

# **Winter NEWSLETTER 2008/9**

of the

**Research Committee (RC11)**

on the **Sociology of Aging**

of the **International Sociological Association (ISA)**

## ***Content of the Winter Newsletter 2008/2009:***

1.	Welcome + about this newsletter.....	2
2.	Greetings from the President of RC11.....	3
3.	New RC11 Website.....	4
4.	Call for Papers Gothenburg 2010 .....	5
5.	RC11 Sessions at XVIIth ISA World Congress in Gothenburg 2010 ...	6
6.	Other conferences with RC11 participation .....	14
7.	Country report Philippines: "The Filipino Senior Citizen at a Glance" 25	
8.	Courses in Gerontology.....	32
9.	Publications.....	37
10.	Conference Planner 2009/2010.....	39
11.	Outlook .....	42

## 1. Welcome + about this newsletter

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

First of all, I would like to wish you all a very good year 2009, with many happy returns and always good health for you and your families. Our President, Sara Arber, will add her thoughts and wishes on the New Year in the subsequent Presidential Editorial to this newsletter.

With the launch of the new RC11 website a couple of days ago RC11 has now a unique resource with plenty of space to be filled. A reminder of that news can be found on page 3 – please feel free to email me your suggestions on how to develop it further.

Following our successful participation in the ISA World Forum in Barcelona in 2008, **2010** is going to see the next major RC11 event: the XVIIth ISA World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden. The RC11 Scientific Programme Committee coordinated by Sara Arber, with its members Lars Andersson, Sandra Torres (both Sweden), Susan Feldman (Australia), Virpi Timonen (Ireland/Finland), and Lucie Vidovicova (Czech Republic) have been working very hard this winter already to prepare a very promising scientific programme indeed. You will find the **Call for Papers** on p. 5, followed by the detailed description of the sessions proposed and accepted on the subsequent pages.

It is still early in a year that promises to become yet another busy, but also very exciting year. There will be the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) World Congress in Paris in July where quite a few of us will meet. Also, our friends in the European Sociological Association (ESA) Research Network 'Ageing in Europe' are preparing yet another showcase programme on the sociology of ageing within the European context that will take place in Lisbon in September. Generally, RC11 members have been exceptionally busy this year in organising regional conferences – section 6 of this newsletter (pp. 14-24) provides ample evidence of that.

If you thought you could relax once you reached that point in the newsletter, you would be proven wrong. You are in for a fascinating read on the situation of senior citizens in the Philippines by Nicamil K. Sanchez who authored this newsletter's country report (pp. 25-31). I can only very highly recommend this very comprehensive overview of life as an older person in a South-East Asian country often overlooked by the main headlines!

In section 8 of this newsletter you will find news on two courses offering training in Gerontology: (a) the online course "Introduction to Intergenerational Programs" coordinated by Sally Newman at the University of Pittsburgh and (b) the Second Oxford Institute of Ageing Spring School "The Multidisciplinary Toolkit for Global Ageing Research" at the University of Oxford. This is followed by an advert for the 'Journal of Intergenerational Relationships'.

Finally, you will find the conference planner for this year on pp. 39-41. I hope, I didn't overlook any major events – but if I did please do let me know!

As always, I hope you all enjoy reading the newsletter. Any comments or future contributions will be very welcome.

With my warmest regards,

Andreas (Hoff) – Email: [andreas.hoff@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andreas.hoff@ageing.ox.ac.uk)

## 2. Greetings from the President of RC11

We're now well into 2009, and I would like to send my warm wishes to all RC11 members and their families for a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2009. I hope to have the opportunity to meet some of you at conferences or other events during 2009, and at the ISA World Congress in Gothenburg, 11-17<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

It was excellent that so many sociologists of aging attended the first ISA World Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, 5-8<sup>th</sup> September 2008. RC11 had one of the largest programmes of sessions of any Research Committee, holding 2 parallel streams of 23 sessions and 130 papers were presented, plus 5 additional integrative sessions with other RCs. The standard of papers was exceptionally high and many of the sessions comprised truly integrated and cohesive sets of papers. My sincere thanks to Andreas Hoff, as Chair of the Barcelona RC11 Programme Committee and his fellow committee members - Susan Feldman (Australia), Virpi Timonen (Ireland/Finland), Lucie Vidovicova (Czech Republic) and Feliciano Villar (University of Barcelona) for preparing an outstanding RC11 programme in Barcelona.

RC11 now has its own website at - [www.rc11-sociology-of-aging.org](http://www.rc11-sociology-of-aging.org) . This will provide a very valuable forum for debating issues about ageing, exchanging information and planning future RC11 events and meetings. Andreas Hoff masterminded the development of this new website for RC11, and I am extremely grateful for all his work in producing this excellent RC11 website.

We received a good response to our Call for Proposals for RC11 Sessions at the ISA World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, 11-17<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The final list of RC11 sessions has been agreed, and details of sessions are included in the Newsletter. Please plan to submit an abstract - by the abstract deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009. For the World Congress, the ISA allocate only a specified number of sessions to each Research Committee. RC11 should be allocated the maximum of 16 sessions, providing our membership numbers stay above 100. So, please make sure that you renew your ISA (and RC11) membership, if it has recently expired. NB. ISA membership is for a period of 4 years, and details about renewing your membership can be found at [www.isa-sociology.org/](http://www.isa-sociology.org/)

The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) Congress will be held in Paris, 5-9 July 2009. The European Sociological Association conference will be held in Lisbon, 2-5<sup>th</sup> September 2009 - the 'Ageing in Europe' Research Network are in putting together an excellent stream of sessions - if you haven't submitted an abstract yet, the deadline is 26<sup>th</sup> February - see <http://www.ageing-in-europe.org/> . Hopefully you'll be able to attend one or both of these conferences.

Finally, my sincere thanks to fellow members of the RC11 Executive Management Group - Lars Andersson (Vice President), Anne Martin-Matthews (Vice President and Treasurer), Susan Feldman (Secretary) and Andreas Hoff (Newsletter Editor) for all their tireless work on behalf of RC11. If you have any suggestions or comments about the World Congress or how to promote the activities of RC11, please let me know. Best wishes,

Sara Arber

ISA RC11 President (Email: [S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk) )

### 3. New RC11 Website

I am delighted to inform you of an exciting new resource available to RC11 members from now onwards: there is a BRAND-NEW RC11 'Sociology of Aging' website that you will find following this link: <http://www.rc11-sociology-of-aging.org/> .

Thus, an idea first discussed in Durban 2006 has come to yield fruit after several months of developing the website. Like any other website, this process will never come to an end - it will literally remain 'work in progress', linking our past and present as an organisation with the future. I would like to invite you all joining me in this process to create a resource suited to meet our/your needs as RC11 members and members of a global 'sociology of aging' network. I look very much forward to reading your ideas about how to take this forward.

The next steps in developing the website already planned include:

adding a section on conference activities with RC11 involvement or involvement by RC11 members, but not under the direct auspices of RC11

installing the software required to add images to the website, which would make it look much nicer still (at present, that is still causing us some headaches)

establishing a password protected membership area that would give RC11 members access to names, institutional affiliations and contact details of our membership. Some colleagues pointed out what a powerful resource that would be.

I would love hearing your opinions on that. Moreover, if you would like to see any abstracts, Powerpoint presentations or transparencies, and full conference papers given at any RC11 conferences in the past to be added to the website, please do not hesitate sending them to me. Any fresh ideas, of course, would be particularly welcome!

No doubt, our new website will change the way in which we communicate with each other. As you will see, the RC11 Scientific Programme Committee for the XVIIth ISA World Congress in Gothenburg is already using the website for advertising the CALL FOR PAPERS - see:

<http://www.rc11-sociology-of-aging.org/call-papers-rc11-sessions-during-xvii-isa-world-congress-gothenburg-2010> .

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all those of you who already contributed to the development of this website by writing elements of the website or by adding inspirational fresh ideas. I am particularly grateful to Sara Arber, Anne Martin-Matthews, Lars Andersson, and Susan Feldman. Especial thanks go to our web developer here in Oxford who really made this happen by designing the website - he did a marvellous job!

Kind regards to you all,

Andreas

## 4. Call for Papers Gothenburg 2010



# RC11 – Sociology of Aging

**XVIIth ISA World Congress of Sociology 2010**

***"Sociology on the Move"***

Gothenburg, Sweden  
11-17<sup>th</sup> July 2010

## Call for Papers

**RC11 Abstract Submission Deadline – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

RC11 – Sociology of Aging are organising a full programme of sessions during the ISA World Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, 11-17 July 2010, see below.

We welcome submission of abstracts from sociologists of aging from a diversity of countries for the RC11 sessions listed on the subsequent pages.

Abstracts MUST include:

- Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s)
- Contact details of presenting author (postal address, telephone, fax + email)
- Title of the proposed presentation
- A maximum of 250 words synopsis of the proposed paper.
- An indication of the session you would like to submit your abstract to.

Please email your abstract by the deadline of **10th November** to the RC11 Programme Coordinator, Sara Arber - [S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk). Please also cc your submission to the relevant session organizer(s)

Papers with a cross-national, comparative focus and papers by researchers earlier in their career are particularly welcomed.

Sara Arber, on behalf of the RC11 World Congress Programme Committee  
Sara Arber (Programme Coordinator, UK); Susan Feldman (Australia); Virpi Timonen (Ireland/Finland); Lucie Vidovicova (Czech Republic); Sandra Torres/Lars Andersson (Sweden)

## 5. RC11 Sessions at XVIIth ISA World Congress in Gothenburg 2010

### 1. Topic: Growing Older in Transnational Communities

**Session organisers:** **Christina Victor**, University of Reading, UK - [c.r.victor@reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.r.victor@reading.ac.uk); **Wendy Martin**, University of Reading, UK - [W.P.Martin@reading.ac.uk](mailto:W.P.Martin@reading.ac.uk) and **Vanessa Burholt**, University of Swansea, UK - [v.burholt@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:v.burholt@swansea.ac.uk)

**Description:** In recent years there has been an increasing interest in transnational networks and identities as people grow older. Globalisation is affecting older people directly or indirectly through the processes of migration, such as, people growing older in their nations of settlement, relocation to a new country during mid to later life, or experiences of adult children migrating. Transnational networks moreover highlight interconnections between nations of origin and nations of settlement, for example, in relation to economic and cultural phenomena and how experiences of families, care and support are continually being exchanged and rewritten. The aim of this symposium is to bring together a series of papers that explore the interplay of transnational networks, gender and ageing; and the lived experiences, family lives and social networks of older people living in transnational communities.

