CONSIDERING AGING POLICIES: BETWEEN THE LOCAL AND THE GLOBAL

22-23 SEPTEMBER 2022
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKOW, POLAND
Welcome
Letters
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I warmly welcome you to the 12th Aging and Social Change conference 2022 and am honored to have you join us for this year’s conference at the Jagiellonian University Krakow. For the first time since 2019 when we had our conference with about 200 participants in Vienna, we can meet and discuss in person again.

It is difficult times, and we are all aware that the world has changed massively during the recent years. Among others, we experience a global pandemic with unforeseen impact also on research all over the world providing massive period effects on ageing and ageing-related inequalities. Moreover, we face Russia’s brutal aggression against Ukraine, which is more than ‘just another war’. It indicates regression into a clash of systems that directly and indirectly affects the lives of people of all ages and requires a resolute answer. Moreover, we see accelerated demographic, technological, and economic shifts as well as thorough crises, which challenge modern societies and their relationships globally. This time of significant social change with effects on ageing processes and people’s lives in the second half of life increases the need for research and evidence-based policies. Our 2022 Special Focus ‘Considering Aging Policies: Between the Local and the Global addresses’ the role of policies on all levels during these times, but also other perspectives on the issue of ageing and social change are most welcome. I am grateful to all contributors for sharing their work online and onsite in Krakow, and I’d like to thank all who have helped organize and produce the conference.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Andreas Motel-Klingebiel
Department of Culture and Society (IKOS), Division Ageing and Social Change (ASC)
Network Chair
Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and the Aging & Social Change Research Network, I am delighted and honoured to welcome you to the Twelfth Interdisciplinary Conference of Aging and Social Change. I am thankful to all of you for sharing your knowledge, work and experience during this event. And I am grateful to all who have helped us - Local Organizer - to produce this important - in such difficult times - conference.

The Jagiellonian University takes great pride in hosting such a meaningful and important conference. Since it was founded in 1364, the University has been devoted to explore, study and promote ideas that can make the world a better place to live. During almost seven centuries of its existence the University has taken numerous actions to tackle social problems and challenges. We are expecting lively discussions during the Conference, which would contribute significantly to finding and promoting solutions that lead to allowing people to reach old age in better health and security, the main goal of the Aging & Social Change Research Network and this event.

The undisputable aging of the societies around the world has become a fact and it does present a significant set of challenges both to public institutions and governments and the society itself. Aging is a natural and inevitable part of life but if we do not take steps to transform and adapt our social care and health system, educate society and promote active participation and collaboration across generations, it will become a serious problem.

We need to reshape and rethink our perception of aging and strive to change the stereotypic views of different stages of life in favour of more open ones that combine the active participating in society of people of all ages. It is also a moral obligation to ensure life comfort and safety to older people but not only in this part of the Europe (especially in the light of the war in Ukraine since February 2022 which hit as well Poland and Cracow) but also all over the world. And we should think not only about current older generations but to have visions about future older ones. We need universal (at global level) solutions but adjusted to the local policy and cultural context. That’s why such topics will be detailed discussed during our Conference.

The value of networking at a conference like this is incalculable and we would like to create a dynamic and favourable atmosphere for discussions, networking and sharing ideas We hope to give you the opportunity to meet new people and develop your current work and further projects.

I do hope that you will enjoy the delights of Kraków as it is known to be one of the most inspiring places in Europe and I hope that this 2-day stay in our city will make you await the opportunity to participate in other, not only aging concerning events.

Our great wish is that the Twelfth Interdisciplinary Conference of Aging & Social Change will be satisfying and intellectually stimulating and that you will find the content of the event beneficial. We are looking forward to your presence and wish you a pleasant stay in our beautiful city.

Prof. Jolanta Perek – Białas
Institute of Sociology
Center for Evaluation and Public Policies Analysis
Conference Chair
Dear Conference Delegates,

From wherever you’ve come, in which way you’re participating. I am grateful to all of you for sharing your work at this conference.

For over 30 years, Common Ground has invested in developing technologies that seek to break down barriers of access in scholarly communication. In each phase, we’ve built spaces to support interdisciplinary dialogue, before such approaches were in vogue; connected international voices when disciplines were too often isolated in national silos; and supported an agenda of access and equality, by offering pathways and opportunities for diverse voices. We now propose another kind of intervention -- to build a scholarly communication infrastructure for a blended future. Our blended model seeks to transcend physical boundaries by offering a space to extend in-person conference content online while ensuring online-only delegates are afforded equal participatory and experiential spaces within the platform. At the same time, the model offers participants a legacy resource to which they can return, with access to a social space where fellow participants can keep connected long after the conference ends.

But for us “blended” is more than an approach to technology. We’re using this conceptual filter to consider our mission:

- Blended disciplines as an approach to interdisciplinary research practices
- Blended affinities as a way to approach a shared politics for paradigms of recognition and redistribution
- Blended voices as a way to consider where research happens in and outside of academia
- Blended ideas as the common ground for a new sense of civics

We’re also committed to being industry leaders. In 2021 we became a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Publishers Compact. Launched in collaboration with the International Publishers Association, the compact features 10 action points that publishers, publishing associations, and others can commit to undertaking in order to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Signatories aspire to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the SDGs, publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop and inspire action in that direction.

Alongside becoming a signatory to the UN Sustainability Publishers Compact. I had the honor of leading Common Ground Research Networks delegation to COP26 in Glasgow late last year. We are measuring current emissions in all aspects of what we do to identify areas where emissions can be reduced. And we’re committing to long-term science-based Net-Zero targets for our operations. We’ll be sharing a report of our activities and progress annually, so watch this space.

I thank our partners and colleagues who have helped organize and produce this meeting with great dedication and expertise.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope
Chief Social Scientist, Common Ground Research Networks
Founded in 2011, the Aging & Social Change Research Network is a forum for discussion of challenges and opportunities for a rapidly growing segment of the population worldwide. The process of aging is a concern for individuals, families, communities, and nations. The social context of aging provides a rich background for community dialogue on this, one of the critical questions of our time. We aim to traverse a broad terrain, sometimes technically and other times socially oriented, sometimes theoretical and other times practical in their perspective, and sometimes reflecting dispassionate analysis while at other times suggesting interested strategies for action. Our aim is to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries.

The Economic Outlook of an Aging Society

Generally, men aged sixty-five and women aged sixty are classified as older people. In the richer, more developed countries, by 2050 about 30 percent of the population will be over the age of sixty years. A declining working population will have to create the income, wealth, and tax revenues needed to support the economic needs of the rising number of retired people, and this is likely to have enormous financial and political consequences. By 2050, the ratio of working people to those over age sixty-five in the United States will be about 3:1. This will have major implications for Social Security taxes and retirement planning. As a consequence of the large numbers retiring from the labor force, Social Security and other retirement systems will require re-organization. Key challenges include the financing of public pensions, health care costs of the aged, and long-term care. Other significant issues include changes in labor, immigration, and family policies. There will also be a rising risk of retiree poverty for millions of people, especially for those who have been unable to save enough through their pension and retirement plans.

Economic growth, taxation, consumption, investments, and the welfare system will all impact society across all age groups. The public sector will undergo new stresses, as will free market systems and economic growth. In this context, the world economy will demand increased cooperation of governments to resolve socioeconomic and political problems and to assist state and local communities in providing adequate services for the older citizens.

Public Health, Public Policy, and Government and Community Practices

Opportunities for active aging abound, grounded in better health and longer work participation and security. Active aging programs are allowing people to realize their potential for extended physical, social, and mental well-being throughout their life course. These developments may significantly enhance the quality of life for people as they age. For continued success, our future public health policies and institutions will have to assume a leadership role, creating initiatives for the aged that apply both to individuals and population groups. Education programs must be initiated, work policies regarding age must adapt, and health promotion must be at the forefront. Such programs will position the growing, global aged community to continue to be productive, independent participants in life and the new world demographics. There is much knowledge about aging that can be applied, but societies have a record of responding slowly to crisis. Now is the time to prepare for the changes that will face all global societies in the coming decades.
Health, Wellness, and Aging

The health of older people is improving over time. Recent generations have a lower disease occurrence and fewer health problems. Older people can live vigorous and more active lives until a much older age than in the past. Current intensive biomedical anti-aging interventions are helping to extend the health and productivity of human life. For instance, research has shown that a daily active fitness program will not only maintain physical health and cognitive abilities but can enhance physical and mental abilities. With encouragement and the need to be productive, older people can continue to be economic contributors, to the advantage of both the individual and the larger community and society.

Population aging also poses a great challenge for health-care systems world-wide. As the proportion of the aged populations of nations increase, so can the occurrence of disability, frailty, and chronic diseases including Alzheimer’s, cancer, cardiovascular, and cerebral diseases. The demand for health services increases as people age. It has been estimated that nearly 60 percent of a person’s health costs occur in the year before their death. As the population ages, the expenses of health care will increase, especially for the care of those with chronic ailments and diseases. Planning for these future demographics and the demands on both individuals and society needs to be proactive—not retroactive, when the situation reaches crisis proportions.

Social and Cultural Aspects of Aging

More people than ever are spending a significant amount of their lives in a non-work environment. These numbers will grow at a quickening pace. Living in a society where social lives are structured around work and its organization, how can we cope with a situation in which a large and now ever-growing segment of the population is leaving the domain of formally organized work? Will this new paradigm create a new structure of social inequality? Will we witness the growth of a new affluence divide between age-defined welfare classes and production-based classes? Will age become an increasingly acute differentiator of poverty juxtaposed with productivity and achievement for the producer class?

With the current retirement structure, large shifts from the working population into retirement can be anticipated, often at the expense of the potential contributions of the aged to social well-being. Not only is the ratio of the older to younger adults increasing but also the proportion of well-educated, healthy, and economically secure adults who are entering old age and who have the ability to continue to make significant contributions, but whose opportunities to do so may be limited. Concern over this growing disconnect between aged abilities, and the roles they are expected to fill, suggests we need urgent social policy reform. How can social policy increase the productivity of the aged and reduce the social and financial burden of supporting a growing older population? We need to develop better methods and strategies to integrate and keep aged citizens members of productive society. This leads to a key question: How will the large population of aged be able to live and function independently, carrying out activities and tasks essential to an acceptable quality of life?

Aging is marked by changes in physiology and psychological functioning, accompanied by difficulties in adjusting to new social conditions and everyday technologies. It also involves lost abilities such as visual acuity or physical impairment. There is a societal obligation to understand how the needs and abilities of individuals can change with age and create programs, strategies, and sensibilities to aid this growing segment of population and society. To maintain a positive self-image, the aged person must develop new interests, roles, and relationships to replace those that have become diminished or lost. Society should not demand declining involvement of its aging members. Rather, we should take measures to avoid the injustices of aging by continuing to apply the same norms to old age as it does to other ages in the negotiation of variables such as ethnicity, gender, lifestyle, and socioeconomic status.

https://agingandsocialchange.com/about/scope-concerns
Theme 1: Economic and Demographic Perspectives on Aging
Changing demographic profile of populations around the world will have significant economic impacts, at the community, regional, national, or international level.

Living Tensions:
- The economic impacts of aging communities
- Working into older age; changes in productivity; attracting and managing an older workforce
- Changes in consumption, income, and assets
- Government economic policies, including taxation, welfare, social security
- Increase in the demand and cost of health care
- Economic status and the wellbeing of the elderly

Theme 2: Public Policy and Public Perspectives on Aging
The aging of populations is going to require changes in the public discourse regarding government policy and community support for the aged. Public policies may be related to legal rights, economic provision of health care, or guarantees of access to housing and social services. Community support may be related to policies and programs that enable civic engagement, provide continuing education, or support diversity.

Living Tensions:
- Public health policies related to the aged
- Defining and protecting the human rights of older people across populations and groups
- Legal issues for older people – policy and practice
- Age-friendly design for accessibility- initiatives for the public built environment, houses and retirement and care facilities
- Civic engagement and volunteerism for the aged
- Community programs for maintaining physical health, social wellbeing, and mental cognition into older age
- Epidemiology of aging

Theme 3: Medical Perspectives on Aging, Health, Wellness
The growing proportion of people living longer has significant implications for the provision of health services, and for strategies to maintain health and well-being into old age. Medical developments in a variety of areas impact the ways in which aging is viewed and managed from individual and societal perspectives.

Living Tensions:
- The biology and physiology of aging
- Food and nutrition needs for the aging population
- Brain function and cognition in the aged
- Management of chronic and/or age-related disease
- Identification and management of disease in specific populations
- Regenerative and anti-aging medical interventions
- Aging and sexual expression
- Genetics and aging
- Medications, dietary supplements and regulatory oversight

https://agingandsocialchange.com/about/themes
Theme 4: Social and Cultural Perspectives on Aging

An aging population will also have significant social and cultural impacts—on all age groups, as well as the aged themselves. Increased demands on family and community resources are viewed—and managed—differently across cultures, as is end-of-life care. For the aging individual, changes in social relationships, living arrangements, and levels of independence must be navigated.

Living Tensions:
- The societal impact of population aging
- Social support and networks
- Family structure, relationships, and responsibilities
- Spirituality, religious involvement, and mortality
- Cultures of end-of-life care
- Qualities of life for older people living in developing and developed countries
- Historical and anthropological perspectives on social response to aging
- Lifestyles of the aged
- Culturally specific responses to the aging
- Media representations of the aged
Dr. Andreas Motel-Klingebiel holds a chair in Ageing and Later Life at the Division Ageing and Social Change, Department for Social and Welfare Studies, Linköping University, Sweden. He is a Sociologist and Gerontologist, as well as the current vice-president of the Swedish Gerontological Society. Before accepting the position in Sweden, he was acting as Head of Research and Deputy Institute Director of the German Centre of Gerontology in Berlin, where he served as the director of the German Ageing Survey. He received a PhD in Sociology from Free University Berlin and taught Gerontology and Sociology at the University of Vechta and at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He has extensive experience in quantitative research and his research targets the interdependencies between social change, life courses, human ageing and old age with an emphasis on quality of life, diversity, distributions, social inequality and exclusion.

