



Ageing *in* Europe

Newsletter

Issue 33, March 2023

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Newsletter of the ESA Research Network on Ageing in Europe (RN01)



Message from the Coordinator of the Network

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Newsletter of the ESA Research Network on Ageing in Europe!

This newsletter brings you some hand-picked gems from the field of ageing research.

In this issue we have a fascinating report on research about the challenges older prisoners face in facilities designed specifically for younger individuals. This German study has been undertaken by Andrea Kenkmann, Liane Meyer, Sandra Verhülsdonk and Christian Ghanem.

Our PhD highlight in this issue comes from Belgium, University of Liège: Félicien de Heusch has been investigating ageing migrants' transnational practices and networks in the context of body repatriation and survivors' pensions management between Europe and Senegal. We also feature a book edited by David Lain, Sarah Vickerstaff and Mariska van der Horst called 'Older Workers in Transition: European Experiences in a Neoliberal ERA' (Bristol University Press).

There is nothing so stable as change! As scholars in ageing – a gradual process involving a multitude of changes – we are all more than familiar with that thought. Just a year ago Lucie Galčanová Batista signed her first newsletter as the Coordinator of the Research Network. In the year that has passed since, she has unfortunately had to step down from the position due to an illness – and I stepped up from the Co-coordinator position to take on this role.

I'm very happy to report that Lucie is recovering well. And I'm also honoured to work with a wonderful team of Board Members in the Research Network. In this newsletter, I wish especially to give a shoutout to our newsletter team – Oana Ciobanu, Marcos Bote, Konrad Turek and Sunwoo Lee.

Another change worth noting here is that our parent organisation European Sociological Association (ESA) has adjusted its conference schedule. Instead of the next ESA conference being organized in 2023, which would align with the biennial format, the next event is going to be held in August 2024, in Porto, Portugal. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes for the forthcoming spring! The polar night has officially ended in even the northernmost parts of my home country Finland. Perhaps that piece of information can bring a ray of light to our hearts, too?

Jenni Spännäri,

University Lecturer, Church and Social Studies, University of Helsinki

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Eastern Finland

Save the date!

ESA RN01 Symposium (2-3 November 2023), Málaga, Spain

Ageing, Sustainable Societies and Climate change: Opportunities and Threats for Societies, Research and Policy



Building sustainable societies requires attention to ecological, economic, social and ethical aspects of the societal development. This congress adds population ageing to this equation and asks if and how issues of ageing of populations and older people as actors are taken into account in developing sustainable societies. Sustainable development is strongly linked to climate change -one of the major challenges of our times. Older people are a vital element of the climate change puzzle and a group that is particularly vulnerable to the negative consequences of these processes. Climate change debates have moved to the centre of politics and public debates in Europe and worldwide, while in research on sociology of ageing (and related disciplines) many questions remain yet to be investigated in-depth:

First, the consequences of climate change on older people are undisputed, in particular regarding the risk of poorer health outcomes, increased mortality, and significant health inequalities. In addition, natural disasters, expected to multiply by climate change, intersect with myriads of other threats to older people's wellbeing and health, including poverty and disadvantage associated with racism and exclusion. Climate change also increases vulnerability of older people with existing mental health conditions and may trigger new mental health conditions among older people. Second, older people may develop various coping strategies to deal with climate challenges, such as heat waves or natural disasters. These strategies may reflect inequalities in resources and opportunities of older people, including their housing and living conditions, health status, care responsibilities and social networks. Climate change adaptation plans and policies currently mostly ignore this heterogeneity.

Third, older generations are often blamed for being responsible for creating the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and not contributing to the climate change movement. The question remains how a social contract across generations could look like to tackle climate change and mitigating increases in greenhouse gas emissions, and which positive visions of a sustainable future for all generations may be derived (and how).

The conference theme highlights the urgency of challenging intra-generational and inter-generational inequalities and the need to develop inclusive innovations to guide more effective and fair research, policy and practice in ageing societies. More theoretical and methodological focus on under-researched areas at the interrelations of climate change and sociology of ageing are needed in order to advance more inclusive, relevant research that informs creative policy designs and practical supports translating into more inclusive societies also in the context of climate change.

