

4th Midterm Conference of the Research Network on Ageing
in Europe (RN01) of the European Sociological Association

AGEING IN EUROPE: AGENCY, CITIZENSHIP
AND THE DYNAMICS OF POWER

Conference Program

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Book of Abstracts

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Preliminary Version

Masaryk University, Faculty of Social studies

Brno, Czech Republic

5 - 7 September 2018



Wednesday, 5th of September

Registration (9:00-16:30)

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|-------|---|--|---|
| 12:00 | ESA Research Network on Ageing in Europe business meeting | | |
| 13:00 | Conference Opening - Welcome speeches | | |
| 13:30 | Keynote lecture 1: <u>Paul HIGGS</u> : Ageism, ideology and the social imaginary of the fourth age | | |
| 14:30 | Keynote lecture 2: <u>Jolanta PEREK-BIAŁAS</u> : Inequalities in active ageing – is it already exclusion or discrimination? | | |
| 15:30 | Coffee break | | |
| 16:00 | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 |
| | <i>Ageing and identity</i> | <i>Special Session by <u>Hynek Pikhart</u>: Social and psychosocial determinants of health in ageing European population: evidence from European longitudinal studies</i> | <i>Agency, creativity and work in older age</i> |
| | <u>Bernhard WEICHT</u> : The relational constitution of old age | <u>Milagros RUIZ, Martin BOBAK</u> : A cross-country analysis of perceived neighbourhood social cohesion and depressive symptoms: The role of positive psychological states and social influence | <u>Andrzej KLIMCZUK</u> : The Emergence of the Creative Ageing Movement: Older People as Co-Creators and Co-Producers in the Collaborative Policy Design Cycle |
| | <u>Edward TOLHURST</u> : Unyielding Selflessness: Strategic interaction and the negotiation of care relationships | <u>Jitka PIKHARTOVA</u> : Loneliness, its trajectories and its determinants across Europe: evidence from ELSA and SHARE studies | <u>Justyna Monika STYPINSKA</u> : Agency, structure and the life course: mature entrepreneurship in Poland |
| | <u>Jenni SPÄNNÄRI</u> : Becoming me, becoming wiser, becoming more compassionate? Trajectories of personal growth in older adults' group activities | <u>Martin BOBAK</u> : CVD risk factors and verbal episodic memory among middle-aged and older adults: Evidence from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing | <u>Konrad TUREK</u> : The Role of Training for Old-Age Work Trajectories – Comparative Longitudinal Evidence from SHARE Data |
| | <u>Sarah CAMPBELL, Richard WARD, Andrew CLARK, Kainde MANJI, Agneta KULLBERG, Elzana ODZAKOVIC</u> : 'Dementia Time' and the temporal neighbourhood | <u>Hynek PIKHART</u> : Work stress and mortality in Central and Eastern Europe: the HAPIEE study | <u>Pavel ŽIARAN, Martina RAŠTICOVÁ, Monika BÉDIOVÁ</u> : Looking for early retirement. Difference between the self-employed and the salaried. Evidence from the EU Share. |
| 17:30 | Welcome reception (Faculty of Social Studies) | | |

Thursday, 6th of September

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|------|---|---|
| 9:00 | Session 4 | Session 5 |
| | <i>Dementia in the context of institutional care</i> | <i>Family relations and informal care</i> |
| | <u>Camilla LEWIS, Ruth WEBBER, Vanessa MAY, Tine BUFFEL</u> : Ageing in Place Over Time | <u>Anna URBANIAK</u> : Informal carers of older adults in Poland: formal & cultural context of the role |
| | <u>Mike LAUFENBERG</u> : Caring for Citizenship: The Case of “Dementia-Friendly Communities” in Germany | <u>Veronika WALLROTH, Sandra TORRES</u> : Sons and sons-in-law on caregiving: What the masculinity lens brings to the table |

Hannah ZEILIG, Millie van der BYL WILLIAMS, Julian WEST: Co-creativity: Challenging conceptions of agency and dementia

Elisabeth CARLSTEDT, Håkan JÖNSON: A place for mom? Adult children as the target group of online presentations of nursing homes

Dana SÝKOROVÁ: Aging alongside siblings

Hana ŠLECHTOVÁ: Brother-in-law/sister-in-law in dynamics of late life sibling relations

10:30

Coffee Break

11:00

Session 6

Session 7

Session 8

Residential care

Special Session by Lucie Vidovičová and Norah Keating: Revisiting Rural Ageing: a good place to grow old?

Equality and care accessibility in older age

Sarah CAMPBELL, John KEADY, Richard WARD: Atmospheres of Dementia Care: Embodied narratives within an ethnographic study of the everyday lives of men living with dementia in care.

Josef BERNARD: Opportunity deprivation in rural areas. Is it an issue for the older people?

Tove HARNETT, Håkan JÖNSON: Is this ageism? Age as a principle for distributing supportive services

Evalyne THAUVOYE, Jessie DEZUTTER: Transition to a residential care setting: An existential challenge?

Monika ALISCH, Marina RITTER: Social engagement and assistance services: Challenges for elderly people in German rural areas

Andrea E.SCHMIDT: Older Persons' Views on Using Cash-for-Care Allowances: Gender, Socio-economic Status and Care Needs

Jaroslava HASMANOVÁ MARHÁNKOVÁ: "Pretend you don't see it and don't ask" – Sexuality and intimacy in aged care facilities

Thorsten STELLMACHER, Birgit WOLTER, Josefine HEUSINGER: Ageing in rural areas – Barriers and success factors for the development of age-friendly communities. Findings from a pilot project in East Germany

Angelique MAVRODARIS: Cambridge Ageing Well Strategy: A Whole Systems Approach

Håkan JÖNSON, Tove HARNETT: Three competing strategies to address the problem of older chronic alcoholics

Lucie VIDOVIČOVÁ: Age-Friendliness and Care Provision: Confounding Variables in Rural Settings?

Patrick LAZAREVIC: Beyond Health: How Do Non Health-Related Factors Influence Self-Rated Health?

12:30

Lunch Break

13:30

Keynote lecture 3: Sandra TORRES: **Scholarship on ethnicity, race and old age: studying inequalities in an injustice-oblivious way**

Keynote lecture 4: Thomas SCHARF: **Unequal Ageing: Challenges for Research and Policy**

15:30

Social Programme (guided tours in Villa Tugendhat, Villa Stiassni, and Brno City Centre)

19:00

Conference dinner

Friday, 7th of September

9:00

Session 9

Special Session by Stephan Lessenich: After Retirement? "Active Ageing" and Beyond

Stephan LESSENICH: Governing the „ageing society“: The new politics of „potential“

Jaroslava HASMANOVÁ MARHÁNKOVÁ: Activity as a new normative framework of subjective meanings and expectations associated with grandmother role

Anne MÜNCH: Active Ageing and Dementia Care: A Critical Assessment

Marcela PETROVÁ KAFKOVÁ: Active ageing of “the others” – possibilities of active ageing in the fourth age

Session 10

Living solo, living with others

Sarmitė MIKULIONIENĖ, Gražina RAPOLIENĖ, Natalija VALAVIČIENĖ: Demographic trends in solo-living men and women in later life

Ľubica VOĽANSKÁ, Marcela KÁČEROVÁ, Juraj MAJO, Julia HOLANOVÁ: Being sole and being senior. (In)dependency and interdependency in later life in urban and rural Slovakia

Danuta ŻYCZYŃSKA-CIOŁEK: Significant Life Events in Biographies of Older Poles: A Mixed-Methods Approach

10:30

Coffee Break

11:00

Session 11

Social participation and integration

Martin LAKOMÝ: Unequal accessibility of social participation in later life across European welfare regimes

Sunwoo LEE: Examining social integration of Czech older adults: preliminary analysis and research agenda

Daniel SCHWERTFEGER, Bill POTTHARST: Assistive Technologies for the elderly within strategies for coping with the implications of ageing societies

Session 12

Ageing minorities in ageing societies

Tarja TAPIO: Telling their stories - Giving a voice to the oldest meänkieli-speaking women in terms of social inclusion in rural Tornedalen

Berkant CAGLAR: Generations, Symbolic Violence and Absent LGBT Elders in Turkey

Faith Nathan KILPELÄINEN: Forced immigration and ageing: experiences of elderly immigrants in Finland

12:00

Lunch Break

13:00

Panel discussion of key note speakers: Agency, Citizenship and the Dynamics of Power

14:30

Closing remarks, end of the conference

Social engagement and assistance services: Challenges for elderly people in German rural areas

In Germany elderly people living in rural areas are affected by demographic change: informal help systems erode, infrastructural facilities and public social services decrease, social institutions and social relations get pressurized: In a broad socio-political discussion about the “welfare-mix” the idea of a shared responsibility sets up the expectation that elderly people in the communities should undertake tasks which formerly had been organized by the German welfare system like domestic help. The paper presents the research findings of a study that aims to a) identify the interests of the elderly in self-organized services b) investigate needs of elderly people and c) understand under which conditions self-organized services act as partners for public services. The findings also focus on political structures and strategies. The project has been designed as participatory qualitative research in two different rural areas with very different spatial and economic structures. Findings indicate that offers of self-organized social-services fall into a) assistance-services and b) events providing opportunities to socialize. All are located between personal caring relations and private enterprises and these locations are expected by policy makers. At the same time the politicians feel extensively unable to support this commitment, hesitating to intervene into the private market of services. The presentation will outline critical incidents in the relationships of all actors.