The Aging & Social Change Research Network is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of our Advisory Board.

- Francesco Barbabella, Linnaeus University, Sweden
- Jill Chonody, Boise State University, USA
- Helen Correia, Murdoch University, Australia
- Shannon Doherty Lyons, New York University School of Medicine, USA
- Peter Graf, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- Amanda Grenier, McMaster University, Canada
- Ronald A. Harris, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, USA
- Lisa A. Hollis-Sawyer, Northeastern Illinois University, USA
- Dan Kayama, Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan
- Pauline Lane, Anglia Ruskin University, UK
- David Morris, University of Central Lancashire, UK
- Andreas Motel-Klingebiel, Linköping University, Sweden
- Yuko Nozaki, Sugiyama Jyogakuen University, Nagoya, Japan
- Aoife Prendergast, Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, Ireland
- Matthew Sorenson, Texas A&M University, USA
- Daniel Velez Ortiz, Michigan State University, USA
- Kieran Walsh, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and the NUI Galway, Ireland
- Hiromi Wantanabe, Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan
- Kieran Walsh, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and the NUI Galway, Ireland
- Perla Werner, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

https://agingandsocialchange.com/about/advisory-board
Aging & Social Change:
Twelfth Interdisciplinary Conference
For over 30 years, Common Ground has been invested in crafting forums that seek to break down barriers of access in scholarly communication. In each phase, we’ve built spaces for interdisciplinary dialogue, before such approaches were in vogue; connected international voices when disciplines were too often isolated in national silos; and supported an agenda of access and equality, by offering pathways and opportunities for diverse voices.

We now propose another kind of intervention -- a scholarly communication infrastructure for a blended future.

Our blended model seeks to transcend physical boundaries by offering a space to extend in-person conference content online while ensuring online-only delegates are afforded equal participatory and experiential spaces. At the same time, the model offers participants a legacy resource to which they can return, with access to a social space where fellow participants can keep connected long after the conference ends.

In this future we also commit to bilingual pathways.

We support the presentation, publication, and social networking for English and Spanish speaking delegates. In doing so we seek to offer spaces where we can "speak our language" and at the same time interact together.

And blended is more than technology.

And blended is more than an approach to technology. We’re using this conceptual filter to consider some of our original mission positions: blended disciplines as an approach to interdisciplinary research practices; blended affinities as a way to approach a shared politics for recognition and redistribution; blended voices as a way to consider where research happens in outside of academia; blended ideas as the common ground for a new sense of civics.
Founded in 2011, the **Aging & Social Change Research Network** is a forum for discussion of challenges and opportunities for a rapidly growing segment of the population worldwide. The process of aging is a concern for individuals, families, communities, and nations. The social context of aging provides a rich background for community dialogue on this, one of the critical questions of our time. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

Past Events:
- 2011 - University of California, Berkeley, USA
- 2012 - UBC-Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2013 - University Center, Chicago, USA
- 2014 - Manchester Conference Centre, Manchester, UK
- 2015 - Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., USA
- 2016 - Linköping University, Norrköping, Sweden
- 2017 - University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, USA
- 2018 - Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2019 - University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
- 2020 - Vancouver, Canada (Virtual)
- 2021 - Vancouver, Canada (Virtual)

https://agingandsocialchange.com/about/history
Jolanta Perek-Białas
Associate Professor, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Jolanta Perek-Białas is Associate Professor in the Institute of Sociology at Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. Perek-Białas is a Director of the Center for Evaluation and Public Policies Analysis. She also works at the Institute of Statistics and Demography at the Warsaw School of Economics.

Perek-Białas’ research interest focus on socio-economic situation of older persons in Central and Eastern Europe, including active ageing, ageism in the labour market policy, social exclusion of older persons, care for older persons.


She has been PI and participated in many national, international projects related to gerontological topics and as well as being an expert for policy makers at the local (city of Krakow), regional (Małopolska, awarded by the Bronze Medal for Achievements in Senior Policy for region, 2018), national levels in Poland (like Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy) and international ones (like OECD, EC, UNECE, and in 2021 for ASEM (20TH SEMINAR “HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS”).

She was a Polish representative in the COST ACTION 1492: Ageism – a multinational, interdisciplinary perspective and in COST ACTION Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion: Collaborations in Research and Policy. She has been also supervisor in a Marie-Curie Skłodowska Action – Innovative Training Network project EuroAgeism (Coordinator: Prof. L. Ayalon), while currently she is involved in Extending Working Lives project (EIWO) and in „City&Co: Older Adults Co-Creating a Sustainable Age-friendly City”.
The **Aging & Social Change Research Network** is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.

[Logos of the university partners are displayed here.]

[Link to the website: https://agingandsocialchange.com/about/our-partners]
Over the last 12 years, Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich lead the Population Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Gaucaite Wittich was responsible for UNECE work on population ageing and intergenerational relations. She coordinated the activities of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing and oversaw the organization of the reviews of national policies and strategies in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Actions on Ageing (MIPAA, 2002) in the UNECE region, capacity development and publication of policy briefs in the area of population ageing. She also acted as the UNECE coordinator for the Generations and Gender Programme and led UNECE activities related to the review of implementation of the Programme of Action of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994).

Prior to joining the Population Unit in October 2010, Gaucaite Wittich worked in the Statistics and Economic Analysis Divisions of UNECE. Gaucaite Wittich has a doctoral degree in Social Sciences. Before joining UNECE, Gaucaite Wittich was an Associate Professor of Economics at Vilnius University in Lithuania.
Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2022 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

**Philip Egbule**
University of Delta, Agbor, Delta State, Nigeria

**Ashwin Tripathi**
Indian Institute of Technology/ Gandhinagar (India)

**Lynn Ng**
University of Victoria, Canada

**Raiany Romanni**
Harvard Kennedy Fellow in Effective Altruism

**Marek Hasa**
Charles University, Czech Republic

**Hyun Kang**
George Mason University, USA

**Jeevan Jain-Cocks**
Northwestern University, USA

**Tolulope Adeniji**
Redeemer’s University Ede, Nigeria
Presentations, Presenters, Participants
Level of Education as a Risk Factor of All-caused Mortality in Men and Women in Older Age: Mortality Patterns

Beata Tobiasz Adamczyk, Professor, Department of Medical Sociology, Chair of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Malopolskie, Poland

The aim of the study focuses on showing differences between older women and men in relation to level of education. Several sociomedical population studies performed over last three decades (study conducted among 2065 Krakow citizens -1986/87, Courage -2011, Courage-Polfus- 2015/16, Neglect-2016) gives opportunity to observed the changes in mortality patterns in relation to increasing level of education in women.

Elderly Loneliness in Surabaya, Indonesia: Experience and Social Support

Ayu Diah Amalia, Student, Doctoral, Airlangga University, Jawa Timur, Indonesia
Mu’man Nuryana, Senior Researcher in Social Planning and Policy, Research Center for Public Policy, National Agency for Research and Innovation, Jakarta Raya, Indonesia

This research explores elderly loneliness in metropolitan city Surabaya, Indonesia. Its not easy living alone in a big city. Many social problems occur to the elderly. Social phenomenological method was used in this research;12 informants are participated. They are elderly above 60 years old at Hamlet 3 Simomulyo Baru, Urban Village in Surabaya. Based on interviews, the majority of the elderly didn’t felt loneliness, the ‘guyup’ culture as social support to the elderly. They also experience in gerotranscendence. Social support and internal agent aspects have implication to elderly loneliness experience.
Social Wellbeing and Prolonged Survival in Older Age: Evidence from a Rare Longitudinal Study

Sarah Assaad, PhD Candidate, Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Despite some evidence showing an association between social factors, such as relationships and support, and reduced mortality risk, a consensus on a clinically relevant measure of social wellbeing in later older age remains elusive. The aim was to derive a longitudinal measure of social wellbeing using data from a rare cohort study of the older old, the Cambridge City over-75s Cohort (CC75C) and test its time-varying association with all-cause mortality. Social relationships, network, support, and participation scores were derived in addition to an overall index of wellbeing at each of the 10 waves of follow-up. Adjusted Cox regression models were used in time-to-event analysis. Missing data were handled using multiple imputation and longitudinal inverse probability weights. A higher score of social relationships, rather than network (i.e., quality vs quantity of contacts), and a higher level of social participation were associated with lower hazard ratios of all-cause mortality. A higher score of informal social support was associated with a higher hazard ratio, implying that the higher the need for support, the higher the risk of dying. The overall social wellbeing index score was significantly associated with a reduced risk of all-cause mortality. The findings provide further longitudinal evidence on the strong association between social wellbeing and mortality in the oldest old, with further associations with its component scores. Future research can derive a similar measure of wellbeing for benchmarking purposes, particularly for community-based interventions that need to capture social wellbeing constructs that relate to older people’s lives.

Mediating Aging: A Case Study in Taiwan

Shu Ling Chen Berggreen, Associate Professor, Media Studies, University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado, United States

Taiwan is experiencing rapid population aging. With the dramatically increasing dependency ratio, it is predicted that by the mid-2030s, every three working-age persons will have to support one aged citizen. In addition to the potential economic burden, there are other concerns. Traditionally, family members cared for their elders, especially when multi-generational households were common and men dominated the workforce. But this has changed in recent decades. With the decrease of multi-generational households and the rise of women in the workforce, home-based care is unfeasible to most families. Long-term elder care has become an urgent issue socially, economically, and politically in Taiwan. Responding to this social and economic demand, the government initiated a foreign live-in caregiver program in 1992. As of 2021, foreign live-in caregivers—mostly from the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia—make up a large share of the more than 700,000 migrant workers in Taiwan. These caregivers usually sign 3-year contracts at a time and, therefore, become quasi-members of the family, creating new patterns of family dynamics and social interaction. Oscillating between the two ends of the continuum of cultural convergence and cultural hybridization, one can observe the emergence of as well as the resistance to multiculturalism within the family unit and in society in general. This tension, in turn, contributes to the social anxiety about aging. This study examines how the media reflect and cover this new social phenomenon in Taiwan and their potential in shaping public opinion and government policies about aging and elder care.
Effects of Resilience and Acculturation Stress on Integration and Social Competence of Migrant Children and Adolescents in Northern Chile

Alejandra Caqueo-Urízar, Professor, Centro de Justicia Educacional CJE, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Región Metropolitana de Santiago, Chile

Migration in Chile has increased exponentially in recent years, with education being one of the main focuses of attention in this cultural transformation. Integration and social competence in migrant population is determined by several factors. The aim of this study is to evaluate the potential effects of resilience and acculturation stress on levels of integration and social competence in migrant students in Northern Chile. 292 School children of both genders ages 8 to 18 -from fourth grade to senior year of high school- participated in it. A subscale of the Child and Adolescent Assessment System (Sistema de evaluación de niños y adolescentes SENA) was used to assess integration and social competence. Also, the Child and Youth Resilience Measure (CYRM-12) and the Acculturation Stress Source Scale (FEAC) were used. The results show that integration and social competence have statistically significant and direct associations with resilience (p < .001) and indirect associations with acculturation stress (p = .009). Both constructs could be defined as protection and risk factors respectively and should be intervened in educational contexts to favor adaptation in the integration of migrant children and adolescents.

 Unsolved Conflicts in Older People that Experience Loneliness

Montserrat Celdrán, Associate Professor, Cognition, Human Development, and Educational Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
Rodrigo Serrat, Lecturer, Cognition, Development, and Educational Psychology Department, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Karima Chacur-Kiss, PhD Student, Social Psychology, Department of Cognition, Development and Educational Psychology, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Loneliness in old age is a complex phenomenon that takes into account elements of the person as well as their environment. However, little has been studied about the relationship between this loneliness and interpersonal conflict. The objective of this study is to describe how older people who feel loneliness identify important interpersonal conflicts. In-depth interviews were conducted of 30 people over 60 years of age who, at the time of the study, were receiving emotional support from associations that work to reduce loneliness in Barcelona (Spain). The block of questions corresponding to the most relevant interpersonal conflicts for the participants was analyzed through Atlas.ti. The analysis was carried out through the following themes: (1) conflict theme; (2) person’s involved; (3) life stage; (4) conflict’s resolution and (5) impact on health after this conflict. Older people reported conflicts that involved differences in decision-making or values, estrangement situation or because of mistreatment. Friends and family were mostly involved in such conflicts. Older people remembered conflicts mainly during aging and they felt those conflicts as unsolved. Finally, half of the sample expressed a negative impact on their health. Older people who find themselves in situations of chronic unwanted loneliness may find themselves in situations of interpersonal conflict that aggravate their social and support situation. The resolution of these conflicts or their mediation can be a complementary way of intervening in social relationships during old age that help prevent or mitigate loneliness.
“I’m Not Old, Just Aging.”: Perceptions of Subjective Age and Aging amongst Community-dwelling Older Adults

Jill Chonody, Associate Professor, Social Work, Boise State University, United States
Barbra Teater, Professor of Social Work, College of Staten Island and The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, United States

“Old age” is a relatively new phenomenon in the span of human existence, and these socially constructed markers are associated with age-related norms and expectations (Settersten & Hagestad, 2015), which in turn influence how individuals feel about age and aging. In fact, age-related stereotypes are internalized early in life and shape our beliefs about aging (Levy, 2009). The concept of “aging” often carries a negative connotation in many Western societies; however, research suggests collective perceptions may be shifting as people are living longer lives. This cross-sectional study using survey methodology sought to understand how older people (N = 477) perceive their age by analyzing the responses of closed- and open-ended questions through summative content analysis. The mean age of participants was 63 years, and the average age that they felt was approximately 10 years younger. The seven themes for why individuals did not feel old ranged from: maintaining an active and engaged lifestyle to “I don’t act or look old,” and the seven themes for why individuals felt old ranged from: stopped or changed activities to nearing death. Findings illuminate how subjective age is shaped by perceptions of what it means to be old, and the ways in which these micronarratives are reflective of larger macronarratives surrounding age and aging. Activities and interventions based in positive psychology may promote shifts in age perceptions. For example, findings from one program found that participants were less stressed, reported less tiredness, and were calmer compared to the control group (Greenawalt et al., 2019).

