

## READER

**Wednesday, 28 November 2018**

**1.30 p.m.**

**Welcome and Introduction: Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, Heinrich Heine University Duesseldorf**

Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, born 1961 in Cologne, study of Art History, History, Philosophy in Frankfurt am Main and Göttingen, 1991 doctor of philosophy (Romanische Skulptur als Reflex der kommunalen Entwicklung (Berlin, Akademie-Verlag 1994), 1991 to 2001 scientific referee at the Max-Planck-Institute of History in Göttingen, habilitation 2001 at the Humboldt-University Berlin (Gelehrte im Bild. Selbstdarstellung und Fremdwahrnehmung einer sozialen Gruppe im Mittelalter, Göttingen 2006), from 2001 until now professor of Art History at the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf. 2002 Prix Gay Lussac / Humboldt for french-german scientific exchange on the methods of interpretation of images. since 2012 director of the research training group 'materiality and production' (GRK 1678), since 2014 Vice-President for International Relations of the HHU. Fields of investigation: Medieval iconology, materiality and production in art, representation of 'age' in art, stage design from 16th to 19th century, history of the art market and art mediation. Since 2005, her research focus has been transdisciplinary research on representations of age(ing) in medieval and modern art. In addition, she has published on methodological issues of research on age(ing). Starting in 2010, she has actively established research on ageing at the HHU, was the founding Speaker of the internal GRK *Alter(n) als kulturelle Konzeption und Praxis* (2012-2015), co-founded the series "Alternskulturen" at transcript Verlag, and established the research consortium *Cultural Aging* with partners in Israel, the Netherlands, Spain, and Austria.

**Keynote: Stephen Katz, Trent University, Peterborough (ON)**

**STEPHEN KATZ** (PhD) is Professor (Emeritus) of Sociology, Distinguished Research Award winner, and founding member of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society, at Trent University, Peterborough, Canada. He is author of several books, journal articles, book chapters, and media interviews on ageing bodies, critical gerontology, biopolitics, cognitive impairment, and health technologies. His current research involves partnerships and collaborations on funded projects related to quantified aging and digital technologies, as well as a new book project on Self, Mind and Body in Later Life.

**"Cultural Gerontology, Precarious Life and Resilient Aging: Critical Intersections"**

This presentation explores the relevance of cultural gerontology to critical intersections between ageing, the life-course, precarity, and resilience. In particular it reviews the knowledge-making roles of popular texts, public images, and professional literatures in

precipitating a modern crisis-laden life-course. The first part discusses precarious life as the endangerment of livability for ageing populations as well as the discourses that represent them through identities of crisis and trajectories of risk. Specific examples include child obesity, adolescent instability, mid-life disruption, and late-life memory loss and cognitive change. The second part questions resilience as a popular idea in ageing research and professional practices that promote it as a naturalized capacity expected of individuals, families, and communities, to counteract health risks, social inequalities, economic uncertainties, and spatial displacements. Conclusions move from a critique of resilience to the possibilities of resistance by thinking and living 'otherwise' in the face of precarious life-course futures.

**3.15 p.m.**

### **SESSION 1: TOWARDS A NEW THEORY OF AGEISM**

**Chair: Dov Shmotkin, Tel Aviv University**

**DOV SHMOTKIN** is Professor Emeritus in the School of Psychological Sciences and Head of the Herczeg Institute on Aging, both at Tel Aviv University. He received his PhD from Tel Aviv University. He is a senior clinical psychologist and formerly the head of the clinical psychology graduate program in the School of Psychological Sciences. He was Visiting Scholar in the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Honorary Fellow in the Institute on Aging at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. Dov Shmotkin conducts research that establishes and validates his conceptual model on *the pursuit of happiness in the face of adversity*. This work expands his studies on well-being across the life span as well as on the long-term traumatic effects among Holocaust survivors. His studies examine the interrelations of biographical experiences (e.g., cumulative trauma) with self-conception systems, mainly subjective well-being, meaning in life and the hostile-world scenario. He has explored how personal time perspective shapes the effects of one's biographical experiences in the past as well as one's image of present and future threats that jointly formulate the hostile-world scenario. Dov Shmotkin has been largely engaged in gerontological research on developmental and aging processes along adulthood and late life, focusing on the relations of such processes with current physical and mental health. Part of his gerontological research deals with diverse predictors of mortality.