We welcome individual and team contributions from the sociology of ageing, social gerontology and related academic fields. The symposium is not exclusively addressed to researchers working on climate change but invites researchers from different fields to reflect on potential implications of climate change for older people's living situations, such as:

- Intra-generational and inter-generational inequalities (incl. aspects on intergenerational justice, climate justice and intergenerational coalitions)
- Ageism, age-related exclusion and inclusion
- Resilience, health, care and wellbeing in older age (incl. the climate-health nexus, gender differences, impact of climate change on unpaid care)
- Transformations in ageing processes and experiences (incl. in Europe and/or the Global South)
- Sustainable living of all generations (incl. aspects of tackling environmental pollution, developing sustainable strategies for mobility, food systems, housing and urban planning).
- Research methodologies and power relationships within research, policy and practice interventions
- Roles of various stakeholders in ageing-related agendas and policies

Conference: IMPORTANT DATES

5 May 2023

Call for abstracts opens

15 June 2023

Deadline for symposium and individual abstracts

30 June 2023

Notification acceptance

TBA

Registration opens

15 August 2023

End of registration for speakers

Older Workers in Transition: European Experiences in a Neoliberal ERA (Bristol University Press). *Editors: David Lain, Sarah Vickerstaff and Mariska van der Horst*

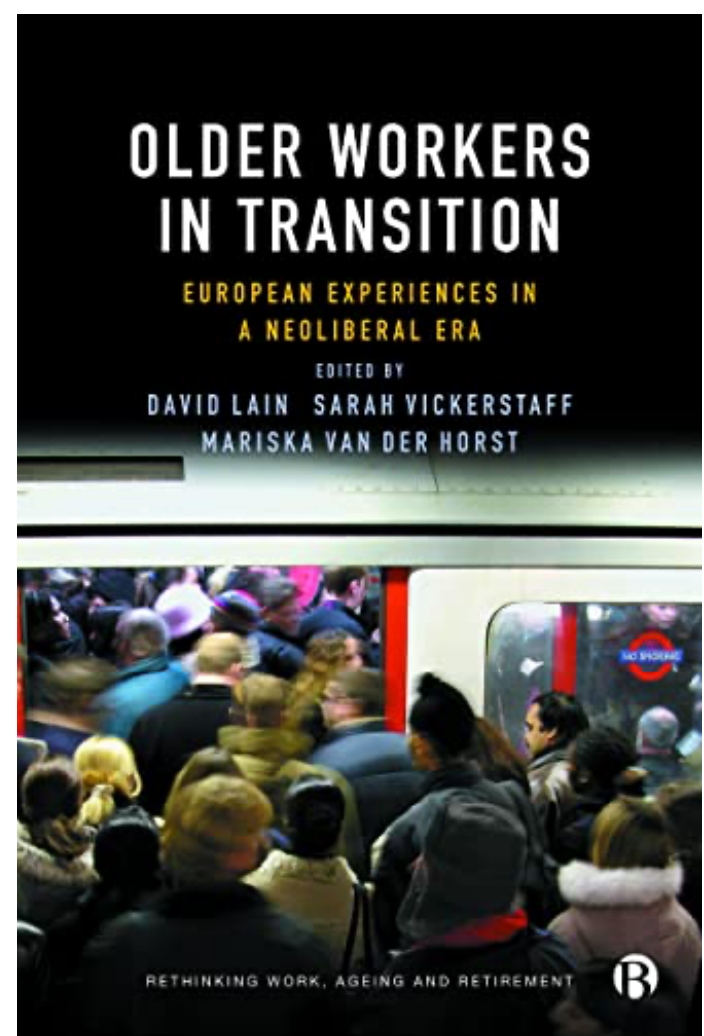
By David Lain

Newcastle University

Since the early 2000s there has been a trend towards working longer, as a result of rising pension ages, a reduction in financial support for those leaving work early, and other financial pressures. Governments in Europe often present this as being unproblematic, as if people simply need to work a few more years in their jobs. However, not everyone is in a secure job that they will be able to continue doing into older age, as illustrated by the disproportionate increase in economic inactivity among UK over-50s since the pandemic began. So what happens to people, and what are their experiences, when they cannot simply continue working a bit longer in a job; when they need to make a 'job transition' in older age and move into new work?