Major Depressive Disorder in Elderly South Asian Immigrant Populations in the U.S.

Jeevan Jain Cocks, Student, M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy, Northwestern University, Illinois, United States

As the number of immigrants and proportion of elderly grows in the population, mental health outcomes for these populations is an increasingly important topic. The purpose of this literature review is to collect the available research about Major Depressive Disorder in elderly South Asian immigrant populations in the U.S., with respect to biological, psychological, and social factors. Risk factors (both individual and systemic) are explored that may be connected to MDD, and common misdiagnoses, assessments, and interventions that may help address MDD will be discussed. Relational factors and interventions are focused on as an area of potential use in the work of systemic therapists. Finally, limitations of research and directions for future research are uncovered.
The New Mexico Senior Olympics 400/800M Estimated Walk/Run: A Feasibility Study in Older Adult Behavior Change

Ellen Driber-Hassall, Principal, Aging Matters, LLC, New Mexico, United States
John Bishop, Principal, Aging Matters LLC, United States

The purpose of this mixed methods feasibility study is to determine if a novel physical activity intervention helps to modify behavior in terms of activity barrier identification, improvements to physical ability level, and sustained behavior change. Our state-wide research is conducted through a social science experiment with an older adult population. It examines self-reported and observed levels of physical activity, self-reported barriers to physical activity, and longitudinal physical ability changes using the New Mexico Senior Olympics, Inc. (NMSO) 400/800M Estimated Walk/Run as the intervention with adults 50 years of age and older. The study uses both qualitative data, through interviews, instant polls, etc., in addition to quantitative data in the form of surveys, scales, physical ability measurement, and self-reported physical ability changes. Through the testing of a proposed novel behavior change model, the researchers examine various demographic, physical, psychological, and motivational variables for analysis purposes. Anticipated implications of this study include: 1) an increase in participation with NMSO events for adults ages 50 and older, 2) the transition of casual walkers into walking athletes, 3) the validation of a novel behavior change model for older adults, and 4) the recognition and acceptance of the 400/800M Estimated Walk/Run event as a viable, competitive event in the National Senior Games. Such results may have application in fields where professionals work with older adults to enhance the aging process.

Caring for the Aged: Revisiting Some Socio-cultural Practices in Nigeria

Philip Egbule, Lecturing/Researching, Department of Arts and Social Science Education, University of Delta, Agbor, Nigeria, Delta, Nigeria

Aging is a normal stage in life. It is a period in life after physical growth has ended. The aged deserves recognition and respect from all. This call is mainly on the immediate family members (children), secondly, the government considering the economic burden associated with old age in the global south. Recent happenings have emphatically demonstrated a growing vulnerability to the aged and its threats to human right and survival. For instance, delay in the payment of gratuity and pension by the Nigerian government is one of the serious challenges among the aged. In the pre-colonial era Nigerian societies, family support for the elderly was a necessity. However, change in cultural values has eroded these practices in Nigeria. Hence, this paper is a clarion call for the re-visitation and revival of those vital Nigerian cultural values, especially respect, care, love for elders and neighbourly interest. Most importantly, this study investigates the socio-cultural pathways to be taken in building conducive environments for the aged despite the high rate of corruption in Nigeria. To achieve these objectives, the study adopts the method of content analysis of relevant existing literature, materials, pictures, videos and news reports to draw up conclusion based on the workshop’s goals. The paper recommends the prioritization of social welfare policies and as indispensable antidote to curtail the effects of social change on man in general. In conclusion a climate of love and respect, interaction and togetherness should characterize the environment of the aged.
What We Can Learn from Older Adults about Super Typhoon Haiyan

Reggy Figer, Faculty Member, Hokkaido University, Japan

Since time immemorial, natural disasters have become one of the major hazards to human race. With the occurrence of climate changes in different parts of the globe, disasters have become more persistent and damaging. The vulnerable sectors of the society, like the older adults, are generally the ones who are predominantly affected by these disasters. As populations are now growing out to be aged and mature, it is essential that we cognize how older adults perceive, respond, engage, and recover in disaster situations. There have been notions that older adults’ voices are muted and not considered crucial in disasters. However, taking the case of Super Typhoon Haiyan, I argue that since the consequences of calamity on older adults are more substantial, their voices should be more acknowledged and valued. Findings show that older adults are able social actors who have the power and agency. In this paper, I also report their stories of struggles and survival during the post-disaster period. Older adults, likewise, explicate their insights about their roles in disasters. It is hoped that through this research, policy makers can institutionalize elderly’s proactive commitment in community resilience and participation vis-à-vis disaster risks.

Decreasing Isolation and Loneliness with Older Adults in a Post Pandemic Era: A Pilot Study Project

Angela M. Goins, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Department of Criminal Justice and Social Work, University of Downtown-Houston, Texas, United States

This paper examined findings of a pilot study project conducted in Spring 2020-Summer 2020 called The Adopt a Grandparent program at a university in the southern United States. This study explored if this type of program was mutually beneficial to older adults and college students, decreasing feelings of loneliness (ultimately leading to positive health outcomes) and improving college students’ perceptions toward older adults. Can a program be developed that reduces older adults’ feelings of loneliness while also providing college students with meaningful interaction that will improve how they view older adults, especially during a global pandemic? Today’s older adults face a double-edged sword – the risk of loneliness combined with fewer qualified professionals to support them. Studies show that a high percentage of older adults are lonely, which is linked to a variety of negative physical and emotional outcomes. That loneliness could be reduced through geriatric social workers providing resources and interventions. Fewer social work students consider working with older populations. Through this study, students were paired with older adults to reduce loneliness (older adults) and increase attitudes toward older adults (students) over the phone. Data was gathered using both before and after surveys with older adults (pre-survey - UCLA Loneliness scale (20 question version) post-survey UCLA Loneliness scale (20 question version)). Qualitative data via over the phone surveys to older adults about their perceptions and experiences with the college students along with students’ data through computer surveys were gathered. Study results showed decreased loneliness in older adults and positive student outcomes.
Reseaching Social Isolation and Digital Relationships With Empathy: Methodological and Theoretical Learnings From an Experiential Phenomenological Study With Older Adults

Marek Hasa, Student, Ph.D., Charles University, Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, Czech Republic

When a socially isolated older person develops a human connection enabled by digital media, in what ways does this affect her everyday reality and self-perception? While the field of gerontechnology continues to grow the body of objectivistic knowledge regarding the effectiveness of various digital interventions and specific design features addressing loneliness, we remain distanced from understanding the impact of digital interactions on isolated older adults' identities and lived experiences in its full complexity. To close this gap, this paper proposes a human-first, phenomenology- and hermeneutics-driven approach. In May and June 2021, 15 pairs of younger volunteers and socially isolated older adults, equipped with tablets, were guided to gradually build a digital friendship over four weeks. While training the older participants during home visits and collecting rich multimodal data through observations, in-depth interviews, phone check-ups, and participants’ communication logs, diverse ethical motivations led the author to abandon the idea of maintaining a completely rational, distanced position through phenomenological bracketing. The unprecedented sensitivity of the interplay between older age and loneliness, as well as its manifestation during the technology acceptance and learning process required the involvement of empathy and emotionality on the researcher’s side. Reflecting on the methodological process of the present study, this paper offers key learnings and highlight crucial ethical considerations for future qualitative research with older adults. Moreover, the study’s preliminary findings are shared to shed more light on the various identity and wellbeing changes new technology adoption may trigger in older adults.

Gendered Conditioning of Exclusion from Social Relations

Marcela Petrova Kafkova, researcher, Centre for Research on Ageing, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic

Social networks are essentially conditioned by gender. On the one hand, women are perceived to have wider social networks, but on the other hand, they are at significant risk of loneliness in old age. The idea of loneliness appeared incompatible with “traditional” masculinity; the typical picture of loneliness in old age evokes the idea of a widow. We will explore the subjective dimensions of loneliness in relation to social exclusion, having in mind their non-linear and complex relationship in daily life. Embedded in the constructionist grounded theory approach, we analyse data from 29 qualitative interviews with older adults living in the Czech Republic, focusing on loneliness as a highly contextualised issue. We closely explore the relationship between biographical events, the intensity of social relations in later life within and beyond the nuclear family and the subjective feelings of loneliness and solitude. We argue that various dimensions of loneliness must be taken into account as people deal with its impacts both on a situational (feeling of loneliness of one person vary in different spatial, temporal and social contexts) as well as a long-term basis (when loneliness is linked, e.g. to social marginalisation), seeking for positive, supportive aspects of solitude as well as for negative experiences of loneliness. Gender differences in the sources and feelings of loneliness are thoroughly examined. However, our data show that partner and parenting life trajectories, or lack thereof, are more important than gender.
Ensuring Social Inclusion of Isolated Seniors Through Technology: A Collaborative Community Academic Partnership

Lois Kamenitz, External Researcher, York Centre for Asian Research, York University, Ontario, Canada
Noor Din, CEO, Management, Human Endeavour Incorporation, Ontario, Canada

We framed our project within both the field known as gerontechnology, which emerged in the 1990s to highlight the interplay between aging and technology (McDonough, 2016, 1) and socio-technology. We looked at the impact on both seniors and managers of senior serving organizations of distributing to vulnerable seniors several hundred senior friendly integrated android tablets preloaded with apps, data and security. Given that access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is recognized as a social determinant of health, the lack of connectivity found among disadvantaged seniors is cause for concern. Providing them with free pre-loaded tablets ensured their ability to maintain their health and well-being and facilitated their ability to age in place. It also enhanced the efficiency of the senior serving sector to serve the aging population more effectively. We provide the general and specific objectives of our study, its target population, and quantitative and qualitative data assessing the effectiveness of the tablets in removing barriers and connecting both seniors and senior serving organizations with the digital world. We also share information on policy and practice recommendations and future collaborative research.

Age Discrimination and Depression among Older Adults in South Korea During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Moderating Effects of Regular Exercise

Hyun Kang, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Social Work, George Mason University, Virginia, United States
Emily S. Ihara, Professor, Social Work, George Mason University, Virginia, United States

This study examines the association between age discrimination and depression among South Korean older adults and whether regular exercise can moderate this association. There has been a noticeable rise in age discrimination in both the media and the society during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. Age discrimination results in an internalization of ageist attitudes and stereotypes, resulting in decreased self-efficacy and increased negative emotions, which have negative impacts on the health of older adults. Regular exercise has rarely been discussed as a possible intervention against ageism, but it has been shown to boost self-esteem and enhance positive self-perceptions of aging, so it might reduce the psychological detrimental effects of internalized ageism that are caused by perceived age discrimination. A total of 10,327 older adults (65+) were analyzed using the 2020 National Survey of Older Koreans. Depression was regressed on age discrimination while age, gender, education, marital status, self-rated health, and employment status were controlled. A hierarchical multiple regression analysis was used to examine the moderating effect of exercise. We found that higher levels of age discrimination were directly associated with higher levels of depression, and exercise acted as a buffer that decreases the negative influence of age discrimination on depression. In the face of adversity, older adults’ regular exercise serves as an important mechanism for combating ageism by properly managing stress and enhancing self-resilience. Our findings contribute to the development of practice interventions that mitigate the negative effects of age discrimination on older adults, particularly following the pandemic.
Anticipatory Loss and Managing Family Grief for Aging Families Affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder: Anticipatory Loss in Parents of Adult Children with Autism

Connie Kartoz, Associate Professor, Nursing, The College of New Jersey, New Jersey, United States
Munira Wells, Seton Hall University

Global incidence of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is 1:160, with rates as high as 1:54 in the US. ASD is a heterogeneous lifelong disorder often requiring supported living, most commonly with parents. Little is known about how parents and adult children with an ASD navigate end of life and grief. This paper discusses the results of a qualitative study exploring parent’s considerations of late life for themselves and their adult child. After IRB approval, purposive and snowball sampling were employed. Data saturation was reached with a sample of ten mothers and four fathers from the mid-Atlantic US. Participants were interviewed via Zoom, answering prompts such as: “When you think about your child getting older, what do you think about?” Researchers verified audio transcripts and used content analysis to code key words and generate themes. The main subtheme was ‘love and loss.’ Parents grappled with how their child would be understood and manage after they died. Elements of anticipatory loss present were worry, sadness and gratitude; themes previously existing in the anticipatory loss literature. Worry prompted a variety of responses ranging from approach to avoidance. Parents of adults children with an ASD experience anticipatory loss on behalf of their child. Healthcare providers and policy makers must begin to help these families prepare for smooth transitions of care in safe and secure housing scenarios, while at the same time help family members manage anticipatory loss and eventual grief. More research exploring best practices in this area are deeply needed.

