



RN01 - Joint sessions

15th ESA Conference, Barcelona – 31st Aug to 3rd Sept 2021

- “Doing family in times of Covid: The case of older persons” (With RN13 Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives)
- “Quantitative Analysis in Ageing Research” (With RN21 Quantitative Methods)
- “Risk and dignity in older age” (With RN22 Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty)
- “Transnational migration in old age” (With RN35 Sociology of Migration)
- “Urban Ageing: Towards an enhanced spatial perspective” (With RN37 Urban Sociology)

[Please find session abstracts below.]

Ageing in Europe (RN01) and Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives (RN13)

Doing family in times of Covid: The case of older persons

This session would like to reflect on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the confinement associated with it on families, and more broadly family networks. A particular attention is paid to older persons who have been one of the main groups marked as vulnerable. The session welcomes papers exploring new practices of 'doing family' that have emerged during this period. The partial or total confinement throughout Europe and the world have imposed new means and ways of staying in touch between younger and older family members. Simultaneously, the types of support and care received and provided by older persons within families has changed. In their turn, family ties have potentially continued to play a role for older persons' well-being and feelings of loneliness during the pandemic. We welcome papers dealing with 'doing family' and family configurations in times of Covid-19 and its implications for older persons.

Ageing in Europe (RN01) and Quantitative Methods (RN21)

Quantitative Analysis in Ageing Research

The availability of large national, cross-national and panel surveys, as well as register data, prompted the increased popularity of quantitative methods in ageing-related research. This Joint Session aims to discuss the applications, challenges and limitations of quantitative methods in ageing research, and to identify best-practices in this domain. We welcome theoretical, methodological and empirical papers related to topics such as: collecting quantitative data on ageing-related issues; measuring age and ageing: dimensions and approaches; a life course view at late-life events and transitions: sequence analysis, event history models and other approaches; multilevel and longitudinal methods in ageing research; comparative analysis of cross-national surveys in ageing research; register-data and big data in ageing research; network Analysis in ageing research; age, period, cohort methods; microsimulation techniques in ageing research; methodological aspects of social indicators in ageing research; measuring transitions (e.g. retirement), stratification and inequalities in older age; and issues related to missing data, retrospective data or attrition. Other topics linked to the session topic are also welcome.

Ageing in Europe (RN01) and Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty (RN22)

Risk and Dignity in Older Age

This joint session will explore the nature of risk and dignity in relation to older people. The management of risk is concerned with reducing the potential for harm to occur. Such considerations, however, must be balanced with recognition of the personal liberty and dignity of persons. Ageing intersects with such deliberations, as additional risks can be encountered by older people. For example, aspects of physical or mental decline in old age could increase the potential for accidents or injury. Nevertheless, it is vital also to avoid stereotypical generalisations: assumptions of decline could lead to a negative positioning and labelling of older people. A paternalistic and narrow perspective on safety could generate negative outcomes by diminishing personal autonomy and self-worth, which could themselves be encountered as a mode of harm. The evaluation of ageing in relation to risk and dignity can thus promote the need to balance potentially competing concerns, related to factors such as safety and liberty. Theoretical and empirical papers are welcomed. Moreover, an attentiveness to how older people actively handle, manage and take risks in everyday life helps underscore commonalities with other age groups and the creative subjectivities of older people.

Ageing in Europe (RN01) and Sociology of Migration (RN35)

Transnational migration in old age

There has been much written on transnational practices and on transnationalism among older migrants. The literature has gone into detail discussing various forms of transnationalism such as maintaining contact through the use of information and communication technology, sending remittances, voting in home country elections, travelling to the home country, property ownership and so on. This session would like to apply a transnational lens to the study of older populations more broadly, including those who have had a migration experience, but also those who did not have a direct experience of international migration, such as older persons who have not migrated during their life but whose adult children or friends experienced migration or were influenced by migration in a broad sense. Further, we would like to broaden our understanding of transnationalism by focusing on other locations than the home country, and include other places where one has family or friends, places of recurrent visiting, places where one accesses services and so on. Particularly, we are interested how the COVID-19 pandemic, having a special repercussion on older populations, has impacted their transnational practices. Theoretical and empirical papers, with European relevance, are equally encouraged.

Ageing in Europe (RN01) and Urban Sociology (RN37)

Urban Ageing: Towards an enhanced spatial perspective

We kindly invite you to participate in the second joint session of Research Network on Ageing, and Research Network on Urban Sociology. The organizers welcome individual and team contributions which combine sociology of ageing, social gerontology, and urban sociology perspectives. Many authors now point to the contemporary struggles over the representation of older age within and beyond the realm of the social sciences. Later life and older people are represented on one hand as a quiescent minority bearing multiple disadvantages within a social status of limited agency and increasing dependency, experiencing a loss of autonomy and so on. On the other hand, older people are also seen as a source of new political, economic, and cultural 'grey' power, as an influential actor in contemporary societies, shaping the contours of new policies and welfare regimes. These debates reflect the diversity of the experiences of ageing selves and the pluralities of life courses as well as of the institutional, political, and social changes with which the personal and individual experience is inseparably interlinked. These struggles lead also to the reformulation of the concepts of agency, autonomy, or power themselves and to the calling for their even more reflexive application in academic accounts of the human experience in later life. We would like to particularly invite papers and sessions that will discuss ageing-related issues within (but not limited to) the following topics: spatial aspects of ageing; age-friendly cities and communities; urban ageing; urban ageing policies.