→ [Session 7](#)

Bernard Josef

Opportunity deprivation in rural areas. Is it an issue for the older people?

There are two competing arguments concerning the seniors’ quality of life in rural areas. According to the first one, elderly persons in the countryside are particularly vulnerable to poor accessibility and lack of services, because they have limited mobility opportunities, and they face difficulties in substituting missing local opportunities by commuting at greater distances. According to the other argument, older people are less vulnerable to limited rural opportunities than other residents, because they do not aspire to the variety of institutionalized opportunities and because the rural environment provides them with many other qualities that cities do not offer. I tested the both arguments using survey data comparing the living conditions in different types of territories in the Czech Republic. The results show that seniors commute out of their home location significantly less frequently than other residents and spend more time at the place where they live, which could indicate their greater vulnerability towards local conditions. However, this situation does not result in increased opportunity deprivation of seniors in the countryside. Seniors do not report higher constraints or lower satisfaction in rural communities than other inhabitants, not even in peripheral rural areas where accessibility is a serious issue. Rather, it seems that young people are more vulnerable to the living conditions in the countryside, especially in rural peripheries.

→ [Session 7](#)

Bobak Martin

CVD risk factors and verbal episodic memory among middle-aged and older adults: Evidence from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

Background: We investigated the association between trajectories of verbal episodic memory and burden of cardiovascular risk factors in middle-aged and older community-dwellers. Methods: We analysed data

from 4,372 participants aged 50-64 and 3,005 persons aged 65-79 years old from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing who were repeatedly evaluated every two years and had six interviews of a 10-year follow-up. We measured the following baseline risk factors: diabetes, hypertension, smoking, physical inactivity and obesity to derive a cardiovascular risk factor score (CVFRs). Adjusted linear mixed effect regression models were estimated to determine the association between number of CVFRs and six repeated measurements of verbal memory scores, separately for middle-aged and older adults. Results: CVFRs was not significantly associated with memory at baseline. CVFRs was significantly associated with memory decline in middle-aged (50-64y), but not in older (65-79y) participants. This association followed a dose-response pattern with increasing number of CVFRs being associated with greater cognitive decline. Comparisons between none versus some CVFRs yielded significant differences.

→ [Session 2](#)

Caglar Berkant

Generations, Symbolic Violence and Absent LGBT Elders in Turkey

LGBT elders are invisible social group in Turkey. Semiotic exclusion of elder bodies produces symbolic violence against aging groups and marginalizes identification of aged status in this minority group. This research presentation attempts to uncover social and political reasons of the absence of the elderly LGBT people in Turkey. It analyzes the transformation of the emerging LGBT movement in Turkey in the 1990s from a historical perspective taking the lives and experiences of sexual minorities, which have been generally overlooked in the historiography of modern Turkey, into account. I argue that the emerging movement in the 1990s could not maintain ties with the previous generation, and rather implemented symbolic violence against and distanced itself from it. In this sense, the movement has contributed to the bifurcation of internal logic of the field in a Bourdieusian sense. As a result, previously not necessarily identified unfixed, local sexual identities such as “gacı,” “lubunya,” and “dönme” have been transformed into modern identity categories such as “lesbian,” “gay,” “bisexual,” and “transgender.” More importantly, this transformation separated two generations and the former group outpaced and implicitly elder population was lost, became nostalgic and outdated. The emergent symbolic violence and disintegration of generations are deeply influenced by the transformation schedule of the Turkish society. In particular, I argue that sexual minorities shattered by the military coup of the 1980, increasing legitimate state violence, displacement strategies of the state and new implications of neoliberal regime. Therefore, I suggest that relationship between LGBT movement and elder generation requires community-based awareness, reconciliation between generations and historical critique of the Turkish society so as to discuss age related concerns of the elderly people and provide better aging context for the today’s younger generation in the future.

→ [Session 12](#)

Campbell Sarah, Keady John, Ward Richard

Atmospheres of Dementia Care: Embodied narratives within an ethnographic study of the everyday lives of men living with dementia in care.

This paper presents emergent ideas from an on-going doctoral study which is exploring everyday embodied life for men living with dementia. The paper discusses challenges within dementia studies to find methods and ways of working that include the voices of those who may no longer use words or hold structured conversation. This study draws on data taken mostly from ethnographic field notes within two care homes and a dementia ward. My days were spent sat alongside residents living with dementia in

corridors, day rooms, and when permitted in bedrooms and bathrooms. The focus of the paper will be to explore the notion of, and opportunities for 'embodied and sensory narrative analysis' using this data. Working from a mainly traditional participant observation approach to collecting data, the analysis has attempted to expand 'narrative analysis' to look at stories told through the diverse individual and collective bodies of the participants. I am exploring how the atmospheres of these care settings are felt through the entanglements of collective bodies in the material and sensory spaces of dementia care. Narrative analysis has been enhanced through close attention to affect and atmosphere in order to consider how collective bodies perform together the 'small stories' of everyday life within these settings. These stories have been developed to create three atmospheric domains: 'Normative Atmospheres' that are created through the care organisations, and the particular ways that they structure and organise time in order to control and manage bodies; 'Resistive Atmospheres' that are produced in response to the normative atmosphere and 'Restorative Atmospheres' which are created through assemblages of sensory, material, and human during moments of connection. This work presents an opportunity to consider the embodied and intangible aspects of care that have truly tangible consequences for the people who live in these spaces and their relationships with those who care for and support them.

→ [Session 6](#)

Campbell Sarah, Ward Richard, Clark Andrew, Manji Kainde,
Kullberg Agneta, Odzakovic Elzana

'Dementia Time' and the temporal neighbourhood

This paper presents findings from an on-going 5-year research project funded through the ESRC/NIHR. The Neighbourhoods: Our People, Our Places is a multi-site study exploring the role of neighbourhood in the lives of people living with dementia and their families. We have sought to understand the ways that people are supported, or not within their neighbourhoods. The study has taken place over three fieldsites: Forth Valley, Scotland, Östergötland, Sweden and Greater Manchester, England. This paper considers the significance of time in how it frames the experience of place for the participants and also in terms of how dementia shapes people's perspectives on and use of time. I will explore discussions with participants about their pasts, presents and futures. The paper will detail how people manage their lives in the context of a fading memory and the different ways people hold on to their past. I will explore the link between place and memory; and how place supports the capturing and embodying of memories. Finally I will draw from our interviews with people living with dementia and explore how we were able to elicit insights into an individual's view of their present self which encompassed a particular relationship to time. Inhabiting 'dementia time' not only helps to highlight the normative pace and tempo of everyday life, that can so easily prove disabling or limiting to a person with dementia, it also intensifies an awareness of finitude, and of an uncertain future that drives ways of being in the present. I will also explore the process of temporalisation and the ways that people engage with, adjust to and adapt their pace of living in order to create 'dementia time'. Place has an inherently temporal quality which is all too often overlooked in the debate on dementia friendly communities and dementia friendly design.

→ [Session 1](#)

A place for mom? Adult children as the target group of online presentations of nursing homes

Presentations on homepages and social media like Facebook and Instagram are increasingly being used by nursing homes in Sweden. This development mirrors the popularity of these platforms but is also linked to the marketization of Swedish eldercare. Municipal as well as for-profit providers of care have been affected by market logics that describe nursing homes as products that must be displayed in ways that attract future customers. The presentation is based on interviews with twelve representatives of nursing homes that were asked about their motives for using Internet media. During the interviews it became clear that relatives – usually specified as the adult children of care users – were described as the main target group of presentations, despite the fact that relatives have no formal mandate to make decisions in relation to nursing home care. Based on this, the aim of the presentation is to discuss how this choice to target adult children is justified and how it affects the content of representations. Relatives were described as being in charge of the process of choosing a nursing home and as able to affect the public reputation of the facility and although some interviewees acknowledged that this was problematic, the ascribed role was justified with reference to frailty and generational characteristics of potential residents: they were not acquainted with internet. Interviewees argued that demands among relatives were in many cases motivated by self-interest. Still, the content of online presentations was adjusted to appeal to adult children and their assumed demands, displaying mainly social activities and food. After admission presentations were used to sooth fears or counter claims that residents lived a passive and lonely life in the nursing home. A conclusion is that online presentations tend to confirm appealing but unrealistic images of the social life in the nursing homes.

→ [Session 4](#)

Is this ageism? Age as a principle for distributing supportive services

The aim of this presentation is to discuss age as an organizing principle for distributing welfare services. Despite a strong emphasis on supportive services being provided according to individual needs, chronological age is also used to determine who is entitled services of the Swedish welfare system. Guided by examples from Swedish policy and legal documents, we will present two ways of using chronological age to allocate social care services: age as exclusion and age as entitlement. The nexus of disability and eldercare policies constitutes a case where chronological age excludes people from services. Persons over the age of 65 cannot apply for personal assistance, and can only apply for services under the Disability Act if their disabilities are ‘clearly not the result of normal ageing’. Simplified processing of eldercare constitutes a case where chronological age entitles people to services. Some Swedish municipalities grant persons over 75, regardless of needs, eight hours of home care services without any individual assessment. In the presentation we will review arguments for existing policies with particular attention to the way chronological age is used as an approximation – a proxy – for other characteristics, like different habits and increased support needs. These characteristics may be statistically associated with the process of ageing but may also reflect established ideas of old age as essentially different from that of other ages. Of particular interest is how the use age as a proxy for needs collide with attempts of social gerontology to combat the traditional association between the ageing process and disease and dependency. The presentation contributes to the theoretical debate on ageism and social attitudes towards older people. The discussions connect to the traditions of critical gerontology, but with a unique focus on the relevance of age categorizations as part of the moral economy of welfare societies.