**Overview: Chris Gilleard, University College London**

**CHRIS GILLEARD** is *Visiting Research Fellow*, in the Division of Psychiatry, Faculty of Brain Sciences at University College London, UK. Formerly trained as a clinical psychologist, he taught at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Edinburgh, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, and St George's Hospital Medical School, London, and Director of Psychology & Psychotherapy, South West London & St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust. His current academic work is concerned (i) with theorising the social changes that are taking place in later life during the period of 'late' or 'second' modernity, (ii) with exploring the social

and intellectual history of ageing and old age in Western society and (iii) charting the forms and inter-relationships between psyche and society.

### **Most recent publications**

C Gilleard (2018) Suffering old age? An exploration of May Sarton's later life in writing.

**Educational Gerontology** 44 (7), 416-424

C Gilleard (2018) From collective representations to social imaginaries: How society represents itself to itself. **European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology** 5 (3), 320-340

C Gilleard (2018) Suffering: The darker side of ageing. **Journal of Aging Studies** 44, 28-33.

C Gilleard, P Higgs (2018) An enveloping shadow: in [eds.] Chivers, S. and Kribernegg, U., **Care home stories: aging, disability, and long-term residential care**. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, pp.229-246.

C Gilleard, P Higgs (2018) Unacknowledged distinctions: Corporeality versus embodiment in later life. **Journal of Aging Studies** 45, 5-10.

### **“The ideology of ageism vs. the social imaginary of the fourth age: Two differing approaches”**

The development of social gerontology has led to the emergence of its own terminology and conceptual armoury. ‘Ageism’ has been a key concept in articulating the mission of gerontology. Introduced in the ‘long’ sixties, it was deliberately intended to act as an equivalent to the concepts of racism and sexism. It has since established itself as a lodestone for thinking about the de-valued and residualised social status of older people in contemporary society. Given this background ageism is often used to describe an overarching ideology that operates in society to the detriment of older people, which in large part is used to explain older people’s economic, social and cultural marginality. This paper critiques this approach and suggests an alternative based upon the idea of the social imaginary of the fourth age. Not only is the idea of ageism too totalising and contradictory but it fails to address both the key aspects of the corporeality of old age and the already existing ambivalence toward old age that pre-dates any particular organisation of modern society. Adopting the idea of a social imaginary offers a more nuanced approach to the tensions that are present in later life without reducing them to an ideology or indeed to any single cause or explanation.

### **Statements**

#### **Irit Bluvstein, Tel Aviv University**

**IRIT BLUVSTEIN** (PhD) is a researcher in the Herczeg Institute on Aging as well as the coordinator of the Institute’s foreign relations. She is a teacher in the Nursing Department, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. She received her PhD from Bar-Ilan

University. She is a psychotherapist and research psychologist. Formerly, she was Head of the research unit at the Ambulatory Psychiatric Department at Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center. Her research focuses on well-being in adulthood, with emphasis on post-traumatic growth, ageism and coping with adversities of patients and health professionals.

Additional info: <http://herczeg.tau.ac.il/index.php/he/people/researchers-he/86-irit-bluvstein.html>

## "Self Ageism: When Ageing becomes a Hostile Experience"

Of the various forms of stereotypes and discrimination where an individual is either affiliated with a discriminated category or not (e.g. sexism, racism), ageism towards the old age is unique since any individual living long enough may be susceptible to it. Much research is devoted to the experience of age stereotypes between individuals, but ageist attitudes may also be internalized and thus, experienced within the individual level, leading to self-ageism. This presentation focuses on the later self-oriented ageism, presenting it from two main perspectives: First, self-ageism will be presented in the context of the hostile world scenario concept (Shmotkin, 2005, 2011; Shmotkin & Shrira, 2012, 2013), where self-ageism may be regarded as a hostile perception or experience of oneself aging. This view will be complemented by preliminary data on the relationship between self-ageism, negative attitudes towards aging and well-being among older bereaved parents and older handicapped persons. Next, the possible relation of self-ageism to the concept of successful aging will be examined. Finally, possible paths of inquiry, for this under-explored area, will be delineated: what are the consequences of self-ageism? Is it possible to maintain well-being despite self-ageism? Are there individuals that are more prone to experience self-ageism? Can it be a target for intervention? And more broadly, what is the significance of self-ageism within the theory of ageism.

