



*RC11 Proposed Sessions for the World Congress of Sociology at Yokohama*

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**RC11 Newsletter** is published semi-annually by the Research Committee on Sociology of Aging (RC11) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), and mailed electronically to all RC11 members. Send contributions to [esteban.calvo@udp.cl](mailto:esteban.calvo@udp.cl)

Article submissions are limited to 1,000 words, will be reviewed by the RC11 officers for possible publication, and may be edited for clarity or space.

## From the Editor

Esteban Calvo | [esteban.calvo@udp.cl](mailto:esteban.calvo@udp.cl)



Yokohama, a port located in the center of Japan, will be the destination for many sociologists attending the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, between July 13 and 19, 2014. The overarching theme of the Congress will be “Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology.” Debates on inequality have arisen in the wake of the recent financial crisis. However, in the long-term the issue of inequality can be seen as part of a much broader debate in which conflicting historical trends and normative goals raise troubling questions about how aging societies do and should work, and how they provide opportunities to grow older.

In her Presidential Letter, Anne Martin-Mathews summarizes the proposed sessions on aging for the Congress, explains the difference between open call and invited speaker sessions, introduces our Program Committee, and highlights innovations in the program. Following the Presidential Letter, you will find more detailed information on each proposed session. Next, you will find a brief section with news and stimulating contributions by RC11 members, including: a stimulating article on age discrimination in Czech Republic by Lucie Vidovicová and a critical review of the UN Statistical Commission recommendations on national data on older adults by Shirley Nuss. The newsletter also includes announcements on a variety of issues, such as: call for papers, meetings, funding, jobs, competitions, data, educational programs, and RC11 members. The final section lists publications and readings suggested by our members.

I look forward continuing receiving your contributions and suggestions for the newsletter, but most importantly, to receive your abstract contributions for the ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama. On-line abstracts submissions are due on September 30, 2013. Mark your calendars! \*

With all good wishes,

*Esteban*



## From the President

Anne Martin-Matthews | [amm@imail.ubc.ca](mailto:amm@imail.ubc.ca)



Dear RC11 Members, and Colleagues,

We are now just over a year away from the ISA's 18th World Congress of Sociology, to be held in Yokohama, Japan, from July 13-19, 2014. In this issue of our Newsletter, you will find information on the 26

sessions on aging scheduled to date for the Congress. This is a record number of sessions highlighting scholarly activities in the sociology of aging, and we are delighted by the opportunity to examine such a diversity of issues, especially when the Congress is held in Japan, a country so characterized by population aging.

We thank those RC11 members who responded to the earlier Call for Session Proposals. We have 16 sessions for which there is a 'Call for Abstract' submissions. Eleven of these sessions are hosted by RC11, and include such diverse topics as public policy, intergenerational dependencies, life course influences, old age security, age inequalities, older workers, telecare, grand-parenting, poverty and the aging body. Five other sessions for which there is a 'Call for Abstracts' are joint with other Research Committees or Working Groups of the ISA. We are delighted to have this collaboration with colleagues in the Sociology of Health, Sociology of Environment, Sociology of Family, Visual Sociology, and Sociology of Population.

While the titles and abstracts reflect a range of topics and issues within the sociology of aging, the real strength of the sessions will be in the quality of the abstracts received through ISA's on-line abstracts submission process by the deadline of September 30, 2013 - 24:00 GMT. Please do widely circulate this Call for Abstracts to your colleagues and collaborators

around the world. All relevant Congress information is available on the ISA website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>

All submissions will be reviewed by the RC11 2014 Congress Program Chair, Andreas Hoff (Germany), and the members of the Program Committee: Esteban Calvo (Chile), Koichi Hasegawa (Japan), Jacobus Hoffman (UK and South Africa), Hal Kendig (Australia) and the Program Committee Co-Chair, Virpi Timonen (Ireland). Any other queries concerning the Program should be submitted to Andreas Hoff at: [a.hoff@hszg.de](mailto:a.hoff@hszg.de).

We also have eight special symposia already organized for the Congress, with an outstanding roster of invited international speakers, on topics of population aging, social class, cultural gerontology, aging in Japan, and intergenerational relations. Our program also includes two initiatives: an RC11 'Presidential Symposium', with invited speakers on a topic that brings the lens of the sociology of aging to focus on the Congress' overall theme. The topic of this session in Yokohama will be 'Aging, Globalization and Inequality', with presentations by Chris Phillipson (UK), Susan McDaniel (Canada) and Akiko Hashimoto (USA).

The second initiative was developed in response to feedback from those RC11 members who attended the RC11 Business Meeting in Buenos Aires. We heard your clear request for a session specifically focused on career development issues for early career scholars in the sociology of aging, enabling interaction with journal editors and senior researchers with publication experience. We have reserved a slot specifically for this purpose in our program allocation, and will welcome your further input as we refine the topic and our approach to this session in the months ahead.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge a recent publication that originated from an RC11

session at the last World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden in 2010. RC11 Past President Sara Arber and current Executive Member-at-Large Virpi Timonen are the editors of *Contemporary Grandparenting: Changing Family Relationships in Global Contexts*, published in August 2012 by Policy Press, UK. They have skillfully integrated contributions from around the globe to achieve a penetrating analysis of how modern grandparenthood shapes and is shaped by the changing social and economic contexts of family relationships. Congratulations, Sara and Virpi!

This excellent publication will, hopefully, inspire organizers of sessions now being developed for Yokohama to think ahead to bringing a collection of presentations to publication and wide distribution.

With best wishes to you all as we work toward the goal of meeting again a year hence in Yokohama. \*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne Martin-Matthaus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the main text.



# RC11 Proposed Sessions for the World Congress of Sociology at Yokohama

## Open Call Sessions (abstracts are invited)

### 1. Regular session: Innovation and public policies, new answers for new challenges

Session proposer: Professor Adriana Fassio, School of Economics, Buenos Aires University, Argentina

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Presentation language: English

The increase of life expectancy and the tendency of population aging reinforce the need for debate about the limits of public policies and the participation of the own elderly like active actors in the development and in their own welfare. The main issue of this session is to discuss and compare research and experiences based on the perspective of elderly rights in different countries. To inquire about the public, profit, and non profit organizations which execute public policies like social innovation places where they try to afford new challenges in humanity history like increasing of the older population. The questions we would answer in the session are related on the paradigms of public policies and the methodological approaches put in practice, and also, over the point of view of the multiple actors in planning, executing, monitoring and evaluating the policies: elderly, their families, caregivers, professionals and the public and private organizations involved.

### 2. Regular session: Intergenerational dependencies

Session proposer: Michael Fine, Adjunct Professor, Department of Sociology, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Contact details: A/Prof Michael Fine, Department of Sociology, Macquarie University, Sydney, 2109, Australia, [michael.fine@mq.edu.au](mailto:michael.fine@mq.edu.au)

Presentation language: English

Research and theory that examines aging from the perspective of intergenerational dependencies is concerned with the way that aging affects not just those who are old, but all age groups. It is concerned with the forms of solidarity, exchange, dependencies and conflicts between and within generations and genders, at the level of individuals, families and social networks, as well as across larger social aggregates such as communities, regions, nations and international contexts. The objective of this session is to promote sociological discussion of critical theoretical analyses as well as promote comparative empirical research.

### 3. Regular session: How do telecare and assistive technologies impact care-giving?

Session proposer: Professor Andreas Hoff

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Presentation language: English

Scientific knowledge has been multiplying at exponential rates, with its translation into practical applications also happening at an ever increasing speed. So-called 'smart home' technologies, health monitoring techniques and assistive technologies counterbalancing the impact of physical, cognitive, vision, and hearing impairment are beginning to revolutionise formal and informal care provision. These technologies have the potential to improve care recipients' well-being substantially. 'Telecare' technologies can also help family carers monitoring the person in their care using various sensors placed around the care recipient's home, taking immediate action if needed, without being physically there. However, gains in physical ability and greater independence may come at a high price: a less intimate caring relationship, in which the care recipient becomes monitored from a distance and 'remote-controlled'. This session aims to explore how the use of modern technologies changes the caring relationship between care giver and care recipient in informal care. It will consider the benefits arising from using such technologies, as well as the possible emergence of new risks.

