



Ageing in Europe

NEWSLETTER OF THE ESA RESEARCH NETWORK ON AGEING IN EUROPE (RN01)
SUMMER 2019, ISSUE 25

Dear Readers,

We hope that our summer 2019 newsletter finds you well. In this edition we welcome a book overview provided by Agnieszka Radziwinowiczówna, Anna Rosińska, and Weronika Kloc-Nowak on their work on the ethnomorality of care. We are also delighted to provide a PhD highlight from Francesca Zanasi who offers insights into her study on carers and careers, in particular the participation of grandmothers in the labour market. Also featured in the newsletter is a look at a research project, *Access*, which is evaluating the learning needs of older people who lack technical skills.

The next ESA conference for the Network 'Europe and Beyond: Boundaries, Barriers and Belonging' is taking place in Manchester, UK from 20th to 23rd August. Details can be found in this newsletter on page 9. The schedule of RN01 sessions features at the conclusion of the newsletter.

At the conference we will be convening our Network meeting at which new Board members will be appointed. Dirk Hofäcker offers further details on forthcoming Board business in his message below.

If you would like any further details on the Network's activities please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Editorial Board for this issue:

Dr Edward Tolhurst, Staffordshire
University, UK

Dr Amílcar Moreira, University of Lisbon,
Portugal

Message from the Chair of the Network:
Prof. Dr. Dirk Hofäcker

Dear Reader,

This edition of the Research Network's newsletter reaches you with only a few weeks to go until one of the year's academic highlights, the main ESA conference in Manchester. We in the *Ageing in Europe* Network are very happy that we have received a wide response to our call and can welcome around 90 papers across more than 20 topical sessions. These cover a broad range of topics – from general theories of ageing to methodological challenges in empirically capturing trends, and from welfare system analyses to individual experiences of age and ageing. This response and its topical diversity are not least due to you, the members of our lively research network! We, from the Board, are very much looking forward to the opportunity to exchange results, research ideas and possible future perspectives in ageing research. We are particularly happy to organise a semi-plenary session this time also, focusing on “Ageing in Europe: Agency, Citizenship and the Dynamics of Power” with two more extensive presentations by Bernard Weicht from Innsbruck, Austria and Clary Krekula from Karlstad, Sweden. Please check the ESA website for further details on the RN01 sessions. An overview also features at the conclusion of this newsletter below.

We shall also have our biennial business meeting during the ESA conference, taking place on Thursday, Aug 22 from 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Here the Board will give an overview of the activities performed throughout the last two-year period and sketch plans for the future. New Board candidates will present themselves an outline their motivation and ideas. The Business meeting thus is a good opportunity for all members to bring forward their ideas and interact directly with the Board, thereby shaping the future plans of the Network. At the same time, those new to the Network may find this a good opportunity to inform themselves about the Network's activities. For whichever reason you may come, we warmly welcome you to the meeting and hope for broad participation. It is also planned to have a social programme following the meeting so, if you like, allow some additional time to liaise with Network colleagues afterwards.

Whether you will be joining us at the conference or not, please let me use the opportunity to wish you all a good and relaxing summer break. We hope to see you – sooner or later – at one of our Network's activities!

Dirk Hofäcker



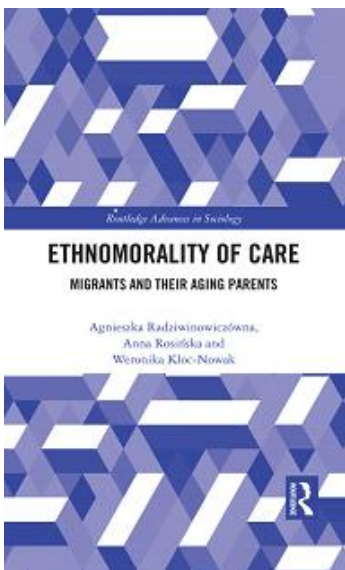
BOOK REVIEW

In this regular newsletter feature, we ask authors to provide a summary of their own book. This month we are delighted to include a review from *Agnieszka Radziwinowiczówna, Anna Rosińska, and Weronika Kloc-Nowak.*

They offer valuable insights into their recently published book (2018),

Ethnomorality of Care: Migrants and Their Aging Parents.

