

Ageing in Europe

NEWSLETTER OF THE ESA RESEARCH NETWORK ON AGEING IN EUROPE (RN01)
WINTER 2019, ISSUE 24

Dear Readers,

We hope that our winter 2019 newsletter finds you in good spirits. In this edition we welcome a book overview provided by Andrzej Klimczuk at Warsaw School of Economics, which offers insights into his work on creative ageing policy. We are delighted to provide a further book review from Sarah Hampel and Judith Kaschowitz from TU Dortmund University on methods of ageing research. Also featured in the newsletter is a look at a research project *Eldicare* that is evaluating the skills needs of the carers of older people. In addition, we are very pleased to provide a report of our midterm conference that took place in Brno last September. This is complemented by impressions of the conference, kindly provided by Thorsten Stellmacher from the Institute of Gerontological Research, Berlin.

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 11.

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

Edward Tolhurst

CONTENTS

p.2 Message from the Chair

p.3 Book Review: Andrzej Klimczuk

p.5 Book review: Sarah Hampel and Judith Kaschowitz

p.7 Eldicare: Project overview

p.8 Midterm Conference - Brno, report by Lucie Galčanová

p.9 Midterm Conference – Brno, impressions from Thorsten Stellmacher

p.11 Forthcoming ESA Conference - Manchester



Editorial Board for this issue:

Dr Edward Tolhurst, Staffordshire University, UK

Dr Justyna Stypinska, Free University Berlin, Germany

Message from the Chair of the Network:

Prof. Dr. Dirk Hofäcker

Dear Readers,

First of all, with this issue being the very first in 2019, I would like to wish you a good, healthy and a successful New Year on behalf of the entire ESA RN01 board!

This issue of the newsletter reflects back upon and looks forward to our Network's activities. In September last year, we had a great midterm meeting with more than 50 participants from 13 countries, perfectly organised by Board member Lucie Galcanova and kindly hosted by Masaryk University in Brno. The meeting focused on the often overlooked topic of "Agency, Power and the Dynamics of Citizenship" in ageing, with keynote speeches by experienced senior scientists and almost 50 presentations from participants situated across diverse stages of the 'academic life course'. This issue of the newsletter features both a short summary by Lucie, as well as a report from a participant's view.

Ahead of us lies the next major ESA Conference in Manchester in August 2019. As in previous years, our Research Network is open to various types of contributions representing research in the field of ageing in Europe. One distinctive feature of this year's conference is that we will also host a semi-plenary at the conference, featuring two longer speeches by experienced senior scholars, focused on the topic of our midterm meeting. We are hoping that you will join us in Manchester for another vibrant meeting of ageing researchers in Europe to exchange opinions and broaden and enrich our scientific perspectives.

Have fun reading this newsletter and hopefully see you in Manchester!

Dirk Hofäcker



BOOK REVIEW

In this regular newsletter feature, we ask an author to provide a summary of their own book.

This month we are delighted to include a review from Andrzej Klimczuk, Independent Researcher and Social Policy Consultant at the Collegium of Socio-Economics at Warsaw School of Economics, Poland.

Andrzej offers valuable insights into his recently published book, *Economic Foundations for Creative Ageing Policy, Volume II: Putting Theory into Practice* (Palgrave MacMillan).



OVERVIEW

This book shows that global population ageing is an opportunity to improve the quality of human life rather than a threat to economic competitiveness and stability. It describes the concept of the creative ageing policy as a mix of the silver economy, the creative economy, and the social and solidarity economy for older people.

The second volume of “Economic Foundations for Creative Ageing Policy” focuses on the public policy and management concepts related to the use of the opportunities that are created by population ageing. Klimczuk covers theoretical analyses and case-study descriptions of good practices to suggest strategies that could be internationally popularized.

Each chapter includes exercises and assignments for both students and those who are likely to apply the presented concepts in practice.