#### **4. Regular session: Aging and the body in everyday life**

Session proposer: Laura Hurd Clarke, Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology, The University of British Columbia, Canada

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Presentation language: English

Our bodies are the most immediate way by which we experience the social and physical realities of growing older and the gendered, societal norms and ideals which delimit and shape our everyday lives. This session will showcase papers which examine the 'doing of gender' (West and Zimmerman, 1987) in everyday later life. In particular the papers will explore how idealized norms of femininity and masculinity are performed, transmuted, and/or resisted through the aging body. Papers will consider such topics as appearance work, body image, disability, health and illness, sexuality, and relationships (amongst other related issues). Papers may further investigate how these embodied experiences vary by one's socio-cultural position. As such, the papers will explore how the experience of the body in later life varies by age, gender, ethnicity/culture, sexual orientation, and social class as well as the impact of factors such as ageism, ageism, healthism, racism, sexism and other discourses of exclusion.

#### **5. Regular session: Life-course influences on old age**

Session proposer: Dr Kathrin Komp

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Presentation language: English

Populations around the globe age. This demographic shift draws attention to the situation of older people, and it makes old age the focus of many ongoing debates. Individuals want to plan for old age, the media discusses it, researchers study it, and policy-makers try to influence it. Grasping the situation of older people, however, requires a life-course perspective. This perspective purports that events can have time-delayed

effects on people's lives. Thus, the situation in old age partly depends on events during youth and middle-age. This session explores such life-course influences on old age. It studies which events are particularly important for the situation in old age, and when influences on old age start. In doing so, it looks at the effects of historical events at the societal level and at personal events within the lives of individuals. Examples for such influential historical events are the current economic crisis and the earthquake that hit Japan in 2011. Examples for influential personal events are poverty during childhood and youth unemployment. Moreover, this session discusses the implications of adopting a life-course perspective on old age for, e.g., healthy and active aging, policy-making, and workforce participation.

## 6. Regular session: Grandparenting

Session proposers: Virpi Timonen<sup>1</sup> and Sara Arber<sup>2</sup>

Contact details:

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, Surrey, UK, S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk

Presentation language: English

Grandparenting is a dynamic family practice that varies over time and between societies. Grandparenting is shaped by material and structural realities such as social class and the welfare state context. Within any society there are patterned diversities in the practices of grandparenting, associated with material circumstances, ethnicity, geographical propinquity and family structure. Gender norms also exert a strong influence on grandparenting practices that are negotiated across the dyadic grandparent-grandchild relationship and the triad of grandparent–adult child–grandchild. Norms and expectations associated with grandparenting may be in conflict, and grandparents use agency to negotiate the balance between the norms of 'being there' (to assist), 'not interfering', and drawing boundaries around their involvement in the lives of the younger family generations.

We welcome quantitative and qualitative papers, based on cross-national or single-context research. We particularly encourage papers on under-researched or poorly understood aspects of grandparenting. These include, but are not limited to, grandfathering, transnational (or long-distance) grandparenting, great-grandparenting, lesbian/gay grandparents, three-generational studies, grandparenting in the broader extended family context, step-grandparenting, and grandchildren's perspectives. Much more research is needed on how grandparenting practices vary by gender, lineage, class, and ethnicity, and we invite abstract submissions that address these intersections.

## 7. Regular session: Age inequalities, ageism and age discrimination: still on the rise?

Session proposer: Dr Lucie Vidovicova

Contact details: Masaryk University & Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, lucie.vidovic@seznam.cz

Presentation language: English

It has been 45 years since the term "ageism" was coined by Robert Butler pointing at the disparities and unequal treatment of people on the basis of their chronological age. Since then the topic was picked up by

many academics, philosophers, policy makers and researchers. The agenda was set, as media analysts teach us. Not only has the interest in the phenomena risen, but also its recognition among lay actors. Supported by increasing awareness of population aging, the records and areas of recognised unfair treatment on the basis of age are raising, especially in (Eastern) Europe and North America. The typical result of a question “Could you tell me whether, in your opinion, age discrimination is very widespread, fairly widespread, fairly rare or very rare?” is however indecisive: latest Eurobarometer (393/2012) counts 45% for total “widespread” and 46 % for “rare” (9 % “don’t know” and “non existent” spontaneous answers), but huge differences between the European countries remain. For this session we invite papers discussing the evolution of the phenomena of age discrimination both on empirical and theoretical grounds. Papers dealing with international and/or topic areas comparison are encouraged.

### **8. Regular session: Poverty in times of affluence**

Session proposer: Dr Lucie Vidovicova

Contact details: Masaryk University & Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, lucie.vidovic@seznam.cz

Presentation language: English

In the international comparison the European countries belong among the wealthiest countries in the World. Older people are at the lowest risk of the poverty and of social exclusion in most of them. This leads some of the theorist to talk about the need of new generational contract and about new types of age discrimination against the children and young people. However, the multiple jeopardises and cumulative disadvantages experienced by some of the subgroups of heterogeneous population of older people in deed give a strong legitimacy to the issue of poverty in higher age. The rising expenses on housing, drugs, services – not included in income based measures of social exclusion – substantially increase the risk of poverty of the groups dependent on social system. In this session we invite papers to discuss the various aspects related to social exclusion of older people, its subjective and objective meanings, determinants and outcomes, including both income measures and spending (e.g. consumer behaviour).

### **9. Regular session: Older workers and aging workforces**

Session proposer: Dr Esteban Calvo

Contact details: Associate Professor of Public Policy, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, esteban.calvo@udp.cl

Presentation language: English

Workforce aging is an issue across the world. EU member states have enacted anti-discrimination legislation in respect of older people. Such legislation has been shown to reduce age-related inequalities, however, previous experiences of anti-discrimination legislation, for instance in respect of gender, race and disability, have demonstrated that changing attitudes is a longer-term task, and that employment discrimination is frequently embedded within taken for granted practices and norms. This session aims to discuss challenges of aging workforces both for national economies and for older workers themselves. Furthermore, it aims to compare to what extent these challenges are alike or different in countries across the globe. The sociological analysis should also consider perspectives and experiences of various societal stakeholders, including



employers, trade unions and policy makers. The session will look at the challenges which organizations face in responding flexibly to legislative changes, explore the ways in which managers conceptualize aging issues in the workplace, and identify lessons that can be learned.

### **10. Regular session: Old-age security in the 21st century**

Session proposer: Dr Esteban Calvo

Contact details: Associate Professor of Public Policy, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, [esteban.calvo@udp.cl](mailto:esteban.calvo@udp.cl)

Presentation language: English

By 2025, one quarter of the world's population aged 60 and over will be living in China. Therefore, the success or failure of China to reform its old-age pension system will affect a major proportion of the world's population. This session aims to focus on old-age pension reforms worldwide. Numerous now-developed countries first experienced a cultural rationalization, then economic modernization, and after that faced the challenges of population aging. Distinctive characteristics will shape the consequences of the reforms being implemented in these countries. One of the most predictable challenges will be the financing problem. How to finance the pension system is a major question almost everywhere, but low-income nations face additional difficulties. Low coverage and compliance rates aggravate the financing problem and constitute a second major challenge, particularly in rural areas. Non-rationalized cultures, typically concentrated in rural areas, tend to be resistant to long term financial planning. The main objective of an old-age pension system is to provide financial security for elderly people. Where a substantial fraction of the elderly are at risk of poverty, substantial income redistribution is generally needed. Current reforms may have positive benefits for the overall economy (e.g. developing equity markets, achieving fiscal stability, increasing national savings, and boosting the economic growth), but we must ask at what price for vulnerable segments of the population such as women, low-wage workers, recent migrants from rural areas, and those who remain in rural areas.

### **11. Regular session: Older migrants and migrant care workers**

Session proposer: Dr Jacobus Hoffman

Contact details: Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford, 66 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PR, UK, [jacobus.hoffman@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jacobus.hoffman@ageing.ox.ac.uk)

Presentation language: English

This session aims to focus on the broad theme of migration and aging. Thereby, two very different aspects can be differentiated: (1) older people migrating to other countries (in order to join their family or in search of better health care provision) and (2) younger and middle-aged people migrating to become care-givers for older people (migrant care workers). One widely recognized difficulty in this context is the organization and the provision of care for the elderly in aging societies in combination with a decline of traditional family structures. Research on how migration in later life shapes the welfare needs, preferences and expectations of older people is in its infancy. This session aims to explore older migrants' experiences of accessing welfare and the barriers they encounter in negotiating inclusion into mainstream services. Language and citizenship can become main obstacles. Community organizations may play a major role in empowering older migrants, as well as migrants providing care to older people.