### 2. Topic: Gender, Ageing and the Body

**Symposium organisers:** **Laura Hurd Clarke**, University of British Columbia, Canada - [laura.hurd.clarke@ubc.ca](mailto:laura.hurd.clarke@ubc.ca) and **Julia Twigg**, University of Kent, UK - [J.M.Twigg@kent.ac.uk](mailto:J.M.Twigg@kent.ac.uk)

**Description:** Whilst it is recognized that men and women's perceptions and experiences of their ageing bodies are different there has, until recently, been limited empirical and theoretical research into gender, ageing and the body. With an increasing interest in the significance of gender to how people experience their ageing bodies, the aim of this symposium is to bring together a series of papers that highlights men and women's experiences and perceptions of growing older in gendered bodies. This symposium will therefore provide important insights into the role of masculinities and femininities as well as explore the interplay between gender, ageing and the body.

### 3. Topic: Cultural Representations of the Ageing Body

**Symposium organisers:** **Wendy Martin**, University of Reading, UK - [W.P.Martin@reading.ac.uk](mailto:W.P.Martin@reading.ac.uk) and **Julia Twigg**, University of Kent, UK - [J.M.Twigg@kent.ac.uk](mailto:J.M.Twigg@kent.ac.uk)

**Description:** There has been an increasing interest in the social, cultural and biological dimensions of our bodies as we grow older. Cultural approaches have, for example, highlighted the ways in which ageing bodies are given meaning within and by culture; and how biological processes of ageing are contingent on the social and cultural milieu in which we live. This symposium brings together a series of empirical and theoretical papers that will critically explore cultural representations of the ageing body. The aim of the symposium is therefore to highlight how ideas within culture about ageing and bodies can influence our understandings and experiences of the ageing body.

#### **4. Topic: Aging of the Aged: The Case of the Oldest Old (80+)**

**Session organiser:** **P. K. B. Nayar**, Centre for Gerontological Studies, Kochulloor, Trivandrum 695 011, India - [pkbnayar@rediffmail.com](mailto:pkbnayar@rediffmail.com) ; [pkbnayar@yahoo.co.in](mailto:pkbnayar@yahoo.co.in) ;

**Description:** There is a tendency to treat all the old as a homogenous category and to design policies and programmes on that basis. However, the oldest old, those who are 80 years and over, are more likely to be economically more dependent, socially more deprived, psychologically more depressed and physically more disabled and diseased than the rest of the old (60-79 age group). Because of this situation, their needs and problems cannot be adequately and appropriately met by the policies and programmes designed with the young old in mind. What makes the problem critical is that, their proportion in the older population is increasing very rapidly. Over the next 4 decades, there will be a more than four-fold increase in their numbers. The session invites papers focusing on the oldest old, for example problems of family support, social-psychological support and health care support. Issues relating to the oldest old can also be examined from the point of view of the UN Principles for Older Persons - Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfillment and Dignity.

#### **5. Topic: Ageing Societies and the Welfare State**

**Session organiser:** **Kathrin Komp**, Department of Sociology, VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands - [k.komp@fsw.vu.nl](mailto:k.komp@fsw.vu.nl)

**Description:** The interplay of ageing societies and the welfare state is at the centre of many contemporary debates. On the one hand, the influence of the welfare state on ageing societies is stressed, for example the influence of the welfare state on the re-shaping of the life-course and on social inequalities among older persons. On the other hand, the influence of ageing societies on the welfare state is discussed, for example leading to the introduction of strategies to counter the pressure that ageing societies exert on social insurances. In the session, both kinds of causal influences will be discussed.

#### **6. Topic: Caregiving and Carework**

**Session organiser:** Anne Martin Matthews, University of British Columbia, Canada – [amm@exchange.ubc.ca](mailto:amm@exchange.ubc.ca) ; [amm@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:amm@interchange.ubc.ca)

**Description:** The proposed session will focus on the relationship between the paid and unpaid labour of care. Papers focused on the training, recruitment and retention of paid care workers, and the global challenges of meeting anticipated needs for care will be especially welcome.

## **7. Topic: The Use of Technology in Informal Care**

**Session organiser:** Andreas Hoff, Oxford Institute of Aging, University of Oxford, UK - [andreas.hoff@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andreas.hoff@ageing.ox.ac.uk)

**Description:** 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 present. 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 will explore how the use of modern technologies changes the caring relationship between care giver and care recipient in informal care, including the benefits arising from such technologies, and the possible emergence of new risks.

## **8. Topic: The Intersection of Age, Gender and Ethnicity: Implications for Studies of Old Age and Elderly Care**

**Session organiser:** Sandra Torres, Linköping University, Sweden - [Sandra.torres@isv.liu.se](mailto:Sandra.torres@isv.liu.se)

**Description:** The manner in which social positions such as age, gender and ethnicity interact with one another to bring about different outcomes has been the topic of great debate for some years. Although numerous advancements have been made in the way in which gender-oriented social gerontologists study how gender mediates the process of aging and the social position(s) that old age can be, the same does not hold true for ethnicity-aware gerontologists. This session aims to shed light on the implications that the idea of intersectionality can have for studies of old age and elderly care that aim to be both gender and ethnicity-aware.

## **9. Topic: Grandparenting and Inter-Generational Dynamics**

**Session organiser:** Virpi Timonen & Ciara O'Dwyer, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland - [timonenv@tcd.ie](mailto:timonenv@tcd.ie)

**Description:** Grandparents have always played an important role in family life, but over the last twenty years, many have taken on increased responsibility for their grandchildren due to changes in families and society. Conversely, the capacity of some grandparents to be involved in the lives of their grandchildren has been diminished as a result of geographical distance and divorce. Grandparents are also parents, and their relationship with their own children can have a powerful mediating impact on the quantity and quality of relationships with grandchildren. Papers for this session should be focused on some aspects of relationships between two or more generations, and the impact of social and economic changes on these relationships.

**10. Topic: Older People's Interest Representation and the Politics of Old Age**

**Session organisers:** **Martha Doyle and Virpi Timonen**, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland - [martha.doyle@tcd.ie](mailto:martha.doyle@tcd.ie) [timonenv@tcd.ie](mailto:timonenv@tcd.ie)

**Description:** Older people's interest groups have been in existence for a considerable length of time in some countries (such as the United States), and are relatively new additions to the political landscape in many others. Very little is known of the key characteristics and agendas of these groups and of the old-age specific activities of other relevant actors such as trade unions; even less is known of the ways in which they seek to influence policies, the channels they utilise to exert influence, and the impact (if any) that they have on policy-making in ageing societies. The session invites papers that analyse the nature, origins, agendas and impact of interest organisations that represent older people.

**11. Topic: Media and Ageing: Representation and Consumption**

**Session organiser:** **Lucie Vidovičová**, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic - [Lucie.Vidovic@seznam.cz](mailto:Lucie.Vidovic@seznam.cz)

**Description:** In the mainstream social theories are media accounted for one of the most important agents of the reality construction. In theories dealing with ageism and age discrimination the media is considered a source of the biased images of old age and ageing in society, and is regularly accused of under-representing older people. On the other hand, it is suggested that the media can play a very important role in the removal of negative images of aged people – by changing the presented images. This session will provide empirical evidence of the ways that the media present old age and how (and if) there is change in the media consumption between cohorts and age groups in the context of ageing populations.

**12. Topic: Ageism: Structures and Agency**

**Session organisers:** **Lars Andersson**, Linköping University, Sweden - [Lars.Andersson@isv.liu.se](mailto:Lars.Andersson@isv.liu.se) and **Lucie Vidovičová**, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic - [Lucie.Vidovic@seznam.cz](mailto:Lucie.Vidovic@seznam.cz)

**Description:** Although ageism is a widely used concept in social theory, policy and in public debates, there seems to be little consensus about its origins, and how to integrate its explicit and subtle expressions. This session will provide the starting point for discussions on determining structures and the agency of older people in different societies.

### **13. Topic: Challenges facing Researchers in Ageing in 2010**

**Session organiser:** **Susan Feldman**, Healthy Ageing Research Unit, Primary Care Research, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia - [Susan.Feldman@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Susan.Feldman@med.monash.edu.au)

**Description:** The international community of researchers engaged in generating knowledge about the experience of growing older continues to expand, yet researchers in this field continue to face a range of challenges as they strive to undertake high quality, well funded and published research. This session will provide the opportunity for RC 11 members - experienced and emerging researchers alike, to share their experiences and offer insights into how some of the substantial challenges may be addressed at a local, national and international level.

14. Topic: Differences and Similarities in the Pace and Consequences of Population Ageing in Developed and Developing Countries

**Session Organiser:** **László Kovács**, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Oita-ken, Japan - [laszlo.kovacs.1966@gmail.com](mailto:laszlo.kovacs.1966@gmail.com)

**Description:** The session welcomes scholars with different backgrounds both from the developing and developed part of the world with an interest in the change in the age distribution of the population and encourages potential contributors to present their research findings about demographical, sociological, psychological aspects of the growing proportion of elderly population, as well as the economical, political (in particular socio-political) connotations of the change in the age-structure of population.

### **15: Topic: Older Workers and Retirement: Conflicting Trends**

**Session organiser:** **John Williamson**, Department of Sociology, Centre for Retirement Research, Boston College, USA - [jbw@bc.edu](mailto:jbw@bc.edu)

**Description:** Over recent years, older workers have been encouraged to remain in the labour market for longer and state pension/retirement ages have increased in many western countries. Age discrimination legislation, plus reductions in the value of state pensions have also encouraged delayed retirement or return to employment following formal retirement. In contrast, the looming 'global recession' may mean that older workers are the first to lose their jobs or will be encouraged to leave the labour market to 'make way' for the younger unemployed. The session will discuss the nature and implications for older people of these conflicting trends.