→ [Session 8](#)

“Pretend you don't see it and don't ask” – Sexuality and intimacy in aged care facilities

Sexuality is often perceived as a commodity that belong to youthful bodies. Older age is associated with the decline of sexual need which further reinforce the cultural representation of older bodies as desexualized. This paper focus specifically on the way the perception of sexual expression and intimacy in later life are negotiated in the institution setting of aged care facilities. The paper explores how are the meanings of sexuality in old age constructed in the residential aged care sector and how those meaning impact staffs' attitudes towards various clients' sexual expressions. The analysis is based on 15 in-depth interviews with aged care staff members from three different facilities in the Czech Republic. The paper maps how are the older bodies (de)sexualized in the institutional settings and how staff reflect on various sexual expression of the clients. The analysis points out the role of the discourse of health that became a key framework for establishing the boundaries of “normal” and “deviant” sexuality in institutional setting and a key reference point for constructing the role of staff with respect to clients' sexual expression and intimacy.

→ [Session 6](#)

Activity as a new normative framework of subjective meanings and expectations associated with grandmother role

The article analyses the norms of grandmothering in relation to cultural representations of active ageing. Based on interviews that were carried out with 20 mothers and 20 grandmothers of children under the age of ten, the paper focuses on the way in which the current emphasis on activity influences ideas about how the roles of grandparent should be performed and how women relate to their own ageing. The analysis presented focuses on mapping in what ways references to activity and being active are becoming part of the way in which mothers formulate the notions and expectations they associate with the grandparent's role. Our analysis suggests that the current emphasis on being active in older age also influences ideas about how the role of grandmother should be fulfilled. The idea of an active lifestyle represented a significant framework for the cultural script of grandmothering constructed by participants in our study. On the one hand those representations of grandmothering have emancipatory potential and can open up space for the performance of the role of grandmother outside the domestic sphere and primary care. On the other hand, the normative framework of the grandmother role as 'being active' strongly connects the grandparental role with the 'third age'. Although these normative representations of grandmothering may broaden the range of meanings associated with the grandmother role and old age in general, they at the same time create a new set of normative expectations that more restrictively and more narrowly define what is expected from the role of grandmother. This paper critically analyses those representations of the grandmother role and point out the emergence of new forms of conflicts and challenges and the sense of ambivalence about traditional roles that result from the close association made between being active and the representation of grandmothering.

→ [Session 9](#)

Ageism, ideology and the social imaginary of the fourth age

The development of social gerontology has led to the emergence of its own terminology and conceptual armoury. 'Ageism' has been a key concept in articulating the mission of gerontology and was deliberately intended to act as an equivalent to the concepts of racism and sexism. As a term it has established itself as a lodestone for thinking about the de-valued and residualised social status of older people in contemporary society. Ageism is often implicitly presented as an overarching ideology that operates throughout society to the detriment of older people. Ageism in this formulation is also used to explain the economic, social and cultural marginality of older people. This paper critiques this approach pointing out the inadequacy of treating ageism as a form of ideology. It argues that not only is the idea of ageism too totalising and contradictory but that it does not address key aspects of the corporeality of old age. The paper offers an alternative view utilising the idea of the social imaginary of the fourth age to explain the negative attributes operating on old age. Adopting the idea of a social imaginary, it will be argued, offers a more nuanced approach to the tensions that are present in later life without reducing them to a single external cause or explanation.

→ [Keynote lecture 1](#)

Jönson Håkan, Harnett Tove

Three competing strategies to address the problem of older chronic alcoholics

The study aimed to investigate how policies of low threshold housing arrangements for older persons – above the age of 50 – are justified, given that such facilities constitute a breach against traditional policies on alcohol and drug abuse. Abstinence is not the goal, treatment is not provided and residents are not expected to be sober. In the presentation we will devote attention to local positions on the consumption of alcohol and drugs. Data consisted of 12 interviews with five managers and 12 staff members at five wet facilities in Sweden and Denmark. Data was coded thematically, focusing on the question of goals and means. The analysis revealed three very different policies on the consumption of alcohol that were all based on the assumption that residents were 'alcohol chronics' and facilities constituted last resort options. The first policy was applied in three Swedish facilities and representatives stated that alcohol and drug abuse were not in focus and a private matter of residents. Residents could consume alcohol in their rooms/apartments at any extent, but should not be intoxicated during common activities. The second policy was applied in a Danish care facility where staff assisted residents in both purchasing and distributing alcohol with the aim to avoid uneven and harmful alcohol consumption. The third policy was applied at a Swedish care facility where the residents were banned from consuming or possessing alcohol inside the facility, but allowed to come home drunk after consuming alcohol outside. Guided by Carol Bacchi's analytic strategy, we discuss competing interpretations of how to understand and address the 'problem' of older alcoholics in relation to applied policies. Although interviewees tended to justify the policy at their own facility, some questioned if what they were doing was morally correct, or if they in fact facilitated behaviors that caused residents harm.

→ [Session 6](#)

Forced immigration and ageing: experiences of elderly immigrants in Finland

This paper presents experiences of elderly immigrants involved in forced migration and hosted in Finland. It's of importance to explore perspectives of older refugees, given that not enough is known about how intersecting factors, such as age, migration status, gender and ethnicity impact on people's experiences and needs, and how these can best be taken into account when devising services and policies, improve practical and policy initiatives for older refugees. Purpose is gaining an understanding of the experiences of elderly immigrants involve in forced migration. I undertake study aiming to provide a framework that could be used by policy makers and other organisations to formulate guidelines or interventions relevant to the lived experiences their meaning of ageing and service needs in order to maintain and improve the quality of life of this group. Study will utilise the framework of intersectionality coined and elaborated by Kimberle Crenshaw in 1989, which enable analysis of a multitude of experiences without necessarily conceptualizing any particular identities as inherent or static and highlight the relationships among multiple dimensions and modalities of social relations and subject formations (McCall 2005, 1771). A transcendental phenomenological design within the qualitative naturalistic approach will be used and data will be collected through in-depth group and individual interviews. Content data analysis method will be used. Research question of the study is how does elderly immigrants involved in forced migration experience the process of asylum/refugee seeking, how does such experiences impact on their personhood and sense of community? Other subquestions are: How do they are perceive ageing? How do they perceive their new life, culture, society? Keywords: elderly, forced migration, experiences, ageing, services, Finland.

→ [Session 12](#)

The Emergence of the Creative Ageing Movement: Older People as Co-Creators and Co-Producers in the Collaborative Policy Design Cycle

This paper will focus on introducing selected ideas related to the creative ageing movement and policy. It will overview the best practices from the international and national levels. The central thesis of the proposed paper is that the roots of the creative ageing movement and policy are derived mainly from the countries characterised by Anglo-Saxon capitalism and the liberal model of the welfare state. Selected examples of initiatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and Australia will be described. The paper will also provide main findings from a comparison of these practices with cases from the states of the European Union (EU) and the Asia-Pacific region. The first part of the paper will focus on the dilemmas of combining various socioeconomic systems to generate benefits and positive outcomes for ageing populations. Thus, the relations between the silver economy, the creative economy, and the social and solidarity economy will be analysed. Each of these systems uses a different type of capital of older people (respectively: the human capital, the creative and cultural capital, and the social capital) that may be mobilised by the ageing interest groups and movements. The second part of the paper will discuss observed changes in the stages of the policy design cycle of ageing policies. It will be shown that these public policies increasingly include collaborative innovation (e.g., co-production) with relevant stakeholders. Selected examples of older citizens' empowerment will be presented including, among others, shared decision-making, patient self-management, peer support networks, cultural centers, senior centers, community arts organisations, age-friendly cities and communities, intergenerational programs, senior theatres, and Universities of the Third Age. The summary will include

recommendations for entities of socioeconomic policy at the EU and national levels and suggestions for future-oriented research directions.

→ [Session 3](#)

Lakomý Martin

Unequal accessibility of social participation in later life across European welfare regimes

Social participation amongst older adults is considered generally beneficial and supported by active ageing policies within the European context. However, this effort to increase the quality of life and enhance ageing experience may have an unintended consequence of increasing later life inequalities. As some groups of older adults incline more to this type of activities, they may benefit more from the policy initiatives. This study uses four waves from Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe to illustrate how the social participation develops over time and how it is structured by education, financial situation, and health in the context of four European welfare regimes. The social participation strongly differs across both contexts and individual characteristics, while these structuring effects are cumulative. Further, the level of participation slightly increases over time for a population 50+, while the inequalities in access to them and their outcomes remain stable. Therefore, support of these activities does not strengthen inequalities among older adults according to these findings, but it neither reduces them.