**12. Joint session hosted by RC11: Family and elder care**

Session co-chairs: Dr Cynthia M. Cready (RC06 “Family Research”) and Dr Jacobus Hoffman (RC11 “Sociology of aging”)

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cynthia.cready@unt.edu

Presentation language: English

Empirical and theoretical papers that address any aspect of family and elder care invited for this session. Possible topics include: becoming a caregiver; types and levels of elder care and support from family members; elder perceptions of family-produced care; the effects of caring for an elder family member on the health and well-being, relationship, work, and financial situation of the caregiver; consequences of changing family structure for elder care; racial/ethnic, gender, and/or social class differences in family-produced elder care; connections between family-produced elder care, and the impact of social policies on family-produced elder care.

**13. Joint session hosted by RC11: Environment, aging, and vulnerability**

Session co-chairs: Stewart Lockie (RC24 “Environment and Society”) and Hal Kendig (RC11 “Sociology of Aging”)

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The Australian National University, Australia, [hal.kendig@anu.edu.au](mailto:hal.kendig@anu.edu.au)

Presentation language: English

This session addresses the relationship between environment and aging in two ways: (a) the ways in which the environment impacts aging and older populations, and b) the ways in which population aging impacts the environment. Environments differentially impact aging, elderly and vulnerable populations both in terms of outdoor spaces and the built environment, and in terms of broad environmental impacts of climate change and environment-related disasters. For example, the effects of global warming on an aging population’s health condition have been observed in heat waves that pose risks older adults by environmental exposures. It is also recognized that biologic capacity declines with normal aging; this may be exacerbated in individuals with pre-existing health conditions. The rapid growth in the number of older people worldwide has many implications for public health, including the need to better understand the risks posed to older adults by environmental exposures. In addition, environmental disasters often disproportionately impact elderly and vulnerable populations, and pose particular challenges of environmental emergency preparedness, response and communication strategies. Population aging may impact the environment through changes in consumption patterns for both private and public provided goods and services. It is also related to the development of the total population size. While there is some evidence that population aging in itself does not lead to significant environmental changes or pressures, there is evidence that consumption of heat, gas and other fuels per person is higher for elderly people than for the rest of the population. This session invites papers that address this relationship between environment and aging.

**14. Joint session hosted by RC41: Population aging in East and Southeast Asia - Challenges and opportunities**

Session co-chairs: Susan McDaniel<sup>1</sup> (RC11 “Sociology of Aging”) and Zachary Zimmer<sup>2</sup> (RC41 “Sociology of Population”)

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Presentation language: English

Southeast and East Asia are the most rapidly aging regions of the world. In most countries in the region, the percent that are old is not yet as high as in European and North American countries, but the growth in the older population is unprecedented. Such change in population age structure clearly leads to challenges. These include issues such as how to reorganize health care systems and how to ensure that older persons continue to have adequate levels of support. But, there are also opportunities. For instance, older persons have been known to play vital roles within families, and older workers have been known to contribute to economic growth. For this session we invite papers that highlight the challenges and/or opportunities brought about by an aging population. We are particularly interested in those that clearly lie at the crossroads of population and gerontological areas of study and those that have strong policy implications looking forward towards rapidly changing Asia.

**15. Joint session hosted by WGo3: The use of visual methods in aging research**

Session co-chairs: Dr Elisabeth-Jane ‘E-J’ Milne (University of Stirling, UK)

TGo5 (“Visual Sociology”) and Dr Wendy Martin<sup>1</sup> (Brunel University, UK) (RC11 “Sociology of aging”)

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Presentation language: English

Visual Methods are increasingly being used within aging research. Exploring the visual is seen as a means to uncover significant insights into how micro processes of daily life are linked to wider socio-cultural discourses; performative aspects of culture often hidden within the everyday; to make visible the mundane and taken-for-granted; to stimulate debate; and to reveal meanings and understandings in context. Whilst the use of visual methods can be experienced as empowering and participatory by older people, the development of visual research has also presented researchers with new complexities and challenges in relation to ethical, theoretical, analytical and methodological issues. The aim of this symposium is to bring together researchers who are using a wide variety of different visual methods to study social aspects of aging. We welcome abstracts that explore and debate different theoretical perspectives, methodological approaches and empirical findings when using visual methods in aging research. In particular we plan to explore and debate the possibilities and difficulties when developing visual methodologies.

## 16. Joint session hosted by RC15: Health and social care in the context of population aging

Session co-chairs: Jon Gabe (RC15 “Sociology of Health”) and Ian Rees Jones (RC11 “Sociology of Aging”)

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Presentation language: English

As populations age around the world, there is increasing interest in re-thinking the delivery of health care services. While much of the impetus relates to public expenditure constraint and projections about doubling of care costs within the coming decades, there is also recognition of the desire of older people to ‘age in place’, supported by home and community care services. At the same time, health and social care is challenged by issues of supply and demand in response to population aging. On the demand side, there are more elderly people (and more people living longer in old age) with a wide diversity of health issues, from long term disability to frailty to healthy older people with periodic acute illness, to end of life care. The capacity to provide health and social care (the ‘supply’ side) will be influenced by changing family structures and the availability of fewer care workers – both impacted by home and community care’s typically marginalized role in health care systems. This session invites presentations on issues relevant to the delivery of health and social care in the context of population aging, with a particular interest in home and community care. Papers may address a range of issues, from state governance of home and community care, to the intersection of public and private service provision (including informal care and ‘grey’ home care labour), to strategies to enhance the labour force, to considerations of quality, equity and equality, for example, of access and quality of services, between younger disabled and older people, between people in different geographic regions, between different diagnostic groups (especially physical disability versus dementia) and in relation to class/socio-economic inequalities.

## Invited Speaker Sessions (not open for submission of abstracts)

### 17. Presidential Symposium: Aging, globalization, and inequality

Session chair: Professor Anne Martin-Matthews

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Presentation language: English

Presenters:

Chris Phillipson, Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology, and Co-Director, Manchester Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Research on Ageing, The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK M13 9PL. (christopher.phillipson@manchester.ac.uk)

Susan McDaniel, Prentice Institute in Global Population & Economy, 4401 University Drive West, Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4 Canada (susan.mcdaniel@uleth.ca)

Akiko Hashimoto, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, 2419 Wesley W. Posvar Hall, 230 Bouquet St, Pittsburgh, PA., 15260 USA. (ahash@pitt.edu)

This RC11 Presidential Symposium will address the ways in which growing old is being transformed through processes associated with globalization. It will consider the impact of globalization and of multinational organizations and agencies on the lives of older people; factors contributing to the “social construction” of later life in varied global contexts; and issues associated with diversity and inequality in old age, arising through the effects of cumulative advantage and disadvantage over the life course. These different themes are analyzed using a variety of theoretical perspectives drawn from sociology, social policy, political science, and social anthropology. Each of the three presenters in this session has an international reputation for research on issues of aging, globalization and inequality. Chris Phillipson is a co-author on the ground-breaking book, *Ageing, Globalisation and Inequality: The New Critical Gerontology* (2006). Susan McDaniel holds a Canada Research Chair in Global Population & Life Course and has conducted comparative international research with colleagues around the globe, including in Japan. Akiko Hashimoto is a comparative sociologist at the University of Pittsburgh and has recently written about Japan in the context of cultures and globalization.

### **18. Symposium: Life course influences on inequalities in later life - comparative perspectives**

Session proposers: Professors Hal Kendig, Australian National University and

Professor James Nazroo, Manchester University

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Presentation language: English

There is increasing recognition that the quality of later life is influenced by social advantages and disadvantages over the life course. This symposium examines variations in the pattern of life course trajectories (across countries, gender, class and ethnicity) and the influence of these trajectories on later life outcomes in terms of psychological well-being, health and social inclusion. Key influences under consideration include early life circumstances, education, work experiences, family circumstances, and social class attainment. We examine ways in which life opportunities and constraints vary systematically among social groups in terms of gender, ethnicity, and spatial location. We do this by drawing on comparable and detailed life history data collected in the UK, mainland Europe and Australia, and also draw on data available from the US. The societal context of our investigations – from Australia, England, mainland European countries and the US – will highlight the influence of variable social structures and policies. Our primary focus is on the baby boom cohort making transitions during times of economic and policy turmoil and societal aging. Variation between countries will shed light on public and private responsibilities for intergenerational equity and welfare during times of social change.