London and New York:
Routledge. ([link](#))



We are happy to present our book 'Ethnomorality of care' to the Research Network on Ageing in Europe. The book is based on several years of studying the phenomenon of elderly care in the context of international migrations of Poles. While aging is a challenging process that affects many countries, the case of Poland is particular, with a family culture of care that considers *family* the by-default caregiver and with intensive outbound migration of younger generations. As a result, we may predict a situation when the Polish informal family care regime will no longer be viable due to international migrations and concurrent value shifts.

The question we asked in our research was what happens when migrants' parents age, and need care in mobile and aging societies? Our prior research areas – migration and social change (Agnieszka), care work and migration (Anna), care in migrant families (Weronika) – made us particularly sensitive to dynamic aspects of the aging-elderly care-migration nexus.

Embarking on this study, we were excited to be part of a large interdisciplinary team within the Mig/Ageing project at the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw¹. While learning from our colleagues who were demographers, economists, political scientists, we were carving out our sociological approach to aging in the context of migrations – and consequently we carried out a multi-sited mixed-method transnational research, in two Polish migrant-sending towns and one of the destination countries, the United Kingdom, between 2014 and 2017.

Our book gives insights into how the physical distance challenges the family-centered elderly care and helps to understand better the lived experience of care receivers and givers, focusing not only on kinship care but also on other social actors, such as public and private care institutions, third sector organizations, friends and acquaintances.



In the course of the research and analysis, we elaborated our own theoretical frame, namely, the “ethnomorality of care”. The concept of care presented in the book recognizes that national, regional, and local contexts, as well as economic inequalities, gender, care, and migration regimes, shape the experience of care. Our three level approach explores moral beliefs concerning elderly care, as well as intentions and practical care arrangements.

This new conceptualization seeks to understand the lived experience of care, drawing on approaches such as ethnomethodology, where “ethno-” refers to the characteristics of competent members of certain sociocultural groups that navigate through and perpetuate social worlds in implicit, routine ways (ethnomethods) (Garfinkel, 1967), as well as an analysis of ethno-taxonomies that reconstruct the naïve theories or classificatory systems that a given community produces.

The book centers on care in families of aging parents of migrants; however, we explain how researchers and practitioners can use the ethnomorality of care approach to examine non-migrant families and other types of care. This book contributes to migration studies, transnational studies, aging studies, and social and cultural gerontology and will be of interest to academics, graduate students, policy makers, local authorities and care practitioners.

¹ Unfinished migration transition and ageing population in Poland. Asynchronous population changes and the transformation of formal and informal care institutions, led by professor Marek Okólski. The research project was funded by the National Science Centre (grant no. 2013/08/A/HS4/00602). For more information, consult <http://migageing.uw.edu.pl>



The authors: Agnieszka Radziwinowiczówna, Anna Rosińska, and Weronika Kloc-Nowak

For this edition of the newsletter we are also pleased to provide a PhD Highlight, kindly provided by Francesca Zanasi - Tilburg University, Netherlands, and the University of Trento, Italy. Below, Francesca provides insights into her research on the participation of grandmothers in the labour market.



Carers and Careers: Grandmothers' labour market participation in a life course perspective

As life expectancy increases, grandparents spend a longer part of their lifetime with grandchildren. They are appreciated by public opinion and the social sciences as a safety-net for families (Dimova and Wolff 2011). In particular, when women enter their 50s they are expected to carry on reproductive labour: while during motherhood they were main caregivers for children, in a later stage of life they commit to providing grandchildren with care (Hank and Buber 2009).