In our new book, 'Older Workers in Transition', we reveal the challenges older workers face when attempting to make job transitions. Leading scholars draw on qualitative research to explore the 'lived experiences' of older workers in a range of European countries. We define job transitions broadly, to include job redeployment and job mobility, temporary employment, attempted transitions from unemployment, work beyond state pension age and transitions into retirement.

Part 1 of the book introduces the older workers transitions in a neoliberal era. Chapter 1 is an extended introduction by the editors setting the theoretical context. A key argument is that the job experiences of older workers in the book reflect the wider context of 'neoliberal responsabilisation'. This political trend has shifted responsibility onto the older person to 'choose' to take whatever job opportunities are available to them, while providing limited support to help them make such transitions. This is illustrated by the example of age discrimination legislation, which in some countries led to an abolition of mandatory retirement ages. This is sometimes presented as enabling people to choose to work longer. At the same time, however, financial opportunities that would facilitate a choice to stop working have declined, because state pension ages have risen and access to health and unemployment benefits have reduced. In this context, narratives about 'freedom' are used by policy makers and employers to get older people to take greater responsibility for their employment outcomes, while ignoring the reality that age discrimination and a host of other factors continue to restrict individuals' real opportunities.



The second chapter in Part 1 is by Chris Phillipson. This plots the development of retirement in the 1950s and 1960s, and the move towards extended working lives since the 1990s. This move to extended working lives, it is argued, coincided with the rise of more precarious forms of employment. Chris Phillipson suggests that these changes were often presented as offering people more choice, but in reality they resulted in greater degrees of risk.

Part 2 presents European experiences of older worker transitions, with chapters drawing on qualitative research to focus on a specific country (or countries). Across the chapters, we find that notions of 'freedom', 'choice' and 'responsibility' were sometimes (but not always) used in the language some older workers. Most of the older workers in the book arguably responded to the need to make work-related transitions through 'psychological reactance'. In other words, under conditions of uncertainty, and while needing to continue working, individuals strove to restore personal control by taking whatever job opportunities were available to them.

This was illustrated by the chapter on older workers in a UK local government authority facing austerity by David Lain, Sarah Vickerstaff and Mariska van der Horst. Some older workers had lost their previous roles in a restructuring process and had to compete for new jobs internally via a redeployment scheme. HR presented redeployment as offering opportunities for all ages, but older workers rarely saw it in this way and none of those interviewed had progressed upwards as a result of it. In this context, some older individuals who had lost their previous role sought to restore certainty in an anxiety-inducing situation by taking lower-level or less desirable jobs through redeployment.

In other chapters we also see examples of older people who were resigned to the fact they had reduced options because of their age, but who still sought out opportunities that were available to them. Natalie Burnay explores temporary employment in Belgium; in this chapter Serge, a temporary worker aged 54, said: “at my age I didn’t have much chance of finding a stable job... The only solution that was interesting for him [the employer] was to hire me as a temporary worker”. Likewise, Emma Garavaglia’s chapter, which examines unemployment in Italy, presents interviewees on the margins of employment struggling in the face of adversity to continue working into older age.

More broadly we see older workers facing some similar constraints across the book as a whole, even though the countries were deliberately selected because they have historically been categorised as having different welfare states and varieties of capitalism. Clary Krekula’s chapter on internal job mobility among older male manual workers in Sweden highlights individuals failing to benefit from ‘positive’ internal job mobility; this has parallels with the UK local government chapter. Anna Hokema’s chapter on divorced women working beyond pension age found financial motivations for doing so in both Germany and the UK.