### **19. Symposium: Population aging, work and caregiving responsibilities in four liberal democracies**

Session proposer: Dr Kate O’Loughlin, The University of Sydney, Australia

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Presentation language: English



Workforce participation and caregiving are each central to global capacities to respond constructively to rapid population aging, yet the relationships between them are inadequately researched and understood. The baby boomer cohort, now approaching late middle age, faces unprecedented pressures to manage paid work alongside caring longer and more intensively for family members and friends. This symposium will explore the nexus between paid work and caregiving with a particular focus on the gendered nature of caregiving and the baby boomer cohort using data from national data sets and social surveys in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. Data from each country will be presented to show national trends as well as provide a basis for comparative analyses on the interrelations between caregiving, paid work, and health status for older individuals. The findings will be discussed in terms of their significance for employers, social security systems, and in the context of policy initiatives within and across the four countries.

## **20. Symposium: Social class in later life - power, identity and lifestyle**

Session proposer: Professor Ian Rees Jones

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Presentation language: English

This symposium will be based on a collection of research papers edited by Marvin Formosa and Paul Higgs entitled 'Social Class in Later Life: Power, Identity and Lifestyle' published by Policy Press (forthcoming). The symposia will be based around key presentations addressing aspects of class and later life. First, Formosa will present a brief overview setting out key theoretical underpinnings of social class and highlighting issues arising from the different approaches to social class in later life. Second, Victor will present on the relationship between social class and patterns of care and caring. Third, Jones will address the literature on health inequalities in later life and evidence for the continuing salience of social class. Fourth, Hyde will present findings from analysis of cross-national data on class and age identity in later life. Fifth, Phillipson will discuss interactions of aging and class in a globalized world. Finally, Higgs will act as discussant for the symposia. This symposium addresses global inequality and the diversities of Aging within an Unequal World through the prism of social class. Contributors will address different social and cultural understandings of class and class relations in later life in a global context. Findings based on international comparative analysis of World and European data sets will be presented as well as examples of specific aspects of later life experiences such as care and caring. In this sense the symposium will encourage discussion of sociological understandings of class inequalities in later life at global, national, regional, local, and interpersonal levels.

## **21. Symposium: The challenge of cultural gerontology**

Session proposer: Professor Julia Twigg (University of Kent, UK)

Dr Wendy Martin (Brunel University, UK)

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Presentation language: English

Over the last decade, Cultural Gerontology has emerged as one of the most significant and vibrant parts of writing about age. Reflecting the wider Cultural Turn, it has expanded the field of gerontology beyond all recognition. No longer confined to frailty, or by the dominance of medical and social welfare perspectives, gerontology now addresses the nature and experience of later years in the widest sense. Drawing on diverse areas of study that encompass the arts and humanities – novels, painting, music – that extend into new areas of life – clothing, hair, travel, consumption, gardening – and that draw on new methodologies – visual, narrative, material – these developments have located the study of later years within a larger and richer context. This symposium illustrates key themes from the forthcoming Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology, edited by Julia Twigg and Wendy Martin, to be published in 2014. The series of presentations include: ‘The Emergence of Cultural Gerontology’ (Twigg and Martin); ‘Distinction and Identity in Later Life’ (Gilleard and Higgs); ‘Outlining and Applying an Intersectional Framework’ (Calasanti); ‘Communities and Connectivities’ (Jones); and ‘Travel and Tourism in Later Life’ (Hyde). This symposium therefore introduces key debates within cultural gerontology and provides a critical analysis of their development.

## **22. Joint session hosted by RC11: Japan’s experience with population aging - Policy challenges and innovations**

Session co-chairs: Susan McDaniel<sup>1</sup> (RC11 “Sociology of Aging”) and Zachary Zimmer<sup>2</sup> (RC41 “Sociology of Population”)

Contact details:

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Presentation language: English

Japan has, as most in sociology know, the demographically oldest population in the world. Low fertility societies that are rapidly aging are occurring in many regions of the world. Many policy questions and challenges are raised by population aging – about activation of older people, generational transfers and relations, health care, gender equality, immigration, the list is endless. Yet, from the experience of Japan in addressing policy issues, we find that innovation is possible and indeed desirable. In this session, some leading researchers who have focused on Japan, share their best research on Japan’s aged population situation, to discern policy challenges and innovations from which the rest of the world might learn.

## **23. Authors meet critics: New approaches of conceptualizing intergenerational relations**

Session proposer: Professor Andreas Hoff

Contact details: Faculty of Social Sciences, Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences, Furtstr. 2, 02826 Görlitz, Germany, a.hoff@hszg.de

Presentation language: English

Proposed participants:

Kurt Lüscher (University of Konstanz, Germany) “Intergenerational Ambivalence – Widening the Horizon”

Simon Biggs (University of Melbourne, Australia) & Ariela Lowenstein (Haifa University, Israel) “Intergenerational Intelligence”

Population aging has left its mark on intergenerational relations in family, community and society, which have been undergoing significant changes in recent years. Traditional ways of intergenerational interaction cannot longer be taken for granted. Whereas increasing longevity is allowing for an extended life time of intergenerational interaction, declining fertility and increasing geographical distances between the generations are threatening the very same. At the same time, new technologies are opening new avenues of intergenerational interaction. Growing individualism in our contemporary postmodern societies increases the need for continuous identity reconstruction, which includes multiple generational roles. Do traditional theories on intergenerational relations still reflect these realities? This session proposes the need for new approaches of conceptualizing intergenerational relations in the light of these groundbreaking changes. The turn of the millennium witnessed the emergence of the 'intergenerational ambivalence' concept as an attempt to conceptualize the complexities of multiple and often contradictory intergenerational roles and relations. In 2011, the concept of 'generational intelligence' proposed a proactive method for discovering generational identities and for raising intergenerational awareness, both preconditions for a new quality of intergenerational interaction in postmodern society. This session aims bringing together some of the main proponents of this new discourse with the aim of kick-starting a public debate on future intergenerational interaction and how to conceptualize it.

#### **24. Integrative session: Inequality and the future of aging**

Session organizers: Markus S. Schulz (RC07 Futures Research), New York University, U.S.A. markus.s.schulz@gmail.com

Yulia Rozanova (RC10 Social Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management), University of British Columbia, julia.rozanova@ubc.ca

Andreas Hoff (RC11 Sociology of Aging), Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences, Germany, a.hoff@hszg.de

Proposal coordinator: Julia Rozanova

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Presentation language: English

Population aging is considered among the top three challenges of global development by the United Nations. By 2025 one in every seven Americans, one in six Canadians, one in five Japanese and Europeans (in some European regions such as Germany or Italy one in four) will be over the age of 65. This historically unique global transition towards aging societies will affect almost all countries before the end of the century. But what will this revolutionary change mean for sociology and for society? The three Research Committees will lead an integrative reflection on long-term future theory, policy, and practice implications of aging societies, dispelling common myths and stereotypes and pointing out problems that are largely ignored. Papers will both present cases contextualized in particular societies and make international comparisons to address questions that cut across the three Committees' research agendas: Is aging a challenge or an opportunity for democracy? How will aging affect the Global South and its relation to the North? Will aging result in societies where ideas of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber can no longer be valid? Will income security and healthcare be sustainable? How will differences in the age structure affect economic competitiveness in a world of competing nation-states? Will fears of gerontocracy enhance inter-generational conflicts? What is the future of the family when eldercare rather than childcare becomes a universal responsibility for adults, while the ages of life course transitions are further delayed? In cultural terms, will active aging become the mainstream worldwide lifestyle driven by the anti-aging industries? And what may be the theoretical and the policy

implications of these trends and how can sociology address them and advise policy makers, other stakeholders in society as well as the older and the younger generations so that the future looks promising for people of all ages?

### **25. Trainee session: Preparing for a career in the Sociology of Aging**

Session chair: Professor Sara Arber

Contact details: Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, Surrey, UK, S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk

Presentation language: English

This session is targeted to trainees and early career researchers in the sociology of aging. Two – three RC11 members with experience as journal editors and associate editors, and as research centre directors, will make very brief presentations on key issues in successful publication and grantscraft in the fields of sociology of aging and in social gerontology. Issues of disciplinary strength and multidisciplinary collaboration will be discussed. An open discussion session with opportunities for input by all participants will then follow. Participants will be encouraged to register in advance for this session, and to submit questions to the lead RC11 members prior to the session as well.

