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

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Message from the Coordinator of the Network

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the Newsletter of the ESA Research Network on Ageing in Europe. It is a great honour to open the February 2022 edition as a new coordinator of the ESA RN01 board.

First, I would like to take this opportunity and welcome our new board members: Sunwoo Lee, Andrea Schmidt, and Marcos Botte. You can find their short bio on p. 24. I would also like to thank those who contributed with their voluntary work to the board in the last term: Amilcar Moreira and especially Edward Tolhurst, network coordinator from 2019 to 2021. It was a pleasure to work with them. They both contributed a great deal not only to the organisational work of the board but also to the friendly and professional atmosphere in the team. We all appreciated Ed’s leadership. I, personally, received great support from him (as well as from former coordinator Dirk Hofstätter) through the process of organisation of the Midterm conference in Brno in 2018. He led our network through pandemic times that influenced our plans in many ways, especially in planning the conferences in Jyvaskyla and Barcelona. He gave a new shape to the network newsletter and, last but not least, took care of our Twitter account. He is now joining members of the network’s advisory board. Thank you, Ed!

After the successful 5th midterm conference of our network in Jyvaskyla in January 2021, we are delighted to invite you to the 6th midterm conference that will take place on July 13-15, 2022, in the beautiful city of Vienna. Its main organiser, Anna Urbaniak, will introduce the conference theme and more details on page 4. Besides informing you about the upcoming midterm conference, we would also like to reflect on the first online conference of the European Sociological Organisation. Initially planned for Barcelona, the 15th ESA Conference “Sociological Knowledges for Alternative Futures” was attended by about 5000 participants from 31 August to 3 September 2021.
Message from the coordinator

Our network organised 27 sessions and 5 joint sessions (on quantitative analysis, doing family in times of Covid, migration or urban ageing etc.). We bring you our insights from the conference on page 7. In this newsletter, you will also read about the book Understanding the Discourse of Aging: A Multifaceted Perspective edited by Vicent Salvador & Agnese Sampietro in 2020, an ongoing international research project IN-CARE: Inequality in Care and a PhD highlight presenting the work of Livia Tomás from the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed material to this newsletter. On a more personal note: We are living in times that bring unprecedented challenges to our personal and professional lives. I want to express my gratitude to network members who work effortlessly despite the uneasy circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic, according to some, is almost over. Others are not that positive. The crisis exposed many phenomena that have been discussed in gerontology and ageing studies for decades. Just to mention the tremendous consequences of social inequalities for quality of life and wellbeing in older age, the impact of formal and informal care on our daily lives, as well as the importance of reliable institutions and trustworthy political leadership. We also clearly see how local communities and neighbourhood relations can improve older people’s perception of security and help them to tackle loneliness. And last but not least, we have learned about the power of interpretations of reality in times of crisis. I wish us all that pandemic fatigue does not affect our scientific curiosity and judgement and that we manage our personal and professional challenges with kindness towards each other and ourselves.

With best wishes,

Lucie Galčanová Batista
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Upcoming! ESA RN01 Midterm Conference

Conference (13 - 15 July) & PhD workshop (11-13 July 2022)
Vienna, Austria

AGEING IN EUROPE: Towards more Inclusive Societies, Research and Policy

We are pleased to invite you to our Midterm Conference, taking place every 2nd year! After our previous amazing meeting in Jyväskylä, Finland (postponed from 2020 and organised online in 2021), we are planning to hold this event live at the University of Vienna.
The Covid-19 Pandemic brought ageing issues to the centre of politics and public debates in Europe and worldwide. 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.

We welcome individual and team contributions from the sociology of ageing, social gerontology, and related academic fields, as well as symposium proposals. We would like to particularly invite papers and sessions that will discuss ageing-related issues within (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Age-related exclusion and inclusion
- Intra-generational and inter-generational inequalities
- Transformations in ageing processes and experiences
- Health, care and wellbeing in older age
- Research methodologies and power relationships within research (in the field), policy and practice interventions
- Roles of various stakeholders in ageing-related agendas and policies
- Digital ageing

Keynote speakers:

- **Liat Ayalon**, PhD: *Research and policy implications in the field of ageism*
- **Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich**, PhD: *Changing policy context: where we are 20 years after the Second World Summit on Ageing (MIPAA)*
- **Iva Holmerová**, M.D., PhD: *The role of different policy and research interventions in the field of dementia*
- **Ricardo Rodrigues**, PhD: *Unequal care (still): Adding a time dimension to inequalities in care across time*