The book also highlights some of the inequalities that emerge in this context of ‘choice’ and ‘responsibility’. For example, the chapter by Áine Ní Léime on Ireland found that older teachers interviewed had typically amassed good occupational pensions and expected to retire before state pension age, while most professional carers had to continue working for financial reasons.

The final chapter, in the Part 3 of the book, discusses retirement and responsabilisation by drawing together the arguments of the book and their implications for future research. Clearly job transitions don’t offer the freedom to continue working that is often assumed. We think this book makes an important contribution by going beyond aggregated statistics, to help us understand how work is experienced and navigated by older people in the current neoliberal policy and employment landscape.

David Lain

Lain, David, Sarah Vickerstaff, and Mariska van der Horst, eds. *Older Workers in Transition: European Experiences in a Neoliberal Era*. Policy Press, 2022. 214 pages, ISBN: 1529215005

Félicien de Heusch

Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies, University of Liège, Belgium



Félicien de Heusch is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) of the University of Liège (Belgium). His research on transnational social protection policies and practices has been conducted in the framework of the European Research Council (ERC)-funded project “Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (Post-)Crisis Europe” (MiTSoPro). His ethnographic research focuses on diaspora policies and ageing migrants’ transnational practices and networks in the context of body repatriation and survivors’ pensions management between Europe and Senegal.

Moral economy and post mortem transnational social protection: the management of body repatriation and survivors’ pensions between Europe and Senegal

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Death in the context of migration remains a key concern for ageing migrants and transnational families that often consider it as a “bad death” (Thomas, 1975) that jeopardizes community and economic transnational ties. It also often reveals the interests of certain states in granting transnational social protection to bereaved families. This is the case for two key practices and benefits shaping deceased migrants and their survivors’ transnational social protection: body repatriation and survivors’ pensions.

The repatriation of bodies has now become a rather widespread practice among many migrant communities around the world. So far, existing studies on this topic have primarily focused on facets related to identity and rituals (Berthod, 2006; Petit, 2005; Solé Arraràs, 2014), economic aspects (Chaïb, 2000; Lestage, 2012) or political concerns (Balkan, 2015; Félix, 2011) concerning the repatriation of bodies to origin countries. These studies have documented that a diverse array of actors – i.e. migrants, transnational families, community organizations, but also the state or market – engage in the “good death” of migrants. However, the existing scholarship has not yet led an in-depth exploration into the complex interplay of power between these actors which often act in solidarity, but also in competition, for accessing the moral resources of body repatriation (de Heusch & Lacroix, in press). Granting social protection to ageing migrants and their transnational families involves mobilizing different transnational social protection “infrastructures” (Meeus et al. 2019; Xiang & Lindquist, 2014) including, among others, the so-called “diaspora infrastructures” (Lafleur & Vintila, 2020). Within this context, destination states often adapt to migrant workers’ mobility and their death by allowing for the exportability of old-age and survivors’ pensions. A key requirement to access such pensions abroad is to ensure their eligibility, which often also leads to the emergence of new forms of mobilities (Holzman et al, 2005; Lestage, 2017). I argue that accessing survivors’ pensions could be interpreted as a form of post mortem social protection that is negotiated far beyond and often late after the migrant’s death, a negotiation that involves not only states, but also the civil society and, in many instances, survivors themselves.

My research is built on a multi-sited ethnography conducted between 15 cities in Belgium, Spain and Senegal. It involved Senegalese migrants, transnational families, civil servants, associative leaders and entrepreneurs. The case of Senegalese migration highlights a particular concern for body repatriation, while also informing about changing transnational social protection infrastructures. Belgium and Spain represent two European destination countries that have witnessed different patterns of Senegalese migration and which further count with different means to respond to these concerns regarding body repatriation. For 3 years (2019-2021), I conducted participatory observation and 75 semi-structured interviews with a diverse range of actors including body repatriation funds, street vendors’ syndicates, consular representations in Europe, but also migrants’ families, cemetery administrators, diaspora institutions and religious brotherhoods in Senegal. The Spanish embassy and the Italian trade union in Dakar constituted two key settings and infrastructures where I could observe the process and dynamics surrounding the access to pensions of returned elderly migrants and survivors. During the pandemic, together with my colleague Carole Wenger, I further conducted an online ethnography aiming to explore states’ reactions and the associative campaigns regarding body repatriation impeachment in Senegal and Tunisia.