## **16. Joint session between RC11 (Sociology of Aging) and RC55 (Social Indicators) from within the RC11 allocation -**

### **Topic: Worlds of Difference: Qualities of Life for Older People in Developing and Developed Countries**

**Session Organisers:** **Valerie Moller (RC55)** (Past-President: International Society for Quality of Life Studies), Rhodes University, South Africa - [V.Moller@ru.ac.za](mailto:V.Moller@ru.ac.za) and **Jaco Hoffman (RC11)** Oxford Institute of Ageing, University of Oxford, UK - [jacobus.hoffman@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jacobus.hoffman@ageing.ox.ac.uk) ; [jaconda@iafrica.com](mailto:jaconda@iafrica.com)

**Description:** What it means to grow old in dignity differs according to culture, social organisation, and the level of living of a society. Gerontologists and social indicators researchers need to be aware of these differences and the challenges they pose to empowering older people living in vastly different circumstances to make the most of their social and economic environment. Efforts to assess the difficulties and opportunities by means of qualitative and quantitative assessment may be a first step to moving towards better solutions for a later life of quality in both developed and developing societies. Particularly welcomed for this session are papers reporting on assessments of quality of life of older people in their part of the world.

## **17. Joint session between RC55 (Social Indicators) and RC11 (Sociology of Aging) from within the RC55 allocation -**

### **Topic: Older People's Contributions to Societal Well-being**

**Session Organisers:** **Wolfgang Glatzer (RC55)**, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany - [Glatzer@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:Glatzer@soz.uni-frankfurt.de) and **Sara Arber (RC11)**, University of Surrey, Guildford, UK - [S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk)

**Session description:** Older people make extensive contributions to societal well-being, for example through paid work, subsistence agriculture, voluntary work, neighbourly and community support, unpaid care for grandchildren, and unpaid care for sick/disabled family members. The session will examine the nature and extent of these contributions by older people and how they vary between developed and developing societies. Both conceptual and measurement issues will be addressed.

**18. Joint session between RC13 (Sociology of Leisure) and RC11 (Sociology of Aging) from within the RC13 allocation -**

**Topic: Aging Populations and Leisure**

**Session Organisers:** **Ishwar Modi (RC13)**, India Institute of Social Sciences, Jaipur, India - [iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in](mailto:iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in) and **Sara Arber (RC11)**, University of Surrey, Guildford, UK - [S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk)

**Description:** The aging of populations in all parts of the world is a matter of serious concern, more so, in the context of the breaking down of joint and integrated families and the growth of nuclear families. Young adults under pressure of career opportunities are moving away from home leaving older people behind, which may cause them to live lonely and isolated lives. In the absence of other adults and children in the family they are often at a loss as to how to spend their increased free time. The session will examine whether leisure can become a means for creating spaces for older people to bond with others, providing meaning to life and for utilizing their wisdom gained through life's experiences.

**19. Joint session between RC10 (Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management) and RC11 (Sociology of Aging) from within the RC10 allocation -**

**Topic: Aging Well and its' Societal Determinants in International Perspective**

**Session Organisers:** **Julia Rozanova (RC10)**, Brown University, USA - [Julia\\_Rozanova@brown.edu](mailto:Julia_Rozanova@brown.edu) and **Andreas Hoff**, Oxford Institute of Aging, University of Oxford, UK - [andreas.hoff@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andreas.hoff@ageing.ox.ac.uk)

Increasing alarm that the graying of the population may raise societal costs of elder-care has drawn attention on factors that keep older persons independent, productive, and healthy in later life, and led to emergence of the aging-well perspective. As numerous studies found positive associations between social participation and various aspects of older adults' physical and mental health, there is an assumption that keeping busy and socially engaged is an easy and inexpensive way to age well, and whether one achieves wellness in later life is up to the individual. This session aims to deconstruct this assumption by considering diverse individual and societal determinants of a person's ability or inability to age in a healthy state. It invites papers that explore factors that may expand or constrain opportunities for aging well for men and women who may differ by race, ethnicity, class, health and disability status, and other characteristics, and who live in different social, cultural, and economic contexts. It also welcomes papers that adopt interdisciplinary approaches or make cross-cultural comparisons.

.....

## **Important Deadlines**

### **10th November 2009**

Abstract deadline – abstracts sent to Programme Coordinator – S.Arber@surrey.ac.uk

### **1st January 2010**

Session organizers submit details of their sessions (author names, affiliation, email, paper title) to the Programme Coordinator.

### **31<sup>st</sup> January 2010**

Programme Coordinator to submit full details of the RC11 session program (authors' name, affiliation, e-mail, and paper title) to ISA.

### **1<sup>st</sup> May 2010**

Pre-registration deadline for all programme participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.). Otherwise their names will not appear in the Programme Book and abstracts of their papers will not be published.

### **1<sup>st</sup> May 2010**

Deadline for on-line submission of abstracts of accepted papers to the *Cambridge Sociological Abstracts* web site. Abstracts are only accepted by the system from those who are already registered for the Congress.

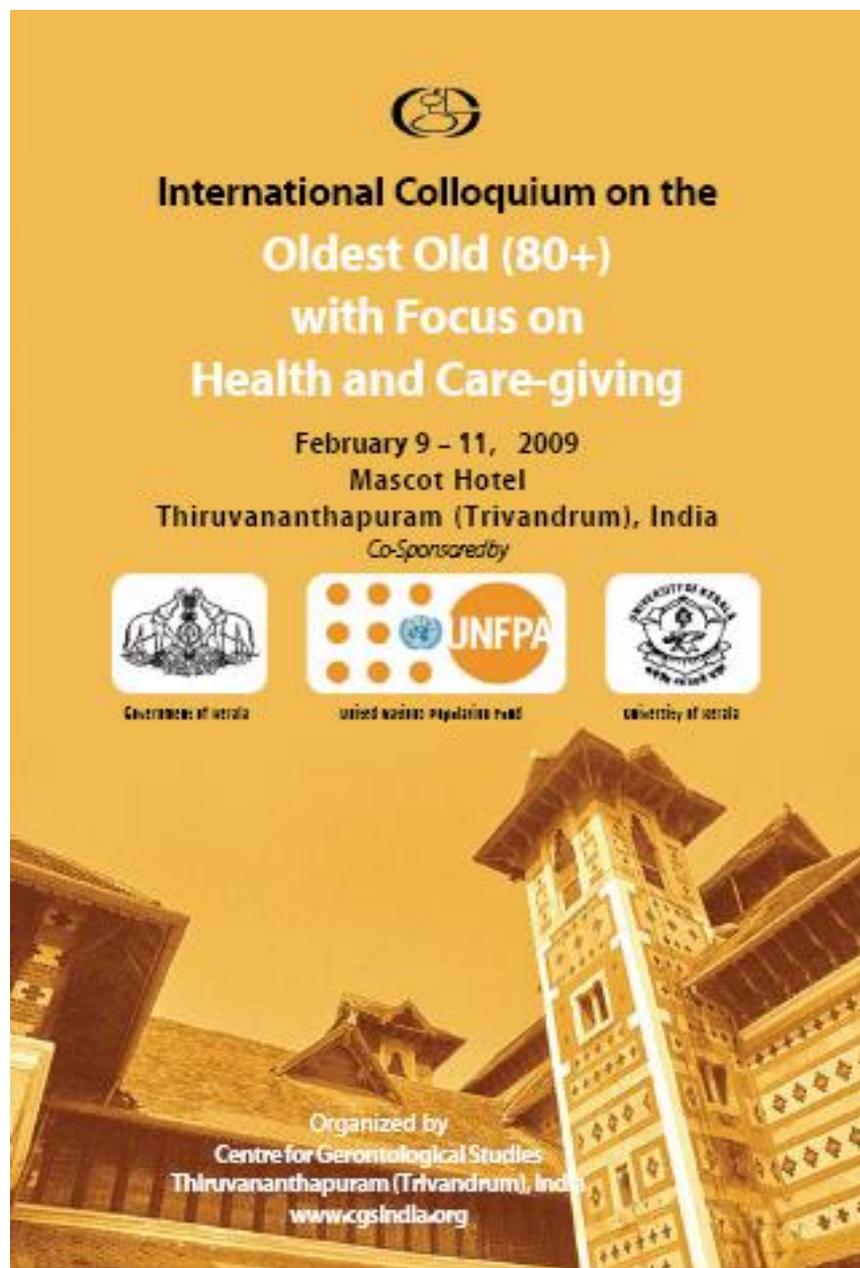
Sara Arber (RC11 Programme Co-ordinator)

On behalf of the RC11 Programme Committee for the ISA World Congress in Gothenburg in 2010: Susan Feldman (Australia); Virpi Timonen (Ireland/Finland); Lucie Vidovicova (Czech Republic); Sandra Torres/Lars Andersson (Sweden)

4 February 2009

## 6. Other conferences with RC11 participation

### (A) International Colloquium on the Oldest Old (80+) with Focus on Health and Caregiving in Thiruvananthapuram, India



#### Context and Need

There is a general tendency to treat all the old as a homogeneous group and to design policies and programmes on that basis. But there is at least one group within the old who possesses several characteristics that would mark them off as an entity different from the rest of the old. This is the **oldest old**, those who are 80 years and over. They are economically unproductive, socially isolated, psychologically insecure and physi-

cally diseased and disabled. Their needs and problems cannot be adequately and appropriately met by the policy and programmes chalked out with the young old in focus.

The oldest old are the fastest growing segment of the older population. In 2006 they constituted 89.3 million, i.e., 13% of the 60 plus. By 2050, 393.63 million, i. e., 20% of the old will be 80 years and over. In Italy, Japan and Switzerland, it will be as high as 37%. Unless early measures are taken to address to their problems and needs, the world's oldest old may end up in great agony and misery. This will be more so in the developing countries where they will account for 71% of the world's 80+ by 2050 and where care for the elderly is in a low state in terms of both medical care and economic security (the focus of the colloquium). The fact that most of the below poverty level population are in the developing countries and are dependent on government support make the situation worse.. Hence by all counts, it is necessary that the world's attention should be turned to this matter on a priority basis. The present colloquium is expected to alert all concerned on the matter.

### **Objectives**

The colloquium will be a learning and experience sharing exercise through interactive and participatory methods. The collective wisdom of the participants will go a long way in problem solving from the point of view of the concerns and needs of the oldest old with diverse regional, economic, ethnic, cultural and life-style identities. Exposure to best practices/success stories will widen the horizon and enrich one's knowledge of the problems and needs of this segment of the population.

The following are the major objectives.