However, mid-life women are likely to become grandparents while still active on the labour market (Leopold and Skopek 2015). The roles of care provider and active worker might fuel a situation of role conflict as both activities demand time and energy. Several studies confirm that being a grandmother is associated with a reduction in work hours (Rupert and Zanella 2018) and with the speeding up of retirement (Kridahl 2017; Lumsdaine and Vermeer 2015; Van Bavel and De Winter 2013) in a variety of institutional settings. In my dissertation, I investigate the onset of grandmotherhood and its consequences in terms of

labour market participation in Europe giving separate, but intertwined, contributions. On the one hand, I consider the role played by the institutional context in shaping grandmothers' labour market behavior. On the other hand, I consider differences between grandmothers given their previous life course, which is likely to affect both their labour supply and involvement with care duties. In particular, the thesis will comprise four main contributions.

In the first contribution, I argue that labour supply of grandmothers is jointly determined by the need of support by the younger generation, and the availability of grandmothers themselves as care providers. The need for grandparental childcare is stronger in those countries where there is little or no provision of public childcare services (Bordone et al. 2017); at the same time, grandmothers are available as care providers when free from paid employment, namely in those countries where early retirement options are in place. I implement an Instrumental Variable approach (see Rupert and Zanella 2018) on SHARE data (2004/2015), and regress single-country scores on several macro-level indicators. I find some evidence that grandmotherhood has a

negative effect on employment across European countries, although differences exist according to the institutional context: grandmothers are less likely to be employed where there are fewer childcare services for children, where early retirement options are available, and the pension system more generous.

In the second contribution (Zanasi et al. 2019, forthcoming), I concentrate on England to study the relation between the birth of the first grandchild and the probability of labour market withdrawal by mid-life women, with attention paid to the differences in terms of work history and economic household situation. I run hybrid models on data from ELSA (2002/2017), and I show that the probability of labour market withdrawal increases after the birth of the first grandchild. Women who had continuous working careers are more likely to withdraw from the labour market after the birth of the first grandchild compared to women with non-continuous careers. The same holds for women living in wealthy households. The explanation probably lies in the lower opportunity cost these women encounter in withdrawing from the labour market.

In the third contribution, I investigate the consequences of grandmotherhood on retirement for Italian mid-life women, accounting for differences in terms of work history, i.e. number of years worked and social class. Using retrospective data from the ISTAT Multipurpose Survey Families and Social Subjects (2009), I show that there is only a weak association between the birth of the first grandchild and retirement for Italian grandmothers, and no differences in term of work history. This result could originate from two parallel processes. On the one hand, mid-life women seem to retire before

becoming grandmothers in Italy (as Kaplan-Meier survivor functions suggest). This could be due to the interplay of the postponement of fertility and availability of early retirement options: women became grandmothers late in life, and they have the possibility to retire early. On the other hand, Italy has a very low female labour force participation rate, and some young mothers are not employed due to the difficulty to reconcile work and family; in other words, grandparental childcare might not be needed by many Italian young mothers.

Finally, I investigate the likelihood of providing care by grandmothers according to their educational level. A well-established finding in social science is the existence of an educational gradient in parenting: highly educated parents spend more time with children; they promote strategies of 'concerted cultivation' (Lareau 2003) to foster children's talent, social capital, cognitive development and verbal agility. Using logistic regression on SHARE data (2004/2015), I find an educational gradient in grandparental childcare as well: highly educated grandmothers are more likely to provide grandchildren with care than primary educated grandmothers. Most interestingly, they provide more childcare even when their daughters are not in employment, hence less in need of informal support, leading to the conclusion that mechanisms of cultural investment could be at work even in the extended family.

To conclude, the results from my dissertation open two sets of implications. On the one hand, due to the policy aimed at increasing pension age all over European countries, future cohorts of grandmothers will be more likely to be in employment until older age. Coupled with the retrenchment of childcare

public services in the aftermath of the economic crisis, these measures could lead to pension penalties in case of anticipated retirement by older workers for taking up care responsibilities. Conversely, there could be care gaps for young mothers, in case grandmothers do not have the possibility to withdraw from the labour market and

free up time for care responsibilities. This might perversely fuel social inequality, as advantaged women, with higher family income, continuous working career, and higher educational level, are those adjusting their labour supply for grandchildren, and providing care.

