



RN 1 Ageing in Europe

Chairs and board:

Current (2015-2017):

- Chair: Bernhard Weicht, University of Innsbruck, Austria, email: bernhard.weicht (at) uibk.ac.at
- Vice-Chair: Dirk Hofäcker, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany, email: dirk.hofaecker (at) uni-due.de

- Magnus Nilsson, Gothenborg University, Sweden
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- Christos Pliakos, University of Central Lancashire, UK
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New (2017-2019):

- Chair: Dirk Hofäcker, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- Vice-Chair: Edward Tolhurst, Staffordshire University, United Kingdom

- Marja Aartsen, Oslo/Akershus University College of Applied Science, Norway
- Lucie Gálcanová, Mazaryk University, Czech Republic
- Jenni Spännäri, Helsinki University, Finland
- Justyna Stypinska, Freie University Berlin, Germany
- Anna Urbaniak, Cracow University of Economics, Cracow, Poland
- Amílcar Manuel Reis Moreira, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal
- Kevin Gormley, School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, Queen's University of Belfast, UK

Activities:

- 1) Midterm Conference

Mid-term conference "Ageing in Europe: Beyond the work-centered lifecourse?", Frankfurt, Germany, September 14-16, 2016.

In most recent debates around ageing, promoting longer working lives among the European (older) population has played a pivotal role. In consequence, work increasingly has become a central aspect of later life also for older Europeans, and much recent research has taken this as a focal point. It may however be questioned, whether such work centred perspectives is able to adequately capture the many facets that characterise ageing in European societies. The Midterm Conference 2016 thus took the work-centered life course model as a starting point and asked whether this model can (or should) continue serve as a conceptual lense for analysing ageing in Europe. To that end, 66 participants from various European countries and Canada gathered at the Goethe University of Frankfurt from September 14-16 to debate the various facets of ageing and their relationship to the work-centered life course model.

Keynotes: Prof. Asghar Zaidi (University of Southampton), Prof. James Nazroo (University of Manchester), Ass. Prof. Kathrin Komp (University of Helsinki), Dr. Jonas Radl (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid).

A noticeable feature of the conference was the broad participation of researchers of all ages, including also a large number of participants at PhD or early postdoctoral level. A conference barbecue in the premises of the University of Frankfurt on a wonderful late summer evening provided a welcome opportunity for relaxation and the continuation of informal exchange between the conference participants. Taken together, the various contributions to the conference showed that even in present times, classical life course typologies still may provide a fruitful analytical tool for research. Yet, the often one-sided focus on a largely standardized sphere of work needs to be complemented by both a better attention to the increasingly varying forms of later life employment as well as a consideration of other aspects life. Feedback during and after the conference indicated that both the atmosphere and the content of the mid-term conference were well-appreciated by the participants. Warm thanks go to the Goethe University of Frankfurt for providing the infrastructure of the event and particularly to Anne Götttert, Elisa Szulganik and their team whose smooth and caring organisation ensured that this meeting will be kept in good memory among its attendees.

2) PhD Workshop

The 5th PhD workshop of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe took place at The University of Chester from 5th to 7th April. The workshop, on its first visit to the UK, was hosted by the Centre for Ageing Studies, situated on the University's Riverside Campus. The orienting theme of the workshop was 'Advancing the study of ageing through innovative methodologies'. Chester provided an attractive destination for the workshop, both in terms of the university facilities and the city itself. The workshop offers the opportunity for PhD students and early career researchers to network, share ideas and discuss their methodological approaches. 23 students attended in total, having travelled from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Israel and Norway as well as from within the UK. The workshop enables attendees to forge collaborative associations with other

researchers that will support them in the early stages of their careers and beyond. A benefit of the network's workshop process event is the time afforded to each paper. Following each 20 minute presentation, feedback is offered by a designated academic lead and this opens up broader discussions with the group. Each paper is therefore afforded an hour of supportive critical scrutiny, which significantly exceeds the time usually granted to presenters at academic conferences. A principal aim of the workshops is also to ensure a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere that encourages an open exchange of ideas. This allows students at various stages of their studies to engage with the process, from those devising their initial ideas, to those at a later stage of their studies seeking to express their findings. In addition to the student presentations, the network was delighted to acquire the input of four high-profile academics in the field of ageing as keynote speakers: Prof Chris Phillipson (University of Manchester), Prof Paul Higgs (University College London), Prof Mary Beth Happ (Ohio State University), Prof Harald Künemund (The University of Vechta).

While a busy programme was delivered, there was still time to engage in some socialising away from the workshop setting. A particularly full second day was followed by dinner at the University's Senate House, and an evening drink at a typically warm and inviting English tavern. The feedback on the event was very positive from attendees, and also offered some insights with regard to how future workshops can be enhanced. A useful point that can be addressed in forthcoming events is the inclusion of online resources to further facilitate discussions and networking. The Ageing in Europe network would like to thank The University of Chester for being excellent hosts. We would also like to thank all of the students and early career researchers in attendance who made the event such a positive and engaging experience.

3) Newsletter

The RN's newsletter is published approximately 3 times a year, since 2015 in a completely revised and updated design. The newsletter is received by approximately 1000 subscribers to our mailing list. All (recent and past) editions of the newsletter can be found here:

<http://ageing-in-europe.net/newsletter.html>

4) Website

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

5) Mailing List

Apart from the receiving the newsletter, subscribers to the mailing list can also share other information on research on ageing, job offers or publications.

<http://ageing-in-europe.net/maillinglist.html>

6) Membership

The network has about 120 members and we actively promote membership, for example on <http://ageing-in-europe.net/membership.html>

Plans:

For the 2015-2017 period we are planning the following events:

- Workshop for PhD students
- Midterm Conference, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, 5-7 September 2018

Advisory board:

The research network Ageing in Europe has decided to create an advisory board for the research network, inviting past chairs or vice chairs that have contributed substantially to the thriving of the network. The members of the advisory board are:

- Kathrin Komp, University of Helsinki, Finland
- Andreas Motel-Klingebiel, Linköping University, Sweden
- Harald Künemund, University of Vechta, Germany
- Jay Ginn, Kings College London, United Kingdom
- Ricca Edmondson, National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland
- Bernhard Weicht, University of Innsbruck, Austria

You can contact the board of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe via info@ageing-in-europe.net.