For further information on the book, please visit:

Volume I: <http://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137466105>

Volume II: <http://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137535221>

AUTHOR'S COMMENTS

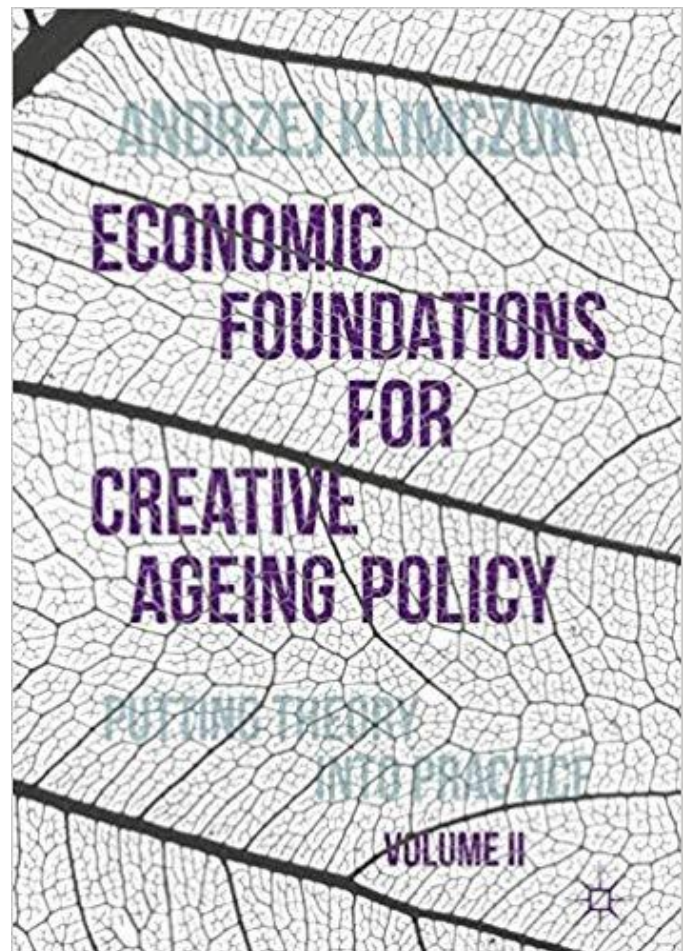
My book “Economic Foundations for Creative Ageing Policy” was divided into two volumes because in this way it was easier to separate discussed topics as well as to manage the time needed for conducting the analysis.

Having said that, the first volume is mainly focused on the basic notions and theoretical background, that is, social gerontology and sociological and economic theories related to the field of creative ageing including the area of arts and ageing. The whole debate in this book addresses: controversies related to creativity and ageing; using mixed economy and multi-sectoral approaches to population ageing; and possibilities of generating benefits at the interface between silver economy, creative economy, and social economy.

In the second volume I tried to use prepared tools and concepts to critically confront selected topics of the public policy on ageing (that is still usually described in terms of the “top-down” approach) and analysis of the creative ageing movement (as an example of the “bottom-up” participatory approach to ageing policy). Thus, the second volume underlines themes such as the diversity of ageing policy ideas; principles, governance, and coproduction of the creative ageing policy; and organisational forms and management for the building of creative capital of older adults.

Moreover, this book provides various examples of the creative ageing programs and the best practices around the world. Every chapter of both the first and second volume includes a summary with some questions that may be inspiring for future studies on creative ageing. There are also two different final chapters (conclusion) that include some potential research directions as well as suggestions and recommendations for implementation of the creative ageing policy. Thus, there is still much space for deepening the debate on relations between creativity and ageing. However, at least two crucial topics of research may pave the way for other issues. These are (1) research on changes in creativity that occur with age (over the life course) as well as (2) measurement and assessment of the impact of creativity on health outcomes and longevity (including socioeconomic consequences).

Nevertheless, as noted by Elizabeth Martin, one of the reviewers of the first volume (“Ageing & Society” 36, no. 9, 2016): “The main message of this book is the fact that the world as we know it is changing.” In this context, the challenge for future research and policy may be described as the further development of theory related to creative ageing, including its ability to explain and anticipate phenomena and processes in the rapidly changing environment. After all, the crucial idea behind creativity is that it may help us to adapt and cope with complexity, uncertainty, and discontinuity or at least to chase the “runaway world” (as described by Anthony Giddens).



For this edition of the newsletter we are pleased to provide a further book review. Below, on behalf of the authorial team, Sarah Hampel and Judith Kaschowitz from TU Dortmund University provide a summary of a book on methods of ageing research.