**Conference: IMPORTANT DATES**

- **15 January 2022**
  Registration and call for abstracts opens
- **28 February 2022**
  Deadline applications
- **7 March 2022**
  Notification acceptance of application
- **15 May 2022**
  End of registration

For more details please visit: [https://esarn01midterm.univie.ac.at/home/](https://esarn01midterm.univie.ac.at/home/)
Before the conference, we will organise a ESA RN01 PhD workshop. The workshop is designed to provide you with the unique opportunity to:

- Present your work to peers and experts in the field of ageing and gain their feedback
- Provide your feedback (10 minutes) to one of participants during the presentation session (you will get their submission beforehand to be able to prepare in-depth comments)
- Take part in the exchange between other students and mentors
- Ask any type of questions regarding your research and development of your carer and get guidance from experienced mentors during Q&A sessions
- Get to know Mentors, who are experts in ageing studies and have experience with academic career, advocacy for older people, research and policymaking.

ESA RN01 2022 welcomes submissions from PhD students who have not yet received their PhD degrees.
In late August–early September 2021, we had the pleasure to participate in ESA general conference. It was organised in Barcelona, however, the pandemic restrictions required to hold all such events online. Nevertheless, this large, diverse and multiday meeting was very successful. Naturally, it also applies to our network! As an ESA RN01 “Ageing in Europe”, we organised 36 sessions, including 9 joint sessions (with Urban Sociology, Quantitative Methods, Sociology of Families, and Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty). Let us share with you some reflections.
Quantitative Analysis in Ageing Research
Since several ESA conferences, the joint session with RN021 “Quantitative Methods” has served as a platform to discuss applications of advanced quantitative and statistical tools to study ageing and older people. We believe it is fully justified to say that all this year’s sessions presented a very high level and attracted much attention! It is not only the opinion of the organisers but also the participants. The selected 11 presentations covered various topics, including health, life course developments, inequalities in older age, pension systems and public policies, and trajectories of extending working lives. Methodologically, we covered a broad range of data types, techniques and perspectives, from cross-sectional multilevel models, through longitudinal latent growth models and sequence analysis, to demographic projections. We are sure the initiative will continue and grow in the future, so find us at the next ESA conference!

Joint session with Urban sociology
This year, following the successful cooperation initiated with the first joint session at the ESA conference in Manchester in 2019, our Research Network organised a second joint session with Research Network 37- Urban sociology. The session was called Urban Ageing: Towards an enhanced spatial perspective and aimed at discussing the following topics: spatial aspects of ageing, age-friendly cities and communities, urban ageing and urban ageing policies. The six presentations were delivered with participants from Spain, Finland, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Poland and Germany. Presentations and discussion following them highlighted the diversity of experiences of older adults in urban space leading to the conclusion that this area of research needs to be further developed. We hope to contribute to further development in this field by organising yet another joint session during the next conference. Hoping to see you there!

Studying ageing societies during the pandemic
Since the conference was delivered in the midst of pandemic, our research network organized a special session, “Ageing and Covid-19,” and two joint sessions with RN13, “Doing family in times of Covid: The case of older persons,” and with RN22, “Risk and dignity for older people amid Covid-19” all aimed at better understanding how pandemic affects older adults’ everyday experience (from micro to macro levels). Beyond those organized sessions, many scholarly works were presented across RN sessions addressing varying issues related to Covid-19 pandemic including social exclusion, ageism, well-being, leisure, and long-term care.
Ricca Edmondson memorial session

Right before the conference, we heard the sad news that one of the founders of the RN01, a former coordinator, an advisory board member and a much-loved keynote speaker Ricca Edmondson had passed away. As her passing – as well as her work – touched so many sociologists of ageing worldwide, we decided to organise a special memorial session to celebrate her contribution to sociology and ageing research. For the session, memories, stories and photos were collected from colleagues to form a slideshow, and a memorial text was written. These were presented in the special session, which continued as a discussion of the significance of Ricca Edmonson for so many, both as a scholar and a person. The participants sincerely hoped that friendliness and compassion towards others and younger colleagues, which was so characteristic of Ricca, would live on among ageing scholars.