→ [Session 11](#)

Laufenberg Mike

Caring for Citizenship: The Case of “Dementia-Friendly Communities” in Germany

A politicized debate about citizenship is widely missing in the context of dementia practice and research in Germany. People diagnosed with dementia are predominately imagined as passive recipients of treatment, care and support, rather than citizens with their own voices and interests and with a right to engage in shaping the relationships and networks they participate in. However, over the past years the promotion of so called “dementia-friendly communities” has gained importance in the context of welfare state transformation in Germany, both, as a philosophical concept and a policy instrument. Based on findings from ethnographic research on community-based care and activity groups the presentation contributes to an evaluation of “dementia-friendly communities” through a citizenship lens: It identifies (a) disabling institutional and cultural barriers of exclusion, discrimination, and inequality as well as (b) enabling opportunities and potentials for the practice of citizenship that co-exist within “dementia-friendly communities” in Germany. By bringing together feminist and critical disability studies’ perspectives on the interdependent relationship of citizenship and care the presentation concludes with some suggestions how enabling conditions and opportunities for the performance of citizenship can be strengthened in the context of dementia.

→ [Session 4](#)

Beyond Health: How Do Non Health-Related Factors Influence Self-Rated Health?

Background: Comparative analyses frequently base on respondents' self-rated health (SRH), assuming it is a valid and comparable measure of generic health. However, due to SRH's vagueness, this assumption is questionable due to (1) manifold non health-related factors (NHRF) such as optimism or interviewer effects and (2) gender, age- or country-specific expectations for ones' health and frames of reference, or cultural contexts. Conceptually, two major components of SRH can be distinguished: latent health and reporting behavior. While latent health exclusively refers to health aspects, reporting behavior stems from a wide variety of NHRF. The present paper is primarily concerned with the latter, as it aims to identify NHRF influencing SRH and potential differences by gender, age, and country. Method: The analyses of this paper based on data of 16,183 participants from five countries of the fifth wave of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Latent health is controlled via a wide array of health indicators and the residuals are examined with a model covering NHRF such as interviewer and personal characteristics, and the country of residence. To identify differential response behaviors, all analyses are carried out separately by gender, three age-groups (50-64, 65-79, and 80-90 years), and country. Results: The analyses identified influences of, e.g., interviewer's SRH, respondent's life satisfaction, and country of residence on SRH, while other factors differed by subgroup. The amount of explained variance due to reporting behavior (with a mean of 7%) can be deemed meaningful, considering the control of health-related variables. The biggest source of non health-related were respondent-characteristics with the interviewer and country playing only a minor role. Conclusion: These results illustrate the importance of taking NHRF into account while utilizing SRH. Future research on complementing SRH with factual questions is advisable.

→ [Session 8](#)

Examining social integration of Czech older adults: preliminary analysis and research agenda

This current study is to provide better understanding of social integration of Czech older adults aged over 65. Using data sampled from Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), we detected three domains of social integration indicators, intrapersonal, interpersonal, and structural. Measure of social integration included: social network, social activity engagement, received personal/practical help, care dependency, neighborhood social cohesion, living arrangement, a sense of loneliness, and perceived ageism. Preliminary analysis indicated that Czech older adults are more likely to score low across different measures of social integration compared to neighboring Eastern European societies while adjusting for the demographic variables. Further, multivariate data analysis was performed to examine the social integration in relation to health and quality of life using the Czech sample drawn from the SHARE study. Results indicated that measures of social integration were significantly associated with physical-mental health and life satisfaction, but in different ways. In addition, the social integration variables were weakly to moderately correlated with each other. Findings suggest that older adults' social integration involves variation in forms, adaptiveness, and consequences. Future investigations are required to examine models that build on different socio-emotional needs and benefits of social integration to which the Czech older adults are most subjected. Longitudinal analysis will also help determine if social integration model would change with age. Challenges and recommendation for cultural and political initiatives should be

further discussed in order to promote institutional and informal social support for an integrated Czech society.

→ [Session 11](#)

Lessenich Stephan

Special session: After Retirement? “Active Ageing” and Beyond

In recent years, the programmatic idea of “active ageing” has become most influential in old age policies across Europe. Strongly advocated by the European Commission, “active ageing” focuses on both, postponing the retirement of elderly jobholders and encouraging the old to engage in productive activities after having left the workforce. While there is plenty of literature on the politics of “active ageing”, it is less common to ask for its social dimension. As a dominant (if not hegemonic) policy formula, “active ageing” may be said to have established a new social norm which serves as a new behavioral standard and as a potential benchmark for the (self-)evaluation of elderly people’s way of life. Against this background, the thematic session is meant to critically assess the (intended or unintended) social effects of the “active ageing” normative. More specifically, the presentations assembled for the session ask for specific subjectivities and practices being excluded from this new imaginary – or having to be reframed by aged individuals in an intent to conform to the ruling norm.

→ [Session 9](#)

Lessenich Stephan

Governing the „ageing society“: The new politics of „potential“

In the world of “active ageing”, retiring from the active workforce does not necessarily – and indeed should not – mean disengaging from any productive activity. Inspired and intellectually powered not least by an influential fraction of academic gerontology, the concept has been effectively praised as a win-win solution for the multiple problems of what is invariably labeled as an “ageing society”. In the dominant political discourse, it came to open the possibility to combine the material benefits of using the elderly’s resources for collective purposes, on the one hand, with the symbolic promise to older people that their contribution to the common good would revalorize their social status and contribute to their social inclusion. In the context of this imaginary, a new political concept has emerged that ever since has been central for ageing policies (and for social policy at large): the concept of the human “potential” dormant in society and awaiting to be activated through political intervention. The idea that those cohorts of on average healthy and educated elderly currently leaving the workforce and entering retirement constitute an untapped productive reservoir has been spreading widely among experts and administrators – subjecting people in their 60s and 70s to a “potentiality regime” that actually not every elderly has an equal chance to conform to. The new politics of the “activating” welfare state, revolving around people’s “potential” and its productive use, creates new social inequalities in old age. New inequalities that add to and interact with those social divisions – in terms of class, gender, and race – that have been characterizing old age anyway over the last decades and that still do so today.

→ [Session 9](#)

Ageing in Place Over Time

'Ageing in place' is a popular term in social policy, referring to an approach which helps older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. Although largely driven by concerns over the cost of residential and nursing home care, this policy has been reinforced by academic research concerning the preferences of older people themselves. The case for ageing in place has been further strengthened through what is viewed as its capacity to assist independence and help older people retain connections with friends and family in their community. However, the benefits of this type of approach have yet to be systematically explored, with few studies focusing on its meaning for older people and insufficient connection between research and policy. Moreover, whilst environmental aspects of ageing in place have been the subject of detailed study, the way in which feelings, experiences, and attachments to neighbourhoods change over time has received much less attention in ageing research. This paper presents findings from an ESRC funded secondary data analysis of longitudinal qualitative data which examines how personal and family relationships develop and change over time. Our analysis highlights the diversity of experiences of ageing selves and the pluralities of life courses revealing how ageing in place over time is inseparably linked to broader social change. This paper provides insights into the ways in which 'age-friendly neighbourhoods' can be developed, taking into account the changing needs of people as they grow older as well as the changes in the communities in which they live.

→ [Session 4](#)

Mavrodaris Angelique

Cambridge Ageing Well Strategy: A Whole Systems Approach

Background: Systems of care for older people need to change to ensure healthy active life, compress morbidity and reduce demand for services. We aimed to develop a person-centred, system-wide preventative approach to healthy ageing by facilitating the integration and join-up of partners and stakeholders in ageing across local communities and organisations. Methods: Evidence reviews were conducted to inform the selection of key priority areas in ageing conditions in response to local analysis and assessments of need. Several stakeholder workshops led by Public Health were held across the region to align local voices and lived experiences on ageing in communities with system leadership and key focus areas and priorities. Results: Key priority areas identified included: falls prevention; dementia risk reduction; community-based interventions to address loneliness and social isolation; environment and mobility; autonomy, identity and purpose in local communities and empowerment and ageism; Current research evidence formed the foundation for the development of an integrated agenda addressing each priority area from lifestyle/community-based interventions to acute settings. A specific focus on methods required to empower individuals and support person-centred, responsive approaches; tailored to those facing greatest inequality was developed. All local programmes of work currently contributing to the scope of ageing well across health, care, community and voluntary sector initiatives were mapped and a regional Ageing Well Strategy for Older People, embedding cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary action for ageing well across the system was co-produced. Conclusion: It is possible to construct an evidence-based, community-centred, whole-system strategy for ageing well which has the potential to change the trajectory of ageing towards extending healthy active life and promoting independence. Action is needed on a number of fronts; and needs to be coordinated, sequenced and joined-up. Strategic engagement with multi-agency partners and organisations is fundamental to embed and drive the agenda across sectors and communities.