Methods of Age(ing) Research (Methoden der empirischen Alter(n)sforschung)

In times of demographic change, empirical studies on age and ageing gain societal and political importance. In the presented volume “Methods of Age(ing) Research” (Methoden der empirischen Alter(n)sforschung) we shed light on important topics in the field of age and ageing and discuss the methodological challenges related to these topics. In the first chapter Martina Brandt gives an overview of the methodological challenges in the field of ageing research, for example related to the (qualitative and quantitative) process of interviewing older people or related to the (qualitative and quantitative) analysis of interviews with older people. Following this, in the second chapter Patrick Lazarevic discusses age-specific response behaviour in quantitative studies using the example of self-rated health.

In the third chapter, Jennifer Fietz and Judith Kaschowitz shed light on the possibilities

and limitations of quantitative age(ing) research with regard to small or under-represented subgroups using the example of elderly migrants in Germany. In chapter four Sarah Hampel, Monika Reichert and Veronique Wolter discuss potential obstacles and pitfalls when conducting interviews with care-dependent people living at home, based on their own qualitative research with people with dementia.

Following this, in chapter five they highlight the use and benefits of focus group interviews in age(ing) research. Finally, in the last chapter we summarize all projects discussed in the individual chapters, discuss research gaps and close with an outlook on the future of research on age and ageing. We think that this book is of interest to (PhD) students who are beginning to work empirically in the field of ageing research, but since we give insights into our own qualitative and quantitative research, it is also interesting for advanced researchers.

More information on the book (in German) can be found here:

https://www.beltz.de/fachmedien/erziehungs_und_sozialwissenschaften/buecher/produkt_produktdetails/35827-methoden_der_empirischen_alternsforschung.html

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Information about the authors (all based at TU Dortmund University)

Prof. Dr. Martina Brandt is professor for social structure and sociology of ageing societies

Dr. Jennifer Fietz is a researcher at the chair for social structure and sociology of ageing societies

Sarah Hampel is a Ph.D. student at the chair of social gerontology and life course research

Judith Kaschowitz and Patrick Lazarevic are Ph.D. students at the chair for social structure and sociology of ageing societies

Prof. Dr. Monika Reichert is professor for social gerontology and life course research

Veronique Wolter has been a Ph.D. student at the chair of social gerontology and life course research and works as researcher in the field of sociology of sport



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

**THIS EDITION
PRESENTS A
EUROPEAN PROJECT
ELDICARE THAT IS
EVALUATING THE
SKILLS NEEDS OF
THE CARERS OF
OLDER PEOPLE.**



Europe is getting older: by 2080, a third of the population will be over 65. This means that there is a rapidly increasing need for skilled caregivers who can support their own ageing family members as well as provide a professional workforce for the growing private sector.

The Eldicare Project is a "Sector Skills Alliance" funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme. It brings together 12 partners from 5 countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, UK) to identify the skills that carers of elderly people are going to need for the future, and to develop innovative approaches to training them.

The project will begin with a Training Needs Analysis that will lead to the development of two training packages that can be used across Europe, so that a certificate gained in one country will be recognised throughout the EU. At the kick-off meeting, held in Athens on November 15 and 16, the partners set things in motion detailing the timeline and scope of technical activities as well as defining the management and administrative structure for project implementation.

The project runs for two years, ending in October 2020.

For further details on the project, please contact: Eleni Damianou: edamianou@iek-akmi.edu.gr

Representatives of the 12 partners at the kickoff meeting in Athens





4TH ESA RN01 Midterm Conference
"AGEING IN EUROPE: AGENCY, CITIZENSHIP AND THE DYNAMICS OF POWER"
MASARYK UNIVERSITY, BRNO, 5 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

Conference report from principal conference organiser and Network Board member, Lucie Galčanová



Our 4th Midterm Conference was co-organized by the Office for Population Studies and the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Social Studies. The aim of the conference was primarily to create a platform for discussion of current issues in gerontological research and theory and to support professional networking. In addition, the Network aimed to attract scholars from Central and Eastern Europe by moving the conference geographically to the Czech Republic after holding previous events (conferences and workshops) in countries such as Germany, Portugal, Sweden, the UK, and the Netherlands.

During the three-day event, the 58 participants from 13 countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the Netherlands, Turkey, and the UK) gave 47 presentations representing various fields across ageing scholarship.