- (1) To identify the special concerns, needs and constraints of the oldest old with particular reference to:
  - (a) The chronically/terminally ill, functionally impaired, bedridden, demented, cancer/HIV afflicted, etc.
  - (b) Special nutritional issues
  - (c) Living arrangements
  - (d) Care-giver arrangement
  - (e) Widowed and sick women
  - (f) Persons living alone or with spouse only
  - (g) The support system
- (2) Identify and map out basic/core elements and critical areas in health care and social care of the oldest old.
- (3) The colloquium hopes to bring out a report containing the major papers, gist of other papers and a full set of recommendations and suggestions from the participants who come from different developmental, socio-cultural and economic backgrounds. It is hoped that this Report will serve as a good User Manual for policy makers and programme planners on the subject.

### **Theme and sub themes of the colloquium**

Theme: Problems and Needs of the oldest old with focus on health and care-giving

Sub-Themes:

1. Morbidity transition and the oldest old
2. Globalization and privatization of health care and the oldest old
3. Domiciliary treatment of the oldest old
4. Management of diseases including dementia in advanced ages

5. Healthcare needs of oldest old women
6. Financing programmes for the oldest old
7. Family and inter-generational relationships and the oldest old
8. Support system for the oldest old
9. Living arrangements for the oldest old
10. Special problems of vulnerable groups
11. The state and the oldest old
12. Global agencies and the oldest old

### **About the Venue**

Thiruvananthapuram (formerly Trivandrum), the capital of the Indian State of Kerala, nicknamed **God's Own Country** is on the historical, cultural and tourist map of India. It was the capital of the princely ruler of Travancore and is embellished with palaces, temples, museum, planetarium, zoo and a beautiful beach. The world famous **Kovalam Beach** is only a few kms. away. The historic Padmanabhapuram Palace and Kanyakumari where three oceans meet are only about two hours drive from the city. Kerala is famous for Ayurvedic Treatment and some of the famous Ayurvedic centers are located here. Temperature in Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) in February will be in the range of 20 – 30<sup>o</sup> C.

South India's famous Wild Animals and Birds Sanctuaries, situated about 6 to 8 hours drive, are other tourist attractions for visitors to Thiruvananthapuram. There are state run and privately operated conducted tours to all these places. Those who want to enjoy ride in houseboats through backwaters can avail the facility on the western coast of Southern Kerala.

### **About the Centre for Gerontological Studies**

This Centre was started by some forward looking social scientists from universities in South India in 1983. This is an International Centre for interdisciplinary studies and research on aging and age related issues. Besides studies and research, it is engaged in extension, training, advocacy and consultancy on aging. It has an extensive network with academic and professional institutions in both India and abroad. In the past it has conducted a large number of seminars and conferences including two world conferences on aging. It has done a lot of work for International, National and State Agencies. The present Colloquium is part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Centre.

All correspondence may be kindly addressed to:

Dr. P. K. B. NAYAR

Coordinator

International Colloquium on the Oldest Old

**Centre for Gerontological Studies**

Kochulloor, Thiruvananthapuram 695 011, INDIA

Phone: 91 471 2448502/4012100/4012011; Fax 91 471 2448502

Email: [cgs@cgsindia.org](mailto:cgs@cgsindia.org); [pkbnayar@yahoo.co.in](mailto:pkbnayar@yahoo.co.in)

**[www.cgsindia.org](http://www.cgsindia.org)**

## **(B) Ageing in the Mediterranean World, Malta, 12-15 March 2009**

Organized by European Social Research (ESR), the European social science section of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG), in direct cooperation with The Institute of Gerontology in Malta.

From a historical perspective, the Mediterranean has been the center of a process of civilization that has had effects and consequences on a truly global scale. Europe as an economic and cultural entity cannot be possibly fully understood without realizing the enormous impact of developments which took place in this region and will also shape the European position in the future. The ageing of Mediterranean societies will confront them with new challenges and socio-political tasks.

Today, ageing affects societies in the Mediterranean already quite differently and will continue to transform them considerably in the future. In this conference we will present and critically discuss research results on work life developments, demographic trends, family strategies and care arrangements in the Mediterranean.

The basic idea of the conference is to offer a comprehensive outlook on the social fabric of the Mediterranean world in several detailed aspects to be presented and discussed with the participants; to allow the identification of certain areas of ongoing research for all participants and to allow participants the critical debate of these results and perspectives.

It ought to be a central objective to interest all European researchers and decision makers in gerontology in the special situation of the Mediterranean ageing countries and to discuss with them potential options and consequences resulting out of these developments.

PLEASE REGISTER NOW!!!

GO to webpage: <http://www.aim09.org>

Registration fee: € 60

Accommodation: € 55 single room per day  
€ 80 double room per day

And here is the program:

### **Thursday, 12.03.2009**

Day of arrival

### **Friday, 13.03.2009**

9.00	-	
10.00		Registration
10.00	-	
10.30		OPENING CEREMONY
10.30	-	Hans-Joachim von Kondratowitz, <i>President of ESR</i>
11.00		Analyzing Ageing in the Mediterranean -Perspectives and Problems-

11.00 17.00	-	I. Setting the agenda in long term perspective Moderation: Hans-Joachim von Kondratowitz
11.00 11.45	-	1. Key note lecture Pier Paolo Viazzo (I) What is so special about the Mediterranean? Household and Family in the Mediterranean Region: Commonalities and Differences
11.45 12.15	-	Discussion
12.30 14.00	-	Lunch Break
14.00 14.45	-	2. Key note lecture Youssef Courbage (F) The Diversity of Demographic Regimes in the Mediterranean: different patterns, different developments, different accelerations
14.45 15.15	-	Discussion
15.15 15.45	-	Coffee Break
15.45 16.30	-	3. Key note lecture Barbara Da Roit (NL), Amparo González Ferrer (ES) Dependency in old age and gender policies: recent approaches and new developments in the Mediterranean Welfare State Model
16.30 17.00	-	General Discussion
Since 19.00		RECEPTION

### **Saturday, 14.03. 2009**

9.30 12.45	-	II. Social Worlds of Ageing in the Mediterranean Moderation: Joseph Troisi (ML)
9.30 10.10	-	Howard Litwin (IL) Social Relations and Social Networks in the Mediterranean
10.10 10.50	-	Anna Maria Simonazzi (I) Work, Employment and Ageing in the Mediterranean: country strategies of dealing with the ageing workforce
10.50 11.20	-	Discussion
11.10 11.40	-	Coffee Break

11.40 12.20	-	Judy Triantafillou (GR) Present and Future Health Situation of the Elderly in the Mediterranean Region
12.20 12.45	-	Discussion
12.45 14.30	-	Lunch Break
14.30 17.30	-	III. Migration as Impact on Ageing Mediterranean Welfare Societies Moderation: Kate Davidson(UK)
14.30 15.15	-	Claudine Attias-Donfut (F) Migrant Elders in a Mediterranean Country: France and its Ageing Migrants
15.15 15.55	-	Giovanni Lamura (I) Migrant Care Work for Elderly Households in Mediterranean countries I: trends and developments in Italy
15.55 16.20	-	Coffee Break
16.20 17.00	-	Esther Iecovich (IL) Home Care Arrangements for Elderly Households in Mediterranean Countries II: trends and developments in Israel
17.00 17.30	-	Discussion
17.30 19.00	-	IV. Gerontological Reasoning and Gerontological Practice in Mediterranean Countries: Country Experiences Moderation: Hans-Joachim von Kondratowitz (GER)
17.30 18.00	-	Özgür Arun/ Abdullah Kocak (T) Turkey
18.00 18.30	-	Nabil Kronfol (LEB) Ageing in Lebanon: An age-friendly perspective
18.30 19.00	-	Discussion
20.00		GALA DINNER

### Sunday, 15. 03.2009

09.30 10.00	-	Joseph Troisi (ML) Coming of Age in Malta
10.00 10.30	-	Radhouane Gouiâa (TUN) Tunisia
10.30 11.00	-	Discussion

11.30 12.45	-	V. Perspectives for a Comparative Agenda for Mediterranean Countries and for European Gerontological Research Moderation: Judith Phillips (UK)
11.30 12.15	-	Round table discussion with three short presentations as impulses Panel Discussants: Harald Künemund (GER), Svein Olaf Daatland (N), Kalyani Mehta (Sing)
12.15 12.45	-	General Discussion
12.45 13.15	-	CLOSING CEREMONY
13.15 14.30	-	Lunch Break

For further details contact:

[Hans-joachim.kondratowitz@dza.de](mailto:Hans-joachim.kondratowitz@dza.de)

[Sebastian.richter@dza.de](mailto:Sebastian.richter@dza.de)

## **(C) Research Network on 'Ageing in Europe' at the 9<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, September 2-5, 2009**

During the conferences of the European Sociological Association in Helsinki (2001), Murcia (2003), Torun (2005) and Glasgow (2007), the Research Network on Ageing in Europe organised very successful paper sessions and discussions. Increased interest in the topic of ageing resulted in 15 sessions at the Glasgow conference. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make these sessions such a lively and stimulating experience, and for their presentations and discussions.

At the 9th conference of the European Sociological Association in Lisbon (<http://www.esa9thconference.com>), the Ageing in Europe Research Network will again hold paper sessions that focus on empirical, theoretical and conceptual aspects of research on ageing. These sessions will continue ongoing discussions, pick up the conference topic ("European Society or European Societies?"), and add some new themes. Papers should fit into the following thematic areas:

- Ageing and Technology (AAL, ICT)
- Senior Markets, Consumerism and the Demand for Goods and Services
- Ageing Societies and the Welfare State
- Diversity, Inequality and Equity in Ageing Societies
- Active Ageing Between Labour Markets and Retirement
- Formal and Informal Care and Older People
- Health, Mortality and the Experience of Ageing
- Informal Networks and Intergenerational Relations
- Quality of Life in Ageing Societies
- Norms and Values in the Field of Ageing
- Interculturality, Cross-Cultural Comparisons and Ageing
- Images of Ageing and Alternative Approaches
- Biography
- Time Use, Cultural and Social Participation

Papers with a cross-national, comparative focus and papers by researchers earlier in their career are particularly to be welcomed. If you need additional information (e.g., if you are not sure whether your paper fits with the theme of a session), please contact the RN co-ordinators. Individuals should not be the first author (i.e. the presenter) of more than one paper.