→ [Session 8](#)

Demographic trends in solo-living men and women in later life

Living alone in older age is on the rise, albeit at different speeds, in many ageing societies in Europe. The phenomenon of solo-living is a two-way process: increase of older persons living alone is not only influenced by variety of economic, social and cultural factors, but also produces various risks for social inclusion and implications for traditional health and welfare systems. It is therefore important to examine the extent and patterns of living alone in later life. The aim of the survey is to examine demographic trends in changing proportion of older persons in EU-28 who live alone and the subpopulations, distinguishing them by age, gender, educational attainment, living place and income. To examine the trends in solo-living we use individual-level data of two recent Population Censuses. We employ statistical data analysis and method of Ruggles and Brower (2003), who suggested that while studying changes in demographic behaviour, the research unit should be an individual instead of household. Census data reveal that the share of older persons has been continuously increasing while average household size of EU-28 population aged 65 years and over declined. In 2011, every third person aged 65 years and over has lived alone. The phenomenon of older people living alone has strengthened considerably along with the increasing life expectancy as well as structural changes in family. Moreover, there are considerable regional differences across and within EU countries and by both gender and place of living. We expect that detailed cross-national comparative research can significantly expand our knowledge about patterns of prevalence of living alone in later life and how they are shaped by different subpopulations. This understanding allows choosing adequate measures for modernising the social inclusion, health and welfare policies. This research was funded by a grant (No. GER-001/2017) from the Research Council of Lithuania.

→ [Session 10](#)

Active Ageing and Dementia Care: A Critical Assessment

Across Europe the political agenda of “active ageing” is traded to be the best strategy to deal with the challenges that come along with demographic ageing. In recent years, several international publications have already shed light to the problems of “active ageing” and its potential to reproduce inequalities by creating a norm of “ageing well” that can only be met by the healthy and financially well-off among the elder population. This contribution takes up this critical perspective on active ageing against the backdrop of the growing number of elderly informal caregivers. Empirical research on the situation of German retirees that care for their spouses suffering from dementia showed that, given the daily caring routines, there is a general lack of time for the care-givers to comply with the ideals coming along with the “active ageing” norm. Within this group, only the economically privileged are able to buy themselves time outs from care that then can be used to care for their own mental and physical health. It comes as no surprise that this predominantly applies for male caregivers –the majority of informal caregivers still being female and lacking the means to buy additional professional help. Especially when caring for a partner suffering from dementia, the activity and stress level is so extreme that it leads into health problems for the care-giver herself, who usually subordinates her own needs to those of the spouse she cares for. This scenario shows that although the caregiving elderlies are providing a significant contribution to the society, their everyday activities are far away from what the “active ageing” concept would conceive of or even reward for. In this sense, “active ageing” may be an option only for those who don’t care (for others).

→ [Session 9](#)

Inequalities in active ageing – is it already exclusion or discrimination?

The active ageing concept (Walker, 2002) as well as the active ageing index are widely known (Zaidi et al., 2014, UNECE/European Commission, 2015), however at the same time, not only the concept itself, but the active ageing index (AAI) in particular, have faced criticism (São José J., et al., 2017). However, the AAI is a measure of an untapped potential of older people for active and healthy ageing, so based on a unique analysis, we will show how various sub-groups (i.e. by gender, place of living, education and income) of population differ in terms of living actively in old age in Poland. These results will provide space for critical considerations to verify if and how it is already socio-economic exclusion in old age (Walsh, et al., 2017), discrimination or unequal treatment of older persons (Ayalon and Tesch-Roemer 2018). Nevertheless, knowing these results an important question arises if and what gerontologists/sociologists of ageing can do once they acquire such knowledge in order to convince policy makers of policies needed in this field. Some examples of such positive “marriage” of the science and policy will be shown in the presentation, which will also include an element of evaluation of advantages and disadvantages offered by this approach.

→ [Keynote lecture 2](#)

Petrová Kafková Marcela

Active ageing of “the others” – possibilities of active ageing in the fourth age

Active ageing in its original definition is closely connected with quality of life and its maintenance in spite of age and health limitations. The basis of active ageing is agency supported by the enabling environment. In its real applications, the active ageing is more identified with the preservation of economic activity and enjoyment of leisure time. This perspective makes people in the fourth age, i.e. with various extent of disability, invisible. The othering is strengthened by the fact, that the emphasis on possibilities of the young old postponed all characteristics traditionally connected with old age into the fourth age. The fourth age became a feared stage of life, which is better to avoid. The definition of the fourth age in terms of decline and dependency has strengthened the distinction between “the active” and “the others”. Based on the repeated interviews with 10 fourth agers and their carers and four weeks of ethnographic observation in the households of disabled older adults, the presentation focuses on the ways people in the fourth age fulfilled the active ageing. Health difficulties make typical ways of active ageing impossible, yet fourth agers are not only passive recipients of care. Active ageing in the fourth age can be seen in pro-active attitudes, the acceptance of incoming imitations, and the establishment of successful compensatory strategies. Despite changes in activities and the fact that most time is spent at home or nearby, a proportion of fourth agers preserve a strong degree of agency. As fourth agers often become bare objects of care, their competences to act are sidelined and suppressed in home care as well as in care homes. The negotiating of agency in the context of heterogeneity of the fourth age would be presented.

→ [Session 9](#)

Special session: Social and psychosocial determinants of health in ageing European population: evidence from European longitudinal studies

Unhealthy ageing represents an important global problem. Various social and psychosocial factors have been proposed as potential determinants of physical and cognitive functioning, morbidity and mortality. Data from several longitudinal studies of ageing conducted recently both in Western and Central/Eastern European populations can be used to investigate the prospective associations between social and psychosocial factors and health-related outcomes. This session will show examples of such analyses using different analytical approaches and data from SHARE, HAPIEE and ELSA studies.

→ [Session 2](#)

Work stress and mortality in Central and Eastern Europe: the HAPIEE study

Background: The impact of job stress on cardiovascular mortality has been assessed in the past although only limited evidence is available on this theme in post-communist countries of Central Europe and former Soviet Union. The objective of this analysis is to evaluate the role of job demand-control and effort-reward imbalance at work on cardiovascular (CVD) and coronary heart disease (CHD) mortality using data from longitudinal HAPIEE study collected in Poland, Russia, Czech Republic and Lithuania. **Methods:** This analysis used data from the longitudinal population-based HAPIEE (Health, Alcohol and Psychosocial factors In Eastern Europe) study of men and women aged 45 to 69 years. Data from two waves of HAPIEE study and mortality registers were analysed by logistic regression and Cox regression modelling. **Results:** Higher effort-reward imbalance and combination of high demand and low control at work was associated with higher CVD and CHD mortality during more than 10 years follow up in models adjusted for range of classical cardiovascular risk factors. Some variation in the effects of work stress exposures between countries has been observed but these country differences were not statistically significant, probably due to relatively low number of cases. **Discussion:** These findings add new evidence to existing results mostly originating from Western European and North American populations. Results from Central and Eastern European countries further help with generalizability of the findings related to the role of work stress in development of cardiovascular disease.

→ [Session 2](#)

Loneliness, its trajectories and its determinants across Europe: evidence from ELSA and SHARE studies

Background: Loneliness in older age is becoming an important problem across Europe as it influences quality of life, morbidity and mortality. There is however only limited evidence showing changes in reported loneliness over the time. Evidence on determinants of loneliness is also relatively limited. This study aimed to address some of these issues and examine loneliness rates, and its determinants across 11 European countries using data from SHARE and ELSA studies. **Method:** Data from three waves of longitudinal SHARE (from 2011 to 2015) and ELSA (from 2010 to 2014) studies with available loneliness data were used to assess loneliness trajectories, to estimate rates of loneliness at the country level, and to identify main predictors of loneliness at individual and country level. Short form UCLA scale was used as a measure of loneliness, and respondents were categorised as being lonely (scores 7-9), on the verge of

loneliness (5-6) and not lonely (3-4). Trajectories of loneliness were constructed for 11 countries of European region included in those two studies with loneliness data available in 3 waves of data collection. Results: The prevalence of loneliness was 17.5% in ELSA and between 4.7% and 22.9% in SHARE. Additionally, 22.2% of respondents in ELSA and between 7.1 to 22.5% in SHARE reported being on the verge of loneliness. The cross-national differences in pattern of reported loneliness suggest that nationality has stronger impact on reporting loneliness than age and personal circumstances. Conclusions: The results suggest that loneliness might be influenced by societal cultural values and expectations about social interactions more than by individual social and material resources or health status.

→ [Session 2](#)

Ruiz Milagros, Bobak Martin

A cross-country analysis of perceived neighbourhood social cohesion and depressive symptoms: The role of positive psychological states and social influence

Purpose: Existing research is scant on two areas needed for a broader understanding of how the neighbourhood psycho-social environment relates to mental health. Firstly, most studies presume that social support functions form the primary pathway by which the neighbourhood psychosocial context influences mental health. Secondly, the empirical literature lacks comparative studies between countries with diverse norms and values regarding community relationships. The present study tests whether the relationship between perceived neighbourhood social cohesion and depressive symptoms operates indirectly through positive psychological states and social influence pathways, and whether these unexplored pathways explain the relationship between perceived neighbourhood social cohesion and depressive symptoms among older adults living in England and in Czech Republic, Poland and Russia. **Methods:** Data on 26,081 adults from ELSA and HAPIEE studies were constructed for the analysis. Perceived social cohesion (PSC) of participants' neighbourhoods was assessed at baseline. Depressive symptoms were measured using CES-D scores at follow-up. Longitudinal associations between PSC and depressive symptoms were assessed using multivariable negative binomial regression. The role of positive psychological states (through control of life, and control at home) and social influence (through smoking and drinking) mechanisms was tested using path analysis. **Results:** Compared to adults with high PSC, low PSC was predictive of a higher number of depressive symptoms at follow-up among English ($b=0.106$, $p=0.001$) and Central/Eastern European (CEE) adults.