### **26. Business meeting**

Session chair: Professor Anne Martin-Matthews

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Presentation language: English



## Britain Encourages Older Adults to Return to the Classroom

Taking into account a government report that indicated that U.K.'s future economic success depends on the skills and contributions of older workers, Britain's higher education minister suggested that older workers who continue their education to maintain current skills will be more likely to remain in the workforce. This is why the government has decided to lift the age limit on student loans to include tuition coverage. There is a big concern that the aging population – one in four British people will be older than 65 by 2033 – will place a large amount

of burden on taxpayers, unless more people work for longer. However, advocates for older adults had some reservations that those reaching retirement age would be able and willing to enroll and commit to challenging degree coursework and increased amounts of debt in order to continue working. The state pension age is to rise to 67 by 2028, and ministers have warned that they are unsure of future pension ages. Default retirement ages have been eliminated, and employers are being encouraged by ministers to provide more flexible hours. The impact of the aging population on public services is an issue the House of Lords committee is currently evaluating. \*



## Age Discrimination in the Czech Republic – A Decade of Development

It has been 45 years since the term “ageism” was coined by Robert Butler pointing at the disparities and unequal treatment of people on the basis of their chronological age. Since then the topic was picked up by many academics, philosophers, policy makers and researchers. The interest in the phenomena rose, as well as its recognition among lay actors. Supported by increasing awareness of population aging, the number of areas and records of recognised unfair treatment on the basis of age are raising, especially in (Eastern) Europe and North America. However, answers to the question “Could you tell me whether, in your opinion, age discrimination is widespread or rare?” are indecisive: latest Eurobarometer (393/2012) counts 45% for total “widespread” and 46% for “rare” (rest of 9% stand for spontaneous answers “don’t know” and “non-existent”). National results show that discrimination on the basis of being over 55 years old is most likely to be thought to be widespread in three neighbouring states: Hungary (75 %), the Czech Republic (68 %) and Slovakia (66 %). Ireland with only 19% of respondents being convinced that older people are discriminated against is closing the list of 27 countries included in this survey.

In the Czech Republic we have followed the issues of age salience, age discrimination and ageism for almost a decade. The first survey was carried out in 2003, the second one in 2007 and the last one in 2012. All three surveys are representative for adult Czech population aged 18–80 years, total N = 1584, 1810 and 1640 respectively. The standardised face to face questionnaire was used to ensure maximum possible level of comparability among the three surveys. Using the classical Palmore’s (2001) “Ageism Survey” as point of departure, the labour market, interpersonal communication, citizen’s rights, politics and media, pension and health care systems, business and service provision, and extreme forms of ageist behaviour such as abuse and mistreatment were followed in our surveys. Through this rich database, we may now



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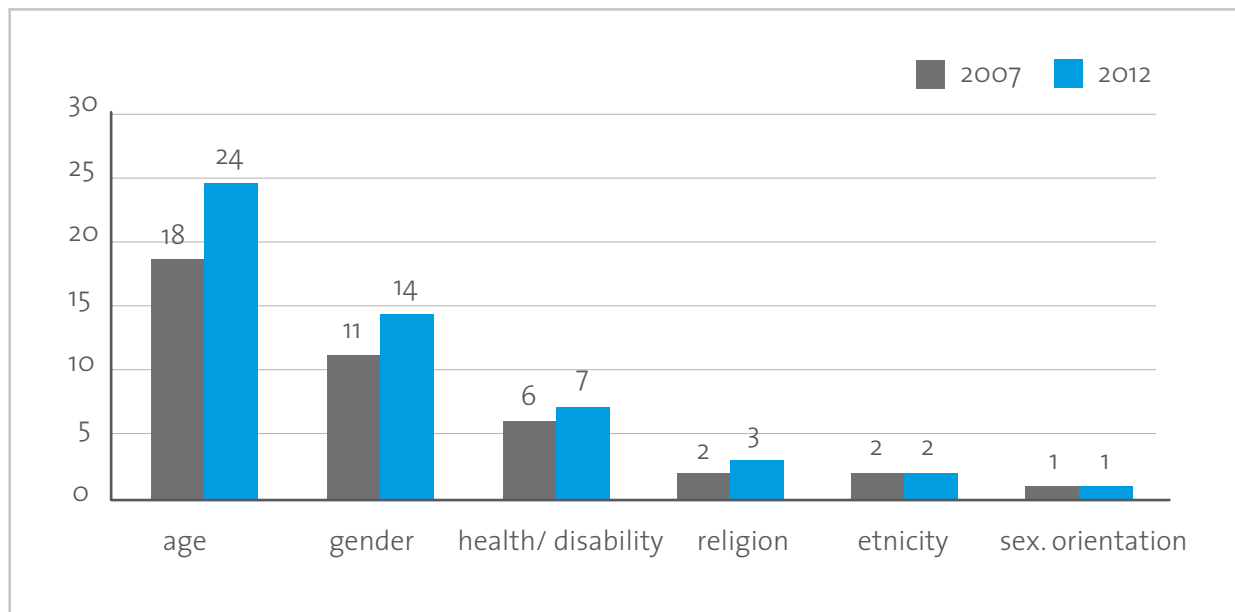
gain deeper insight into the “question of age” in the country with extremely high levels of perceived age discrimination of older people. However, due to the space restriction only a small selection of data is presented here.

### The Experience of Age Differentiating Behavior

Ageism and age discrimination are only two among many other inequalities experienced in current societies. The relative position of age between main, public-recognized sources of discrimination is set in the Figure 1. Age, followed by sex, gained the top position, being one of the most often experienced discrimination.

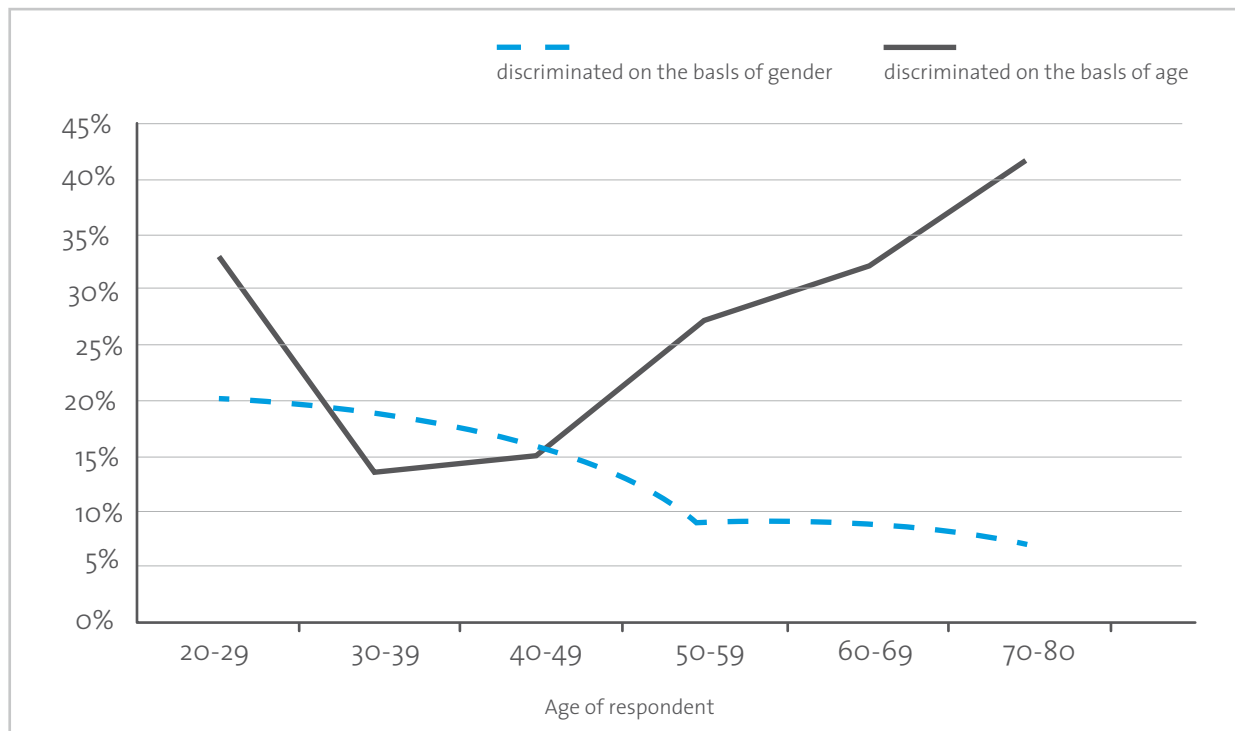
Gender discrimination is more often indicated by women. Lower income increases the risk of discrimination based on health or disability, and slightly also on the basis of age. Higher age of a respondent, however, makes the experience of discrimination stronger on all monitored basis. Age context is essential, especially with gender discrimination, where such experience is acknowledged three times more by women than men under the age of thirty, almost seven times more by middle-aged women, and eleven times more by women than men over sixty. That being so despite the fact that gender discrimination, compared to age discrimination, is weaker in the highest age categories (see Figure 2).