The conference programme included four keynote speeches and a moderated closing discussion among the invited speakers on the major theme of the conference. To support the networking goals of the event beyond the conference welcome reception and the conference dinner, a guided tour of Brno city centre and a visit to the Villa Tugendhat took place during the second day of the conference. Photo-documentation and conference details can be found on the event webpage: <http://esaageing-conf.fss.muni.cz/>.

Overall, we feel the conference represented a successful realization of our vision for the event. We would like to thank everyone at Masaryk University who assisted, and also all speakers and delegates who helped to make this such a rewarding occasion. [Please see below for impressions of the conference, from attendee Thorsten Stellmacher, and the end of the newsletter for a selection of photos.]



Impressions of the Midterm Conference

by Thorsten Stellmacher, Institute of Gerontological Research (IGF), Berlin

In September 2018, I had the opportunity to participate in the 4th Midterm Conference of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe Network. The conference on agency, citizenship and dynamics of power offered a broad spectrum of methodological approaches and different approaches to issues of ageing in Europe.

I had a wonderful time in Brno and enjoyed the conference very much – not only on account of the warm, sunny autumn days and the magical atmosphere of the city. Every day the balanced and well-organized conference offered interesting, exciting and sometimes controversial lectures.

Paul Higgs, for example, on the first day, challenged the idea that ageism is conceptually similar to racism and sexism. In order to better describe and explain negative aspects of old age, he suggested instead using the idea of the social imaginary of the fourth age. Jolanta Perek-Bialas proposed closer cooperation between research and politics, and discussed related advantages and disadvantages. She sees this as a central avenue for overcoming the perceptible inequalities in old age created by socio-economic exclusion, discrimination and unequal treatment.

On the second day Thomas Scharf highlighted the challenges facing politics, research and practice in dealing with uneven aging. On the basis of a recent scoping review, he emphasized the wide range and continuity of the issue, and outlined the characteristics of old-age inequality in England relating to physical and mental health, healthy life expectancy, subjective well-being, financial security, social relationships, and living environments. Sandra Torres presented the results of another scoping review on research at the interface between ethnicity/race and old age/ ageing. In the process she raised the important and challenging question of how researchers can...

expect to address issues of inequality of older ethnic and racial minorities without having an agenda for social justice.

In addition to the plenary sessions, there were countless opportunities to go into greater depth in the parallel sessions every day. Making a good choice is always a bit like playing the lottery. I was very fortunate to stumble upon one particular talk in the session “Ageing minorities in ageing societies”. Taking place very early in the morning, it was relatively sparsely attended. Caglar Berkant focused on the different generations of LGBT people in Turkey, arguing that the LGBT movement of the 1990s had failed to establish links with older LGBT people. Instead, he said, the movement has disassociated itself in an act of symbolic violence, as the older generations had in the past been strongly associated with prostitution and “perversion”. Berkant offered exciting insights, seeking openings for collective awareness and perspectives for group and intergenerational reconciliation. The talk also highlighted the difficult current conditions in Turkey for politically independent research. Given the growing problems for independent research in other European countries too, my wish for future conferences is not only to discuss substantive and methodological questions, but also to outline the broader conditions needed for independent research and to name problems clearly.

A scientific conference would be nothing without its accompanying programme. I very much enjoyed the social evening and the many pleasant conversations between sessions. My personal highlight was the tour to Mies van der Rohe’s Tugendthat Villa. The building is really incredible, and in my opinion Brno’s greatest treasure. It will surely bring me back. For all this, and for the friendly support throughout the conference I would like to thank the organizing team very much. Thanks a lot!



Courtesy of conference
photographer, Majda
Slámová



European
Sociological
Association

Forthcoming Event:
**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 *Beyond Europe* 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.

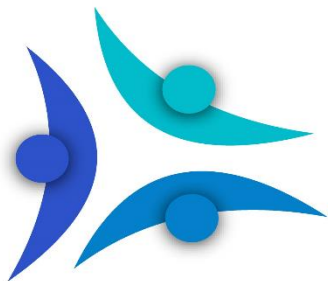
We cannot and should not ignore the factors which are re-shaping Europe from within, such as the effects of globalization, nationalism, populism and migration - and, of course, 'Brexit'. However, it is also crucial that we continue to look towards the possibilities of a global sociology which also takes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

For the full call for papers, please follow this link:

https://www.europeansociology.org/sites/default/files/public/Coordinator/ESA_2019_CFP_Manchester_v1.pdf

Abstract submission deadline: 1st February





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

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