Photo: Ricca Edmondson
Understanding the Discourse of Aging.
A Multifaceted Perspective

By the editors: Vicent Salvador & Agnese Sampietro

Aging is undoubtedly a human experience of great interest for individuals and societies. This volume appears at an appropriate point in history (although not as a result of it) which is defined by a pandemic in which the image of old age has been at the centre of a particularly sensitive debate. It includes studies of linguistics, anthropology, literature, communication and gender studies, and thereby achieves the objective of being an interdisciplinary work alluded to in its subtitle. This multifaceted aspect enables us to compare different methods, in addition, the number of fields and contexts in which discourses on aging are produced and constructed is striking. The study begins already on the front cover, which features an illustration by the artist Cristina Durán that is a perfect depiction of aging and the
stereotypes related to this process in one of the major works of Spanish literature, *La Celestina*, attributed to Fernando de Rojas.

The book is divided into four parts. The first adopts an interdisciplinary perspective, and contains contributions discussing the social construction of the image of old age: the literary and plastic perspective in the Spanish and Catalan context (Vicent Salvador); the clinical and healthcare-based approach that advocates a concept of prospective age, and emphasises the change experienced due to the constraints of old age (María Desamparados Bernat); the multimodal approach to the construction of public women and men in social media as objects or professionals of an advanced age (Esperanza Morales-Lópe) and the anthropological study of a community of cowherds in Asturias, where aging is related to many factors of social cohesion, as it relates to the society as a whole (María Cátedra).

The gender perspective is readily apparent in the second part. It reviews how women have been depicted throughout history, beginning with Phaedra, an older woman in love with her much younger stepson, with all the reflections and implications of the older woman’s sexuality (Adolf Piquer), and continuing with contemporary works in which the authors portray their grandmothers, resurrecting a generation of women who were locked into a life that had been constructed for them, adding nuance to those lives and giving them a place of honour (M. Àngels Frances-Díez). The study by Emma Domínguez-Ruè examines a contemporary female detective, Isabel Dalhousie of *The Sunday Philosophy Club*, who is far removed from the characteristics of the male detective, and distances herself from and calls into question some stereotypes of older women, by being married to a man who is younger than she is. The contribution by Antoni Maestre-Brotons considers how older men are presented in the film *Truman*, which examines the difficulty of showing the taboo of aging, disease and death among men.

*Photo: The editor, Vicent Salvador*
The third part focuses on aging in the history of literature, based on contributions on medieval literature from Joan Lluis de Corella, in which old age is associated with betrayal and deception, and is a factor that determines his characters' emotional and psychological state (Jordi Oviedo Seguer) and how Shakespeare depicts old age, and the relative concept of advanced age in his characters who are over forty years old (Vicent Montalt). More contemporary literary productions include *The Mist in the Mirror* by Susan Hill, a mirror that presents the different ages as interconnected phases of life and no clear boundary between them (Marta Miquel-Baldellou) and *The Children* and *Escaped alone*, two texts that show us very different images of old age, ranging from a healthy and active old age to characters who resist it (Núria Casado-Gual).

The final part looks at popular culture and new technologies, including cinema, comics and the virtual world. In the first two chapters, Marcos Bote and Juan Antonio Clemente-Soler and Ieva Stončikaitė consider how websites are used to find a sentimental or sexual partner. The first chapter focuses on how these tools operate and the discourse that is produced in them, while the second chapter looks at online dating from the perspective of its literary presentation in *Fear of Dying* by Erica Jong. Both the second and these first two contributions in the final part are closely associated with *The Coming of Age* by Simone de Beauvoir (1970), in which the author shows that the situations experienced by men and women in what is commonly known as old age are different. Although men are biologically more disadvantaged in the field of sexuality, it is women who are socially devalued due to their status as erotic objects.

The visual aspect is very present in Olga García-Defez’s study, which focuses on Paco Martínez Soria’s films and how the actor is represented, and how the difference between the actor’s real age and the age of the character he plays is handled. Also from a visual perspective, Martí Domínguez and Tatiana Pina examine characters in comics, which feature stereotypes of physical and sexual weakness, absent-mindedness, bad mood, technophobia, etc. Finally, Lucía Abarrategui Amado, Susana Villas-Boas and Sergio Pascual Espinilla show that a personal relationship leads to a much more nuanced perception: older
women are considered in a more positive light, generally as a result of their role as caregivers.