**Figure 1.** Percentage of respondents experiencing discrimination (disadvantage) or unfair treatment in different areas



Source: Ageism survey, Czech Republic 2012.  
 Note: The respondents could give more than one answer.

**Figure 2.** Percentage of respondents experiencing discrimination based on age and sex, by age groups



Source: Ageism survey, Czech Republic 2012.

In our whole sample, 65% of respondents have not experienced any of the monitored forms of discrimination, 22% have experienced just one, and the remaining 13% gave an account of multiple jeopardy—i.e., experienced discrimination on two or more areas. The percentage of respondents who did not experience discrimination is 8 percentage points lower - compared to the year 2007 - and the increase is evenly split between discrimination on one and multiple bases. Consistent with the theory, women report multiple bases discrimination experiences more often.

Table 1 gives a general overview of situations where some of the age differentiating experience may have happened, in three years comparison. We may underline three key messages from this overview. First, since the awareness of age differentiation is generally always higher than the real testimonies, it is safe to conclude that age discrimination is more often heard of rather than really experienced. Firsthand experience (not someone else's) is given on average by less than 8% of the respondents over the age of 50. Joking about old age is the most given form (16%), whereas waiting

**Table 1.** Percentage of respondents age 50 and over experiencing ageist behavior in 2003, 2007, and 2012

	Personal or Vicarious Experience (a + b)			Cognizance (c)			Never Heard of, Never Happens (d)	
	2003	2007	2012	2003	2007	2012	2007	2012
Someone has been addressed "Grandma" or "Grandpa" at the doctor or in the hospital, by a stranger (not a relative).	42	37	36	39	40	39	23	26
Jokes "aimed" at older people or old age.	38	38	36	44	37	47	25	17
Refused job because of being too old for the position.	37	31	42	51	54	50	15	9
Have heard: "You are too old for that..."	38	35	49	44	44	39	21	13
Seniors scolded when "hurtling" to the bus or a tram.	27	28	37	46	40	42	32	20
Refused a bank loan because of age.	29	19	30	41	49	55	32	16
Lost job for being too old.	27	36	40	56	50	50	14	10
Being refused a surgery with an explanation of being too old for such intervention.	21	23	25	36	44	50	33	25
Received higher wages for being older, not for better work than younger colleagues.	13	13	15	43	45	50	41	35
Received lower wages for being older when performing the same as younger colleagues.	12	14	18	41	46	49	39	33
Had waited at the doctor significantly longer than others just for being older.	7	13	15	21	24	32	62	53

Notes: The question asks: "Have you personally or your family member, or your friends or relatives, faced any of the following situations, or have you heard of somebody who has? (a) Yes, me personally/I was eye-witnessing it. (b) Yes, it happened to one of my close relatives (family, friends, etc.) (c) Neither I nor any of my relatives has experienced it but I've heard it happens. (d) I never heard of anything like this and I don't think it ever happens in our society." Source: Ageism survey 2003; 2007; 2012. "Don't know" answers omitted. Gray cells indicate decrease and solid orange ones increase of more than 6 percentage points (simple mathematical difference).

at the doctor or a higher salary is the least frequent one (1–2%). Second, between 2003 and 2012 the number of respondents who have never heard of such situations, let alone believed this could be happening in the Czech Republic, dropped down. In some cases the numbers had increased slightly between 2003 and 2007, only to decrease in 2012 even below the initial level of 2003. This development testifies to the raising awareness in the society. Third, though, out of eleven situations presented here, only four registered a statistically significant increase in the personal or vicarious experience. Moreover, even in these areas we cannot talk about an exponential increase, considering previous decrease between 2003 and 2007.

In theory, we assume that occurrence of this phenomenon should be relatively low in the time when it is not yet generally recognized, labeled and problematized. In the next stage, its prevalence is hypothesized to grow in reaction to rising awareness. In the last phase the decrease of its evidence should

once again come about as its real presence (personal experiences) would be truly eliminated in the society. As this small sample of the data on the dynamics of age discrimination in the context of Czech society in the last ten years shows, we are still in the phase of both increasing awareness, and in some areas also in the rising of occurrence of (perceived) age discrimination. As it seems, the battle against ageism in our society, which according to projections will have one of the oldest demographic structures by 2030, only begins. \*

**Bibliography:** Palmore, E. B. 2001. "The Ageism Survey: First Findings." *The Gerontologist* 41(5): 572-575.

**Acknowledgement:** Project "Ageism 2012" was supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs. Report from this project will be available in English on the website of the Institute ([www.vupsv.cz](http://www.vupsv.cz)) in summer 2013.

## UN Statistical Commission Recommendations on National Data on Older Adults

**Shirley Nuss, Ph.D.**  
Officer at large RC11



### National data for counting older people

While data access has expanded to include on-line availability, indicators that capture the situation of older people are not yet readily available to researchers. Important census and household survey data is collected about younger, but not older people due to imposition of 'upper age limits' which not only 'limit' data collection, but also their tabulation by national statistical agencies. Indicators about older people in rural areas, especially older women, may be unreliable.

The existence of older people, especially older women, and young babies, especially baby girls, is least likely to be documented by household censuses and surveys which rely on their identification by household heads. Births are more likely to be registered for younger age-groups with the result that age data are more accurate for the young than for the old. Determination of their age is similarly difficult, especially in rural areas where births of older people often took place at home and/or without registration. Such difficulties suggest the starting point for statistical construction of indicators about older people flow from the most unreliable data about age.

While data for age are collected in terms of years and UN Statistical Commission recommendations suggest their tabulation in age-groups of five-years, national data are rarely disseminated with such detail. Instead, recommendations suggest 'upper limits' for the

dissemination of data whereby older people of all ages are collapsed into one group. Even though age data are collected about every member of a household, including its oldest members, the most valuable data about the age distribution of older people are lost during data processing which imposes these 'upper limits'.

The question for statistical agencies becomes one of defining 'upper limits' for the collection, processing and dissemination of national data. In the absence of international standards, a default definition features two age categories as appropriate upper limits for dissemination of national data, namely a) population aged 60 and over and b) population aged 65 and over. Lowering this upper limit to age 50 may better serve planning and evaluation needs of developing and developed countries, such as c) population aged 50 and over, and d) population aged 55 and over. Rather than 'upper limits, recommendations suggest data from the 2000 round of censuses be tabulated by five-year age-groups to age 84.

While many countries are still planning their census activities during the 2010 round between 2005 and 2014, it should be noted that 54 developing and 32 developed countries have not announced plans to conduct a census during this period. Nevertheless, the 2010 round currently promises a dramatic decrease from the 184 participants in the 2000 round. Most of the UN member states without such plans are in



the Asian and Pacific region, i.e. nearly all the island states and several large countries. While many of the countries in transition have not yet announced plans, most African countries plan to launch censuses soon. Continued reliance on recommendations for upper age limits not only limit data processing, but they also negatively influence data collection.

There also is a need for further distinctions among age groups within the populations of people older than the combination of these various 'upper limits'. The dissemination of more information about changes within more detailed five-year age groups within older populations would improve the prospects for policies and programs to respond to their needs, while producing national data that is internationally comparable. There also is increased need for further distinctions among older age groups, especially those aged 65 to 100 years. Age-groups of five-year intervals from age 50 upward would be valuable.

Therefore, statistical construction of national data about older persons must begin with re-tabulation of available national data from household censuses and surveys with greater sensitivity to these differences. Defining groups of older persons into five-year groupings beginning at age 50, rather the current practice of age 60+ or 65+ will make it possible to review national data with greater sensitivity to older persons. Statistical construction of indicators would combine these five-year age-groups to produce refined classifications for defining this older population and for distinguishing between the younger and older groups of elderly persons, as follows:

Youngest elderly: Population aged 50-55

Young elderly: Population aged 50-60

Elderly: Population aged 60-65

Aging elderly: Population aged 70-80

Old elderly: Population aged 80+

Oldest elderly: Population aged 90+

Active participation by researchers on aging is strongly recommended for the planning of a national system of household censuses and surveys that

yield data sensitive to the situation of these older age-groups. Recent decades are characterized by increased sensitivity to stereotypes that negatively influence the collection and production of reliable data by gender. However, sensitivity to stereotypes about older people (e.g. rural and women) has yet to be explored.