I will now briefly summarize some of the key findings of my research. First, body repatriation emerges as a costly practice that involves activating different sources of funding, usually in the distrust of private insurance. Such funding sources are often mobilized simultaneously, acting as different (although complementary and sometimes in conflict) transnational social protection infrastructures shaped by the same moral authority. The moral approach was fruitful to show that ensuring body repatriation is at the core of the moral economy embedded in migrant organizations and diaspora policies (de Heusch et. al 2022). This is particularly the case in tragic circumstances, such as assassinations, accidents or COVID-19 related deaths, which turns migrants’ “bad deaths” into very bad deaths and crystallizes the engagement for body repatriation.

Very bad deaths incentivise increased mobilization as they disturb and challenge the legitimacy of the actors involved. Commitment to dead individuals also reveals a commitment by or through the dead, converted into dead-emblems (de Heusch, in press).

Second, analysis on the management of the arrival of bodies in Senegal's main necropolis revealed the interplay of different logics operating at the intersection between the market sector, public services and religious authorities. These different actors tend to collaborate and redefine the contours and stakes of their participation in managing the arrival of bodies by mobilizing religious moral values and obligations. The concept of moral economy has thus allowed me to identify the tensions between these actors (based on their legal or religious obligations), but also the moral obligations expected by them and, finally, the changing nature of these expectations in the context of a health crisis.

Third, it is important to note that, at first glance, death could be interpreted as the final step in the provision of transnational social protection. However, while repatriating the body, burying it according to religious practice, or organizing the funeral generally responds to the moral and collective imperative of ensuring a "good death" for the deceased, the process of social protection is not completed when the funeral takes place. My research on the transnational management of survivors' pensions by the former states of residence of the deceased and the access to these pensions by families in origin countries testifies to this continuity of social protection even after death. While the existence, negotiation or absence of diaspora infrastructures such as Bilateral Social Security Agreements may directly constrain the access to survivors' pensions in Senegal, the conditions of the deceased migrants' lives or work can shape the post-mortem economy of their families in origin countries. Although this management reveals a tension between states and extended families' understanding of the conditions of access to survivors' pensions, such pensions often stand out as a form of financial support to families that was not available during the migrant's life.

Funding

This PhD research was conducted within the framework of the research project "Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (post-) crisis Europe (MiTSoPro)" that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, under Grant Agreement No 680014.

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Being imprisoned when old presents a double burden to this vulnerable group. Researchers from Germany have investigated their situation and challenges from different perspectives.

Prisons are built with a younger population in mind. The buildings are rarely suited to the needs of older people, yet demographic changes have led to a steady increase of prisoners over the age of 50. In Germany in 2022, almost 17% of all prisoners have reached that age (Statistisches Bundesamt 2022), yet little is known about the characteristics and needs of this population. The mixed-methods study of Meyer (2022) shows that this group has significant health and functional limitations. Her survey of 222 male prisoners (50+) in Rhineland-Pfalz reveals that 27% have already five or more chronic diseases compared to only 8% of a comparable extramural group. A similar percentage (25%) has self-reported trouble walking for 20 minutes and 12% struggle to climb stairs. For many chronic conditions, older incarcerated persons show double to quadruple of the prevalence rates of the extramural population, such as heart failure (17% versus 09%) or mental illness (20% versus 5%).

The results from the 29 interviews that Meyer conducted show that dealing with incontinence in a dignified way within the prison context can be challenging. Overall, 9% of the sample reported urinary incontinence, though the prevalence may be even higher due to a reluctance to talk about such stigmatized topics. One study participant reported that only five sets of underwear were allocated per week, so a daily change of underwear was not possible; another explained that additional arrangements had to be made to dispose of dirty laundry in a more discreet manner. Incontinence can also prevent (older) detainees from participating in daily yard exercise because toilets are not available in the yards. One of the participants said: "It's one of those things, when you have to pee you have to do it right away, you don't last long. I don't make a fool of myself by peeing in my pants[...] It's kind of embarrassing then." (PI18) Meyer's research shows that 31% of older adults in prison do not participate in yard exercise or participate less than once a week, and 62% participate in exercise less than once a week or never, suggesting that prisons are inadequately prepared to meet the needs of older adults.

