.

Deadline for submitting abstracts for posters, papers and symposia is: September 30, 2013

For more information:

<http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=213>

8th Annual International Conference on Sociology

Athens, Greece

May 5-8, 2014

The Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) will be organizing the 8th Annual International Conference on Sociology, 5-8 May 2014, to be held in Athens, Greece.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars and students from all areas of Sociology, Social Work and other related fields. Theoretical and empirical research papers will be considered.

Deadline for abstract submission October 7, 2013.

Submit using the following for:

<http://www.atiner.gr/2014/FORM-SOC>.

For more information:

<http://www.atiner.gr/sociology.htm>.

22nd Nordic Congress of Gerontology

Gothenburg, Sweden

May 25-28, 2014

The 22nd Nordic Congress of Gerontology will take place from May 25-28, 2014 in Gothenburg, Sweden. The congress will continue its tradition of emphasizing the multidisciplinary aspects of aging within a life course perspective. The congress theme “Age Well - Chal-

allenges for Individuals and Society,” highlights notions concerning functioning and well-being, despite the threats and challenges confronting aging individuals. The main track of the congress includes sessions on multiple aspects of aging, from cell to society. In addition, there will be a sub-track for research and development (R&D) and applied gerontology. All main sessions are in English

Deadlines

for symposium proposals: October 1st, 2013

for abstract submission: January 15, 2014

For more information see: www.22nkg.com

Deadline for abstract submission for the open paper sessions and joint sessions: September 30, 2013 24:00 GMT

Submit abstracts online via:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2014/cfp.cgi>

Notification of acceptance will take place by November 30, 2013.

For more information see: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/rc/rc.php?n=RC11>

**The Sociology of Aging,
@ the ISA World Congress, 2014**

Yokohama, Japan

July 13-19, 2014

The RC11 'Sociology of Ageing' is accepting abstracts for the International Sociological Association's ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014.

There will be a variety of session formats, including: Open Paper Sessions, Symposia, Joint Sessions, as well as a Presidential Session, an Integrative Session, and two Authors Meet their Critics sessions.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Death, dying and disposal conference: Where theory meets practice.

September 5-8, 2013.

Open University, Milton Keynes, UK

Held under the auspices of The Association for the Study of Death and Society, DDD11 will bring together practitioners and academics from a range of disciplines in the humanities and practice. This year's conference theme "Where theory meets practice" will explore how ideas impact upon the reality of death and dying and how practice impacts upon ideas. We will include the role of literature, empirical research, art, history, religion and cultural diversity in a range of keynote presentations and invited papers from peer reviewed abstracts.

Deadline for registration: July 31, 2013

For more information:

<http://www8.open.ac.uk/health-and-social-care/main/research/research-events/death-dying-and-disposal-11>

British Society of Gerontology's 42nd Annual Conference.

September 11-13, 2013

Oxford, UK

The Oxford Institute of Population Ageing is hosting the next British Society of Gerontology annual conference in September 2013. The conference will take place from 11th to 13th September 2013 at Keble College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

Deadline for registration, August 1, 2013

For more information see:

<http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/bsg>

Mirror Mirror: Representations and Reflections on age and ageing.

October 29-30, 2013

London, UK

London College of Fashion is proud to host this two-day event designed to provoke fresh perspectives on age and ageing in relation to culture and fashion. It will comprise traditional academic papers from scholars who have examined ageing and culture as well as interactive performance events, works of art designed by LCF students working in collaboration with older people and the screening of films about later life. A central aim of the event will be to investigate and interrogate cultural articulations of ageing and old age. The category 'age' will be re-considered, as will the categories 'fashion' and 'beauty'.

For more information see:

<http://newsevents.arts.ac.uk/event/mirror-mirror-representations-and-reflections-on-age-and-ageing/>

10th Annual Making Sense of Dying and Death conference.

November 7-9, 2013.

Athens, Greece.