A frequent limitation of census and survey activities at national and international levels flows from low participation by rural women and men of any age. In most countries, rural people are unable to access the technical skills required for their full participation on an equal basis with the more privileged and highly-educated urban elites who dominate most national and international agencies. There thus is an urgent need to give emphasis to the lifelong education and training of rural people (including older women and men) with the objective of their full participation in both design and conduct of censuses and surveys.

### National Data about Economic Activities

At a time when planning for the economic well-being of older people is increasingly essential for guiding national policies and planning, data are especially lacking in availability and reliability for assessment of their economic contributions and activities. Nowhere is the need for improvement greater than for rural areas and the economic activities of older women and men.

Economic characteristics collected by the 2010 census round included activity status, occupation, industry, status in employment, time worked, income, employment in the informal sector, informal employment and place of work of all household members. However, older women not only may not be listed as household members, male heads may have insufficient knowledge about, access to or respect for their economic activities to report them with any accuracy. Reliability of data about the activities of older people is further complicated by reliance on collectors without knowledge of the realities of rural economic life. While available data

about older women suffer the limitations discussed above, they also suffer from the imposition of upper limits that apply to all older people.

Recommendations for the 2010 round expose the common procedures national statistical agencies involving the Setting Age Limits for Population Census Data Collection. These urge collection of the full range of economic characteristics. At the same time, they also call for a re-imposition of upper age limits for data processing. As a result, valuable data about the economic activities of older women and men may not be disseminated by national statistics agencies.

Even more troubling than the setting of these upper limits is the fact that the conflicting recommendations make it impossible for data users (albeit researchers or national planners) to determine whether valuable information was not collected, or whether it was collected and merely not disseminated. In other words, did national statistical agencies collect this information, but decide not to produce indicators for older people; or alternatively, did agencies simply decide and deliberately plan not to collect this valuable information about older people?

From census data about the age-structure of the population, the most common indicator used for national planning is the Elderly Dependency Ratio defined as:

Ratio of the population aged 65 years or over to the population aged 15-64. All ratios are presented as number of dependents per 100 persons of working age (15-64).

However, these ratios suffer major limitations for assessing the situation of older people. At present the assumption that older people aged 60+ or 65+ are dependent is inappropriate. They are based on an assumption that older people are economically inactive when, in fact, the global average for labor force participation of older men, aged 65+, was estimated to be 74 per cent in 2005. No reliable estimates are currently available for the participation rates of women and, thus, not for older woman in many countries as their economic contributions have yet to receive statistical recognition in national data of most countries.

Construction of these ratios also assume that older people are economically dependent on younger people, aged 15-64. This indicator is most frequently used to assess the financial viability of social security programs, whereby the retired elderly income is financed as a pay-as-you-go system by the working-age population. Given that many retirees continue working beyond the legal age of requirement and, thereby, continue financing these systems, the assumption of dependency is not only inaccurate but also inappropriate for understanding the socio-economic situation of older people in developed and developing countries.

An assumption of dependency is of questionable value in many developing countries where there currently are no such programs for the financial support older people. At present, this indicator provides no meaningful guidance to countries without such national systems as the persons aged 60+ and 65+ are not financially dependent on younger age groups. In fact, the reverse may be the case, whereby older members of households may control financial resources.

At present, the Elderly Dependency Ratios in countries without a national system for financing retirement through social security does little more than provide for international comparisons in the size of these older age groups relative to the working-age populations. What is the purpose and meaning of such comparisons of apples and oranges as regards the concept of dependency? In other words, there is an urgent need to insist on operational definitions that distinguish among the older age groups without assuming these older persons are in any way financially dependent on any younger age groups or on younger family members.

The relatively recent introduction of the concept of 'support' to replace 'dependency' issues a challenge to young age-groups to continue the long-held tradition of support for older people rather than focusing on the concept of dependency, whereby older people are viewed as burdens on them.

However, mere substitution of 'support' for

'dependency' is insufficient to guide policies and planning. The production of improved data about the economic activities of older persons is essential to form a more reliable foundation for new concepts which more accurately reflect actual contributions. In so doing, it will become possible to re-define such concepts as the Elderly Dependency Ratios in terms that are more responsive to the needs of this aging population in research as well as in national and international plans, policies and programs.

Recent decades are characterized by increased sensitivity to the stereotypes that negatively influence the collection and production of reliable data by gender. However, sensitivity to the stereotypes about older people has yet to be explored. Most important among these stereotypes is the inaccurate assumption that older people are dependent when this is not the case. In most developing countries, older women and men continue their economic contributions until they are no longer able to do so. Many older people in developed countries not only continue to work, most of them contributed to the financing of social protection schemes in their countries. As a result of their financial contribution over their lifetime, their being viewed as economically dependent on others is a mischaracterization that needs to be given priority in statistical reconstructions of national indicators. In other words, there is a need to re-examine dependency. \*

## Announcements



### Call for Papers

**JGMS Special Issue.** The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences (JGMS) is preparing a special issue on “Physical Function and the Aging Brain” to be published in the fall of 2014. Caterina Rosano and Stephanie Studenski of the University of Pittsburgh will be the editors. The integration of the aging brain into models of physical function represents an important expansion of conceptual and research paradigms to explain declining physical function, frailty, and the onset of physical disability. Potential paper topics include but are not limited to relationships between aspects of physical function (e.g., gait, movement speed, balance, and muscle strength) and white matter integrity, subclinical cerebrovascular disease, resting state networks, and neuro-cognitive tests. Deadline for submission: December 31, 2013. More information at [www.geron.org/jgms](http://www.geron.org/jgms). \*



### Meetings

**Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association,** June 26-28, 2013, University of Bern. “Inequality and Integration in Times of Crisis.” Deadline: plenary sessions are due on January 15, 2013. After the organizing committee accepts the proposal, the call for papers will be published. Contact:

Sabrina Schüpbach, Assistant Conference Manager, [sgskongress2013soz.unibe.ch](mailto:sgskongress2013soz.unibe.ch). More information at [www.sgs-kongress2013.unibe.ch](http://www.sgs-kongress2013.unibe.ch). \*

**Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA),** August 10-13, 2013, New York. “Linking Micro and Macro.” The announced listing of topics and online guide to the Call for Papers for the 2013 ASA Annual Meeting is now available. More information at [www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org). \*

**Annual ISA RC19 Conference,** August 22-24, 2013, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. “Social exclusion and the challenges of inclusion: Social policies addressing intersecting inequalities.” The RC19 annual conference brings together international scholars in the field of comparative welfare state and social policy studies, and encompasses a range of disciplines, including sociology, social policy, political science, and policy studies. Deadline: abstracts are due January 31, 2013. Contact: [rc19\\_budapest\\_2013ceu.hu](mailto:rc19_budapest_2013ceu.hu). More information at [www.rc19budapest2013.com](http://www.rc19budapest2013.com). \*

**11th Conference of the European Sociological Association,** August 28-31, 2013, University of Turin, Italy. “Crisis, Critique and Change.” The conference calls for research, explanations, and reflections on the causes of the crisis and its effects, both on the political agenda and on individuals’ and family lives. We look for sociological contributions to foster an understanding of the crisis and the dual role of critique in interpreting and affecting changes. More information at [www.esa11thconference.eu](http://www.esa11thconference.eu) \*

**Survey Research Methodology Conference,** September 4 - 6, 2013, Center for Survey Research, RCHSS, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. “2013 Research International Conference”. \*

**International Research Conference**, September 16-20, 2013, Linköping University, Sweden. "Family Life in the Age of Migration and Mobility: Theory, Policy and Practice." The conference calls for contributions which examine issues around family, migration and mobility in the context of the current economic. We invite submission of abstracts for short talks and poster session from PhD students, post-doctoral researchers and established scholars relating to one of the three conference themes or to the general topic of the conference. \*

**GSA 66th Annual Scientific Meeting**, November 20-24, New Orleans, USA. "Optimal Aging Through Research." More information available at [www.geron.org/annual-meeting](http://www.geron.org/annual-meeting) \*