## Heike Hartung, independent / University of Potsdam

**HEIKE HARTUNG** is an independent scholar in English Studies, associated at the University of Potsdam, Germany, and the University of Graz, Austria. She has earned her PhD in English Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and her PhD habil. in English Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Potsdam. In her publications she applies the methods of literary theory and cultural studies to the interdisciplinary fields of aging, disability and gender studies. She is the author of the monograph *Ageing, Gender and Illness in Anglophone Literature: Narrating Age in the Bildungsroman* (2016). She is a founding member of ENAS, the European Network in Aging Studies, and a co-editor of the Aging Studies publication series.

## "Between Ageism and Successful Ageing: The Case of Joan Didion"

Ageism is defined as the "stereotypical construction of older people, ageing, and old age" (Ayalon/Tesch-Römer 2018). It is often related to the ambiguities inherent to the ageing process itself, theorized in concepts such as the "dualism of aging" described by Thomas R. Cole as the two poles of normative and healthy, self-reliant old age set against decrepit,

dependent old age (1992), or conceived as the opposition between age identity told in “narratives of progress” or those of “decline” by Margaret M. Gullette (1988). The stereotypes on which ageism relies can be positive, but they are more often negative images, even more frequently so when the focus is on older women. The positive stereotyping that is often an aspect of the discourses of successful or active ageing, available to the ‘young old’ or the ‘third age’, turns negative when the focus is on the ‘oldest old’ or the ‘fourth age’.

Against the background of these constructions of old age and ageism I want to analyse the case of the American writer and journalist Joan Didion, who has become a media icon in her early eighties, as a fourth-ager. In 2015, she became the face of the Parisian luxury brand Céline and in 2017, her nephew Griffin Dunne made her the subject of the Netflix documentary *Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold*. I will argue that Didion’s is an exceptional case which counteracts the “visual ageism” of the media with their avoidance of the frailty of oldest age (Loos/Ivan 2018). At the same time, her case also embodies the contradictions inherent in the discourse of successful ageing, since she represents the positive age stereotype of the resilient older woman who is “allowed a certain visibility to tell us how to grow old gracefully” (Segal 2015). While Didion has thus recently become a media icon of successful oldest age, her cultural significance as a journalist and writer has been enhanced by her publication of two memoirs based on devastating losses she experienced. She examines her grief after the sudden death of her husband in *The Year of Magical Thinking* (2005) and explores the subjects of ageing, illness and death in *Blue Nights* (2011), her memoir for her only daughter Quintana who died two years after her father. I will analyse these two literary texts in order to show how this writer reflects on and counteracts aspects of American age ideology and ageism.

#### References:

Ayalon, Liat and Clemens Tesch-Römer. „Introduction to the Section: Ageism – Concepts and Origins.“ *Contemporary Perspectives on Ageism*. Ed. L. Ayalon, C. Tesch-Römer. International Perspectives on Aging 19, 2018. 1-10.

Cole, Thomas R. *The Journey of Life. A Cultural History of Aging in America*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1992.

Didion, Joan. *Blue Nights*. New York:Vintage, 2012.

Didion, Joan. *The Year of Magical Thinking*. New York: Vintage, 2006.

Gullette, Margaret Morganroth. *Safe at Last in the Middle Years. The Invention of the Midlife Progress Novel*. Berkeley: U o California P, 1988.

Loos, Eugène and Loredana Ivan. „Visual Ageism in the Media.“ *Contemporary Perspectives on Ageism*. Ed. L. Ayalon, C. Tesch-Römer. International Perspectives on Aging 19, 2018. 163-176.