This book is therefore an essential study for any researcher wishing to update their knowledge of the classical - and not so classical - literature in this respect, including the aforementioned *The Coming of Age* by Simone de Beauvoir, *The long history of old age* (2005) edited by Pat Thane, and *History of Old Age: from Antiquity to the Renaissance* (1989) by Georges Minois. The highly interdisciplinary approach shows that the discourse of aging concerns many aspects of life: gender, the contradiction between the physical and the mental spheres; the representation that is constructed around people and the one that the people concerned can create themselves; the historical point in time and the cultural context from which the discourse in question is viewed, etc.

*Understanding the Discourse of Aging* can be considered as a study continuing or complementing *Discourses on the Edges of Life* (2020), which offers a very broad perspective of the concept of death from various disciplines, ranging from the medical to the literary sphere.

Going beyond ‘ethnicity’ and ‘migration background’ when studying transnational ageing processes: An inclusive sampling strategy revisited

The literature on older adults’ transnational practices has considerably expanded in the last years, focusing on older migrants or individuals with a specific nationality. This is particularly true for Switzerland. On the one hand, research in Switzerland has given much emphasis to the return and back-and-forth mobility of former labour migrants (Bolzman & Bridji, 2019; Ciobanu & Ludwig-Dehm, 2020; Soom Ammann & van Holten, 2013). On the other hand, transnational mobility patterns of Swiss older adults living or who have lived in Switzerland and spend (part of their) retirement in another country have been studied (Huber & O’Reilly, 2004; Bolzman et al., 2021). However, recent scholarship shows the relevance of inclusive research designs to provide a more diversified picture of transnational practices and lifestyles developed during...
retirement age (Bolzman & Vagni, 2017; Kahveci et al., 2020; Repetti & Calasanti, 2020; Tomás & Ravazzini, 2021). Such inclusive research designs are characterised by the search of new, innovative sampling strategies that go beyond a specific ‘ethnicity’ or ‘migration background’ as the main sampling criteria. In doing so, such research designs seek to gain new insights on transnational ageing processes of the population in general, i.e. of older adults with and without a former migration experience. The relevance of such an approach is also emphasised by transnational scholars, who critically question the predominance of these two categories in the literature analysing transnational practices and migration processes (Amelina & Faist, 2012; Dahinden, 2016).

My PhD study addresses this research gap as well as this conceptual critique. The research interest is thus not defined solely on the grounds of a specific ethnic belonging or a ‘migration background’.

On the contrary, my qualitative study was conducted with retirees living or who have lived in Switzerland and spend (part of their) retirement in Spain. In sum, my interviewees meet the following three criteria: First, they all have a connection to Switzerland, either by still residing or by having once lived and worked in this country. Second, all participants reached statutory retirement age, which is 64 for women and 65 for men in Switzerland. And finally, they all engage in some kind of transnational mobility since they reached retirement age.

So, I was confronted with the complex question of which sampling strategy to use to reach mobile retirees of various nationalities, and of whom some reside in Spain and others in Switzerland. I decided to advertise my PhD study through various channels, however, in this short presentation I will focus on the collaboration with the Central Compensation Office (CCO) of Switzerland. One of the main tasks of the CCO is to pay the old-age and survivors’ insurance (OASI) to any person who has worked in Switzerland. These benefits are paid regardless of nationality\(^1\) and country of residence, i.e. retirees who left Switzerland to live in another country are entitled to the pension. This is particularly interesting, because between 2001 and 2019 the number of pensions paid to retirees living abroad has doubled (Office fédéral des assurances sociales, 2020). Spain on its own accounts for approximately 145 000 pensions paid by the CCO to retirees of 63 different nationalities (CCO pensions register, to: https://www.bsv.admin.ch/bsv/en/home/social-insurance/int/points-of-reference-and-agreements.html)

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\(^1\) However, some countries do not have a social insurance agreement with Switzerland. Citizens of these countries are in this regard highly disadvantaged as they do not receive their OASI when leaving Switzerland. For more information go to: https://www.bsv.admin.ch/bsv/en/home/social-insurance/int/points-of-reference-and-agreements.html
I, thus, saw the great potential of a collaboration with the CCO.

For the sample, I defined two criteria. First, retirees needed to contribute at least 10 years to the OASI to make sure they understand the information given in the letters, as they were sent in the three national languages (German, Italian, French), and English. Also, I decided to focus on retirees living in Cataluña and the Comunidad Valenciana, because I already had many contacts in these two regions. With these specifications, the CCO created a sample from their pension register consisting of 290 randomly selected individuals. A total of 160 men and 130 women aged between 65 and 91 were contacted.