The Influence of Computer Experience and Skills on Retirement Age: A Comparison of Denmark, Finland and Sweden

Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen, Associate Professor, University of Helsinki, Finland

The increasing use of computers in the workplace can be a challenge for older workers. These older workers had already started their working careers when computers became common, and they needed to modify their way of working to accommodate this change. Previous research showed that older workers often struggle to pick up computer skills on their jobs. Moreover, they are less likely than younger workers to participate in workplace training to obtain computer skills. As a result, their skills may become outdated. Some researchers argue that as a result, older workers may become more interested in early retirement, and they may also run a higher risk of being made redundant than younger workers do. This study expands on the suggested connection between older workers’ familiarity with computers and their retirement age. It explores this connection from a life-course perspective, asking whether the decisive factor is the computer skills that older workers hold or the experience with computers they accumulated throughout their working careers. Moreover, it asks whether country-characteristics, such as retirement regulations, modify the influence of computer experience and skills. To study these questions, regression analyses of micro-level data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe are carried out. The Danish, Finnish, and Swedish retrospective life-history interviews from wave 7 of this dataset are analyzed. The analyses are stratified by country to investigate country differences. Findings enhance our understanding of older workers, their retirement transition, and computer-induced workplace changes.
Digitalization and Self-perceptions of Aging of Employees in Their Second Half of Working Life

Lisa Kortmann, Research Associate, German Ageing Survey (DEAS, Deutscher Alterssurvey), German Centre of Gerontology (DZA, Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen), Berlin, Germany

Digitalization has and will alter the world of work and put new occupational demands on employees. Since occupations differ in in timing and extent to which they undergo digitalization processes, individuals differ with respect to the extent they face altered skill demands. Common age stereotypes attribute lower digital competences and a certain inability to adapt to technological changes to older workers. Thus far it is unclear, however, how older workers’ self-perceptions of their own aging (SPA) are affected by changes at work due to digitalization. Based on theoretical assumptions derived from Levy’s Stereotype Embodiment Theory, we hypothesize that SPA will become more negative for individuals working in occupations that are digitalised to a higher extent. To investigate this issue we use data from the German Ageing Survey (2014 and 2017) and estimate latent change score models. The results of the study provide some insights about issues arising from the interaction between population aging and digitalization processes in the world of work.

Understanding Needs of Chinese American Family Caregivers Through a Life Story Project

Man Wai Lun, Associate Professor, Social Science, Borough of Manhattan Community College, United States

The aim of this paper is to explore the needs of Chinese American family caregivers of older adults through a pilot life story project. Through life story narratives, a grounded theory approach revealed that the needs of Chinese American family caregivers, including effect of stress, varied by the following: type of relationship with care receivers, perceived cultural values, relationship quality between caregiver and care receivers, cognitive distortions and conflict strategy in caregiving. Discussion on methods of assisting Chinese American family caregivers and possible self-care training and supports is included.
Malnutrition and loss of autonomy in the elderly have raised as public health issues and appear nowadays in the political agenda. Public policies have published recommendations to develop prevention actions. Among stakeholders who develop such actions are NGOs. Our research focuses on one of these NGOs, implementing prevention actions through the intervention of a dietician and a cooking chef. Thanks to observations of the prevention actions and to semi-structured interviews, we analyse how elderly people interpret the actions when they take part into them, in comparison with the original objectives and with the facilitators’ objectives. We measure effects of the elderly people participation, on their social representations and practices, related to food and health, in the wider context of their ageing process. Results are articulated in two themes: food habits and social relations. Cooking habits and eating habits of the household are strongly impacted by the evolution of its structure (when children leave, when someone dies, when leaving alone), by the health conditions of its members (if one becomes ill) and by the social support given and received. Prevention actions have an impact within these biographical changes: the action can be interpreted as a leisure activity reducing the feeling of loneliness for a few hours, as a way to validate existing eating practices, as a way to compare oneself to the other participants in terms of health status and of cooking skills. The participants thus redefine the purpose of the prevention actions, offering potential to improve their design.
Older Adult Perceptions of Aging and Milestones: A Review of Sociological Perspectives

Anjli Narwani, Student, PhD Candidate in Educational Psychology, Masters of Education, The University of Michigan, Michigan, United States

Social psychologists, sociologists and educationalists discuss socialization in somewhat differing ways. Our focus is on reviewing these theories and underpinnings in the context of older adults perceptions of aging. We are interested in unpacking sociological perspectives on life transitions. The cliched empty nest is commonly heard, albeit is used interchangeably by some as a transition and others as milestone. The questions we focus on are around how life milestones are defined, how aging is perceived and how perceptions about transitions are shaped. On one hand, an order of milestones might be seen as offering structure, on the other hand, it might become a motivational crutch for those who might be overly caught with moving from one milestone to another. We inquire if the structure of milestones, broadly speaking, is seen as a result of socialization. Epistemological studies have long debated nature over nurture, with young adult and child behavior taking up much of their attention. Studies of older adults deserve to be discussed as much, but have not garnered mainstream attention. The questions we bring to bear in our literary inquiry are centered around the role of culture and society in the manifesting of the conception of age in older adults. By means of a meta-analysis of existing literature we intend to analyze key properties of milestones and life transition concepts. The underlying aim of our work is to develop an informed conceptual model towards laying out a frame for thinking about how older adults make sense of age.

Unconscious Biases of Care: Wither “Respect the Elderly and Love the Young?” (Confucian Idiom)

Lynn Yu Ling Ng, PhD Candidate, Political Science, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

In this paper, I discuss my interview findings with various stakeholders in the care systems of Singapore and Taiwan using the theoretical resources from feminist care ethics scholarship. I analyse the narratives of care work gathered from informant groups like domestic employers of ‘migrant maids’ who provide informal home care services, family caregivers and NGO activists to contrast how child care and eldercare is treated by households in both locations. My purpose is to spark critical conservations about the hierarchies of care work in social reproduction. For example, one key question that emerges is: Why is childcare valued more highly over eldercare in feminist agendas, and what implications does the omission of eldercare by Marxist Left activism raise for Confucian cultures like Singapore and Taiwan? Using NVivo software, I conduct a qualitative open coding of twenty interviews spread across the aforementioned respondent groups. I generated the key themes based on my informants’ experiences with the care system, emphasising their word choices and quoting them where relevant. Ultimately, I find that for the quality of care provision to improve, deep structural changes at the level of individual mindsets about gendered divisions of labor in the household are necessary. At a social policy level, I suggest rethinking the sustainability of relying on ‘migrant maids’ for home care. The widespread antagonism directed at foreigners for society’s unmet care needs is misplaced. Upon closer inspection, patriarchal capitalist structures that devalue both the elderly citizenry and transient workers are what the people need to lobby against.
Social Relations, Loneliness, and Self-identity Amongst Older People in Sweden

Georgios Pavlidis, Assistant professor, Ageing and Social Change/Department of Culture and Society, Linköping University, Sweden  
Axel Ågren, Phd. Lecturer, Social Work/Ageing and Social Change, Linköping University, Sweden

Having an active life with meaningful social relations is often viewed as key for older persons’ well-being. Experiences of loneliness is seen as a negative issue that must be avoided or reduced. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the issue of loneliness among older persons was highlighted in the public discourse, as the restrictions imposed to avoid the spread of infection among the older has resulted to their social isolation. This study examined how older persons talk about social relations, loneliness, and everyday life, relating these issues to their own identity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Qualitative semi-structured interviews with 30 persons (14 men, 16 women) living in Sweden were conducted. The participants use of linguistic resources (i.e., concepts and metaphors) was analysed, examining how older persons make sense of their own social relations during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how they construct their self-identity in relation to others. The preliminary findings indicate that older persons viewed loneliness as a minor problem during the COVID-19 pandemic, hardly mentioned as one even among those who live alone or those who have faced adversities in the past (e.g., loss of family member, illness). Having an active lifestyle and being busy was recurrently mentioned as the preferred strategy for mitigating loneliness. Loneliness was mainly considered as an issue of “others”, often comparing the “self” with “others” who are lonelier. It was concluded that during the COVID-19 pandemic, being “non-lonely” was an important part of older persons’ self-identity.

From Crone to Conqueror: Reflecting on the Older Actress in the Horror Movie

Amanda Reyes, Independent Scholar, Self Employed, United States

Sociologist Kenneth F. Ferraro defines ageism as, “Prejudice and discrimination against older people based on the belief that ageing makes people less attractive, intelligent and productive.” These beliefs, widely shared in Western society, are rooted in an ideology seeking to dismantle power structures for maturing adults. Cinema upholds stereotypes about growing older, portraying aged characters as dissatisfied, or resorting to extreme antics to maintain youth. Or, they are simply rendered invisible. The horror genre is not immune. According to a 2016 study by industry consultant Stephen Follows, the average age of the lead in a horror film is 38. The genre all too often scales its core viewership towards much younger ages, alienating an important audience. Unfortunately, it is the aging actress who suffers most. The roles offered to women are too often relegated to one-word descriptions such as “hag” and “crone.” The mature female body became a source of ridicule and shame, generating an internalized terror. However, this is changing, and as audiences grow older, the genre film is beginning to offer positive reflections of what it means to be a mature woman facing insurmountable odds. For example, Insidious is a popular franchise fronted by a woman in her seventies. And, Jamie Lee Curtis’ return as Laurie Strode in the Halloween series was greeted with open arms and strong box office. My study charts the transformation from crone to strong, powerful older woman, what that means for spectatorship, and to look ahead at where we should go from here.
Aging is a Major Cause of Suffering in Our Century: Should We Engineer Ourselves Out of It?

Raiany Romanni, Student, PhD, Bioethics, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts, United States

Today, some two thirds of all human funerals owe to the processes of aging. Only 3.7 per cent of cancer patients are under thirty-four, and if a cure for all types of cancers were miraculously found, it would add no more than two years to the average human lifespan. But while the term “pandemic” – from the Greek pán (“all”) and dēmos (“people”) – does not imply infectious disease, our ethics prevent us from applying it to the nearly 100,000 daily deaths caused by aging. In 2021, we all agree that the effects of aging must be treated. The United States alone spends over $300 billion taxpayer dollars each year on the treatment of patients with Alzheimer’s, and the trillions of dollars spent on COVID-19 by this single country, in this single year, make for a painful calculation. But to preventively fund aging research itself goes beyond the reactive purview of both politics and medical systems.

Digitalization, New Job-Demands, and Challenges for Older Self-Employed Workers

Visa Rantanen, PhD Student, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland

Self-employed entrepreneurs are more likely to continue working past retirement age compared to other workers in Europe. Self-employment may provide a suitable platform for continued work engagement for some workers while retirement ages are increased. Digitalization is likely to complicate the work force attachment of older self-employed by imposing new job-demands. Digitalization of services takes many forms: online bookings, online communications, social media presence, online adds and need for building and maintaining websites. Traditional non-digital businesses end up facing new job-demands, the need for acquiring new skills, knowledge, job planning, career planning and dealing with technology-induced interruptions and workflow intensification. There is little research on how older workers respond to digitalization and even less knowledge on implications for older self-employed workers specifically. This paper explores how older self-employed deal with new job-demands stemming from digitalization by studying what strategies they employ to deal with digitalization-induced job-demands and how digitalization-induced job-demands shape their plans for withdrawing from work. The research uses multiple case study approach to sample different businesses that have adopted new digital technologies in their work processes. The cases are selected according to intensified new job-demand scale criteria: low (experiencing few new job-demands), medium (experiencing several new job-demands), high (experiencing most new job-demands mentioned in the criteria). The research builds a better picture of job-demands related to digitalization and their implications across a range of self-employed businesses and may identify successful strategies for older entrepreneurs to deal with these job-demands.
Informal Caregiving as a Touchstone of Family Bonds

Jiri Remr, Research Director, Institute for Evaluations and Social Analyses, Praha, hlavní mesto, Czech Republic

Providing informal care to senior member of the family is in many cases challenging the overall family atmosphere, the bonds among family members, and the intergenerational relationships. Besides its positive effects on seniors who can stay within their natural physical and social environment, informal caregiving might impose an increased stress on informal caregivers, reduce their social life and decrease the quality of life. Population aging poses in increased demand for sustainable arrangements. Findings that will be presented are based on data from quantitative research that was conducted on a representative sample of informal caregivers in Czechia (n=1034). The paper informs about the quality of life as it was perceived by the informal caregivers - standardized instrument CQoL was used in this respect. Moreover, the paper evaluates the key dimensions of perceived quality of life and identifies the most significant drivers including a structure of the families, emotional bonds among family members or caregivers’ fears. The paper may be appreciated for advancing the knowledge about the family structure, relationships, and responsibilities. It provides replicable insight into the needs and abilities of a growing segment of population, and seeks for the measures to reduce the burden, improve the involvement of old-aged, and assure dignity in older age.