Segal, Lynne. „Invisible Women.“ *London Review of Books Blog* ([www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2015/01/14/lynne-segal/invisible-women/](http://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2015/01/14/lynne-segal/invisible-women/))

## **Erin Lamb, Hiram College (OH)**

**ERIN GENTRY LAMB**, Ph.D. is Herbert L. and Pauline Wentz Andrews Professor of Biomedical Humanities at Hiram College in Ohio. An associate professor and chair of the Biomedical Humanities department, she also serves as Director of the Center for Literature and Medicine. Her research and teaching interests include aging, death and dying, disability, bioethics, health care and social justice, and new biotechnologies, with a particular focus on the social and ethical consequences of anti-aging consumer culture and medicine and the connections between age studies and disability studies. She also works on the pedagogy of health humanities and age studies, including co-authoring a comprehensive report on *Baccalaureate Health Humanities Programs in the United States*, co-editing a textbook on *Research Methods in the Health Humanities* (Oxford, 2019), and co-editing two special issues of *The Journal of Medical Humanities*, one focused on “Pre-Health Humanities” (2017) and one on “Exploring the Why, What and How of Medical Humanities Pedagogy” (2013). Her scholarly work has appeared in *The Journal of Medical Humanities*, *The Health and Humanities Reader*, *The International Journal of Aging and Society*, and *Age, Culture, Humanities*. A founding member and past-chair of the North American Network in Aging Studies (NANAS), she has chaired the executive committee of the Modern Language Association’s (MLA) Forum on Age Studies and the National Women’s Studies Association’s (NWSA) Aging and Ageism Caucus, and serves on the executive committee of the MLA’s Forum on Medical Humanities and Health Studies.

### **"Not Your Grandmother’s Ageism?: Ageism across the Life Course"**

Since Robert Butler first coined the term in 1969, *ageism* has been used most often to refer to prejudice against older people, and age studies has primarily focused on aging into old age. But age discrimination is not unique to later life; a recent survey of twenty-nine European countries by Bratt, Abrams, Swift, Vaulcair and Marques (2017) found “higher levels of perceived age discrimination among younger people than among older people” (176). In this presentation, I will explore the utility of *ageism* as a concept applied to younger people and how the term registers differently when applied at different stages of the life course. I will consider whether an increasingly broadened use of the term might dilute the agenda for “ending ageism” central to the work of many in age studies, or whether it might open up new avenues for intergenerational solidarity.

**6.00 p.m.**

### **EVENING LECTURE: Andreas Kruse, Heidelberg University**

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. **ANDREAS KRUSE** (1955), study of Psychology, Philosophy at the Universities of Aachen and Bonn and Music at the State Conservatory in Cologne, doctoral degree in Psychology at Bonn University (summa cum laude et egregia), Habilitation treatise in Psychology at Heidelberg University. Since 1997 Professor (chair), director of the Institute of Gerontology at Heidelberg, from 2007 until 2011 Dean of the Faculty for Behavioral and Cultural Studies (Heidelberg University). His innovative research projects from 2004 until 2011 included: Gero-Psychosomatic medicine, Quality of life with dementia, Individual

rehabilitation and care in patients with dementia, Development of assisted technology, Beacon project regarding the quality of life in patients with dementia, Gerontological orthopedagogy, Geriatric research regarding the potential for rehabilitation, Terminal care in the context of general medical care, Development of structural provisions for the work with the older persons in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, Development of structural provisions for the work with the older persons in Latin America, Interdisciplinary research in the Humanities regarding borderline situations in the process of aging (in co-operation with the Institute of European Ethnology of the University of Marburg and the Institute of Philosophy of Dresden Technical University), Transcultural comparison of concepts of aging in seven countries, Qualification of older employees, Analysis and description of the situation of patients in Germany and Europe suffering from the long-term aftereffects of thalidomide (National Study on Contergan), The Potential of Aging – Development of novel concepts in the domain of aging (private and public) from an intercultural perspective.