Abstracts should be sent via the conference website - they will only be accepted through completion of the online submission form, and submission in any other form will be declined. The deadline for web submission of abstracts is 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Please read the submission guidelines before filling in the form at <http://www.esa9thconference.com>

Authors of abstracts will receive an email showing our decision to either accept or reject the submissions, on or before 30th April 2009. Early-bird registration will close on 15th May 2009. All presenters (first authors) must register for the conference by 15th June 2009 and the conference organisers will be forced to exclude authors from the programme where a first author has not registered by this date.

We look forward to meeting you in Lisbon!

Ricca Edmondson (National University of Ireland, Galway,  
Ricca.Edmondson@nuigalway.ie)

Harald Künemund (University of Vechta, Germany, harald.kuenemund@uni-vechta.de)

## **(D) 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the BSG, Bristol, September 2009**

### **"Culture, Diversity and Ageing"**

**2nd – 4th September 2009**

Welcome to the 38th Conference of the British Society of Gerontology,  
hosted by the [University of the West of England, Bristol](#) and the [University of Bristol](#).

We are pleased to confirm the following two speakers, with more to be announced soon:

- **Alan Walker**, Professor of Social Policy, University of Sheffield;
- **Gloria Gutman**, Professor Emerita, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver;
- **Merril Silverstein**, Professor of Gerontology and Sociology, University of Southern California

#### **Important dates and deadlines**

Submission of abstracts: 1st May 2009

Submission of symposium proposals: 10th April 2009

Earlybird registration: Up to and including 12th June 2009

Standard registration: From 13th June 2009

**Conference website:** [www.bsg2009.org.uk](http://www.bsg2009.org.uk)

**For conference information and enquiries please contact Lisa Sinfield.**

University of the West of England  
School of Health & Social Care  
Glenside Campus  
Blackberry Hill  
Stapleton  
Bristol BS16 1DD

 +44 (0)117 32 88487

 +44 (0)117 32 88443

 [Lisa.Sinfield@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Lisa.Sinfield@uwe.ac.uk)

**(E) 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the BSG, Reading, July 2010**



You are warmly invited to the:

**39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
British Society of Gerontology**

***BSG Reading 2010***

**Tuesday 6th July to Thursday 8th July 2010**

Palmer Building, Whiteknights Campus, University of Reading, UK

**Confirmed keynote speakers:**

Professor Anne E. Martin-Matthews, University of British Columbia, Canada

Professor Fiona Ross, St George's University of London, UK

Associate Professor Cherry Russell, University of Sydney, Australia

Professor Julia Twigg, University of Kent, UK

**One week before the ISA World Congress of Sociology Gothenburg, Sweden.  
Spend more time in Europe! We welcome you to our annual conference!**

The University of Reading is near to London Heathrow airport and within one hour of the centre of London:  
see <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/about/find/about-findindex.asp>

Call for papers will be available later in 2009. See <http://www.britishgerontology.org/>  
for further details as well as the chance to read the reviews of international colleagues who attended our Bristol 2008 annual conference in *Generations Review* online.

For further information, please contact:

Dr Wendy Martin

School of Health and Social Care

Bulmershe Court

Earley, Reading. RG6 1HY. UK.

Tel: +44 (0) 118 378 5842

[w.p.martin@reading.ac.uk](mailto:w.p.martin@reading.ac.uk)

**(F) BSA "Ageing, Body and Society" Study Group, July 2009**



***BSA (British Sociological Association)  
Ageing, Body and Society  
Study Group***

**Convenors:**

Dr Wendy Martin (University of Reading) and Professor Julia Twigg  
(University of Kent)

There has been an increasing interest in the social, cultural and biological dimensions of our bodies as we grow older. The aim of the *Ageing, Body and Society* study group is to provide a forum to bring together academics and researchers whose work focuses on ageing bodies or wish to widen their interests by exploring the embodied dimensions of their research.

The group is very active with one day conferences, workshops and we have a mailing list of approx. 200 members. We are delighted to announce that our next **one day conference will be Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July at the British Library, London, UK.**

A call for papers and further information will be available in January 2009. If you wish to join the mailing list please contact Dr Wendy Martin at [W.P.Martin@reading.ac.uk](mailto:W.P.Martin@reading.ac.uk).

Further information about the study group is available at:  
<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AgeingBodyandSociety.htm>

## **7. Country report Philippines: "The Filipino Senior Citizen at a Glance"**

by

NICAMIL K. SANCHEZ, UK/Phil. RSW, MPM, Dip. Ger. (Malta)

Academic Visitor Oxford University Institute of Ageing/Help the Aged Fellow 2008

nsan0001@um.edu.mt/dswdniko@yahoo.com

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Philippines age structure is generally younger than that of the developed countries but still significantly older than that of the developing countries.<sup>1</sup> It is home to 5.8 million (NSO 2008) senior citizens, which is one of the largest in the Asia Pacific Region. It presage that ageing of the population is a phenomenon not only for developed but also to developing countries. Given the distinctive characteristic of the plight of senior citizen in different countries, this paper will showcase the Philippine demography, government initiatives, senior citizen categorization in the community, salient issues as well as their distinct contribution and resiliency despite the adversities and socio-economic pressure aggravated by degenerative diseases common to old age and the high prevalence of communicable diseases which is still existing in the country.

In the Philippine Constitution, it states that, it is the duty of the family to take care of its disabled members while the State may design program of social security for them and it shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. These shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children." The Philippine law classify a person as senior citizen based on age (60 years old and above), they are entitled to discounts in medicines, basic commodities, health services and socio-recreational activities.

Successful ageing in the Philippines is the fulfillment of the desire of the elderly for a more comfortable life not only for themselves but also for their children<sup>2</sup>. Senior citizen in each country has different set of features and dynamics that are attributed to the economic, social, cultural and historical occurrences. This document will also provide a glimpse on the emerging issues and concerns faced by the Filipino senior citizen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and recommend a call for action for stakeholders to address critical situation and complexities brought about by the ageing of population in the Philippines.

---

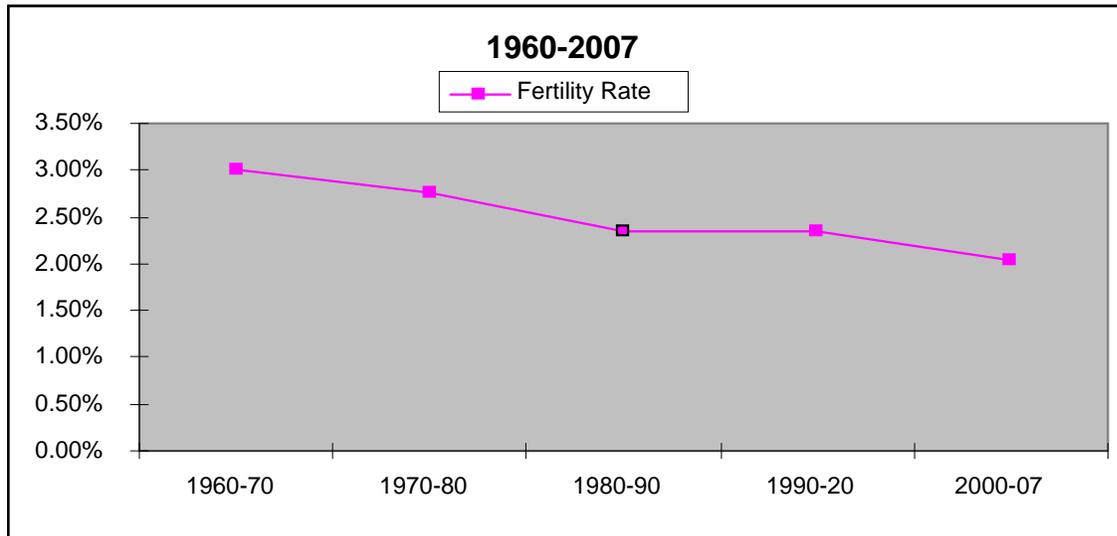
<sup>1</sup> World Economic and Social Survey 2007, Development in Ageing World

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2007files/wess2007.pdf> (last accessed: August 13, 2008)

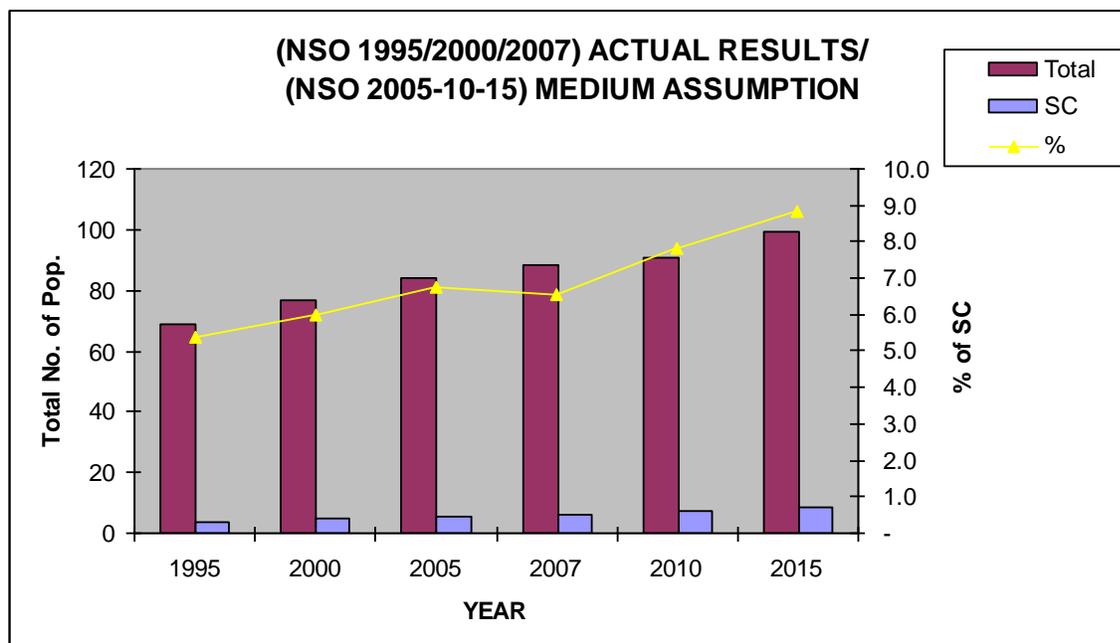
<sup>2</sup> Clarita R. Carlos, et al., The Filipino Elderly: Issues and Concerns (Quezon City: National Defense College of the Philippines)5-6

## DEMOGRAPHY OF THE FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZEN

The rapidly increasing absolute number of Filipino senior citizens which is attributed to its declining fertility rate and increasing life expectancy and the density of Filipinos that are becoming 60's. The recent Philippine Census in 2007 had figured an average annual population growth rate of 2.04%. As shown below, it was the lowest annual growth rate recorded for the Philippines since the 1960s (NSO 2008).