Aging in Unsettled Times: Managing the Present and Perceiving the Futures in Contemporary Croatia

Tihana Rubic, Associate Professor, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia

A steadily growing percentage of people now live longer, warning us of the numerous medical, health-related, economic, and political implications of that growth. In what ways do these dynamics reflect on the quality of family life, or rather, (how) do they form or transform contemporary familial and intergenerational practices and interaction with, for example, ninety-year-olds as members of familial communities? Do intensified feelings of insecurity and expectations of insecure (urban) futures in current pandemic, make difference in intergenerational social life of aging? Through socio-cultural research perspective on family life and aging, i.e. a consideration of aging as a socio-cultural challenge in the contemporary Croatian and European socio-economic and political context, I present findings and ethnographic data from ethnological and cultural-anthropological research on family and kinship, and aging and urban public space, from both pre-pandemic and pandemic times. The paper aims to initiate a discussion about contemporary socio-cultural aspects of growing old in the city, and potential applied possibilities of affirmation of old people as political, social, economic, and cultural (present and future) actors both in the context of crisis and in “times of peace.” The paper presents recent and contemporary narratives and practices of family life and aging in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. Its theoretical basis lies in the fields of the anthropology of aging, the anthropology of the city, and the anthropology of the family, as well as the concepts of public space, active aging, family solidarity, intergenerational interaction, and conceptions of futures.
Barriers and Enablers to Civic Engagement among Older Migrants and People Living in Socially Disadvantaged Communities

Rodrigo Serrat, Lecturer, Cognition, Development, and Educational Psychology Department, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Inma Peiró Milián, Predoc researcher, Social psychology, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
Bas Dikmans, PhD researcher, Adult Educational Sciences, VUB Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Karima Chacur-Kiss, PhD Student, Social Psychology, Department of Cognition, Development and Educational Psychology, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Pernilla Ågård, Uppsala Universitet

The ways in which older people engage civically has received the attention of both scholars and policy makers in recent decades. However, the focus tends to be on formal volunteering, overlooking the many other ways in which older people engage civically, such as informal helping behaviors or political engagement. Moreover, older people from under-researched communities, such as migrants born outside of Europe, or those living in socially disadvantaged communities, have seldom been the focus of research and policy initiatives. Drawing on the preliminary results of a cross-national study on exclusion from civic engagement (CIVEX) including five European countries, this paper explores barriers and enablers to multidimensional forms of civic engagement among older non-European migrants and older people living in socially disadvantaged urban communities in Belgium, Spain, and Sweden. Fifty in-depth interviews were conducted exploring older adults’ trajectories of civic engagement across the life-course, and barriers and enablers to different types of civic engagement. Results showed a range of barriers and enablers to civic engagement including personal, relational, organizational, and contextual aspects. Barriers and enablers showed similarities and variations according to the group interviewed, the type of civic engagement considered, and the country where the interviews were carried out. The study highlights the need for interventions to facilitate civic engagement amongst older migrants and older people in socially disadvantaged urban communities, which should simultaneously consider the specific circumstances in which some people from these groups find themselves, the multidimensionality of civic engagement, and the context in which such engagement occurs.
How Do life Course Transitions Impact Older Women and Men’s Exclusion from Social Relationships? Perspectives From Five European Countries

Rodrigo Serrat, Tenure-track lecturer, Cognition, Development, and Educational Psychology Department, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Franziska Rothe, Research assistant, Ageing research and housing studies, OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway
Celia Sheridan, PhD Candidate, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, University of Galway, Ireland
Marcela Petrova Kafkova, researcher, Centre for Research on Ageing, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic
Anna Urbaniak, Post-doctoral researcher, Sociology, University of Vienna, Austria

There is strong evidence showing that late life social ties and social support are constructed differently by older women and men. Research also highlights that life course transitions can lead to a range of potentially exclusionary impacts for the social relations of older women and men. However, little is known about how the intersection of gender and life-course transitions might contribute to exclusion from social relations of older men and women. We present findings from a cross-national European study on exclusion from social relations in later life (title removed for peer-review). We analyze data from 119 in-depth interviews carried out in five countries (countries removed for peer-review). The interviews focused on the lived experiences of relational changes across the life-course, the impact of these changes on exclusion from social relations, and the role of gender on such impact. Our analyses highlighted four transitions that emerged as common in the lives of the interviewees: onset of ill-health, bereavement, retirement, and relocation. These transitions constrained older women and men’s social networks, support networks, social opportunities and intimate relationships, impacting on their exclusion from social relations in later life. The study confirms the need for a gender-sensitive understanding of the contextual determinants of different transitions.

The Burdens of Isolation: Forced Isolation of the Elderly During Covid-19

Lucia Ann Silecchia, Professor of Law, Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, District of Columbia, United States

COVID-19 took a terrible toll on many, physically, emotionally, socially, and economically. When the world emerges from the initial throes of COVID-19 – and the responses to it – there will be time to reflect on so many decisions made and decrees issued quickly in attempts to stop the spread of COVID when it first grabbed the world’s attention in early 2020. There will be time to assess the toll that some of these actions took as many harmful consequences and side-effects are only beginning to be realized. One set of decisions made was the dramatic, near-total isolation that was imposed on elders and other vulnerable persons during this period. Those in hospitals and those living in nursing homes, assisted living communities, and other congregate settings were deprived of company and companionship for months. For purposes of this study, these facilities are referred to collectively as “congregate residential settings.” The paper focuses on what visitation restrictions meant for the well being of those in congregate residential settings physically, emotionally and spiritually. The paper argues that access to companionship is critically important and propose parameters for insuring that access to it is protected and not easily suspended in the future. The study includes a review of initiatives already proposed by the federal government and by local jurisdictions and attempt to craft a policy that respects both the need to protect against the harms of a pandemic and the harms of isolation.
The purpose of this study was to identify differences between the outcomes of the Thai Healthy Aging Instrument (HAI) and the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) in older Thai adults based on the types of living arrangements. Data were collected from the 139 community-dwelling older adults aged 60 years and older who had been participated in the elderly school. The findings of this study indicate that there were no statistically significant relationships between demographic characteristics between those who lived alone (n=30) and those living with others (n=109), except for marital status. The participants living alone were more likely to be widowers compared to those living with others (p < .05). Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H tests indicated that the different living arrangements had an impact on healthy aging, specifically on the Managing Stress Factor, but no impact on well-being among the participants. The participants living alone with a child nearby reported the lowest scores for the item “I am not worried without reason” while the participants living alone without a child nearby reported the lowest scores for the item “I consult someone when I have a problem” compared to the other types of living arrangements (p < .05). This study provided implications for stress management programs for those living alone to develop a non-kin social relationship or a confidant to receive adequacy of emotional support. The objective was to integrate the findings into existing community-based health promotion programs aimed to address the needs of a specific population per their living arrangements.
Social Interactions among Community-dwelling Older Adults with Pet Dogs in Urban Areas: A Scoping Review

Liliana Sousa, Associate Professor, Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro (501 461 108), Aveiro, Portugal
Miguel Padeiro, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Tourism, University of Coimbra, Portugal
Helena Luz, Invited Professor, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences | University of Coimbra, Portugal
Suellen Costa, Student, Master, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

Companion dogs are part of families and households. Research has focused on the role of therapy and service dogs in people’s lives. Dogs have been involved for therapeutic purposes in interventions targeting older adults with depression and dementia, mostly in institutional settings, and have shown effectiveness. However, literature on the impact of pet dogs on community-dwelling older adults is scarce. Since many older community-dwelling adults have a companion dog, it is important to better understand how companion dogs contribute to active and healthy aging. This study mapped the impact of having a companion dog on the social interactions of community-dwelling older adults living in urban areas using a scoping review. Electronic databases were searched, and studies written in English, Portuguese, and Spanish that were published in a peer-reviewed journal were identified. After a careful review, 10 eligible studies were identified, and relevant findings were extracted. The main findings indicated that having a dog may promote or hinder social interactions and that having a dog is about routines and sharing affection. Older adult that have a pet dog may spend more time at home to ensure their dogs are not alone, thus limiting social interaction. Dog characteristics (in particular size, age, and behavior) have been scarcely explored and may mediate dog-owner social interactions. Outdoor spaces, including dog-friendly spaces, increase the frequency and quality of activities outside the home, including with the companion dog. More research is needed to clarify what makes having a companion dog key to promoting healthy aging.
Enhancing the Roles of Social and Healthcare Professionals in Early Intervention of Elder Abuse in the Community: Knowledge, Attitudes and Confidence to Respond

Jonathan Tan, Research Officer, Family Services, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities, Central Singapore, Singapore
Dzulfikaar Sutandar, Student, Bachelors of Arts - Extended Major in Sociology/ Masters in Clinical Epidemiology (in progress), The University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia

Elder abuse is becoming more prevalent as countries (particularly in Asia) experience rapidly ageing populations. Consequently, this issue has detrimental effects on older adults’ quality of life. Due to under-reporting and low help-seeking, most cases that reach the attention of authorities are considered critical and pose challenges for interventions. Opportunities exist for early detection of elder abuse by social and healthcare professionals working in the community who have unique access to older adults. However, studies of health professionals have generally found evidence of poor levels of awareness, perception of abuse, and mediocre knowledge of reporting procedures. Little is known about elder abuse and service professionals’ responses in Asia’s community settings. In Asian populations, such as Singapore, with strong traditions of family responsibility, older adults are likely reluctant to seek abuse interventions. We argue that current knowledge and attitudes of health and social care professionals are vital factors influencing their ability to detect and respond to suspected elder abuse cases in the community. We evaluate aforementioned professions’ level of elder abuse knowledge, attitudes, and confidence to respond to elder abuse cases in Singapore’s community. An online survey was disseminated in February 2022 amongst professional groups with 291 respondents from 14 professions. Findings suggest that professionals’ knowledge and confidence levels are still significantly lower than desired levels, indicating a need for more structured training programs to identify abuse and provide timely intervention for both professions.

Early Prevention of Loneliness as Part of Gerontological Literacy of Schoolchildren

Lucie Vidovičová, Assistant Professor, Dep. of Sociology, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic

In this paper, we present the applied part of the GENPATH project, which focused on the creation of model lessons for the so-called framework curricula for schools. Within these lessons, loneliness and exclusion from social relationships are presented as a possible part of an intergenerationally shared experience. Loneliness is a frequent feature of narratives about ageing and is sometimes seen as its most prominent definition feature. However, available research suggests that the highest proportions of subjective feelings of loneliness are in late adolescence or early adulthood, and only then in old age. The lessons focus on opening the topic of loneliness as well as a gateway to broader debates about old age and age discrimination, another strong link in the so-called generational alliances. In this paper, we present the process of creating and piloting these model lessons, against which we discuss the challenges and opportunities for setting gerontological literacy and promoting generational intelligence in schools as part of social change efforts. These forms of early intervention are enhanced by a life course approach and knowledge about the early foundations of not only attitudes towards old age but also ageing itself.
The Hidden Factor to Improve Health and Wellbeing of Older Adults: How Older Adults are Discovering Mental Health and Therapy

Henry Venter, Professor, Program Director MA Human Behavior Psychology, National University, United States

The growing proportion of people living longer has significant implications for the provision of health services, and for strategies to maintain health and well-being into old age. Historically there has been a predominant focus on medical services targeting physical health issues in the quest to improve wellbeing. Mental health services and psychotherapy has traditionally been focused on the needs of children, teenagers, and young adults with the needs of older adults underrepresented in public health policies and funding for mental health services. Older adults now live longer and experience significant mental health issues, which if addressed in public health policies and funding, can make a significant contribution to their wellbeing. Among some of the cultural changes among older adults, they now form romantic relationships later in their lives, since many live longer. For instance, an increasing number of adults now seek therapy for relationship issues. Studies of how COVID affected older adults surprisingly found that it was reported that romantic life and dating was the most affected. In a further cultural change, during COVID older adults discovered online therapy and now make up a significant portion of clients using this modality. Understanding the mental issues of older adults can significantly impact the ways in which aging is viewed and managed from individual and societal perspectives. This presentation will provide a perspective on the frequency and ratio that older adults now access psychotherapy and explore the topics for which they access mental health services.

End of Life Among African Americans: Systematic Review

Chesney Ward, Student, Doctoral, University of Tennessee, Tennessee, United States

People who are Black and African American are at a substantial disadvantage when it comes to healthcare, and our current initiatives are insufficient. Rooted in systems of racism and inequality, healthcare disparities in the United States continue to be alarming. Among all racial or ethnic groups in the United States, adults who are Black or African American have the highest rates of mortality and are less likely to complete advance directives and engage in end-of-life planning. As life expectancy has increased among all races in the United States over recent decades, people who are Black or African American need the ability to have a quality end of life experience that is not a burden to themselves or their families. Further, minorities have less access to resources and a lack of knowledge about these resources available due to being displaced in lower income communities and restricted education regarding necessary end-of-life planning. Social workers must seek to understand factors around barriers to quality end-of-life preparation among this disadvantaged population in order to employ critical initiatives to reduce these healthcare disparities. The purpose of this systematic review is: 1) to explore the extent to which socioeconomic status (SES) impacts end-of-life care planning among people who are Black or African American, 2) to ascertain which key people are most involved (i.e., families, friends, healthcare providers); and 3) to identify specific barriers related to SES that might inform treatment planning and policy reform.
The aim of this study was to verify social capital indicators as risk factors for 9.5 year all-cause mortality (8 years before COVID-19 pandemic and 1.5 year during of the pandemic) among men and women aged 50 years or older in Poland. The baseline cross-sectional survey was conducted in Poland in 2011 as a part of the COURAGE in Europe study. The analyzed sample included 3032 people (1186 men and 1846 women) randomly selected from the non-institutionalized Polish adult population aged 50 years or older. Face-to-face computer-assisted personal interviews using a structured questionnaire were conducted at respondents’ homes by specially trained interviewers. The mean observation period in the cohort was 9.5 years. The following indicators of social capital were considered: individuals’ generalized trust, specific trust, social networks, social support and social participation. Cox proportional hazard models were used to identify hazards of all-cause mortality. The result show various patterns of all-cause mortality before and after the onset of pandemic as well as across gender groups.
The objective of this study is to examine how care management practices are affected by the building of relationships to support old public assistance recipients. For this purpose, we conducted in January and February 2021 a survey with self-administered questionnaires, that were mailed to 800 randomly selected care management centers and comprehensive community support centers in Osaka City, Japan. The response rate was 19.1% (N=153). Independent variables: Relationship-building with informal and formal care support personnel. Informal care referred to Supporters Rather than the client’s family (SR) and members of the Client’s Family (CF). Formal care referred to institutions that provided daily Monitoring and Money management (MM) and Legal and Financial support (LF). Dependent variables: Care planning and Implementation (CI), Assessment (A), Financial support and Evaluation (FE), Contract and Explanations in care management (CE), coordinating informal support and formal services in Care Planning (CP), and arrangements in Financial supports for Formal service costs (FF). We performed structural equation modeling to examine the relationships between the independent and dependent variables. The goodness of the fit indices was acceptable, and we retained the models. In correlational analyses, CI, A and CE significantly correlated with CF and MM. FE significantly correlated with MM, CP significantly correlated with SR, CF and MM. Finally, FF significantly correlated with SR and MM. These results suggest that the relationships to family members, daily surveillance and money management, and informal community support are important factors to improve the care management for older public assistance recipients.
Age (Un)Friendly Cities and Communities, Prisons, and the Pandemic