He received the Honorary doctorate of the Faculty for Human Sciences, University of Osnabrück and is laureate of the Cross of the Order of Merit (Federal Republic of Germany).

**"Life Structure, Spirituality, and Transcendence – a Theoretical, Empirical and Ethical Approach to Human Existence in Old Age"**

**Thursday, 29 November 2018**

**9.00 a.m.**

**SESSION 2: ETHICS AND AGEING**

**Chair: Peter Derkx, University for Humanistic Studies, Utrecht**

**PETER DERKX** (Dr.) (1951) studied English Language and Literature, Philosophy and History at universities in Utrecht, Glasgow and Groningen. From 1989 until 2003 he was associate professor of the History of Humanism at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht in the Netherlands. From 2003 until 2016 he was full professor of Humanism and Worldviews at the same university. From 2008 until the present he has been involved in research at the interface between **humanist traditions, meaning in life and ageing well**. In this context he published a book (in Dutch) and a set of articles on the ethical evaluation of substantial life extension. Since 2015 he has been studying the importance and specificity of the contribution of the humanities to an interdisciplinary gerontology. For the NANAS-ENAS conference to be held at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada in May 2019 he has organised a panel on *Why is the study of novels and short stories important for aging studies?*

**Publications:**

- 'Engineering substantially prolonged human lifespans: biotechnological enhancement and ethics', in: Ricca Edmondson & Hans-Joachim von Kondratowitz (eds.), *Valuing Older People: A Humanist Approach to Ageing*. Bristol: The Policy Press, 2009: 177-198.

- 'A humanist evaluation of substantial life extension through biomedical research and technology', in: Anthony B. Pinn (ed.) *Humanism and Technology: Opportunities and Challenges*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016: 99-122.

## Statements

### Daniel Schäfer, Cologne University

**DANIEL SCHÄFER** (Prof. Dr.) has been an Associate Professor at the Institute for History and Ethics of Medicine at the University of Cologne since 2007. His habilitation thesis (2002; published in English 2011) deals with early modern protogeriatrics in the mirror of medical university publications and multidisciplinary treatises of scholarly culture. Since then, he has extensively researched the interaction between medical, philosophical and social concepts of age from the 17th to the early 20th century.

### "Historical Reflections on Ethics of Ageing: Examples from the 16th Century"

The paper attempts to collect historical references to moral behaviour in old age from various text sources from the late 16th century (written by Gerolamo Cardano and Gabriele Paleotti) and to compare them with modern ethics of ageing. It becomes clear from a historical perspective:

1. Old age of course is not only an anthropological constant, but also a cultural construct formed by negative as well as positive images and stereotypes of old age; these constructs for their part are influenced by external factors (for instance contemporary labor conditions, income, technical opportunities).
2. Ethical issues in respect of the elderly are not independent of time, they emerge in the respective cultural-historical context, but the leading philosophical and religious themes of an epoch also have a bearing on them: Given the self-determination of the elderly is rather a topic of the 21<sup>st</sup> century than of the 16<sup>th</sup> then the historian will see it as typical for our time and its paradigms, but it is not necessarily an indication of a real worsening of the autonomy of the aged in the last four centuries.
3. Although Cardano and Paleotti experienced ageing in a similar way at almost the same time and in a neighboring geographical area their different positions show that the result of ethical discourses – despite the rationality of the argumentation – is not neutral or even objective, but dependent on the premisses of the discussants and the atmosphere of the respective discourse.
4. It results from the texts of early modern time that the ethics of age must be related to practice. The disadvantages of ageing have to be correctly named, but its advantages must also be recognized, then a conclusion can be drawn. The well-intentioned appeal to the elderly to use their mind and make provisions will only be helpful for those who live correspondingly. From a modern psychologic point of view, it seems essential to

encourage positive stereotypes of age, thus celebrate old age as *bonum* in the way Paleotti did it, or at least accept it as an important part of human life.

## **Vasilija Rolfes & Heiner Fangerau, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**

**VASILIJA ROLFES** has a degree in philosophy. She is currently working as medical ethicist at the Department of History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf. Her research interests are ethical implications of new medical technologies, ethical issues of prenatal and reproductive medicine and stigmatization in the context of medicine.