These 290 retirees contributed on average for 22 years to the Swiss pension system. And – most interestingly – 19 different nationalities were represented in the sample. At the end of March 2021, the CCO contacted these retirees by sending them a letter in the correspondence language of their choice. The envelope contained a letter from the CCO and a letter written by me. The latter introduced the project and its objectives, explained the topics discussed during the interview, explained the usage and storage of data, and highlighted the voluntary nature of their participation. This letter motivated 4 couples and 11 individuals to contact me between April and July 2021 to conduct an interview.

Before the collaboration with the CCO, participants that contacted me to carry out an interview were mostly Swiss (28) or Swiss dual nationals (5). Only three had another nationality. The letter dispatch motivated 19 additional retirees to contact me. Today, my sample consists of 30 Swiss nationals with no former migration experience. Ten additional participants are Swiss nationals, but in contrast to the former interviewees, they migrated at least once before reaching retirement age. These participants acquired their Swiss citizenship at birth, through marriage or by means of naturalisation. The remaining 15 interviewees have another nationality (Argentinian, Austrian, British, French (2), German (3), Italian-Argentinian, Spanish (6)) and have also migrated at least once before reaching retirement age. Thus, the collaboration enabled me to circumvent the use of a specific ‘ethnicity’ or ‘migration background’ as the most important characteristic for my sample, and allowed me to concentrate on age, mobility, and a connection to Switzerland.

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2 Swiss, German, Finnish, French, British, Italian, Dutch, Austrian, Portuguese, Swedish, Spanish, Croatian, South African, Argentinian, Brazilian, Chilean, Colombian, Uruguayan, American.

3 Mostly because these retirees saw a presentation of my study in the Swiss Review, a magazine for Swiss abroad published six times a year.
The great advantage of such a research design is its comparative dimension. In my PhD study I am able to analyse similarities and differences in the reasons for mobility of retirees with and without a former migration experience. Also, I can study if and how other variables such as gender, increasing age, health care structures, or social networks influence the mobility and transnational practices of retirees in the Swiss-Spanish context. However, this approach also entails important disadvantages. On the one hand, sufficient time and financial resources are a prerequisite for such a research design, because the establishment of a collaboration with a state institution and the financing of a letter dispatch needs both. On the other hand, the interviewer needs to be linguistically flexible to ensure that the language barrier is as low as possible. In the case of my PhD study, the 45 interviews were held in German, French, and Spanish. However, as I mentioned in the Italian version of the letter sent by the CCO that I do not speak the language, no retiree who previously lived in the Italian language region of Switzerland contacted me to conduct an interview. Nevertheless, I consider the positive aspects of such a research design to be significantly more important, as they offer interesting future research avenues.

**Funding**

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Bibliography


IN-CARE: Inequality in Care - How are varying care systems associated with inequalities in care and wellbeing in later life?

Within this Open Research Area (ORA) funded project (2019-2022), researchers from Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Japan investigate if and how different long-term care (LTC) systems, and recent social policy reforms, contribute to socioeconomic status (SES) inequalities in formal and informal care use, informal care provision and their wellbeing outcomes. The project will be finalised in 2022. In the following we would like to summarise the main findings from the project teams’ publications up to now.

Socioeconomic inequalities in care use

Floridi and colleagues (2021) investigate whether SES inequalities in the use of home care among disabled older adults is associated with regional-level contextual
characteristics of LTC systems. They link individual level data from wave 6 of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) to the number of LTC beds in care homes across 136 administrative regions in 12 European countries. Their study shows that in regions with a high availability of LTC beds, poorer older adults are more likely to use a combination of informal and formal care. In contrast, in regions with a low availability of LTC beds, wealthier older adults are more likely to use a combination of formal and informal care. These findings can support evidence-based policy reforms to minimise inequalities in care use.

Focusing on the Netherlands, Abbing and colleagues (2021) explore if and how SES relates to the use of formal, informal, and privately paid care over time. Their analysis uses individual-level data of the Longitudinal Study of Ageing in Amsterdam (LASA) from 1995, 2005, and 2015 and considers national policy changes. The authors find that lower SES groups are more likely to use both formal and informal care services and less likely to use privately paid care, in comparison to higher SES groups in the Netherlands. Overall, the use of formal, informal and privately paid care has decreased over time. Notably, the steepest decline is evident for informal care use among higher educated individuals, and there is no evidence for increased use of privately paid care among this group. This raises the question about causal mechanisms, e.g. whether highly educated older adults develop better health strategies, whether care needs remain unmet, or LTC reforms influence their care decisions in unique ways.