Helen Codd, Professor of Law and Social Justice, School of Justice, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK, Lancashire, United Kingdom

This original and ground-breaking interdisciplinary paper brings together perspectives from gerontology, penology, and social policy to explore critically the nature and consequences of the lack of visibility of ex-prisoners within global research, policy and practice on age-friendly cities and communities (AFCC), at a time when increasing numbers of people are ageing in prison settings in many countries. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose challenges in the contexts both of older peoples’ lives, wellbeing and health, and also within prison settings, and thus it is timely to reflect on the links between older people, prisons and cities, at a time of ongoing change and uncertainty. Just as there is an extensive body of ongoing research exploring age-friendly cities and communities, there is extensive published research on older people’s experiences of imprisonment, and a growing body of research on the needs and experiences of older people leaving custodial settings. However, these two research and policy fields have evolved largely independently and separately, leading to a lack of visibility of ex-prisoners within AFCC research and policy and, similarly, the omission of consideration of the needs of ex-prisoners within the broader context of age-friendly cities and communities. Existing checklists and tools for assessing and measuring the age-friendliness of cities and communities may be of limited relevance in this context, especially in the light of the impacts of the pandemic. This paper identifies potential paths to integration and for cross-disciplinary research in this context, concluding with recommendations for developing inclusive research, policies, and evaluation frameworks.

End-of-Life Preferences in the Face of Alzheimer’s Disease: A Survey of Americans over Fifty

Dena Davis, Professor, Religion Studies, Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, United States

The current state of advance directives in the United States allows only limited options to people facing a diagnosis of dementia. Existing options focus on choices involving the final stages of dementia, e.g. refusing feeding tubes when one can no longer swallow. Our question was whether these choices responded to the concerns of many Americans. Our hypothesis was that a substantial number might wish their lives to end at earlier stages. Plan: We sampled 1050 people over the age of 50 in the United States. 58% of respondents had experienced loved ones living with dementia. Participants were divided into two groups (n=525). Group One responded to a vignette about four people who experience fatal heart attacks at different stages of their life with dementia. Group Two imagined that they were writing a document directing a health care proxy about when to accept or refuse antibiotics for pneumonia, should they be in a state of dementia. The majority of Group One respondents (56%) would prefer a life trajectory in which they had a final heart attack while still in the first stage of dementia. The majority of Group Two (57%) would choose to refuse antibiotics for a fatal pneumonia sometime in the first or second stage of dementia. Advance directives and end-of-life strategies that focus only on the final stage(s) of dementia fail to reflect the concerns of a majority of Americans over 50.
Deinstitutionalization of Support for Persons with Disabilities in Poland: A Real or Apparent Chance to Build a Coherent System of Community-based Services for People with Disabilities?

Izabela Grabowska, Assistant Professor, Institute of Statistics and Demography, Warsaw School of Economics, Mazowieckie, Poland

Deinstitutionalization, understood as a process of transition from organizing support based on institutional solutions to organizing support in a community way, with the use of the resources of local communities. Research over many years has provided evidence that alternative community-based solutions have positive outcomes in terms of effectiveness than support provided by an institution-like setting. However, the extent of available research and data on the feasibility of deinstitutionalization in individual countries, including Poland, is very limited. The analysis in the paper starts with answering the question how the population of people with disabilities, who need support in daily activities across age groups is evolving in order to grasp the potential scale of support needed (based on EFIS and SHARE data). Then the paper deals with community-based social services as the main public policy tool for deinstitutionalization and supporting independent living in terms of their accessibility and quality. In the third part the paper reviews support practices based on deinstitutionalized solutions targeted at people with disabilities in Poland, consisting of several interrelated elements: housing support, socialized institutional support, family support, active rehabilitation, integrated social services. Practices based on deinstitutionalized community-based solutions, taking mainly the form of social services, can be identified in Poland. They testify to the potential of deinstitutionalized support in Poland and the existence of verified ways of implementing such solutions. However, there is a lack of a coherent system, the implemented measures are point-wise in nature and do not create a coherent system with permanent financing.
Impact of Day Care Services on the Normalization of Life of the Elderly: An Empirical Study in Taiwan

Yuan Shie Hwang, Distinguished Professor, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, National Chi-nan University, Nantou, Taiwan

This study analyzes the changes of service users’ perception of normalization of life after receiving day care services, and accordingly to propose suggestions helpful for promoting the life of the elderly. This study was carried out with a quantitative method. The Normalization of Life Scale (24 items) consists of four dimensions: life well-being (6 items), psychological well-being (5 items), social well-being (5 items), and spiritual well-being (8 items). The study randomly selected service users from four counties and cities in Taiwan as samples, and conducted data collection through face-to-face questionnaire interviews. A total of 180 valid questionnaires were collected. The main findings include: (1) gender, education level, ethnic background, marital status and physical health are all significant variables that affect the normalization of life; (2) the overall normalization of life and spiritual well-being are improved after service use, but the life, psychological and social well-being are decreased slightly; (3) After using the service, the frequency of interaction with family members is significantly increased, and the relationship of interaction is also significantly improved. The main recommendations of this study are as follows: (1) To realize the concept of active aging by promoting the function of day care service; (2) To increase the acceptance of service users by creating a homelike atmosphere in day care center. (3) To meet the needs of multi-cultural care by considering the particularities of minority group; (4) To improve accessibility of services by increasing the coverage of day care in rural areas.

Elder Organisational Abuse in Long-term Care Homes: An Ecological Perspective

Marie-Michèle Lord, Professeur, Ergothérapie, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Canada

Organisational abuse, which is the inability to provide a good level of care to an individual or group of people in a care setting because of practices in an organisation, is growingly documented. This paper identifies sources of organisational abuse faced by older adults living in long-term care homes (LTCH). This study uses a phenomenological approach to conduct individual interviews with occupational therapists (n=23) working in LTCH. Individual semi-structured interviews have been transcribed and analyzed by co-analysts to identify issues related to organisational abuse. Two main themes and six sub-themes have been identified: (1) lack of resources which causes a (a) difficulty to address the needs of older adults and (2) inadequate environments which brings (b) a lack of respect for autonomy and human dignity, (c) an insufficient response to basic needs, (d) an over-emphasis on safety, (e) occupational deprivation, which is prolonged restriction from participation in meaningful activities. These issues can be examined in a broader ecological perspective, where the macrosystemic context strongly influences the choices of LTCH managers and how care and services are organized. Addressing macroscopic issues is a promising avenue of action to reduce organizational abuse in LTCHs.
Creative Aging in Libraries: Promoting Seniors’ Quality of Life and Aging-in-Place through Arts and Culture Programming

A.T. Moffett, Student, MA Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware, Delaware, United States

The state of Delaware in the Midatlantic region of the United States is home to a growing number of adults 55+. Impacted by population aging and the state’s status as a retirement destination, well-being for seniors is a policy priority. In 2021, the state assembly formed an Aging-in-Place working group to develop policy recommendations for home and community-based services for Delaware seniors. The purpose of this focused discussion is to report findings of a community-engaged research project examining the quality of life (QoL) impacts of a Creative Aging in Libraries pilot program held in public libraries throughout the state. Participants were involved in playwriting, devised theater, pastels, and more. Pre- and post-surveys captured socio-demographic and QoL data. The research was done in collaboration with the state arts agency, librarians, and teaching artists trained in the Life Time Arts methodology. The discussion grounds the initiative within the Arts and Culture in Public Health framework. Psychologist Dr. Gene Cohen’s developmental model for the second half of life will be presented as a rationale for leveraging the expertise and connections of community-based arts organizations in planning for programs, services, and caregiver workforce training to support aging-in-place. Policy recommendations include continued investment in Creative Aging by local, state, and federal arts agencies, public support in the form of grants to community-based arts organizations that provide culturally tailored programming for seniors in under-resourced communities, and funding to incentivize cross-sector research between those working at the intersection of arts, health, and community development.
Associations and Attitudes Towards Influenza Vaccination among Polish Older Persons in the Time of COVID-19 Pandemic

Idalina Odziemczyk, Student, PhD Candidate, Doctoral School of Social Sciences at Jagiellonian University, Poland

The persistently low number of people in the high-risk groups – like older persons – who use voluntary vaccinations justifies deepening the reflection on the social aspects of health-related behaviour, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper compares the ways of understanding the vaccination phenomenon and attitudes towards it between a group of older persons who have taken flu vaccination in the last three seasons and those who abstain from it. An ongoing study conducted during the coronavirus pandemic involves retired older residents of Cracow, Poland. They are recruited through Senior Activity Centers and provided with self-filling questionnaires. Analysis of the survey data will use the free association method (Doise, Clemence, Lorenzi-Cioldi, 1993) based on the open-ended question about associations with influenza and vaccinations. Associations profiles of both study groups will be compared with the results obtained using three scales for measuring attitudes towards vaccination (Betsch et al. 2018; Martin, Petrie 2017; Szczerbińska et al. 2017). Preliminary results show discrepancies between groups of older persons. Groups significantly differ in vaccine confidence, complacency, and collective responsibility. Non-vaccinators exhibit more complex and contradictory associations, as opposed to a coherent picture among those who get vaccinated (vaccine as a health protection tool). The literature review revealed limited research concerning the social perception of voluntary flu vaccination among older adults. Therefore it seems reasonable to incorporate their perspective as the key target group of vaccination and promote pro-health initiatives at every stage of life.
Challenges for Public Policy Interventions on Loneliness and Social Isolation

Elia R.G. Pusterla, Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre of Competence on Ageing (CCA), University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Ticino (it), Switzerland

This study addresses loneliness and social isolation among older adults as a public policy challenge. National and international political actors promote public policy interventions to cope with them. However, prospects of public policy-shaping against loneliness and social isolation raise challenges associated with a double uncertainty concerning (i) newness and (ii) scarcity of reference models. By modelling four intervention scenarios of public health policy, the paper proposes an evaluation model of interventions useful for further policy-shaping. A systematic search based on PubMed provides data from 172 studies between 2005 and 2022 on public health policy interventions’ effectiveness in reducing loneliness and social isolation among older adults is used. The independent variable distinguishes four intervention scenarios depending on the (i) origin (individual/societal) and (ii) scope (individual/societal) of cases of loneliness and social isolation addressed by public health policy interventions. The dependent dichotomous variable codifies the assessment of the effectiveness of the above interventions. Binomial logistic regression tests the hypothesis for which interventions’ scenarios affect the effectiveness of policy interventions. Different scenarios determine different challenges for policy-shaping. Implications Preliminary results suggest that the four scenarios (i. individual-individual; ii. individual-societal; iii. societal-individual; iv. societal-societal) determine different outcomes in the assessment of interventions’ effectiveness. Notably, the shift from i. to iv. shows an increase in the challenge for public policy-shaping against loneliness and social isolation among older adults. These accounts provide political actors with enhanced awareness of the challenges for further policy-shaping.