**HEINER FANGERAU** (Prof. Dr. med) is the director of the Department of History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf. He is a medical historian and medical ethicist. His research interests encompass the history of biomedicine in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, history and ethics of psychiatry, history and ethics of mechanization processes in medicine.

### **"Between Participation, Autonomy, and Control? Ethics and the Technization of Ageing"**

M-Health, E-Health and ambient assisted living: On the technization of ageing and responsibility

Today senior citizens are offered mobile health tools for prevention, e.g. for monitoring chronic conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes, or for improving adherence to therapies. For older people, the main aspect is the improvement of the quality of life by such mobile solutions compared to conventional methods, while from a professional point of view, better adherence to a prescribed regimen as well as meticulous monitoring may serve to prevent long-term damages that might be caused as a result of a more careless approach. Simultaneously, senior citizens are increasingly represented as active and responsible for their own well-being. Both developments raise, besides their advantages, a number of ethical questions.

The presentation intends to put these ethical questions surrounding privacy, autonomy, justice, participation etc. into a broader historical context. The historical context and the technological developments in healthcare for senior citizens will be considered against the principle of responsibility (who is responsible, for what, to whom, when and how). For example, people who use health related apps for recreational purposes, training or other health related tasks are usually confident that those who provide the apps (vendors as well as developers) follow the unwritten rules with respect to how personal data should be handled or not. However, there are divergent interests involved that may lead some providers of mHealth apps to collect data and use them for purposes that the users are not aware of (and would never or only hesitatingly acquiesce to if they were told), e.g. marketing.

The presentation, thus, addresses the temporality of norm conflicts in the use of medical technologies designed for senior citizens and the responsibility of senior citizens for their own health. On the one hand, ethical risks and opportunities of m-health devices combined with the urge for active aging and responsibility will be scrutinized and analysed, on the other hand these ethical debates will be compared diachronically with similar debates in the past. The objective of this comparison is to detect commonalities and differences in the ethical reasoning about health-related technologies for the aged at different times against different social settings.

### **Dov Shmotkin, Tel Aviv University**

For the short biography see 28 November 2018.

### **"The Ethics of Pursuing Happiness in the Face of Adversity: The Paradigm of Ageing"**

This presentation examines the conceptual model of *the pursuit of happiness in a hostile world* (Shmotkin, 2005, 2011; Shmotkin & Shrira, 2012, 2013) and its ethical implications in the study of aging populations. A core concept in this model is the *hostile-world scenario* (HWS), referring to one's image of actual or potential threats to one's life, or more broadly, to one's physical or mental integrity. The HWS is a system of self-beliefs about possible inflictions such as disasters, wars, accidents, violence, abuse, breakup of close relations, loss of loved ones, illness, aging, and death. Usually, the HWS adaptively monitors the individual's feasibility to sustain well-being in ever-dangerous conditions of life. In this vein, the HWS functions, sometimes dialectically, with positive psychological systems such as *subjective well-being* (people's evaluations of their satisfaction and pleasantness in life) and *meaning in life* (people's conceptions that they lead a life suitable to their values and potentials). In face of adversity, however, the HWS may be overly activated and produce a sense of precarious living in a terribly threatening world.

Recently, this model has been largely tested among older populations. The HWS is expected to increase in old age as aging involves acute threats of declines and losses. Besides heterogeneous community samples, the current studies have addressed targeted samples that presumably experienced aroused HWS due to their particular life experiences. These samples included older people living in severe poverty, older bereaved parents who lost a child because of illness or accident, older handicapped persons, and older gay men.