As little data is available on the cognitive performance of this group in Germany, Verhülsdonk (2021a, 2021b) conducted a pilot project with support of the Ministry of Justice in North Rhine Westfalia on the question of the cognitive performance and the frequency of depressive symptoms of older prisoners. Participants were recruited in 9 prisons. The cognitive screening instruments Mini-Mental Status Examination (MMSE) and the DemTect were used to assess global cognition. Executive functions were tested with the Trail Making Test and the Frontal-Assessment-Battery. The Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) was used to assess participants' affective state. Sociodemographic data and information on risk factors were requested as well.

116 imprisoned people (106 men and 10 women) aged 53 to 90 years participated in the study. Using the MMSE with age- and education-corrected z-scores, about 52% of the prisoners showed marginal or impaired global cognition scores, with 23.3% showing a severe cognitive impairment. Using the DemTect, about 53% of the inmates were classified

as being cognitively impaired. Up to 50% of the prisoners showed deficits in executive functioning. These figures are significantly higher than the comparative data for the general population.

In her sample, 48% reported at least mild depressive symptoms, which is also a significantly higher prevalence of depressive symptomatology than in the general population aged 60 years and older. Verhülsdonk's recommendations for the prison system include a routine evaluation of the cognitive and affective state and guidelines-oriented treatment of cognitive and depressive symptoms in older prisoners. The implementation of dementia prevention strategies needs to be strengthened.

For functional as well as cognitive health, further data are needed to examine the longitudinal development of the described deficits and to take into account other factors such as prison conditions.

Whereas the focus of Meyer's and Verhülsdonk's research is on prisoners' health, Kenkmann and Ghanem explore their views on ageing in prisons. The 64 (61 male and 3 female) participants (60+) from 10 Bavarian prisons revealed many anxieties about their situation in prison as well as their future. Deteriorating health and the perceived insufficient medical services were stress factors for the older prison population. Several worried about dying in prison or loved ones dying without them having opportunities to take leave. Another major concern is the lack of meaningful activities during the day, as there is no obligation to work for prisoners over the retirement age and available work is given to younger prisoners. Some participants would prefer to be housed in separate wings or departments for older prisons; such facilities exist in some regions in Germany. Separate provisions prevent older people from being victimized, but also offer opportunities to participate in daily activities such as cooking and offer a range of suitable leisure and educational activities that help maintain the functional and social skills of this group and prepare them for their release (Kenkmann et al. 2022). The study shows that anxieties about the future are widespread. The lack of financial resources (no pension contributions are currently paid for work in prison), housing options, but also the reintegration in society frequently frightens older prisoners and affects their mental health. Those who maintained stable relationships during their imprisonment can feel more optimistic about the time after release.

As one older person describes his time in prison: "You feel like being in a storage locker (rented for a while and then out you come)" (T46). The lack of support combined with high health and social care needs highlight the high risk of a further deterioration of this group. More research is needed to understand reintegration trajectories and to develop support interventions that can be implemented in all prisons.

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Network

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, produce 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. If you have any questions or you want to contribute to the Newsletter, do not hesitate to **CONTACT US!**

www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn01-ageing-europe

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Jenni Spännäri

Jenni is a Finnish researcher in sociology of religion and social gerontology, at the University of Helsinki and the University of Eastern Finland. Her research interests include: religion, spirituality and values, wisdom and compassion, innovativity and working life, retirement migration and life course perspectives. Recent projects include the international project Transmission of religion across generations - project funded by the John Templeton foundation, and the CoPassion (The Revolutionary power of compassion) -project funded by the Finnish funding agency for Technology and Innovation. Jenni is a part of the local organizing committee of the forthcoming RN01 Midterm conference. She joined the board in 2011 and since 202 she is the Coordinator of the network.