→ [Session 2](#)

Schmidt Andrea E.

Older Persons' Views on Using Cash-for-Care Allowances: Gender, Socio-economic Status and Care Needs

SCOPE/OBJECTIVES: This paper analyses social inequalities among cash-for-care beneficiaries in a Conservative welfare state, namely Austria. It aims to highlight justifications for choices in accessing and using care in a cash-for-care scheme from the perspective of the oldest old (80+) in Vienna. The analysis builds on the idea that payments for care allow for different degrees of family dependencies, especially when the cash benefit is paid unconditionally to the care recipient (instead of the caregiver). **METHODS:** Narrative interviews with 15 frail older people were held in 2014 and analysed using the framework analysis method in the care recipients' own homes or in day care centres in Vienna. **RESULTS:** We identify four different user groups, which reflect recipients' individual characteristics, particularly gender, socio-

economic status (SES), and care needs, and the respective care arrangement, dubbed as (1) self-confident users (2) illiterate users (3) dependent users and (4) lonely users. We find that familiarity with support structures associates with higher SES, while those who depend on others for acquiring information or organizing care express ambivalence in choosing between formal and informal care. Engagement in deciding which care type to use is limited among people of lower SES or with complex care needs, but own experience as informal caregiver for a family member increases care recipients' long-term care (LTC) system literacy. Gender differences among care recipients were limited, yet middle-class female recipients often expressed normative claims for family care from female relatives. DISCUSSION: The use of unconditional care allowance schemes may reinforce existing gender relations, particularly among informal caregivers, as well as underpin socio-economic differences among LTC users in old-age. Results also partly question the assumptions of choice and empowerment implicit in many cash-for-care schemes.

→ [Session 8](#)

Schwertfeger Daniel, Pottharst Bill

Assistive Technologies for the elderly within strategies for coping with the implications of ageing societies

Demographic change and technological development are two processes of social change which merge in the research area "Ageing and Technology". The scholarly interest here is to ventilate possibilities of coping with implications and challenges as results of the ageing of societies via the use of technology. This term of technology especially refers to Assistive Technologies, Smart Home Technologies and Ambient Assisted Living. The contemporary status of these technologies offers potentials on societal and individual levels. In this respect, the utilization of technology addressing the needs of older people might help to promote a secure, autonomous and independent way of life whilst allowing societal participation. Besides that, they can play a major role in strategies to handle the rising demand for care. In many modern societies the consequences of the increasingly ageing and shrinking population are already highly visible in rural areas. For instance, the exodus of the youth and its consequences for intergenerational relationships, shrinking medical infrastructure or in terms of age-appropriate and care-friendly living environments. Technologies like ICT-systems, health technologies and smart emergency call systems or mobility aids might help to address these trends. From the perspective of scientific research there is a lack of representative data focussing on the special topic of use of technology and assistive living of older people. Nevertheless, there is a pool of locally restricted surveys that give insight to this topic. In the talk we present results from an inquiry in panel design in East-Saxony (Eastern Germany) realised 2015 and 2017 (project name: "Trust in Assistive Technology for the Inclusion of the Elderly", funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research). They give an exemplary overview and valuable insights to the living situation and utilization of technology by people in the age between 60-95 years who live in a rural area.

→ [Session 11](#)

Spännäri Jenni

Becoming me, becoming wiser, becoming more compassionate? Trajectories of personal growth in older adults' group activities

For conscious, empowered and meaningful ageing, personal growth has been viewed as crucial. But where lies the power for personal growth: in the individual or also in the community and social relations? And how are various directions of growth used in the processes. This paper investigates the themes of

wisdom and compassion in study groups of Finnish older adults, both in Finland and in retirement migrant context. The deeply qualitative approach brings together wisdom stories and exemplaries (experiential, cultural studies, ethnography type approach) and characteristics of wisdom (analytical, quantified type approach). The core questions are, what is the relationship of wisdom and compassion for the older adults, and how are these themes linked with the trajectories of their personal growth. Wisdom is examined here as three-dimensional, entailing cognitive, reflective and compassionate dimensions. Compassion is conceptualized as a sensemaking process, involving noticing, feeling and acting compassion. The results show that wisdom and compassion are deeply interlinked, complimenting and reinforcing each other. Preferred trajectories of growth are found in the intersections of wisdom and compassion, in the deep understanding of human essence and its relations to the surrounding, changing world. For the scientific study of wisdom, as well as compassion, this research has interesting implications: in the lives of older adults these phenomena are interlinked - in which cases is it thus profitable to examine them as separate?

→ [Session 1](#)

Stellmacher Thorsten, Wolter Birgit, Heusinger Josefine

Ageing in rural areas – Barriers and success factors for the development of age-friendly communities. Findings from a pilot project in East Germany

The possibilities for individual choice in housing, mobility, participation and basic services differ considerably between urban and rural areas. Especially in rural areas with weak infrastructure, coping with everyday life creates special challenges to older people seeking autonomy and independent living. Living in a rural area can thus include spatial exclusion that leads to social and civic exclusion. Spatial exclusion can appear in two forms: in space and by space. Exclusion in space occurs where individuals or groups are denied access to areas or have no influence on areas (places, services, neighbourhoods, resources, political power etc.), for example by regulations, charges, or social norms. Exclusion by space describes a situation, where the properties of space itself restrict access, in the sense of distance, topography, barriers etc. In rural areas both forms of spatial exclusion may overlap, reinforce each other, and exacerbate disadvantage for marginalised older people. A pilot project in the eastern German state of Brandenburg seeks to support and empower rural municipalities in dealing with demographic change and exclusion. The overall goal is to strengthen living conditions for older people, especially for those with few resources. In context of our scientific evaluation of the pilot project we investigate mechanisms, resources and strategies, which address problems of exclusion at the level of districts, small towns and villages. We are interested in how different stakeholders and authorities deal with social inequality, population ageing, rural depopulation and infrastructure changes benefiting urban regions. The presentation will discuss the structure of the pilot project and latest results about barriers and success factors for the development of age-friendly communities in Eastern Germany.

→ [Session 7](#)

Sýkorová Dana

Aging alongside siblings

The author deals with an issue, which – however significant for various reasons – does not stand “at the heart of gerontological theory and research”: i.e. the issue of siblinghood in old age. The paper is based on the qualitative sociological study *Graying Siblinghood*, funded by the Czech Science Foundation (no. 17-07321S); its main objective is to reveal seniors’ lived experience of siblinghood. Attention will be paid to

the main “defining” features of siblinghood, more precisely meanings ascribed to siblinghood by seniors-participants of the mentioned research. They define the relationship of siblinghood mainly through consanguinity, as a non-cancellable, life-long relationship that is nonobvious in its obviousness. Relationships between siblings emerge as open and, at the same time, limited, and as relationships bridging the family past and future at the same time in the seniors’ narrations. Strategies of maintaining sibling relationships are characterized by relative continuity in the adult life course and specific of old age at the same time. The importance of “willingness, art and possibility” to negotiate relationships is shown – on the basis of mutual tolerance, respect, readiness for help, acceptance of individual traits or taking into consideration of a sibling’s social or family situation. The data analysis results are put into the context of sociological discourse about the validity of the theories of solidarity, conflict and/or ambivalence that has been related to sibling relationships rather exceptionally until now. The research findings are confronted with the characteristics of siblinghood as an egalitarian relationship, based on voluntariness, selectiveness and not strictly defined by set status norms. The author substantiates the importance of the study of siblinghood for deeper understanding of not only family relationships and social relationships in old age in its broader sense but of old age “in general”.

→ [Session 5](#)

Stypinska Justyna Monika

Agency, structure and the life course: mature entrepreneurship in Poland

Older age in the labour market is frequently associated with being unable to acquire new skills or knowledge, choosing rather a comfortable stability than innovative and progressive goals for career, in other words settling for the smaller gains and “passing time” until retirement. However, this presupposition remains in stark contrast to the actual capacities and activities of workers in their 50s, 60s or even 70s and to the fact that mature entrepreneurship is gaining momentum, both in terms of numbers, but also in social and political significance. The paper presents interim results of a study of entrepreneurs in Poland who started their businesses after the age 45/50 (the research is done within the international project MOMENT – Making of Mature Entrepreneurs in Poland and Germany, financed by the German Scientific Foundation (DFG). Website: www.moment.oei.fu-berlin.de). This research explores questions about how individual and institutional conditioning impacts on the process of becoming an entrepreneur later in life. The thesis proposed here is that the entrepreneurial motivations and activities of older adults are outcome of a dynamic and reciprocal relationship between their personal and occupational life paths on the one hand, and societal and structural feedback. These reciprocal processes are identified as entanglement of “agency with structure” and describe the life course as actively created by individuals and groups, but within the confines of the social world in which they exist (Morgan, Kunkel, 2007). The presentation aims to discuss the factors impacting the two dimensional (agency, structure) process of becoming an entrepreneur in later life in Poland from the life course perspective. Being a post-communist country Poland has had a much shorter experience with market economy and the phenomenon of entrepreneurship than the west European societies. This heritage belongs to one of the unique structural conditions shaping the mature entrepreneurship in Poland. Other structural conditions determining the self-employment among older adults is the labour market situation, the reforms in the pension system, the age norms and age structures, as well as institutional support/lack of support. On the other hand, however, the distinct characteristics and capacities of individuals who navigate their way into entrepreneurship present a counter balance to the structural constraints. The presentation will discuss the first results of the study basing on empirical material from semi-structured interviews with older entrepreneurs in Poland, as well as with experts interviews.