References

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**IN EACH
NEWSLETTER WE
PROVIDE AN
OVERVIEW OF
EXCITING AGEING
RESEARCH TAKING
PLACE IN EUROPE:**

**THIS EDITION
PRESENTS AN
INTERNATIONAL
PROJECT *ACCESS*
THAT IS
RESEARCHING THE
LEARNING NEEDS OF
OLDER PEOPLE
WITH LOW
TECHNICAL SKILLS.**



ACCESS is a multidisciplinary and transnational research project funded by the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) "More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change". The project combines expertise from five participating countries: Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy and Japan to provide socially embedded learning opportunities for older persons with low technical skills in order to enable them to get in touch with modern technology and find meaningful ways for its everyday use. By this, the project aims at overcoming a general lack of attention to later life learning which is at stake in many countries. This is all the more important as today a multitude of digital media and new technologies exist to support older persons' wellbeing and enrich their everyday lives. However, seniors face a multitude of obstacles and hindrances when taking on these modern technologies. **ACCESS** puts a focus on learning processes as one solution to tackle these challenges.

The main research objectives are:

- *The creation of learning offers which also reach out to the hard-to-reach older persons*
- *The generation of learning programmes which foster health literacy*
- *The examination of innovative learning and experience exchange models to be applied to different social contexts*

*Through the development of a mobile demonstration kit consisting of different devices, **ACCESS** aims at opening up discussion and experience exchange about state-of-the-art technologies among older adults, but also among other stakeholders who are involved in supporting and counselling the elderly in their daily living. For more information: www.project-access.eu*



European
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**EUROPE AND BEYOND:
BOUNDARIES, BARRIERS AND
BELONGING**

**14th Conference of the European
Sociological Association**

Manchester, UK, 20-23 August 2019

In encouraging presenters and other conference participants to think of *Europe and Beyond* we wish to consider contemporary developments, processes, practices and subjectivities not only through the lens of Europe and European sociology, but also as central to the development of sociology, or sociologies, for the present and the future.

We cannot and should not ignore the factors which are re-shaping Europe from within, such as the effects of globalization, nationalism, populism and migration - and, of course, 'Brexit'. However, it is also crucial that we continue to look towards the possibilities of a global sociology which also takes account of the local without being parochial.

Registration is open until 12th August, 2019

For further conference details, please follow this link:

<https://www.europeansociology.org/conferences/esa-conference-2019-manchester-uk>





Ageing in Europe

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.

<http://www.ageing-in-europe.net/>



If you have any questions ... do not hesitate to contact us.

[info @ ageing-in-europe.net](mailto:info@ageing-in-europe.net)



BOARD MEMBERS 2018/19

Dirk Hofäcker - University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany (Chair)
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Justyna Stypinska - Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Anna Urbaniak – Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, Ireland

ESA CONFERENCE

Manchester, UK, 20-23 August 2019

RN01 Ageing in Europe sessions

Date: Wednesday, 21/Aug/2019

11:00am - 12:30pm	<u>RN01 01a: Ageing and the Life Course</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen , University of Helsinki	<u>RN01 01b: Quality of Life, Life Satisfaction and Well-being in Older Age</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Dirk Hofaecker , University of Duisburg-Essen	<u>RN01 01c: Social Networks and Intergenerational Relations in old Age</u> Location: UP.3.209 Chair: Anna Urbaniak , Irish Centre for Social Gerontology
2:00pm - 3:30pm	<u>RN01 02a: Employment in Later Life</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Dirk Hofaecker , University of Duisburg-Essen	<u>RN01 02b: Ageing and Technology I</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Edward Tolhurst , Staffordshire University	
4:00pm - 5:30pm	<u>RN01 03a: Work and Retirement</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Andreas Mergenthaler , Federal Institute for Population Research	<u>RN01 03b: Ageing and Technology II</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Daniele Zaccaria , Golgi Cenci Foundation	
6:00pm - 7:30pm	<u>RN01 04a: Volunteering & post-retirement work</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Claudia Vogel , German Centre of Gerontology	<u>RN01 04b: Ageing Societies and the Welfare State</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Anna Urbaniak , Irish Centre for Social Gerontology	