Economic and Non-economic Abuse toward Elderly in the Tlaxcala State, Mexico

Kristiano Raccanello, Professor, Investments and Banking, Fundacion Universidad de las Americas Puebla, Puebla, Mexico

In Mexico, elders cohabit with younger generations because losing independence and the need to maintain family relationships. However, unemployment and inflation as economic consequences of COVID-19, have disrupted consumption patterns as well as the economy and household relationships. The literature indicates that kins are responsible in eight out of ten episodes of violence against elderly; thus, living with relatives may be a risk factor for elders, especially when pensions represent a – and in some cases the only one – household income source. Through a random and stratified by municipalities sample of 2,956 elders (Oct–Dec 2020), of the state of Tlaxcala (Mexico), through a simultaneous equations tobit model, we analyze the relationship between economic violence (theft of valuables items, money, government pension or dispossession of real estate), and non-economic violence (physical, psychological, abandonment and mistreatment). A tobit modelling is appropriate because self-reported violence is considered as a latent variable due to the fact that persons might not declare that they are suffering violence despite of the opposite. Often, such events are not reported by elders because the fear that the situation will worsen or when perpetrators are relatives. We found a strong and significant simultaneity relationship among economic and non-economic violence, although the determinants of each kind of violence vary according to each type. Therefore, during COVID-19 elders are at risk and personal and household factors may generate self-reinforcing abuses. The Mexican government must intervene by implementing specific public policy in this regard.
Change of the Labour Market Exit Age of Older Poles

Anna Ruzik Sierdzinska, Associate Professor, Department of Economics I, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

The need to increase economic participation of older people in Poland was an important public policy issue since the end of 20th century. One of the reasons for the 1999 pension system reform was to make people retire at higher ages. In recent years, policies to encourage longer stay in the labour market, focus more on active labour market policies or tax incentives. The paper presents the dynamic estimates of the age of withdrawal from the labour force in Poland and compares it with changes in activity rates calculated using cross-sectional data. Individual Labour Force Survey data has been used to estimate withdrawal rates for five-year age groups (from 50-54 to 65-70) in 21st century. The results of the dynamic estimates compared with the one based on the cross-sectional data provide information on the outcomes of policy aimed at the extension of the working lives.
Starting from a previous similar Italian study, the aim of this work is to identify at the European level the main determinants of protection and risk of increasing poverty in families where disabled old people are present. The study takes part in the SEreDIPE project funded by Horizon 2020 MSCA-IF-2019 (g.a.n.888102). 104 variables by nation (Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain) and three European macro-areas (North-Western and Central Europe, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe) were collected from four international databases: Eurostat, Health for All Europe, WHO, WDWB, from 1990 to the most available recent year. The Poverty Index was the dependent variable and all the other variables were the covariates. After a first selection of the covariates, Multivariable Linear Regression Models, with various checks to exclude collinearity bias and clustering effects across the European macro-areas, were applied to define the covariates influencing the Poverty Index (p<0.05) at the European level and by macro-areas. The results show two lists of variables influencing and not influencing at the European level the dependent variable. In particular, the percent of s 1-2 members families, and other variables related to public formal expenditure and services, reducing the Poverty Index. Socio-demographic variables, if in a severe deprivation condition, run to increase the Poverty index, including the high literacy rate. Additionally, for each macro area are identified what variables are statistically significant. The study underlines how the public offer a pillar for contrasting the poverty risk.
Financial Exploitation of Older Adults: Social Awareness of a Major Social Problem

Ronald Dolon, Professor, Social Work Department, Ball State University, Indiana, United States

Elder financial exploitation is a growing threat to our nation’s older adults. The United States has no national reporting mechanism to track financial exploitation of older adults. Financial exploitation has been called “the crime of the 21st century.” More than 25,500 older Americans reported sending 16 million dollars to scammers posing as family members and claiming an injury or arrest in a foreign country. It is reported financial abuse cost older Americans 3.6 billion dollars every year. The number of victims is expected to grow as the older populations in the United States is expected to reach 71 million over the next few decades. With old age often comes social isolation and mental and physical decline which makes the older adult susceptible. Prevention is an important part of combating financial exploitation. When exploitation occurs, victims are left to cope with all the aftermath of compromised identity, damaged credit, and financial loss. In addition, older adults experience a painful range of emotions including anger, fear and frustration. This workshop is designed to provide information and tips to help prevent frauds, scams, and other types of older adult financial exploitation. Topics include factors in targeting, effects on older adults, and steps to prevent financial exploitation.

Current Housing Options Not Meeting Needs for Mobile Seniors in Poland: Polish Seniors Want to Remain Independent as Long as Possible Contrary to Cultural Beliefs

Gretchen (Greta) Garniss, Underwriter, Rockland Trust Bank, Massachusetts, United States

Programs, policies, and research in the senior housing demographic focus on the social, medical, and economic areas of aging. Housing for mobile seniors is an area that is neglected in research. While development of nursing/care homes and social housing units is important, the senior demographic is divers in its mobility, income and living wants. The needs of mobile seniors are not being met in this market. Briefly reviewing historical and current real estate activity in housing development along with surveying active seniors through original research provides the basis of this paper that aims to promote more diverse housing choices and development for mobile seniors. This study focuses on Poland because it is the largest country in Central and Eastern Europe and there are similar real estate and senior housing issues across this region. It is hoped that as a result of this research, Poland could be used as a model to diversify and improve housing conditions for seniors at all levels of age, mobility, and health not only in Poland, but across Central and Eastern Europe. There is an economic and social return on investment for building housing that better meets needs.
Predictors of Involuntary Retirement Internationally: A Systematic Literature Review

Mary Beth MacLean, Student, PhD Candidate, Queens University, Prince Edward Island, Canada

Involuntary retirement, common in many countries, leads to poor outcomes for individuals themselves, organizations, and society. However, little is known about the factors explaining involuntary retirement. The objective of this study was to conduct a systematic review to inform policy, practice, and research by examining factors explaining perceived involuntary retirement among older workers in high-income countries. The literature was systematically reviewed resulting in the identification of 514 records and nine studies eligible for analysis. One of these studies was assessed as high quality, six as moderate quality, and two as low quality. Disability and poor health status were found to be associated with perceived involuntary retirement in all but one of the nine studies. Younger age at retirement and job loss were found to be significant in five and four studies respectively. Other less common factors were caregiving responsibilities, lower education, and poorer finances. Many other factors were found significant in only one or two studies. Limitations of moderate to low-quality studies were the use of cross-sectional rather than longitudinal data (five studies), lack of sex-disaggregated analysis (six studies), non-nationally representative data (three studies), a limited range of factors considered in analyses (three studies examined factors in fewer than five main domains). These findings have implications for policy, practice, and research to inform involuntary retirement screening, outreach, and prevention efforts. However, caution should be used given that few studies matched the inclusion criteria and only one study was assessed as high quality, which suggests a lack of studies.
Invisible Ageing?: Understanding the Experiences of Older Workers in the Swiss Urban Transport Sector

Rocio Palomeque, Postdoctoral Researcher, Faculty of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Lausanne, Neuchâtel (fr), Switzerland
Nicky Le Feuvre, Full Professor & Dean of the Faculty of Social & Political Sciences, LIVES Centre, Lausanne University, Vaud (fr), Switzerland

This paper contributes to a better understanding of the experiences of older (50+) workers in Switzerland, a country preoccupied by the financial viability of its pension system and by labour shortages in some sectors. However, as a liberal, highly decentralised country with a buoyant economy, the Swiss authorities haven’t yet adopted any far-reaching EWL policies. Although Switzerland boasts one of the highest labour market participation rates of older (50+) workers in Europe, there are relatively few studies of the embodied experiences of ageing in specific occupations. The DAISIE project sought to fill this gap. Drawing on interviews with older (50+) workers in a transport company, we found that, despite actively seeking to hire and retain older workers, the company had no explicit ‘age management’ policies in place. This led to a highly individualised vision of ageing at work with paradoxical implications for older workers. On the one hand, the company recognised the challenges associated with working in a stressful environment with unsocial hours and provided all staff with a wide range of “wellness” initiatives. On the other hand, due to the stringent health and safety checks imposed on drivers, any request to access these measures triggered concerns on the part of HR and line managers about their ability to continue in the job. With only limited opportunities to shift to back office or administrative jobs within the company, the older drivers therefore sought to avoid being identified as a ‘needy older worker’ and to play down any health issues.
The process of aging among athletes has vast economic implications for the labor market of professional sports. Specifically, determining the peak performance of athletes can be useful for franchises, practitioners, and the athletes themselves. Previous research in the context of the National Basketball Association has found that performance is maximized at approximately 26 years of age (Simmons & Berri, 2011). Analyses of European men’s professional soccer have found similar results, with peak performance occurring between 25 – 27 years (Dendir, 2016). In men’s professional hockey, research has reported that although scoring peak age occurs between 27 – 29 years for skaters (forwards and defensemen), near-peak performance may last from 24 – 34 in such athletes (Brander, Egan, & Yeung, 2014). However, investigations on the effects of aging in women’s professional team sports are relatively scant. Thus, this study contributes to the existing literature by analyzing peak performance of Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) players (n = 641) using data spanning 23 different seasons. We implement mixed-effects regression models with random effects of player, team, and season, controlling for team winning percentage, games played, minutes played, usage percentage, and pace. Given the emphasis on scoring in basketball (Berri, Brook, & Schmidt, 2007), we examine points per game and true shooting percentage in our analysis. We also investigate the impact of age on offensive rating, defensive rating, and the composite player impact estimate (PIE). Practical applications and future directions for research are also discussed.
The Role of Financial Conditions for Health and Daily Life Functioning of Middle-aged and Older Adults: Evidence from Panel Data

Dorota Weziak-Bialowolska, Associate Professor, CEAPP, Jagiellonian University, Malopolskie, Poland

Financial security has been shown to play a protective role for emotional well-being. However, little has been known about the protective role of sufficient financial resources in mitigating the risks of negative outcomes in mental health and daily life functioning. Using longitudinal survey data collected between 2000 and 2019 and retrieved from the SHARE database, we examined the role of sufficient financial resources, including different types of savings, for protecting against depression, loneliness, and a decline in the daily life functioning. Multivariate proportional hazards model with time-varying covariates as well as the cross-lagged panel model were applied. E-values were calculated to examine sensitivity of associations to unmeasured confounding and a series of secondary analyses provided evidence on robustness of the results. We found that having moderate financial assets is associated with a 10% reduction in the risk of depression over a two-year period and even higher reduction in the risk of limitations in daily life functioning and experiencing loneliness. Possessing savings equal to at least semi-annual incomes is associated with a 25% reduction in limitations in daily life functioning. Short-term savings are shown to be prospectively associated with all measured outcomes with particularly large effect for daily life functioning. Long-term savings are not found to be protective against depression but, particularly when high, they are associated with reduced risk of loneliness and limitations in daily life functioning. The effects of financial conditions on subsequent health and of health on subsequent financial conditions are presented.

Informal Home Care Recipients versus Private and Public Facilities Residents: Predictors of Long-term Care Utilization in Poland

Małgorzata Wrotek, Student, PhD student, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Mazowieckie, Poland
Małgorzata Kalbarczyk-Steclik, University of Warsaw, Poland

The population aging, together with the shrinking caring potential of families, is a major challenge for social policy in the coming years. This study identifies the factors that determine not only the use of long-term care (LTC) but also the selection of individual types of such care in Poland. Using unique data collected from inpatient LTC facilities in Poland and the Survey on Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) database, we estimate logistic regressions. Our results suggest that social inequalities play a role in choosing the type of LTC. Better educated people choose private institutions, while people without social networks use more often social residential homes. The impact of multimorbidity on choosing different types of inpatient facilities is limited, thus the number of ADL limitations remains a better indicator of long term care utilization. The differences in LTC selection determinants between women and men are noticeable.
Grip Strength as a Key to Longevity: Its Measures and Optimization

Tolulope Adeniji, Lecturer, Physiotherapy, Redeemer’s University Ede, Nigeria

Grip strength is a biomarker of ageing at the level of body function that explains many diseases conditions in older adults such as cognitive impairment, falls, and many other geriatric syndromes, and it has also been noted that a strong grip strength may indicate living a long life. It is therefore critical to provide an overview of how to measure and improve grip strength in order to provide better care for older adults and increase their longevity. A narrative review of the literature on grip strength measurement and intervention in older adults was conducted and PubMed, Cochrane, and Google Scholar databases were searched for themes on mechanism of hand grip strength, grip strength measurement, and novel interventions on non-pharmacological means (physiotherapy) of optimizing grip strength in older adults. Hand grip strength can be measured with a dynamometer, and hand dexterity and coordination, which are required for good gripping ability, can be measured with a box and block test, but special tests like hand nerve supply integrity and blood supply assessment are required during hand function evaluation for optimal gripping ability. Grip strength is a biomarker of aging and element of longevity that necessitates an appropriate combination of interventions in therapeutic exercises, electrotherapy modalities, and biomechanical approaches for an effective therapeutic outcome. With literature pointing to grip strength as a biomarker of aging and an element of longevity, optimizing hand function may be fundamental and should be included in all physiotherapy interventions for older adults.

The Impact of COVID-19 in Europe: Residential Care for the Elderly, Employment Conditions, and Care Regimes in a Comparative Perspective

Marco Arlotti, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy

The residential care sector for the elderly has been dramatically hit by the pandemic crisis in Europe, particularly during its first wave. High levels of deaths among the elderly have been coupled with the existence of problematic conditions for care workers. Such conditions traditionally affect the residential care sector. Indeed, high turnover, low wages, and limited professional standards are largely predominant in this sector. However, important differences also exist across European countries, shaped by structural factors as the main characteristics of national care regimes. Against this background, the paper explores the configuration of relations between the effects of the pandemic on the residential care sector, the main features of employment conditions, and the predominant characteristics of national care regimes in a comparative perspective. The research considers seven European countries (Sweden, Denmark, United-Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain). Quantitative data from Eurostat and Oecd online databases are analyzed, by considering several indicators. Preliminary results show the existence of specific national clusters, but also the fact that a common configuration of relations between the dimensions analyzed seems not to emerge homogenously across countries. In this sense, a more in-depth analysis of the trajectories of development of the residential care system in each country, as well as the consideration of other potential explanatory factors may represent important dimensions to be considered for further analysis.
Proposing Non-wearable Assistive Devices for Older Mexican Adults

Pilar Hernández Grageda, Professor, Engineering Faculty, Universidad Panamericana, Jalisco, Mexico

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the population ratio of older adults relative to the overall population is increasing and is projected to continue. This shifting ratio represents both an opportunity and a social responsibility for designers and engineers to develop technologies, interfaces, and applications that are adaptive for the capacities and limitations of older adults. These individuals may benefit from emerging technologies and intelligent devices to maintain their independence and stay at home for longer durations. This shifting demographic has also created the new field of gerontechnology as an interdisciplinary field of science for designing technology and environments to facilitate independent living and social participation for older adults. In this paper, we introduce a research project with the objective of designing and developing intelligent-assistive technology that is developmentally and culturally viable. More specifically, we explore non-wearable devices that can become part of the environment inside the homes of older Mexican adults. This device should assist older adults to live independently while maintaining positive standards of health, comfort, and safety. While our project consists of four broad stages, we present the results of the first stage (needs assessment) with specific reference to Mexican cultural aspects and supported by a literature review, participatory workshop outcomes, observation activities, and focused interviews with older adults and caregivers.