The declining fertility rate and the increasing percentage, jointly by the projected percentage of the senior citizen is highlighted to put into the picture that the uphill trend will be irreversible, it will contradict the notion that the Philippine society is relatively a young population. The succeeding chart will provide the total number of the population and actual number of senior citizen based on the actual NSO survey on 1995, 2000 and 2007. This is one case scenario where the fertility rate is going down while the number of senior citizen is rapidly increasing.

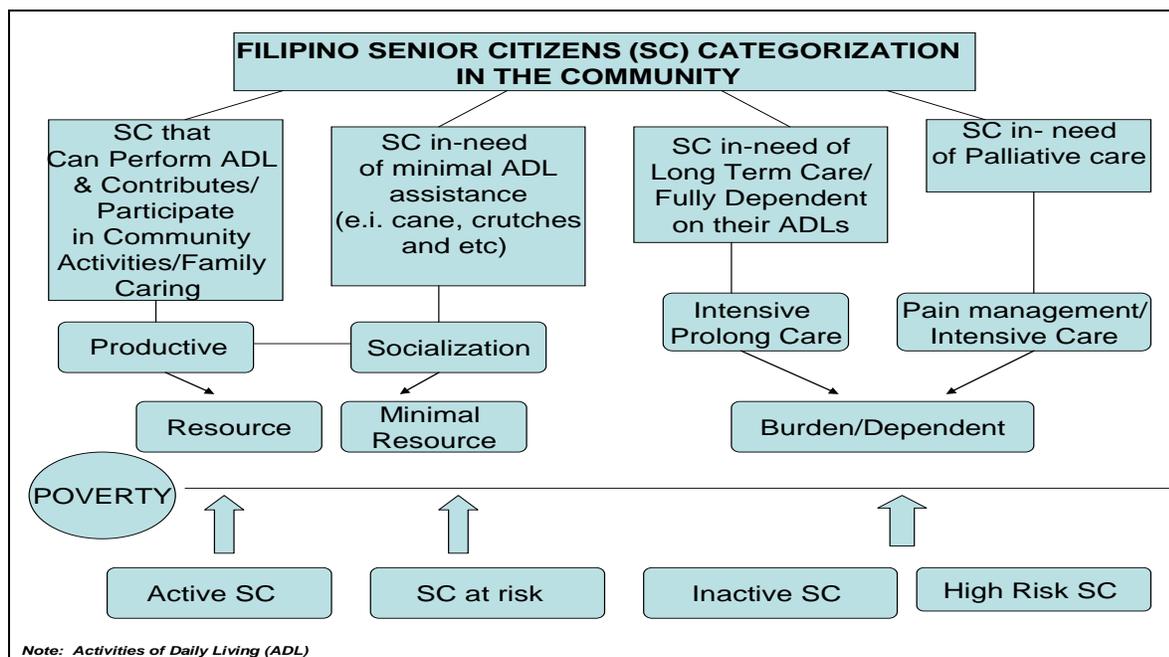


YEAR	PER MILLION/S		%
	Total No. of Pop.	Total No. of SC	
1995	68.62	3.7	5.4
2000	76.5	4.6	6.0
2005	84.21	5.68	6.7
2007	88.57	5.8	6.5
2010	90.46	7.06	7.8
2015	99.01	8.72	8.8
Note: 1995/2000/2007 are based on actual NSO survey			
Source: NSO <a href="http://www.census.gov.ph">www.census.gov.ph</a>			

The 2000 Census of Population and Housing registered 4.6 million senior citizens, accounting for 5.97% of the total population. This number registered a 22.18% increase from 1995 (3.7 million people). The elderly population grew at 4.39% during the 1995 to 2000 period, higher when compared to the 1990 to 1995 growth rate of 3.06%. If the growth rate continues, the number of senior citizens is expected to reach seven million in 2010 and to double in approximately 16 years<sup>3</sup>.

In 2015, there will be 8.8% or more than 8.72 million Filipino senior citizens. At 2050, the Philippines will be ranked No. 10 as the most populous country in the world<sup>4</sup>. It will continuously increase in a very fast phase, making it as a challenge that will left the country unprepared to respond to this occurrences that would threatened its strong familial relationship and unforeseen impact to its culture, society and economy.

### FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY



<sup>3</sup> Philippine National Statistic Office, "Senior Citizens" [www.census.gov.ph](http://www.census.gov.ph) (last accessed: Sept. 21, 2008)

<sup>4</sup> Population Reference Bureau, 2008 World Population Data Sheet (Washington: Population Reference Bureau, 2008)

The majority of the Filipino senior citizens still lives in their own home or community, thus, it is essential to look into the level of their physical functioning and circumstances affected by poverty. The above framework represents the Filipino senior citizen situation "in a nut shell" at the community/home which is divided into four main categories:

Active SC- can perform Activities of Daily Living (ADL), independent and contributes in the community by participating Senior Citizens Organizations (SCOs) and /or taking care of the family members or doing household chores.

SC at risk- can perform basic ADL and would need assistive devices. They are still healthy but have limitations on their physical activities and mostly stay at home.

Inactive SC- they would require continuous medication and are fully dependent on others for their ADL for a prolonged period.

High Risk SC- they would need specialized high-cost medication to ease the pain and with life threatening disease, they are fully dependent on their ADL.

Poverty in old age remains to be the primary precipitating factor, whether they would be categorized as resource, minimal resource, dependent or burden. Those who have the capacity to pay can access medical services and acquire quality care. Also, remaining active in community and household activities could deter the transition of being active to burden.

## **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR SENIOR CITIZEN**

The Philippine Government is one of the signatory to the Madrid International Plan of Action for Older Persons and also in the forefront in the conceptualization and ratification of the previous international plans (e.g. Macau Plan of Action for Older Person 1998 and Shanghai Implementation Strategy 2002). The Philippine constitution recognizes the positive role of older citizens in our society; encouraging them to contribute to nation-building and to develop community organization as well as providing support to NGOs working for the older citizens.

The salient features of the law are the provision of privileges in the form of discount in the purchasing of medicines and basic commodities for the personal enjoyment of the senior citizen (i.e. movies house, recreational places and etc) and establishments of the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) to be headed by a senior citizen. It is mandated to fully implement the provisions and serves as link of the senior citizen and Senior Citizens Organizations (SCOs) to its local government.

## **FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZEN AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY**

Families in less developed countries are well positioned to provide informal care because they are larger, stronger connected, and more multigenerational than in developed countries.<sup>5</sup> While it is true that the Filipino Family remains to be resilience and extended in nature, there is a distinguished role of the senior citizen within the family.

More than half of the household population 60 years old and over (57.41%) were household heads and nearly one-fourth was spouses of the household heads. Of the total number of households in the Philippines (15.3 million), 17.13% (2.6 million households) were headed by senior citizens<sup>6</sup>. The head of the family provides direct supervision to the children left behind by overseas worker and managed the households.

<sup>5</sup> Howse, Ovseiko, University of Oxford Institute of Ageing (Oxford: Ageing Horizons, 2007) 3-12

<sup>6</sup> Philippine National Statistic Office, "Senior Citizens" [www.census.gov.ph](http://www.census.gov.ph) (last accessed: July. 13, 2007)

Looking at this unique familial relationship, it is essential that relevant studies should be undertaken to look into the special contribution of the senior citizen in the Filipino family. Nonetheless, this could be the effects of the feminization of the Filipino migrant workers especially in the health sector, which is attributed to the ageing population in developed countries where Filipino health care workers are the most in-demand due to their innate values of taking care of their senior citizen. But, Filipinos are still unaware on the effects of this generational lost, where the grandparent replaces the responsibilities and roles of the biological parents in providing care and guidance to their children.

## **CHALLENGES OF THE FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZEN IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY**

New situations which face us a result of the changing population and family structures and the inadequacy of our public services should be seen as *challenges*, not problems. (Bond John, Coleman Peter 1990). One of the main challenges of the Filipino senior citizen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is still poverty and lack of healthcare.

The recent worldwide recession aggravated by the lack of safety nets and social protection remains to be the primary obstacle to achieved quality of life especially to the senior citizen. It is the most substantial issues that are being faced by every country, most especially in the developing countries like the Philippines were the average poverty incidence of population is 32.9%<sup>7</sup>. The Filipino family safeguards the interest of its members, but the ill effect of poverty to the most vulnerable member of the family like the senior citizen and children, to be left behind from their rightful entitlements. Filipino senior citizen in poverty is pervasive, yet, it still not being given critical attention.

Nonetheless, moreover the pattern of disease at the end of life is changing and more people are living with serious chronic circulatory and respiratory diseases as well as with cancer, despite evidence of dramatically increased need for supportive and palliative care, this area has been relatively neglected in health policy and research.<sup>8</sup> It's true that until now, majority of Filipino senior citizens have been cared at home but, let's not take for granted that there is an increasing number of old-old category, which means there is a higher possibility that they will be dependent due to high risk in communicable and degenerative diseases. Given that majority of senior citizen lacks healthcare insurance aggravated by high cost of medical services, thus, most of the senior citizen has been fully dependent on government medical subsidy.

In the Philippines, communicable diseases are still widespread and considering the weak resistance of the senior citizen, they have been more likely to suffer due to poverty and limited access and inadequate health services<sup>9</sup>. Likewise, Filipinos senior citizen and their family are still unaware on the cognitive problems attributed to old age and family carer burnout, thus, it requires comprehensive interventions, combining the medical and psychosocial aspect in dealing with the adverse effect of cognitive impairment to the senior citizen and their family.

