

Call for papers

Ageing, Anti Ageing & Ageism: Constructions and Politics of Being Old in Europe

2014 Mid-term conference of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe

European Sociological Association (ESA)

Carinthia University of Applied Science, Klagenfurt, Austria, 18-20 September 2014

Managing the processes of ageing, both at individual and at societal levels, is seen as a main challenge for the future in many European societies. On the one hand, the ageing of societies is frequently discussed as a major cause for economic and social crises (e.g., for welfare states and families). On the other hand, longevity is debated as a challenge for the performance in relation to social, cultural and professional societal expectations. There is less discussion, however, on the meaning of ageing itself. Questions are arising whether the analysis of current developments relies on, reproduces or challenges current understandings of „being old” (Butler 1975): What is the interconnection between scientific, public and cultural conceptualisations of age and ageing? How can societal images and dynamics such as „anti-ageing” and „ageism” be explained? What consequences do positive approaches and discourses, such as active or successful ageing, have for those who are not easily classified as „productive” or „active”? How do welfare states react to changing notions of old age and ageing? What are options and consequences for both sociology and social work?

This conference brings together scholars from across Europe to discuss developments in ageing and old age. Such developments could include, but are not limited to:

- Ageing and work, older workers, retirement, and pensions;
- Ageism in political, social and cultural contexts;
- Concepts of anti-aging vs. longevity;
- Formal and informal care arrangements;
- Intergenerational relationships;
- Critical assessments of active and productive ageing;
- Social inequalities and poverty in old age;
- Effect of population ageing on generational solidarity and welfare states;
- Images, attitudes, coping-strategies and ageing;
- Development of social work for the elders in Europe.

We welcome theoretical, quantitative, qualitative and conceptual papers. Contributions from scholars in the early stages of their careers are very welcome.

First confirmed Keynote speaker is Martin Kohli. Information on other keynote speakers will follow soon!

Special sessions with a particular regional focus – such as on Ageing in Sub-Saharan Africa, and on elder-care in the AlpeAdriaRegion in comparison to other European (especially rural) areas – are planned to widen the scope for research and cooperation. Additionally an interdisciplinary plenary discussion on informed consent and social supported palliative care are anticipated. Contributions to these – or proposals for additional – special sessions are highly welcome.

Please submit your abstract of max. 200 words until 5th of April 2014 to abstracts@ageing-in-europe.org. The preliminary program will be published on our homepage – finally – on 25th of May 2014.

The regular conference fee is 150 Euro for Students, 290 Euro for Professionals. The early bird fee (May 15th to June 25th) is 85 Euro for Students, 185 Euro for Professionals. Members of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe receive a reduced fee of 155 Euro (Students 70 Euro). The fee includes the conference material, a welcome reception, the conference dinner, and refreshments on all three days.

Support desks for travelling, accommodation, tours to POIs and so on are open from first of March 2014.

For more information, please visit the RN 1 homepage at <http://www.ageing-in-europe.org>.