Such research on people who live in adverse life conditions involves ethical issues as the following. (1) *Researchers should be sensitive and empathetic to the study's potential participants*. Thus, some of those who endured devastating experiences may refuse to take part in a study that can possibly raise unwanted feelings of misery, whereas some others with those experiences may be willing, and even eager, to tell about their experiences and convey their insights. (2) *Researchers should be sensitive and empathetic to the particular adversities of the study's participants*. Accordingly, the current studies added to the model's core concepts also dimensions that respectively addressed the predicament of each targeted sample. For example, the study designs included several criteria for classifying people in poverty, assessment of complicated grief among the bereaved parents, queries on body image among the handicapped

persons, and ratings of both self-acceptance and self-disclosure of one's sexual orientation among the gay men. (3) *Even when particular populations are overpowered by vulnerability, researchers should be attentive to any potential resilience.* In this way, along with depletion of resources in stressful time, findings showed that all the disadvantageous samples revealed adaptive coping. For example, in a compensatory mechanism, the two systems of subjective well-being and meaning in life substituted for each other, so that when either one was weakened, the other one took a stronger role in the individual's adaptive outcomes.

More broadly, there is an ethical message in the insight that old age is actually a paradigm for a universal state of life where vulnerability and resilience are constantly intertwined. Old people, in any condition, may be eventually doomed to wither and wane, but they have the right, and often the capability, to bloom and thrive. Intriguingly, an array of scholars and artists were aware of this dialectical nature of aging when they were still young. Indeed, one does not necessarily have to be old in order to grasp the experience of old age.

## **Hanne Laceulle, University for Humanistic Studies, Utrecht**

**HANNE LACEULLE** is assistant professor 'Philosophy of Life Course and Art of Living' at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, The Netherlands. She graduated with distinction ('cum laude') in the PhD program of the same university. Her dissertation was a cultural-philosophical critique on contemporary cultural narratives about aging and later life, and an attempt to formulate philosophical building blocks for alternative cultural counter stories. Her dissertation won the ENAS award for Best PhD-thesis in Aging Studies in 2017, and has recently been published in bookform in the Aging Studies Series of Transcript Verlag (*Aging and Self-realization. Cultural narratives about later life*). Her research interests broadly include ethics, aging and identity, addressing topics like self-realization, narrative and moral identity, moral agency, autonomy, authenticity, virtue, purpose and dignified aging. She is particularly committed to seeking interdisciplinary cooperation in the study of these topics.

### **"Becoming who You are. Ageing and the Ethics of Authenticity"**

Socio-cultural influences such as stereotyping dominant cultural narratives about aging and later life impact our identity-constitution as older persons and influence our chances of leading a good life. In this paper, I discuss two basic critiques against contemporary cultural narratives about old age: they fail to acknowledge the positive potentials for growth and development of later life, and they fall short of providing people with viable ways to relate to their inevitable existential vulnerability. Subsequently, I will present a philosophical ethical framework that suggests fruitful ways to reconceptualize cultural and social imaginaries on how to age well that can counter such objections.

The presented framework is based on the ethics of authenticity, historically rooted in the work of Rousseau, then embraced by existentialist philosophers such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Heidegger, and finally analyzed as influential model for contemporary ideas about the good life by Taylor, Meyers and Ferrara. Authenticity, according to these thinkers, represents an ethical ideal of being true to yourself, of 'becoming who you are', of originality

and sincerity, and has interestingly developed into one of the main requirements late modern individuals feel they have to answer to in their lives.

I will briefly discuss how ideas about authenticity have developed historically in the work of these thinkers, and then indicate how these ideas, though usually not explicitly framed in terms of authenticity, have found their way into gerontology as well. My paper will conclude with a discussion of four relevant aspects through which the ethics of authenticity may contribute to the development of alternative cultural narratives about later life.

**11.45 a.m.**

### **SESSION 3: THE ARTS AND OLD AGE**

**Chair: Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, Heinrich Heine University,  
Düsseldorf**

For the short biography see 28 November 2018.

### **Statements I**

**Oana Ursulesku, Graz University**

**OANA URSULESKU** is a doctoral student in language and literature at the University of Novi Sad (Serbia). In her dissertation, she focuses on aspects of intermediality in the novels and films of American author Paul Auster. Her primary research focus is on contemporary American literature and culture, aging studies, as well as literatures in plurilingual and minority contexts in Southeastern Europe. In the spring semester of 2018, she was visiting scholar at Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. She works at the Plurilingualism Research Unit and the Center for Inter-American Studies, both at the University of Graz. She has been involved in the organization and coordination of numerous extracurricular events, among which the *Graz International Summer School Seggau* and the conference *AgeingGraz2017*. She is also co-editor of the *Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought* publication series. Oana is an active literary translator between Serbian, Romanian, and English and a published author of short fiction.