Date: Thursday, 22/Aug/2019

11:00am - 12:30pm	<u>RN01 05a: Social inequalities and social exclusion in older age</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen , University of Helsinki	<u>RN01 05b: Formal and informal care I: Care Recipients - situations</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Regina Ilona Gerlich , Careum School of Health LTD Chair: Mareike Ariaans , University Mannheim
2:00pm - 3:30pm	<u>RN01 06a: Culture, Values and Images in the Field of Ageing I</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Lucie Galčanová , Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies	<u>RN01 06b: Formal and Informal care II: Care recipients - needs and access</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Mareike Ariaans , University Mannheim Chair: Regina Ilona Gerlich , Careum School of Health LTD
4:00pm - 5:30pm	<u>RN01 07a: Culture, Values and Images in the Field of Ageing II</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Lucie Galčanová , Masaryk University, Faculty of Social Studies	<u>RN01 07b: Formal and informal care III: Consequences of care giving and receiving</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Mareike Ariaans , University Mannheim Chair: Regina Ilona Gerlich , Careum School of Health LTD
7:30pm - 8:30pm	<u>RN01_BM: RN01 Business Meeting</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Dirk Hofaecker , University of Duisburg-Essen Chair: Edward Tolhurst , Staffordshire University	

Date: Friday, 23/Aug/2019

11:00am - 12:30pm	<u>RN01 09a: Conditions of Housing in Old Age</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Peter Kevern , Staffordshire University	<u>RN01 09b: Active Ageing and Social Participation in Old Age</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Amilcar Moreira , Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa
2:00pm - 3:30pm	<u>RN01 10a: Loneliness in Old Age</u> Location: UP.3.204 Chair: Edward Tolhurst , Staffordshire University	<u>RN01 10b: Age Discrimination</u> Location: UP.3.205 Chair: Matthias Nowc , University of Duisburg-Essen

Joint sessions with other Research Networks

Date: Wednesday, 21/Aug/2019

11:00am	<u>JS_RN01_RN13_01: Intergenerational Relations in Times of Ageing Societies</u>
-	Location: <u>BS.4.04B</u>
12:30pm	Chair: Jacques-Antoine Gauthier , University of Lausanne Chair: Katarzyna Suwada , Nicolaus Copernicus University

Date: Wednesday, 21/Aug/2019

4:00pm	<u>JS_RN01_RN37_03: Urban Ageing: Towards an enhanced spatial perspective</u>
-	Location: <u>BS.4.06A</u>
5:30pm	Chair: Anna Urbaniak , Irish Centre for Social Gerontology Chair: Marta Smagacz-Poziemska , Jagiellonian University

Date: Thursday, 22/Aug/2019

2:00pm	<u>JS_RN01_RN16_06: European Health Policy and Ageing Societies: Challenges and Opportunities</u>
-	
3:30pm	Location: <u>BS.3.27</u> Chair: Edward Tolhurst , Staffordshire University Chair: Angela Genova , Urbino Carlo Bo Joint session convened by RN01 Ageing in Europe and RN16 Sociology of Health and Illness

Date: Friday, 23/Aug/2019

11:00am	<u>JS_RN01_RN21_09: Addressing Older People in Survey Research: Potentials and Limitations</u>
-	Location: <u>BS.3.17</u>
12:30pm	Chair: Jolanta Perek-Bialas , Jagiellonian University, Cracow and Warsaw School of Economics
2:00pm	<u>JS_RN01_RN21_10: Using Methods of Quantitative Analysis in Ageing Research</u>
-	Location: <u>BS.3.17</u>
3:30pm	Chair: Jolanta Perek-Bialas , Jagiellonian University, Cracow and Warsaw School of Economics

Semi-plenary session

Date: Thursday, 22/Aug/2019

9:00am	<u>SP07: Ageing in Europe: Agency, Citizenship and the Dynamics of Power - with Clary Krekula and Bernhart Weicht</u>
-	
10:30am	Location: <u>BS.G.36</u> Chair: Dirk Hofaecker , University of Duisburg-Essen Chair: Edward Tolhurst , Staffordshire University