Socioeconomic inequalities in care provision and wellbeing across nations

Against the background of LTC policy reforms in Japan, Ikuba and Ohtsu (2021), use data from the 2007, 2009, and 2011 Japanese Study of Aging and Retirement (JSTAR), and explore the association between an individual’s SES and the likelihood of providing informal care to one’s parents. The authors employ various SES indicators (household income, financial assets, monthly expenditure, economic conditions, housing conditions and education) to examine whether differences in parents’ life expectancy can explain group differences in informal care provision. The authors do not find a consistent SES gradient in informal caregiving across different SES measures. Additionally, there is no evidence that lower SES individuals are more likely to provide care than those with higher SES. The study highlights the importance of considering diverse SES indicators and differences in life expectancy of care recipients when examining SES inequalities in the decision to provide care in Japan.
Brandt and colleagues (2021) investigate SES inequalities in wellbeing for informal caregivers providing care to household members based on individual-level data from SHARE (waves 2, 4, 5, and 6, 2007-2015). Their findings show that caregivers experience declines in their life satisfaction compared to non-caregivers. Although, as expected, wealthier caregivers generally experience higher life satisfaction than non-caregivers, the authors do not find evidence that the wellbeing declines due to caregiving differ by caregivers’ wealth. These findings highlight the need for social policies to support and enhance the wellbeing of informal caregivers, especially within the household where care is typically more demanding, regardless of their socioeconomic resources.

**SES inequality in care use and provision: causality and eligibility**

Bertin and colleagues (2021) investigate whether Esping-Andersen’s renowned welfare state classification is still applicable for welfare systems in Europe, despite major changes within the last years. Further, they examine the feasibility of the classification for the specific policy areas of health and social care. The authors review 22 studies identifying welfare regimes regarding the organisation of healthcare and social care for twelve European countries. Based on their review, they construct novel indices of “welfare similarity”, which show a hybridisation of the standard Esping-Andersen classification, characterised by coexistence and overlaps of features of the different regimes, and differences in clusters according to specific healthcare or social care policies. For example, Denmark resembles non-Nordic countries such as the liberal United Kingdom and Mediterranean Spain concerning healthcare, while it is similar to Sweden and Finland in terms of social care according to the classic Nordic regime. Thus, researchers interested in cross-national comparisons across welfare states should consider comparative analyses of specific policies, rather than regime typologies due to ongoing, and sometimes incongruous, changes in different policy areas within welfare states.

**Transfer to the public**

In addition to peer-reviewed publications and presentations at international conferences, the research findings are regularly presented to non-scientific audiences. Therefore, the country teams host stakeholder meetings, where representatives of Non-Government Organizations (NGO’s), senior and local governments, care providers and other social actors are invited to discuss research findings and to think about how to maximise the visibility and orientation towards practical implementation.
We cordially invite you to visit our project homepage http://in-care.fk12.tu-dortmund.de/ for further information and look forward to any questions you might have!

**Publication bibliography**


**MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAMS**

**Germany:** Martina Brandt (PI), Christian Deindl, Lisa Jessee, Judith Kaschowitz, Nekehia Quashie, Melanie Wagner

**Japan:** Stacey H. Chen, Rong Fu, Yoko Ibuka (PI), Dung Le, Yui Ohtsu, Toru Tsuboya, Atsuhiru Yamada

**Netherlands:** Jens Abbing, Marjolein Broese van Groenou (PI), Lynn Colder, Bianca Suanet, Ellen Verbakel

**UK:** Ludovico Carrino, Ginevra Floridi, Karen Glaser (PI), Mauricio Avendano Pabon
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

Email: ageingineurope@gmail.com
Dr 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. Lucie is the Co-Coordinator of the Network for the period from 2019 to 2021.

Dr 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.
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 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 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.
Meet the Board

**Sunwoo Lee**
Sunwoo currently works at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Charles University and the Faculty of Physical Culture, Palacký University Olomouc in Czech Republic. Sunwoo’s current research lines on social and behavioral science of aging in the context of leisure and social and emotional well-being of older adults.

**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.

**Dr 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.
Dr 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 2019 she is PhD student liaison.

Dr Konrad Turek

Konrad is a sociologist, social researcher and data analyst working at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW / University of Groningen) in the Work & Retirement group. His research is focused on changing and ageing labour markets, development of inequalities across the 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 is a co-editor of our newsletter.