## Funding

**NIA Funds Alzheimer's Disease Research.** The National Institute on Aging (NIA) invites applications from qualified institutions for support of Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRCs). These centers are designed to support and conduct research on Alzheimer's disease, to serve as shared research resources that will facilitate research in Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Applications are due by May 10. More information at [grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-13-019.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-13-019.html). \*

**NIA Funds Research on Differences in Health and Longevity at Older Ages.** The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is welcoming applications from institutions/organizations proposing to advance knowledge on the reasons behind the divergent trends that have been observed in health and

longevity at older ages, both across industrialized nations and across geographical areas in the U.S. The application due date is May 15. More information at [grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-13-125.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-13-125.html). \*



## Jobs

**Tenure-track position of Assistant Professor in Medical Sociology at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.** The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) invites qualified academics who possess a Ph.D. in Sociology (Social Anthropology will also be considered) and proven records in teaching and research, to apply for a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor, with specialization in Medical Sociology. Candidates with additional expertise in Southeast Asian Studies, Social Theory and/or Quantitative Social Research will receive priority of consideration. The successful candidate is expected to teach in English at both undergraduate and graduate levels. For further information about the Division, please refer to the following website: <http://sociology.hss.ntu.edu.sg>. To apply, please refer to the Guidelines for Submitting an Application for Faculty Appointment at <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ohr/CareerOpportunities/SubmitanApplication/Pages/FacultyPositions.aspx> and send your application to: The Search Committee, c/o Head, Division of Sociology (A/P Kwok Kian-Woon), School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, 14 Nanyang Drive, #05-36, Singapore 637332. \*

**Tier I Canada Research Chair at Mount Saint Vincent University.** Candidates must be exceptional scholars, acknowledged by peers as leaders in research in aging and/or gerontology, and with a commitment



to collaborative and/or multidisciplinary research at national and international levels. Candidates are expected to have an outstanding record of research as reflected in grants acquisition and publication in refereed journals, a strong record of engaging with multiple stakeholders, as well as a solid international presence. The successful candidate is expected to contribute to undergraduate and graduate education, supervise student research, engage in an innovative research program, and collaborate with University faculty to build research capacity in areas such as: healthy aging, place-based aging, social engagement, aging and diversity, and aging and lifelong learning. The appointment of a Tier I Chair would be at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a brief outline of a research program plan for a Canada Research Chair in Aging and Community, a statement (not to exceed 500 words) relating the applicant's background, experience, and research accomplishments to this position, and the names and contact information of three references. The Selection Committee will begin considering applications on April 30, 2013. Send applications by mail or email to: Dr. Elizabeth Church, Vice-President (Academic), Mount Saint Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, NS B3M 2J6, [vpacademic@msvu.ca](mailto:vpacademic@msvu.ca). \*

will take place in Yokohama, Japan in July 2014. By Junior Scholars we mean people who obtained his/her first Master's degree (or an equivalent graduate diploma) in sociology or in a related discipline, less than 10 years prior to May 1st, 2013. In case of joint or multiple authorship, this rule applies to all authors of the submitted paper. Candidates must send an original paper that has not been previously published anywhere, no longer than 6,000 words. An abstract (maximum 500 words) with five key words must be included in the paper. Deadline: May 1st, 2013. More information at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/wcys/> \*

**Leo G. Reeder Award.** The Medical Sociology Section invites nominations for the 2014 Leo G. Reeder Award. This award is given annually for distinguished contributions to medical sociology and recognizes scholarly contributions, especially a body of work displaying an extended trajectory of productivity that has contributed to theory and research in medical sociology. The Reeder Award also acknowledges teaching, mentoring, and training as well as service to the medical sociology community broadly defined. Submit a letter of nomination, at least two other suggestions for nominators, and the nominee's curriculum vitae, using the subject line "2014 Reeder Award Nomination." Contact: Susan E. Bell at [sbell@bowdoin.edu](mailto:sbell@bowdoin.edu); [www2.asanet.org/medicalsociology/awards.html](http://www2.asanet.org/medicalsociology/awards.html). \*



## Competitions

**6th ISA Worldwide Competition for Junior Sociologists.** The International Sociological Association (ISA) announces the organization of the Sixth ISA Worldwide Competition for Junior Sociologists. The winners will be invited to participate in the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology which



## Data

**Longitudinal Data Set.** The National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) is a longitudinal, population-based study of health and social factors,



aiming to understand the well-being of older, community-dwelling Americans by examining the interactions among physical health and illness, medication use, cognitive function, emotional health, sensory function, health behaviors, social connectedness, sexuality, and relationship quality. To learn more visit: <http://www.norc.org/Research/Projects/Pages/national-social-life-health-and-aging-project.aspx> \*



## Training

### *GESIS Summer School in Survey Methodology.*

The GESIS Summer School offers high quality training in state of the art techniques and methods of survey research. It aims to equip participants with essential skills in the design, planning, execution, documentation and quality assurance of surveys of households, individuals or organisations. This Summer School is unique in Europe with its focus on Survey Methodology and data collection. The 2nd GESIS Summer School in Survey Methodology will take place at GESIS Cologne from August 08 to 30, 2013. More information at <http://www.gesis.org/en/events/gesis-summer-school/> \*

## People



*Sally Bould*, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Delaware, has won one of 18 Senior Fellowships of the European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) for the academic year 2013-2014 (<http://www.2013-2014.eurias-fp.eu/euriasfellows>). Her research will be on the

impact of motherhood on women's financial security in retirement in France, Belgium, Sweden, Germany and Italy. She will be in residence for 10 months beginning in October at the Flemish Academic Centre for Science and the Arts in Brussels. Sally is interested in contacting researchers with experience about financial exploitation and financial protection of older adults around the world, and would particularly welcome an open exchange about the rights of older people and ways to protect them from financial exploitation. She is currently a fellow at the Gerontology Institute of the University of Mass, Boston, USA and of CEPS, Luxembourg. Contact: [salbould@udel.edu](mailto:salbould@udel.edu). \*

## What Are Members Writing and Reading?



**Fassio, Adriana.** 2012. "Participación en la formulación de Políticas Públicas: El Caso del Consejo Federal de los Mayores." *Revista Electrónica Gestión de las Personas y Tecnología*, 9. Available at <http://www.revistagpt.usach.cl>. \*

**Martin-Matthews, Anne, J. Sims-Gould, and C. E. Tong** 2013. "Canada's Complex and Fractionalized Home Care Context: Perspectives of Workers, Elderly Clients, Family Carers, and Home Care Managers", *Canadian Review of Social Policy* (Special issue on Aging), 68/69: 55-74. \*

**Martin-Matthews, Anne.** 2013. "Situating 'Home' at the Nexus of the Public and Private Spheres: Aging, Gender and Home Support Work in Canada." Reprinted as Chapter 2, pp. 23-41, in M. P. Cutchin, C. L. Kemp, and V. W. Marshall, eds. *Researching Social Gerontology, Volume I: Ageing and Places. Sage Publications*. \*

**Chaudhuri, Tanni, Dale E. Yeatts, and Cynthia M. Cready.** 2013. "Nurse Aide Decision Making in Nursing Homes: Factors Affecting Empowerment." *Journal of Clinical Nursing*. Available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jocn.12118/pdf>. DOI: 10.1111/jocn.12118. \*

**Dillman, Jennifer L., Dale E. Yeatts, Cynthia M. Cready.** 2012. "Geographic Distance, Contact, and Family Perceptions of Quality Nursing Home Care" *Journal of Clinical Nursing*. Available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jocn.12016/full>. DOI: 10.1111/jocn.12016. \*

**Phillipson, Chris.** 2013. *Ageing*. Polity Books: Manchester, United Kingdom. \*

**Komp, Kathrin, Maja Aarsten, eds.** 2013. *Old Age in Europe*. Springer: New York, USA. Available at <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/population+studies/book/978-94-007-6133-9>. \*

**Merla, Laura.** 2012. "Salvadoran Migrants in Australia: An Analysis of Transnational Families' Capability to Care Across Borders." *International Migration*. Available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imig.12024/abstract>. \*

**Merla Laura.** 2012. "Salvadoran Transnational Families, Distance and Eldercare: Understanding Transnational Care Practices in Australia and Belgium." In T. Geisen, T. Studer, and E. Yildiz, eds. *Migration, Familie und Soziale Lage: Beiträge zu Bildung, Gender und Care*. Springer: New York, USA. Available at [http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-531-94127-1\\_15](http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-531-94127-1_15). \*

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