This inter- and multi-disciplinary conference explores dying and death and the ways culture impacts care for the dying, the overall experience of dying, and ways the dead are remembered. Over the past three decades, scholarship in thanatology has increased dramatically. This particular conference seeks a broad array of perspectives that explore, analyze, and/or interpret the myriad interrelations and interactions that exist between death and culture. Culture not only presents and portrays ideas about "a good death" and norms that seek to achieve it, culture also operates as both a vehicle and medium through which meaning about death is communicated and understood.

For more information see: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/making-sense-of/dying-and-death/call-for-papers/>

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Old Age In Europe

Editors: Kathrin Komp & Marja Aartsen
A Textbook of Gerontology
Series: SpringerBriefs in Aging
2013

This book introduces scholars to the most important developments, theories, concepts, and discussions in ageing studies – always keeping an eye on the current situation in Europe. Each chapter adopts the perspective of a different discipline, e.g. public health, sociology, economics, or technology. To make the explanations easy to understand, the book includes learning tools such as learning objectives, multiple choice questions, and a glossary.

For more information see:

<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/population+studies/book/978-94-007-6133-9>

Journals

One century of life histories in Europe – special issue

The Journal of “Advances in Life Course Research” has a SHARELIFE special issue - “One century of life histories in Europe.” The introductory article briefly Presents SHARE – “the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe” - and SHARELIFE, which collected 30,000 life histories of SHARE respondents from 14 European countries. This study provides unique data infrastructure for interdisciplinary research on the various influences of contextual structures on the lives of Europeans during the last century until today. The articles in the special issue look into the effects of childhood conditions and life course events on old age outcomes such as health status, socio-economic situation and life satisfaction of the population 50+ in different European welfare states.

For more information see:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/10402608/18/1>

Book Tip

Researching Later Life and Ageing

Edited by Miranda Leontowitsch
Palgrave Macmillan
Year of publication: 2012

Qualitative research is becoming increasingly popular in ageing studies, not least because it is well suited to surfacing the oft silenced voice of older persons. However, studying ageing qualitatively exposes the researcher to particular challenges and delights that are well presented in this collection of essays.

This volume is organized in three parts, the first contextualizing current assumptions around ageing and setting forth important

themes for future inquiry. The second part explores under-researched areas and the methodological challenges and opportunities they present. The final section delves into traditional and novel qualitative methods. Worth noting too, each chapter ends with an annotated reading list, providing explanations of why the author found the listed material helpful in understanding ageing or conducting their research.

Taken together, this collection of essays explores a wide variety of methodological techniques, from popular methods such as interviewing to less common approaches, such as the use of PowerPoint vignettes and

photography – always in the context of ageing. The volume sheds lights on the some of the special considerations that may arise when researching older populations and addresses implications for research design and conduct. For instance, one essay discusses the use of focus groups to study emotionally challenging subjects such as end-of-life care, another addresses the experience of a younger researcher interviewing older men, and others explores the use of multiple methods to produce rich data on sensitive topics, such as sexuality in later life or to engage those with learning difficulties and cognitive impairments. The volume is also rich with reflexive accounts illuminating how the research was conducted, with authors sharing field notes, strategies used to enter the field, manage gatekeepers, gain trust and negotiate insider/outsider status.

This volume is about more than methodology, raising a number of theoretical questions that may inform future research. Most notably, as Barbara Marshall outlines in her Afterword, this collection of essays troubles the categories of “aging” and “old age,” drawing attention to the heterogeneity of human experience. The volume also takes up a consideration of the

embodied dimensions of aging, opening up theoretical and methodological questions sensitive to the intersections of gender, race and sexuality – notably including reflexive considerations of the embodied dimensions of researchers themselves engaging with older participants or their own conceptions and biases about growing old. There is much here to stimulate creative thinking about ageing and, as Marshall concludes, the volume “underscores the importance of qualitative research for posing and exploring new questions and expanding agendas for research” (200).

This book tip was written by Albert Banerjee, CIHR Post doctoral 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.