→ [Session 3](#)

Brother-in-law/ sister-in-law in dynamics of late life sibling relations

Siblinghood is the longest (primary) family relationship (brothers and sisters being almost peers born in the same family). However, other actors (usually from the same generation) - the partners of the siblings, i.e. the brothers/ sisters-in-law of the other siblings, enter into the dynamics of the relationships. Based on analysis of several tens of individual narrative interviews with communication partners aged 50+ having at least one living brother or sister (in some of the cases interviewees are mutually siblings) this paper presents action of brothers/ sisters-in-law on current sibling relations. The brothers-in-law/ sisters-in-law can bind siblings, but may also act as a factor of mutual distancing siblings; they also can act in the double sense. The brother/ sister-in-law role may take on other dimensions, including “replacing” a deceased mother or father. Attention is being paid also to the relationship with the brother/sister-in-law after the death of the sibling (i.e. his/her spouse).

→ [Session 5](#)

Telling their stories - Giving a voice to the oldest meänkieli-speaking women in terms of social inclusion in rural Tornedalen

I am going to illustrate the elements that maintain and reinforce social inclusion of the members living in a particular local community in Tornedalen, North Sweden. Especially stories about women’s traditional status and roles are discussed as they emerged in storytelling and group interviews that followed. Thus, the way traditional storytelling and commemorative group interviews in their native mother language as research method is also explained. The article belongs to the field of social gerontology and the approach is participatory. As such, it aims to provide an opportunity to give voice to underrepresented, marginalized groups, whose voice is in danger to be muted by those that represent values of the majority. The research question are: 1) What elements provide, maintain and reinforce social inclusion of older Tornedalen women in their stories and group interviews about everyday life in terms of continuity? 2) What elements do participants regard as implementations of social exclusion as members of a local generation living in a remote village? There are seven older participants, both men and women, who speak their native minority language. The themes of the stories are reflected in group interviews in the light of the everyday life continuity and expectations and threats in future perspective. Furthermore, the elements of social inclusion as source for continuity for everyday life are focused on, analysed and explained. As participants belong to national minority, also exclusive elements are discussed as connected to Swedish society and welfare.

→ [Session 12](#)

Transition to a residential care setting: An existential challenge?

The transition to more formal care, especially the relocation to a residential setting, represents one of the most challenging events for older adults. However, whereas some adults struggle with this transition and feel helpless and depressed, others constructively cope and regain meaning in their lives. A promising and novel approach to study the impact of this transition can be found in the existential meaning literature. Several scholars emphasize that stressful events not amenable to direct problem-solving trigger existential questions and might impact the experience of meaningfulness in life. One might assume that a

care transition is a stressful event characterized by low levels of control and autonomy resulting in a compromised experience of meaningfulness in one's life. Moreover, meaning literature shows that the experience of meaning is a vital component for optimal functioning. However, no insight is currently available whether a care transition is indeed an existential challenge impacting the experience of meaningfulness in life and, consequently, influencing the functioning of older adults in a residential care setting. In this prospective study, we investigated whether a care transition leads to a loss of meaning and how this potential loss is related to late life functioning, focusing on depressive symptoms. Ten older adults are assessed in a standardized face-to-face interview format one week before their care transition, followed by assessments at week 1, 3, 5, 12, and 26. This presentation will focus on the transition itself, i.e., the week prior and the week after the care transition. Results show the inter-individual differences in experiencing loss of meaning and the relation between the loss of meaning and the presence of depressive feelings. Finally, the results seem to indicate that for some older adults a care transition is indeed an existential challenge and that this cannot be merely reduced to a cognitive appraisal.

→ [Session 6](#)

Tolhurst Edward

Unyielding Selflessness: Strategic interaction and the negotiation of care relationships

This paper adopts a novel approach to the consideration of care relationships, drawing upon principles of strategic interaction. This facilitates in-depth scrutiny of the negotiation of care relationships, and spousal dementia care in particular. The importance of relationships in dementia care is highlighted by the concept of personhood, which asserts that the person's relational and social context can enhance (or deteriorate) the experience of the condition. The analysis of strategic interaction offers a valuable lens by which we can obtain a richer understanding of the experience of these relational contexts, including influences upon decision-making. Scenarios such as the prisoner's dilemma, for example, consider how one person's pursuit of self-interested preferences might be impeded by the self-interest of another person. This paper addresses how couples within care relationships engage in strategic interaction when mutual selflessness, rather than self-interest, is the starting point. Evaluations of a hypothetical scenario, where both members of a couple have dementia, and accordingly care for one another, offer a basis for the evaluation of pressures upon decision-making. It is argued that an 'equilibrium' based upon selflessness can actually present significant challenges, as combined strategies of altruistic intent mean that neither party is able to prioritise the other person successfully. Moreover, moral pressures associated with illness and care mean that alternative strategic options are difficult to pursue. Care relationships, predicated on mutual selflessness and a sense of duty, can therefore present a static and unyielding interactional context for both parties to endure. The exploration of strategic interaction thus highlights the complexities and paradoxes inherent to care relationships. This can accordingly enhance academic understandings of the relational basis of age-related illness and care, as well as informing the approaches of policy makers.

→ [Session 1](#)

Scholarship on ethnicity, race and old age: studying inequalities in an injustice-oblivious way

The starting point for this keynote address is the scoping review of the scholarship on the intersection of ethnicity/race and old age/ aging that informs a soon to be published book entitled *Ethnicity & Old Age: Expanding our Imagination* (Policy Press). This book brings attention to the topics that have received the most attention, critically appraises the understandings of ethnicity and race that inform research on aging and old age and argues that the social gerontological imagination on ethnicity and race is stuck on a time warp. In doing so this book divulges what is characteristic of research on this intersection and proposes a new research agenda for this scholarship. In this keynote lecture, which will allude to some of the main findings of this book, the speaker addresses one of the questions that she has been pondering upon while working on it, namely: how is it possible that a scholarship preoccupied with shedding light on the inequalities that older people from ethnic and racial minorities face can be so devoid of a social justice agenda?

→ [Keynote lecture 3](#)

The Role of Training for Old-Age Work Trajectories – Comparative Longitudinal Evidence from SHARE Data

Ageing policies give high priority to lifelong learning (LLL) as a tool to increase the retirement age, improve employability of older people, or alleviate risks and consequences of destandardised working lives. By doing this, LLL is also intended to decrease socio-economic inequalities both within older generations and between younger and older cohorts. However, evidence shows that LLL policies do not necessarily contribute to expected improvements and the net effect of public investments is often low. Participation in LLL activities in older age is low and unequally distributed. Unequal access to education, selective approach to training in companies and the effects of accumulation of advantages and disadvantages may also contribute to growth of inequalities throughout the lifecourse. The increasing lifespan provides additionally a longer time for the disparities to develop. The primary goal of this presentation is to provide empirical insights into the patterns and consequences of training in older ages. The analysis are based on comparative and longitudinal European data from three waves (4, 5 and 6) of Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) for population aged 50 and over. Using panel and multilevel regression models I analyse patterns and consequence of human capital investments in the perspective of individual lifecourse trajectories. This includes effects of training participation for wage trajectories, chances of re-employment and retirement transitions patterns. The results are discussed in the perspective of LLL policies, including Cohesion Policy of European Union 2014-2020.

→ [Session 3](#)

Informal carers of older adults in Poland: formal & cultural context of the role

With the population ageing and changes in family structure public policy will face more and more challenges in terms of providing care for older adults. Important issue in the discussion on providing care for old age adults is the division between public and private care. This paper presents the formal, social and cultural aspects of being informal caregiver of older adults in Poland. The secondary data analysis of

policies and laws is combined with the analysis of 121 IDI with informal caregivers of older people and their social networks in order to determine what curtail factors shape the formal and cultural context of the role of informal caregiver of older adults in Poland. As a result of analysis the typology of caregiving strategies is presented. The presented typology combines elements that characterize individual, social and formal aspects of caregiving. It builds in Kemp et al. concept of convoys of care (Kemp et al., 2013) combined with Cantor's (1979, 1985) concept on compensatory care models with Merton's strain theory (Merton, R.K. 1957). This paper argues that in order to provide the most cost-effective care for older adults it is necessary to diagnose the convoy's structure and caregiving strategy and deliver appropriate institutional support to informal caregivers. The study focusses on Poland and its results provide valuable insights on possible ways on combining formal and informal care for older adults in ageing societies.

→ [Session 5](#)

Vidovičová Lucie

Age-Friendliness and Care Provision: Confounding Variables in Rural Settings?

In our previous study we have proposed and tested the "age friendly community" empirical measure (based on the WHO concept of age friendly cities and communities) in the context of rural municipalities within the Czech Republic. In this present paper we will explore how this aggregate measure (index) is related to levels of both formal and informal care provision as they are perceived by older rural dwellers and care users. The study is based on the ongoing project looking at quality of life of people 60 years and older living in five different types of rural settlements. The rurality typology was designed to combine the size of the rural settlement with the level of its socio-economic development. The first results confirm that the measure echoes urban features of the WHO original concept. More "city-like" rural areas have higher scores on the index and are more satisfied with formal care services availability and provision. However, more rural types of municipalities report considerably better social relationships. In our analysis we discuss the "trade-off" between formal and informal care provision in the specific rural environment settings.