Changing Healthcare Services to Enable Aging in Place in Rural and Remote Regions

Wendy Hulko, Professor, Social Work, Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia, Canada
Noeman Mirza, Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Aging in place has long been a policy objective in Canadian healthcare, with particular concerns expressed about older adults in rural and remote regions. Health care restructuring is often linked to cost containment and reallocation of resources; this was the case with a British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Health mandated initiative that aimed to reduce hospital visits and delay admissions to long term care for older adults and was positioned as supporting aging in place. Interior Health (IH) – one of six BC health authorities – ‘repositioned’ (i.e. restructured) primary and community care to support aging in place by creating Seniors Health and Wellness Centres (SHWCs) in Kelowna, Kamloops, and Salmon Arm/Revelstoke. For their ‘transformation’ initiative, Northern Health (NH) created 26 primary care homes or inter-professional teams spread across their region in a rural distributive model. Our current research, Aging in Place in Rural and Remote Regions (APR3) is a multi-case study comparing NH’s transformation with IH’s repositioning, focusing on the extent to which each initiative supports aging in place for rural and remote older adults, and addresses their social determinants of health. We used mixed methods of data collection and analysis, including 13 key informant interviews and document analysis for NH and IH; for IH we also analyzed service usage data for the three SHWCs (n=2343) and gathered 10 service user questionnaires. In our paper, we present our case studies, discuss our preliminary findings, and indicate implications for healthcare restructuring in urban areas and rural and remote regions.
A Holistic Digital Cognitive Health Platform for Cognitive Decline: A Feasibility Study

Anna Sandford James, Knowledge Transfer Associate, Health and Society, The University of Northampton, Northamptonshire, United Kingdom

MyCognitionPRO is a CE-marked, digital health platform, designed to help users manage their cognitive health. The KTP project between MyCognition and The University of Northampton is undertaking a staged evidence generation plan to ensure the effective launch of a usable, evidence-based version of the platform, tailored to monitoring and preventing cognitive decline. A literature review, including clinical trials, has evidenced the therapeutic use of MyCognitionPRO for cognitive decline. However, the results indicated high rates of non-adoption and non-adherence in target users and several barriers with usability, accessibility, clarity and perceived usefulness of the platform. The project is now conducting an in-depth feasibility trial with older people (50+) experiencing a range of early-stage cognitive decline as well as their carers to investigate the effectiveness of the platform. The research measures usability, accessibility, enjoyment and motivational factors (acceptability) to assess the likelihood the intervention would be successfully implemented in the real-world context of people experiencing cognitive decline. The results will model user needs and determine factors that predict poor and good engagement with the platform. This will identify opportunities to modify and evolve the MyCognitionPRO platform to broaden the appeal, accessibility and usability. Results will be synthesised into a user-centred product roadmap, providing recommendations for app developments, further user trials, coproduction and efficacy research. This evidence-generation strategy is necessary in order to deploy MyCognitionPRO as a digital tool that meets user needs, achieves regulatory approval and implements smoothly into markets to have a real impact in society.

Leisure and Life Satisfaction: Empirical Insights from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India

Ashwin Tripathi, PhD Candidate, Humanities and Social Science, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, India

The paper analyses the social inequalities embedded in time-use dimensions among the older adults from the recently released dataset Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI; Wave 1, 2017-2018). With dramatic shifts and changes in later-life, scholars have recorded an emerging cultural movement of third-agers, who are defined by their leisure pursuits. Although social engagement through leisure has been known to be an important determinant for older adults’ wellbeing, the empirical examination of this association remains absent in the Indian gerontological scholarship. Therefore, we examine how everyday leisure activities vary by gender, class and living-arrangement patterns and its association with life satisfaction among older adults aged 50 and above. Results from regression modelling offer support to previous work that emphasizes the centrality of leisure engagement in improving older adult wellbeing. We also contend that a focus on leisure patterns make for a persuasive empirical alternative to examine household-level inequalities across gender and generation.
Contemporary American culture generally has three responses to the sex lives of older adults: to assume they do not exist, to demonize and portray them as repulsive, or to make them of comedic entertainment value (LeVay et al., 2021). Despite documented benefits of sex and intimacy (Hillman, 2008; LeVay et al., 2021; Williams & Donnelly, 2002), dominant cultural norms reserve sexuality for younger cohorts. Older adults continue being sexually active in later years as evidenced by the range of sexually transmitted infections (Johnson, 2013) and new diagnoses of AIDS (Huang et al., 2015). Although health impacts are apparent, practitioners do not initiate sex-related conversations with the frequency preferred by their older patients (Gott et al., 2004). These findings highlight a communication gap that ultimately hinders successful aging. This project gathered qualitative data with 30 adults on communicative patterns with healthcare providers and perceived sexual health needs. The sample included 19 women and 11 men where 60% of the sample identified as White/Caucasian, 37% as Black/African American, and 3% as Asian Pacific Islander. Approximately 80% identified as straight/heterosexual, 10% as gay/lesbian, 7% as bisexual, and 3% as asexual. Results point to a specific protocol that may be useful to healthcare providers in addressing the topic of sexual health in ways that meet unique needs and highlighted the need for tailored resources deemed useful by older adults. The discussion focuses on efforts that contribute to a holistic modality of care and illuminate an aspect of well-being that has historically been ignored.
Voices of Older Students: Perceptions of Belonging on Age-friendly University Campuses

Farah Baig, Student, Ph.D. Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development, University of Minnesota, United States

First established in 2012, the Age Friendly University Global Network consists of over 85 universities worldwide, many of which are in the United States. In this study, I provide an overview of scholarship surrounding Age-Friendly Universities (AFUs), specifically looking at intergenerational education in broader terms. I discuss the potential of AFUs to not only support the social and intellectual needs of older adults and provide spaces for positive intergenerational interactions but also address the financial and enrollment-related needs of at-risk higher education institutions.

Social Inequality of Participation and Risks for Exclusion from Swedish Late Working Life

Gülin Öylü, PhD Student, Ageing and Social Change, Linköping University, Sweden
Andreas Motel Klingebiel, Professor in Ageing and Later Life, Research Director and Head of Division, Ageing and Social Change, Linköping University, Sweden
Susanne Kelfve, Linköping University

Sweden has rising and a higher participation rate compared to other OECD countries due to its reforms on pension system, active labor market policies, and higher composition of higher educated groups. However, inequality in exit timing, and early exits among blue-collar workers and lower educated groups remains. This paper combines several studies for portraying inequality and exclusion risks in late working life in Sweden and mechanisms that these inequalities and risks are generated using Swedish register data. First, various exit types and employment type trajectories among different gender and education groups are presented. Second, the link between childhood conditions, earlier working life attachment and exit timing are discussed. Third, reemployment chances and the risk of exit followed by unemployment among different age groups in late working life are explained. Finally, the role of branches and company structure in employment chances of older workers are presented.
Attendance List

Tolulope Adeniji, Redeemer’s University Ede, Nigeria
Axel Ågren, Linköping University, Sweden
Aikedan Aniwae, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Marco Arlotti, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy
Sarah Assaad, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
Takako Ayabe, BAIKA Women’s University, Japan
Farah Baig, University of Minnesota, United States
Shu Ling Chen Berggren, University of Colorado-Boulder, United States
Subhra Bhattacharyya, Hunter New England Local Health District, Australia
John Bishop, Aging Matters LLC, United States
Alejandra Caqueo-Urízar, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile
Georgia Casanova, INRCA (IRCCS) - National Institute of Health & Science on Ageing, Italy
Montserrat Celdrán, Faculty of Psychology, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
Jill Chonody, Boise State University, United States
Li-Hsin Chuang, National Chi-nan University, Taiwan, Taiwan
Helen Codd, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK, United Kingdom
Adrienne Cohen, Georgia Southern University, United States
Danilo Contiero, INRCA (IRCCS) - National Institute of Health & Science on Ageing, Italy
Rachel Crossdale, The University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
Dena Davis, Lehigh University, United States
Ayu Diah Amalia, Airlangga University, Indonesia
Noor Din, Human Endeavour Incorporation, Canada
Ronald Dolon, Ball State University, United States
Ellen Driber-Hassall, Aging Matters, LLC, United States
Philip Egbeule, University of Delta, Agbor, Nigeria
Reggy Figer, Hokkaido University, Japan
Laura Funk, University of Manitoba, Canada
Gretchen (Greta) Garniss, Rockland Trust Bank, United States
Vitalija Gaucėtaitė Wittich, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland
Tamsyn Gilbert, Common Ground Research Networks, United States
Angela M. Goins, University of Downtown-Houston, United States
Sara Ynes Gonzales Santisteban, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
Izabela Grabowska, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
Marek Hasa, Charles University, Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism, Czech Republic
Pilar Hernández Grageda, Universidad Panamericana, Mexico
Annika Heuer, Linköping University, Sweden
Wendy Hulko, Thompson Rivers University, Canada
Yuan Shie Hwang, National Chi-nan University, Taiwan
Jeevan Jain Cocks, Northwestern University, United States
Lois Kamenitz, York University, Canada
Hyun Kang, George Mason University, United States
Connie Kartoz, The College of New Jersey, United States
Jan Kazak, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Poland
Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen, University of Helsinki, Finland
Lisa Kortmann, German Centre of Gerontology (DZA, Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen), Germany
Yu Chun Liu, 國立中國國際大學, Taiwan
Marie-Michèle Lord, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Canada
Man Wai Lun, Borough of Manhattan Community College, United States
Mary Beth MacLean, Queens University, Canada
Milena Maj, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Nidheesh Manee Kandiyil, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Julie Mayer, CERTOP UMR CNRS 5044 / Groupe SOS, France
Noeman Mirza, University of Windsor, Canada
A.T. Moffett, University of Delaware, United States
Andreas Motel Klingebiel, Linköping University, Sweden
Michele Mulqueen, Linköping University, Sweden
Gerhard Naegle, TU Dortmund University, Germany
Sigal Pearl Naim, Sha'arei Mada Center for Law and Science, Israel
Anjli Narwani, The University of Michigan, United States
Lynn Yu Ling Ng, University of Victoria, Canada
Idalina Odziemczyk, Doctoral School of Social Sciences at Jagiellonian University, Poland
Margaret O'neill, National University of Ireland, Ireland
Filip Oszczyk, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Gülin Öylü, Linköping University, Sweden
Rocio Palomeque, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Alex Pate, Common Ground Research Networks, United States
Georgios Pavlidis, Linköping University, Sweden
Dorota Pawlak, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Nehle Penning, TU Dortmund University, Germany
Jolanta Perek-Bialas, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Marcela Petrova Kafkova, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic
Tatiana Portnova, Common Ground Research Networks, Spain
Sean Pradhan, Menlo College, United States
Elia R.G. Pusterla, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Switzerland
Kristiano Raccanello, Fundacion Universidad de las Americas Puebla, Mexico
Visa Rantanen, University of Helsinki, Finland
Jiri Remr, Institute for Evaluations and Social Analyses, Czech Republic
Amanda Reyes, Self Employed, United States
Raiany Romanni, Harvard Medical School, United States
Tihana Rubic, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Anna Ruzik Sierdzinska, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
Kaila Ryan, Common Ground Research Networks, United States
Jillian Salomon, Common Ground Research Networks, United States
Anna Sandford James, The University of Northampton, United Kingdom
Wiebke Schmitz, University of Vechta, Germany
Rodrigo Serrat, University of Barcelona, Spain
Tomoko Shigaki, Me University, Japan
Lucia Ann Silcchia, The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, United States
Regina Skiba, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Liliana Sousa, University of Aveiro (501 461 108), Portugal
Usar Suragarn, Rattana Bundit University, Thailand
Dzulfikaar Sutandar, The University of Queensland, Australia
Jonathan Tan, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities, Singapore
Beata Tobiasz Adamczyk, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland
Ashwin Tripathi, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, India
Aleksandra Trybalska, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Anna Urbaniak, University of Vienna, Austria
Maria Varlamova, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Daniel Velez-Oritz, Michigan State University, United States
Henry Venter, National University, United States
Lucie Vidovičová, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic
Chesney Ward, University of Tennessee, United States
Zhao Ze Weng, National Chi Nan University, Taiwan
Dorota Weziak-Bialowolska, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Małgorzata Wrotek, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Economic Sciences, Poland
Katarzyna Zawisza, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Poland
Jennifer Zorotovich, Georgia Southern University, United States
Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology’s connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

Common Ground Research Networks is not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Illinois, USA, organized and operated pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, 805 ILCS 105/101.01, et seq, (the “Act”) or the corresponding section of any future Act.

www.cgnetworks.org
The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces.

**Supporters & Partners**

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:

[Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation]
[Institute of Education Sciences]
[Illinois Ventures]

And to our Research Network members!

[www.cgnetworks.org/medialab]
Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We’ve been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Measuring
In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

Reducing
At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the “low hanging fruit” initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we’ll be doing in the short term.

Contributing
As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

Long Term Goals
We’re committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We’ll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.
Proceedings of the Aging & Social Change: Twelfth Interdisciplinary Conference, hosted by the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, 22-23 September 2022. The conference featured research addressing the following special focus: “Considering Aging Policies: Between the Local and the Global” and annual themes:

- Theme 1: Economic and Demographic Perspectives on Aging.
- Theme 2: Public Policy and Public Perspectives on Aging.
- Theme 3: Medical Perspectives on Aging, Health, Wellness
- Theme 4: Social and Cultural Perspectives on Aging.