---

<sup>7</sup> National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Stat Watch As of 04 September 2008 CO- SW#16 Series of 2008

<sup>8</sup> World Health Organization (WHO) Europe; What are the palliative care needs of older people and how might they be met? Health Evidence (WHO: Europe, August 2004) 4

<sup>9</sup> Nicamil K. Sanchez, University of Oxford Institute of Ageing, Palliative Care in the Philippines and the United Kingdom: Is it Accessible & Adequate?(Oxford: unpublished paper, 2008) 5-6

## A CALL FOR ACTION

It is important to note that scientific concern for the elderly in the Philippines is new, probably due to two factors, namely, the relatively small size of the elderly population and cultural perception that the elderly do not pose a problem to society because they are taken care of by the family. While the proportionate size of the elderly group is comparatively low because of the youthfulness of the Philippine age structure, the rate growth of the elderly population has been substantially and progressively high.<sup>10</sup>

The Philippine scenario is comparable to other developing countries or economies in transition, there is a need to provide emphasis on improving the quality of life through research and policy/programme development responsive to the emerging needs of the senior citizen. In responding to the predicament of having the highest absolute number of senior citizens in the Asia Pacific region and the lack of health care insurance, there is a need to develop cadre of advocates especially in the Academe and helping professionals (i.e. Geriatrician, Geriatric Social Worker, Geriatric Nurses and Gerontologist) to create awareness on the challenges faced by the senior citizen and their family.

Social gerontology is a relatively new field. Being at its incipient stage, there is yet no compact bibliographic volume where researchers in gerontology can easily access locally-produced materials that centrally focus on the diverse social and cultural aspects of the Filipino aging experience.<sup>11</sup> With that, studies related to the Filipino senior citizen are quite limited and few, which is still not given emphasis due to lack of support and non-prioritization.

Looking at the ever-increasing absolute number of Filipino senior citizens, it must require a multi-stakeholder approach, to enable them to involve and participate in community development. Active participation of senior citizens in the cultural, social activities and establishment of organization that will truly represent the grass-root older persons in every local council will be a big step to enable older persons regain their lost prestige<sup>12</sup>. Drastic shift toward scientific based decisions and sharing and accessing of financial and human resources between non-governmental organizations, government agencies and SCOs to develop comprehensive, diversified and specialized programs responsive to the needs of the Filipino senior citizen should be given critical attention.

Successful and/or active ageing as a concept should be culturally tailored, for the Filipino, it is the continuous support of the senior citizen to their family whether in the forms of financial, taking care of their grandchildren and contributing to their communities by joining SCOs. Given the extended family structure in the Philippines, the Filipino family remains to be the primary carer of their member, especially to the senior citizen and it is considered as a lifetime responsibility, at the same time, senior citizen viewed their family caring role as a fulfillment and not as an unwanted role.

Poverty is the foremost obstacle in achieving active ageing in the Philippines, given the limited resources to support its burgeoning senior citizen population, the Philippines

---

<sup>10</sup> Lita J. Domingo, et al., *The Filipino Elderly* (Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 1994) 7-10

<sup>11</sup> Rene D. Somera, *Bordered Ageing: Ethnography of Daily Life in a Filipino Home for the Aged* (Manila: De La Salle University Press, 1997) 10-13

<sup>12</sup> Nicamil K. Sanchez, *European Centre of Gerontology and Geriatrics, University of Malta "A Study on the Challenges Faced by the Family Carer of Older Persons"* (Malta: Unpublished Post Graduate in Gerontology and Geriatrics research paper, 2006) 47

should rethink and shift its focus on enabling the sector to become an asset through encouraging its senior citizen to contribute and volunteer for societal development. The real challenge is to proactively respond to the health care needs and poverty incidence among seniors and the strain in familial relationship attributed to migration and other factors within the Filipino family and society.

## 8. Courses in Gerontology

### (a) University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work: "Introduction to Intergenerational Programs"



## "Introduction to Intergenerational Programs"

**STARTING MARCH 2, 2009**

**An on-line course presented through the  
Generations Together Intergenerational Studies Institute and the  
School of Social Work Continuing Education Program**

#### **Overview**

This course is an on-line, interactive experience based on the 13-year success of Generations Together Intergenerational Training Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. The course is designed to help you develop skills needed for success in the intergenerational field. Students read course materials, do on-line assignments, discuss the content with fellow students and instructors, and follow step-by-step procedures to complete the individual units.

#### **What Are Intergenerational Programs?**

"Intergenerational programs are planned and on going activities that purposefully bring together different generations to share experiences that are mutually beneficial. Typically the programs involve interactions between the young and the old."

-- National Council on Aging (NCOA)

#### **Why Are They Important?**

- Intergenerational programs mirror the way the world is. Knowing how various generations relate to each other is an essential component of cultural and social understanding.
- Intergenerational programs reflect the dynamics and interactions of generations in communities and families.
- Intergenerational programs address some fundamental issues in community revitalization, family relationships, and understanding of how people of different generations interact and positively affect each other.
- Intergenerational programs are appropriate for study in multiple disciplines, such as gerontology, human/community development, education, communication, sociology, and public policy --disciplines that focus on understanding human interaction and the value of treating all generations with mutual respect and dignity.

- The study of intergenerational programs is attracting interest in many countries across the world as we address social, demographic and economic changes from a global perspective.

#### **Who is this course for?**

This course is for professionals, practitioners, administrators, teachers and faculty, program developers, policy makers, and researchers who are concerned with how cross generational dynamics contribute to mutual understanding and the development of positive and meaningful roles of all generations in society.

#### **Participants are eligible for:**

- Certificate of Completion for the Intergenerational Studies On-line course
- Continuing Education: 30 hours (Social Work). School of Social Work will issue a Certificate.

**Course goals:** This user-friendly course will enable you to:

- Explain the rationale for intergenerational programs as a social intervention model
- Formulate a plan for an intergenerational program
- Develop a process to engage community support for intergenerational programming
- Develop the basic skills to implement intergenerational program components
- Recruit, train, and manage participants and staff in intergenerational programming
- Evaluate an intergenerational program.

#### **Course units**

- Foundations of Intergenerational Programs
- Developing Program Goals
- Evaluating Programs
- Recruitment

- Preparing Staff for the Intergenerational Exchange
- An International Perspective
- Conclusion

**Duration:** 13 weeks



## "Introduction to Intergenerational Programs"

**\* On-Line Orientation** -- Students will complete a short orientation on-line prior to the actual start of the first unit of the course. The orientation may be completed any time in the week prior to the actual start of the course. The orientation will cover:

- Using the course website.
- Using discussion boards and email functions.
- Accessing readings and references.
- Receiving CE hours and completion certificates.

**\*\* Course Schedule** -- The course is designed to be 13 weeks of instruction. Each unit is scheduled for a 2-week timeframe, when individual faculty will be available for their particular units. A final week is for conclusion and wrap-up.

### **For application/registration:**

#### **Tracy Soska or Darlene Davis**

Continuing Education School of Social Work,  
University of Pittsburgh  
412-624-3711 or tsssw@pitt.edu

**Registration:** 412-624-6902; drn8@pitt.edu

[www.socialwork.pitt.edu](http://www.socialwork.pitt.edu)

### **For course information:**

#### **Sally Newman**

Emerita Professor/Course Coordinator  
412-648-7155 or newmans@pitt.edu

[www.gt.pitt.edu](http://www.gt.pitt.edu)

**Toll Free Number: 1-866-216-1223**

### **On-Line Orientation\*:**

**February 22 - March 1, 2009**

### **Course Schedule\*\*:**

**March 2 – May 30, 2009**

**CE Fee: \$350 + (\$40.00 text)**



### **Course Instructors:**

The course faculty brings a wealth of real-life, hands-on, practical and academic experience working with intergenerational programs. The faculty is experienced in intergenerational work and is eager to help you move forward and become a member of a growing population of professionals working in this rewarding field.

#### **Sally Newman**

Emerita Professor,  
Founding Director, Generations Together,  
Social Work and Education Faculty,  
Researcher at University Center for Social and  
Urban Research (UCSUR)  
University of Pittsburgh

#### **Shannon Jarrott**

Associate Professor and Department Head  
Department of Human Development  
Virginia Tech University

#### **Dave Farley**

Fmr. Advisory Board Chair, Generations Together,  
Adjunct Faculty, School of Social Work,  
University of Pittsburgh

#### **Mariano Sanchez**

Professor of Social Gerontology,  
University of Granada, Spain

School of Social Work • 2117 Cathedral of Learning  
• Pittsburgh, PA 15260 • 412-624-3711  
[www.socialwork.pitt.edu](http://www.socialwork.pitt.edu)

*The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action,  
equal opportunity institution.*

**To register please use the following form:**

Name: _____	Student ___ Field Faculty ___ Other _____
Address: _____ _____	Payment Option: Visa/MasterCard# _____
Day Phone#: _____	Exp date: _____
Email Address: _____	Signature: _____
Agency: _____	Fax registration to: 412-624-6323
Position: _____	Checks payable to: "University of Pittsburgh"
CE Credit: L/CSW ___ LPC ___	Mail to: Continuing Education; School of Social Work
Total Amount: _____	University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA 15260
<i>(Introduction to Intergenerational Programs)</i>	

**(b) Second Oxford Institute of Ageing Spring School "The Multidisciplinary Toolkit for Global Ageing Research", Oxford, 19-23 April 2009**



**Spring School  
19 to 23 April 2009**

***'The Multi-Disciplinary Toolkit for Global Ageing Research'***

Registration details are NOW available!!! We look forward to receiving your application!

A four day course on aspects of ageing research for practicing researchers, academics and graduate students.

**Aim of the Spring School:**

- To empower participants with skills and tools needed
- To foster research capability in the field of global ageing
- To strengthen existing and build new networks

**Format**

The school will address concepts and tools in demography, bio-demography, bio-medical research and practice, economics, sociology, health and policy. Special emphasis will be placed on developing methodological skills, both from quantitative and qualitative perspectives. Additional opportunities for networking and informal discussion will be provided through poster sessions, research discussions and workshops. There will be an opportunity for participants to submit an abstract and present their own research.

**Programme Outline**

The school will be launched with a welcome reception on Sunday 19 April from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. The four day programme commencing on Monday 20 April through to noon on Thursday 23 April will offer four tailored streams: All four will contain plenary speakers and themed workshops and plenty of opportunity for networking and interaction.

**Foundation:** This stream is designed for those attending the Spring School for the first time. The multi-disciplinary sessions will offer an opportunity for interaction and discussion with the leading international experts.