Anna Urbaniak

Anna is a social sciences researcher with expertise in spatial aspects of ageing, age-friendly cities and communities, life-course transitions, the re/production of social inequalities across the life course. She works as a researcher at the University of Vienna, Austria. Her current work explores the gendered nature of the pathway from early life socio-economic conditions, micro-, meso- and macro-influences to exclusion from social relations in later life, and the consequences for health and wellbeing in later life. She joined the Research Network and the Board in 2016 and since 2022 she is the Co-coordinator of the Network.



Marcos Bote

Marcos is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of Murcia. He teaches courses related to quantitative methods and sociology of Ageing. He has been awarded with post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Surrey (Marie Curie Position), Portland State University (USA) and UCLA (Fulbright Position). His papers have been published in international journals such as *Social Science and Medicine*, *PLOSOne* and *Sociological Research Online*. He currently research topics of masculinity and sexuality and Ageing.



Oana Ciobanu

Oana is professor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Faculty of Social Work (HETSL | HES-SO). She focuses mainly on the population of older migrants. Using qualitative and mixed-methods, Oana studies aspects like transnational migration, social networks, access and use of welfare services and vulnerability. Oana has become a member of the Research Network and of the Board in 2019. Since then she is co-editor of the newsletter.



Outi Jolanki

Outi works at the Tampere University, Faculty of Social Sciences and at the University of Jyväskylä, Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Finland. She is one of the leaders of the multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care (CoE AgeCare) which has research groups from the University of Jyväskylä, Tampere University and University of Helsinki. Her research and teaching focus mainly on qualitative research, and on the linkages between social wellbeing, housing and living environment, new models of senior housing, informal care, and care and housing policies. She joined the Board 2019.



Sunwoo Lee

Sunwoo has served as a senior researcher at the Faculty of Physical Culture, Palacký University Olomouc in Czech Republic. Sunwoo's current research is focused upon conceptualizing and examining resilience pathway underlying older adults' perceived health and well-being using longitudinal panel database. She is particularly interested in incorporating life course approach into healthy development across different life stages to promote healthy ageing. She became a member of the Research Network in 2019 and joined the Board in 2021



Andrea E. Schmidt

Andrea is a senior expert on long-term care and health care, with a focus on older people. She works at the National Institute of Public Health in Austria and looks forward to increasing visibility of the Network also within the policy world, while maintaining a high academic standard within ESA RN 1. Her publications focus on access to long-term care and health care, informal care and long-term care financing, where she combines expertise mainly from the fields of sociology and economics.



Justyna Stypińska

Justyna works at the Free University of Berlin, Institute of East European Studies, Department of Sociology, Germany. She received her PhD from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow for a dissertation on age discrimination in the labour market. She is a leader of an international project MOMENT- Making of Mature Entrepreneurship in Germany and Poland. Her research focus on ageing on the labour markets, age and gender inequalities in the life course perspective, as well as the relation between ageing, social innovation and social sustainability. She joined the Board in 2015.



Konrad Turek

Konrad is a sociologist, social researcher and data analyst working as an Assistant Professor at the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg University, the Netherlands. He is also affiliated with the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI). His research is focused on changing and ageing labour markets, development of inequalities across life courses, work at older ages and retirement process. In this context, he is particularly focused on the role of employers and organisational processes. He has also published on topics related to ageing policies, ageism and age stereotypes, and lifelong learning. He specialises in quantitative methodology and statistics. He joined the Board in 2019, and since then, he has been a co-editor of our newsletter.



Lucie Galčanová Batista

Lucie works as a Researcher at the Office for Population Studies at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. In her research and teaching, she focuses on cultural, and environmental gerontology, and on intersections of spatial, cultural and environmental sociology. She joined the Research Network and the Board in 2015 at the ESA conference in Prague. She served as organising secretary of the 4th Midterm Conference of the Network that took place in 2018 in Brno, CZ.