Ageing in context: Places, spaces and cultures of ageing

Midterm conference
European Sociological Association’s Research Network on Ageing in Europe (RN01)
26th to 28th August 2020, Jyväskylä, Finland

https://www.jyu.fi/en/congress/ageing-europe

Research on ageing is a multidisciplinary field, full of both theoretical richness and possibilities for practical application. But what are we studying when we set out to focus on ‘ageing’? Ageing never occurs in a vacuum but is framed and influenced by social context i.e. structures, cultural norms and values, and places and spaces. At the same time, ageing people participate in the reframing and renewal of this context. The conference aims to explore the dynamics of ageing at micro, meso and macro levels of society (or societies) and within the interactive processes between these levels.

At the micro level of lived experience, the conference will focus on individual agency, interpersonal relationships, emotions, embodied experience and existential questions posed by ageing. At the meso level – the mid-range of social organization – some of the most engaging areas of inquiry include ageing in place (home, community, institution, workplace, virtual spaces), and practices of care in different cultural contexts. At the macro level - regarding national and global phenomena and influences - some of the most resonant demands for scientific discussion are: old-age and care policies; migration and increased mobility of younger and older people; digitalisation and increased role of technology in societies and and socioeconomic differences in health and access to care.

The organizers welcome individual and team contributions from the sociology of ageing, social gerontology, and related academic fields, as well as submissions for thematic session proposals. We invite papers and sessions that discuss issues within (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Cultural values, norms and images of ageing and self-identity
- Existential and spiritual questions in ageing and personal growth
- Digitalisation and technology – virtual life and virtual care in ageing
- Ageing in place, living environment and new housing options of older people
- Mobility, multilocal and transnational ageing
● Work in older age and retirement transitions
● Migration, migrant care workers
● Global, national and local policies and practices of care
● Ageing and structural change (e.g. European integration and disintegration) at national and international levels
● Development of lifecourse inequalities
● Theoretical and methodological issues of studying ageing in context

We invite proposals for individual papers, as well as thematic sessions consisting of 3 to 5 papers connected by a unifying theme. The abstract submission will be opened in the beginning of December 2019 on the conference website. The deadline for both individual papers and thematic session submissions is 31st January 2020. Please note that one researcher cannot submit more than two abstracts for presentation. Authors will be notified about the acceptance of their papers/sessions in the beginning of March 2020.

The event is organized jointly by the Research Network on Ageing in Europe and the Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care (CoE AgeCare). A jointly organized PhD workshop will also be delivered, in the same location, from 24th to 26th August. (Further details on this workshop will be available shortly.)

We look forward to meeting you in Jyväskylä!

Outi Jolanki,
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and the whole conference team

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