**Quantitative:** This stream will focus on statistical methods, economics, and demography. This stream will suit researchers already working in these areas and needing to upgrade their existing skills.

**Qualitative:** This stream will focus on ethnography, in-depth interviewing and oral history. This stream will suit researchers already working in these areas and needing to upgrade their existing skills.

**Practical:** This stream will focus on the more practical aspects of ageing. The goal is to encourage academic and thoughtful reflection on practice in the community and the methods in which to evaluate these from a research perspective.

Participants will be asked to register for one stream which most suits their needs and abilities and will be required to stay within this stream. However, there will also be shared sessions when all participants come together to reflect and learn.

### **The Oxford Institute of Ageing**

The Oxford Institute of Ageing is a multi-disciplinary research institute which believes that the production of high quality, strategic research, which informs and is informed by good policy and practice, will lead to a greater understanding of societies as they age.

The overwhelming success of the first Spring School held in April 2008 underlined the need for an academic network focusing on skill-building and information sharing within the global ageing research community. The skills acquired by the participants at all levels have proven highly applicable to their research at the local level. In addition, these newly established networks have resulted in several concrete research projects and ideas which span several countries.

### **Social Activities:**

Oxford, named as the City of Dreaming Spires for its harmonious architecture, is well known for its leading University founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Today it remains the United Kingdom's top university for the 7<sup>th</sup> year running as well as one of the top ten universities worldwide.

What makes the university truly unique is its collegiate system which enables students and academics to belong to an all encompassing international institution at the same time to a smaller college community. Spring School participants will enjoy this experience by dining at one of the oldest historic colleges. There will also be opportunity to enjoy the city and surrounding area.

### **Spring School 2008 Participant Feedback**

*"Future schools have to keep the amazing diversity we have here now (people, places, perspectives, disciplines, ages, etc.). This made the school the success it has been – take the toolkit to the next level!"* Canada

*"To be a researcher on ageing, you couldn't miss this opportunity to see and learn about the recent issues discussed in the Spring School!"* Poland

*"Astonishing sense of community developed in three days through shared interests. There was also a huge sense of an underlying compassion and sense of deep concern for human welfare in general that was actually quite moving!"* United Kingdom

*"Excellent work with a lot of efficiency. The diversity of lectures and workshops increased my knowledge and broadened my horizon"* Nigeria

*"The whole theme of ageing was looked at from various perspectives. That itself was excellent as was the team spirit at the school!"* India

### **Participation**

The application deadline is **2 March 2009**. As there are a restricted number of places available we encourage submission as soon as possible. Applicants are requested to submit payment of their registration fee with their application. Applications are NOW available on-line - to complete the registration process go to the OIA website at: <http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk>

1. [Registration form](#)
2. [Biosketch form](#)
3. [Payment - On-line Store](#)

### **Registration Fee**

£550 – includes reception, 1 dinner, 4 lunches, refreshments, school materials

£800 – includes 4 nights accommodation, reception, 1 dinner, 4x lunch, refreshments, school material

### **For further information contact:**

Angelika Kaiser, Research Liaison

Oxford Institute of Ageing

University of Oxford, Manor Road, Oxford OX1 3UQ

Tel: +44 1865 286 196

Fax: +44 1865 286 191

Email: [angelika.kaiser@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:angelika.kaiser@ageing.ox.ac.uk)

## 9. Publications

*A one-of-a-kind resource that reflects the global impact of intergenerational strategies, programs, and policies...*

# Journal of Intergenerational Relationships

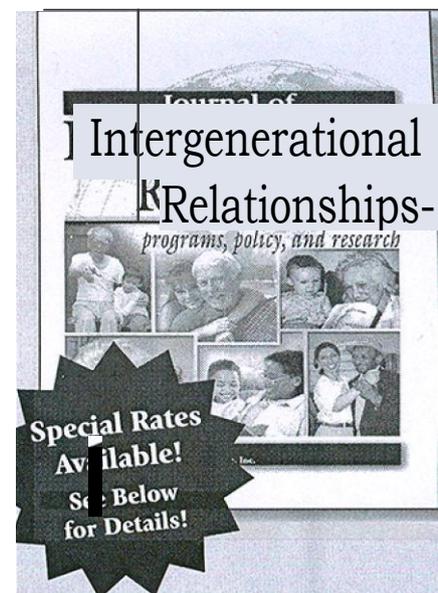
The *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* is the only international journal focusing exclusively on the intergenerational field from a practical, theoretical, and social policy perspective. The journal is a unique and comprehensive resource that will help you enhance your professional development and effectiveness.

The *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* encompasses a variety of disciplines: social work, community development, health, psychology, anthropology, sociology, gerontology, child development, family studies, education, political science, social policy, communications, and more!

Knowing how each generation connects with others across the spectrum of ages, family systems, workplaces, cultures, and historical eras informs the evolution of intergenerational programming and practice. Educators, social service providers, family advocates, and public servants around the globe who subscribe to the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* will benefit by learning more about how and why generational *connections* matter.

This peer-reviewed journal is the forum where gerontologists, educators, medical professionals, psychologists, social workers, and urban studies researchers can stay abreast of the latest practice methods and public policy initiatives. Much more than just another "publish or perish" niche journal, the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* is a unique global forum where you'll find information about the latest research and program development on intergenerational aspects of a range of global social issues and frontier topics in family studies from the United States and countries around the world.

According to the Founding Editor, Dr. Sally Newman—one of the foremost international intergenerational specialists—"For more than 3 decades, there has been a consistently growing interest in 'intergenerational concepts' that typically refer to cross-generational interaction among older and younger generations. As a result of these concepts, practitioners, academics, and policy analysts have become familiar with intergenerational ideas, dialogues, activities, approaches, issues, relationships, and programs. We have become increasingly aware of informal intergenerational relationships within the family, program-driven interactions among non-biologically connected younger and older persons, interge-



### CO-EDITORS:

**Sally Newman, PhD**

University Center for Social  
and Urban Research

University of Pittsburgh  
121 University Place, Room 407  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-5907

Tel: (412) 648-7155

Fax: (412) 624-4810

E-mail: [newmans@pitt.edu](mailto:newmans@pitt.edu)

**Mariano Sanchez, D. Soc**

Facultad de Ciencias  
Políticas y Sociología

Universidad de Granada  
c/Rector Lopez Argueta, sin

18071 Granada, Spain

Tel: +34958248070

E-mail: [marianos@ugr.es](mailto:marianos@ugr.es)

nerational approaches to social and community development issues, work opportunities for intergenerational specialists, and most recently a developing academic dialogue."

Dr. Newman continues, "Interested professionals have searched for venues that reported this information. They found a limited number of journals in social service fields such as aging, early childhood care, and education that periodically published an article from an intergenerational perspective. As interest in the intergenerational field continued to grow, it became evident that the time had come to create a journal solely dedicated to this work."

Co-Editor Dr. Mariano Sanchez, representing a new generation of leaders, says: "After the UN commitment to build a society for all ages as stated in the Second World Assembly on Aging, there is no choice. Our research on aging from infancy to old age needs to address intergenerational issues."

The *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* is the journal that focuses on intergenerational work. Each issue presents cutting-edge writing on intergenerational topics, divided into sections entitled:

- "Scholarship"—peer-reviewed academic papers dealing with innovative research, intergenerational programming strategies, research and evaluation, and suggestions for advancing the intergenerational field
- "From the Field"—papers from practitioners, including program profiles, a topical forum, and book/media reviews

The *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* will keep you at the leading edge of this exciting expanding field, with:

- new ideas about the growth, development, and impact of intergenerational approaches to social issues, to family connections, and to new social structures,
- international perspectives on current issues,
- a balance of evaluation, research, policy, and practice based, peer-reviewed articles,
- standards for practice,
- multicultural initiatives,
- intergenerational approaches to community development,
- examinations of the role of intergenerational relationships in a changing global society,
- book and media reviews,
- brief program profiles, and
- a "Forum" section that discusses issues of intergenerational interest.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Please e-mail all manuscript submissions to: [jirassistant@yahoo.com](mailto:jirassistant@yahoo.com). Complete instructions for authors can be found on the journal's website at <http://jir.ucsur.pitt.edu>. For further inquiries or more direct information concerning your proposed submission, e-mail Dr. Sally Newman, Co-Editor, at [newmans@pitt.edu](mailto:newmans@pitt.edu).



- May 15-17, 2009 Limassol, Cyprus  
International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders in the Middle East 5th Edition:  
<http://www.worldeventsforum.com/alzsymposium/index.htm>
- June 25-26, 2009 Geneva, Switzerland  
Emotions, Stress and Ageing  
<http://www.unige.ch/aging-emotion/index.html>
- July 3-5, 2009 Paris, France  
The First Homeshare World Congress  
If you are interested in attending, please contact Elizabeth Mills at: [elizabeth@eminence-grise.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth@eminence-grise.co.uk)
- July 5-10, 2009 Paris, France  
The 19th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics  
<http://www.paris2009.org/>
- July 20, 2009 London, UK  
BSA Ageing, Body and Society Day  
<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/AgeingBodyandSociety.htm>
- September 2-4, 2009 Bristol, UK  
38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the British Society of Gerontology  
[www.bsg2009.org.uk](http://www.bsg2009.org.uk)
- September 2-5, 2009 Lisbon, Portugal  
Research Network 'Ageing in Europe' at the 9<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference  
<http://www.esa9thconference.com>
- September 29-October 3, 2009 San Francisco, U.S.A.  
The 39th Annual Meeting of the International Continence Society (ICS)  
<http://www2.kenes.com/ics/pages/home.aspx>
- September 30-October 2, 2009 Auckland, New Zealand  
2009 International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality  
<http://www.selwyncare.org.nz/scas>
- October 7-9, 2009 Wellington, New Zealand  
New Zealand Association of Gerontology & Age Concern New Zealand Conference 2009  
<http://www.gerontology.org.nz/conference.html>



## **11. Outlook**

That's it for the moment. I hope, you enjoyed reading this newsletter and it contained information useful for you. As always, I look forward to receiving your comments on this newsletter and your suggestions on how to improve future editions. Furthermore, I would really appreciate any electronic images of older people you could send me for inclusion in our new homepage. And finally, I look forward to meeting many of you in Paris later this year!

With warm regards,

Andreas