→ [Session 7](#)

Vidovičová Lucie, Keating Norah

Special session: Revisiting Rural Ageing: a good place to grow old?

In 2008 Norah Keating edited a volume "Rural Ageing: A good place to grow old?" (Bristol: Policy Press) employing the critical human ecology approach to look more closely at the interplay between place, space and ageing in rural contexts. The volume features topics such as life course, social networks, participation, age-friendliness, social exclusion, disability, care provision and others, pointing at both specific and more general experience of growing old in rural settings. The last chapter titled "Revisiting rural ageing" addresses some of the key messages on volunteering, employment, heterogeneity of places and spaces, care and identity. Its is to "deconstruct singular notions of rural as location or a particular set of beliefs" (p.123). The symbolic period of ten years has passed. In this symposium, so we may ask if their call has been heard, was their mission accomplished? Have we moved away from unidimensional rurality and unidimensional ageing? What are the pressing issues in environmental gerontology and related disciplines today? This session has invited authors to reach for answers and revisit rural ageing.

→ [Session 7](#)

Voľanská Lubica, Káčerová Marcela, Majo Juraj, Holanová Julia

Being sole and being senior. (In)dependency and interdependency in later life in urban and rural Slovakia

Demographic development in European countries related to ageing societies is showing similarities. Differences are pronounced in the timing of particular demographic processes (Voľanská, 2016). However, traditional or long-term family patterns play an important role in structuring social networks of elderly people in different geographic areas in Europe (Hank 2007). In Europe, economical and social independence in the group of elderly people are definitely some of the significant tokens of their subjective wellbeing as well as active and healthy ageing. Especially economic independence is desirable in the societies of (post-socialist) transitive economic systems like Slovakia and freedom in financial decisions is highly valued even among retired individuals (Rochovská, Majo, Káčerová, Ondoš 2017). On the other hand, such independence in many cases indicates solitude. In later life social networks might be deeply influenced and altered and feeling of loneliness is more sensitive and connected with the “empty nest phase” of life or the departure of spouses. Having in mind the cultural values and attitudes regarding, for example, the preferences or the suitability of close intergenerational relationships, we attempt to approach and analyze households with individuals over 65. There might be structural differences between individuals living in rural areas with presumed higher possibilities of social networks and individuals living in cities, where the large panel houses’ neighborhoods might be more hostile. We compare sole individuals in these landscapes comparing possible geographically distinct characteristics. The use of various methods (analysis of censal households of individuals with socio-demographic variables enabling to approach this topic in broader spatial context in combination with qualitative biographical narrative interview as well as semi-structured focused interview and walking interviews) based on the interdisciplinary cooperation of researchers with the background in human geography and social anthropology enables a deep insight into the problem of solitude in nowadays Slovakia.

→ [Session 10](#)

Wallroth Veronika, Torres Sandra

Sons and sons-in-law on caregiving: What the masculinity lens brings to the table

Scholarship on family caregiving has recognized that gender plays an important role in the way in which care is provided, and received across the life-course. When this scholarship has engaged in debates regarding the importance of gender, it is, however, the female gender that has received the most attention. Thus, although men’s caregiving experiences have been the focus of some studies over the two past decades, family caregiving is still regarded as a female activity. Research on family caregiving has yet to recognize men’s caregiving as a theoretically profuse source of information about family care. It is against this backdrop that we set out to study how men – who provide care to their elderly parents and parents in law – regard the caregiving that they are involved in. The presentation will bring attention to the results of a study that uses face-to-face interviews with 19 men (17 sons and 2 sons-in-law) who provide care to an elderly parent or in-law who is in need of help and support. In doing so, it will shed light on how these men’s understandings of masculinity inform their understandings and experiences of caregiving. This presentation will therefore contribute to expanding the gender imagination of caregiving scholarship by challenging the stereotypical beliefs about men that inform studies of family caregiving at present.

→ [Session 5](#)

The relational constitution of old age

Demographic and epidemiological developments have encouraged investigation into the characteristics of the latest life stages marked by dependencies, vulnerabilities and institutional living. Current research mainly addresses these issues either through a deficit paradigm, understanding older people as lacking characteristics of what constitutes a person, or through a positive discourse on “active ageing”, describing older people as active and independent. However, despite their differences, both the deficit- and the active ageing paradigm are built around one assumption: the priority of individual separateness and independence. In both, old age is approached on the basis of individual autonomy (its loss in the deficit paradigm, its persistence in the active ageing paradigm). While commentators have criticised the separation between the “independent” 3rd and the “dependent” 4th age, the critique still lacks theoretical and methodological tools that allow an analysis that moves beyond the autonomous subject. This paper proposes the development of an approach to old age based not on the assumption of individual independence but understanding the individual as inherently relational. Focusing on the development of relationships rather than on autonomous subjects allows an ontological shift, following three main aims: first, to be able to empirically understand the lived relationships of the very old and, second, to understand the changing qualities of those relationships and their emergent factors. The relationships that shape the group of the very old change over time and are themselves influenced by factors, such as bodily and mental abilities, environments or policies and discourses. The third aim is thus to identify causes that result in kinds of relations and that affect their changes. Gaining empirical knowledge from the perspective of relationships requires substantial theoretical advancement that overcomes the logic of autonomy and the development of theoretical and methodological tools that are able to capture conditions and factors shaping relationships.

→ [Session 1](#)

Zeilig Hannah, van der Byl Williams Millie, West Julian

Co-creativity: Challenging conceptions of agency and dementia

If there are contemporary struggles concerning the relevance of agency for older people in general, the concept of agency in relation to people living with a dementia is even more contested. Agency in the context of dementia raises a plethora of issues that may deepen our understanding of this concept and also of the lives of people with a dementia. However, to date these questions have been largely overlooked. In this paper, we outline our recent work on co-creativity with people with a dementia. This took place as part of the Created Out of Mind residency at the Wellcome Collection. The project challenged the individualistic conception of agency and investigated the role of others in establishing agency. We explored ideas of joint and collective agency where actions come together in pursuit of a common aim. This involved considering the extent to which co-creativity and its effect on agency can challenge and help us reconsider power relations between people with a dementia and artists. Until recently, when agency and power were considered in relation to dementia it was in connection with the dominant discourse of loss. Similarly, in contemporary societies people with a dementia are often rendered powerless. However, some scholars, such as Kontos (2017) are challenging the assumption of a loss of agency in dementia and others are beginning to reconceptualise power in the context of dementia (Behuniak, 2010). In our paper, we consider agents as they are embodied, emotional, desiring, creative and embedded in a social context. We believe that through co-creativity and the arts, we can challenge people's perception of a loss of agency and power in dementia by showing that people living with dementia are still able to exercise their creative agency.

→ [Session 4](#)

Significant Life Events in Biographies of Older Poles: A Mixed-Methods Approach

This paper presents the results of combining and confronting data on transitions and status changes from a quantitative panel study of social structure, with information on significant life events and subjectively perceived turning points, derived from unstructured biographical interviews conducted with selected participants of that quantitative study. The analysis is based on the Polish Panel Survey POLPAN (www.polpan.org), a quantitative study of social structure carried out every 5 years since 1988, and retrospective biographical interviews conducted between 2014–2016 with 44 participants of POLPAN, born between 1922 and 1942. In the structural approach in sociology some life events are considered to be highly important, as they are significant for the position of individuals in social structure. Attention is focused mainly on regularized, institutionalized transitions or status changes, easy to capture using the questionnaire method. However, many events that are important for the course of an individual's life – and for their 'path' through social structure as well – are less formalized in nature, more individual and thus impossible to detect in a countrywide questionnaire-based research project. What is also difficult to capture in a quantitative study is the impact, especially long-term, of historical events on individual biographies and life choices. Furthermore, different tools are needed to register the influence of significant people and relationships with them on key decisions made by the respondents. Life events that escape the quantitative studies of social structure can be explored by the means of biographical interviews. In this paper I present the results of an attempt to draw up a catalogue of significant life events referred to by POLPAN participants during the unstructured biographical interviews, and compare these findings with information gathered within the quantitative study. I also reflect on the advantages and difficulties related to combining data generated within two different methods and theoretical approaches.

→ [Session 10](#)

Žiaran Pavel, Rašticová Martina, Bédiová Monika

Looking for early retirement. Difference between the self-employed and the salaried. Evidence from the EU Share.

The aim of this study is to analyse the factors which influence the tendency to look for early retirement for the group of the workers after 55+ in Czech Republic. The focus is on comparison between the group of the self-employed and the group of the salaried. Research is based on the sixth wave (2015) of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) for Czech Republic. We use the set of statistical tools as logit model and non-parametric tests to analyse the differences between the respective groups. The results show that self-employed persons are more satisfied with their main jobs when compared to the salaried and the major difference between the two respective groups consists in the aspect of support in difficult situation (as defined by the questionnaire of the EU Share, wave 6, for the Czech Republic). Research results bring implications for the policy-makers in the field of extensions of the working time.

→ [Session 3](#)

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