### **"Ageing Masculinities in Contemporary Southeast European Literatures and Cinemas"**

The objective of this presentation is the analysis of cultural constructions of aging masculinities in/through their cultural representations in contemporary Southeast European literatures and cinemas. If age studies focus on youth and gerontology studies of either older women or "ungendered" portraits of ageing (Saxton and Cole 2012), this presentation aims at exploring the gendered specificities of men's ageing in a specific temporal and geographic space.

In understanding more fully the interrelationship of masculinities with a variety of social issues specifically associated with men's ageing, the presentation focuses on how aging masculinities are described, portrayed, coded, and/or deconstructed in cultural representations. The analyzed cultural products are those which have aging male characters at their thematic center, and which were produced in the Southeast European cultural context in the time after 1990. The timeframe was chosen because the time after the fall of the Berlin Wall coincides with the fastest greying period of the European population (Backes et al. 2006), and also because this period marks a dramatic increase in cultural productions about ageing characters (Tracy 2018). Specifically, on the examples of a film (*The Death of Mister Lăzărescu*, Romania, 2005) and a novel (*Mamac*, Serbia, 2011), I aim to point to merely several of the many social issues opening up when questions of masculinity, aging, immigration, and a transitioning society, come together in one cultural product. I will apply a close reading of the two mentioned texts, at the same time positioning them in the wider context of cultural production in the region and in Europe as a whole.

### **Núria Casado Gual, University of Lleida**

**NÚRIA CASADO-GUAL** (Dr.) lectures in Theatre in English, and Literature and Theatre for Education at the University of Lleida (Catalonia, Spain). She is the author of a PhD thesis on the dramatization of racism in Edgar Nkosi White's plays (2006), and has published numerous articles on this and other contemporary playwrights. Her current research field is cultural gerontology, which she has mainly explored through literary, film and theatre studies. As the Principal Investigator of the research group "Grup Dedal-Lit", which conducts research on ageing and literature, she has co-edited the volumes *The Polemics of Ageing as Reflected in Literatures in English* (2004) and *Literary Creativity and the Older Woman Writer: A Collection of Critical Essays* (2016). She has led the competitive project "Ageing and Gender in Contemporary Literary Creation in English" (funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, 2013-2015) and has participated in the European project SforAGE (2012-2016) as part of the research team. She is currently co-Principal Investigator of the projects "Ageing, Creativity and Quality of Life through Narrative", of the Spanish programme "Retos para la Sociedad del Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad", and "Healthy Ageing, Quality of Life and Intergenerational Relationships", funded by the INDEST Research Institute of the University of Lleida. Even though her current research interests include the interaction between age and theatrical and cinematic creativity, theatre studies remain her main field of expertise, which she explores from both a theoretical and practical point of view as a scholar and theatre practitioner. Six of her playtexts have been published to date, and the last one (*Prime Time*, on ageing and ageism) received a long-lasting theatre production in Barcelona and other Catalan theatres (2016-2017) and continues to tour today. She was recently been awarded a fellowship from the Spanish Ministry of Education (Programa José Castillejo) to conduct research on theatre and ageing at the Keele Centre for Ageing Research of Keele University (UK) in 2018, on which this paper is based.

### **"Exploring Old Age Theatrically-Wise: Later-Life Creativity and the Discourses of Ageing through the Lens of Senior Theatre"**

In her article "'The Play's The Thing': Theatre as a Scholarly Meeting Ground in Age Studies" (2012), Valerie Barnes Lipscomb states that theatre studies can enrich the interdisciplinary study of ageing from at least three angles: in the first place, as a source of analysis of the phenomenon of ageism, especially through the study of plays and the analysis of performances; in the second place, as an instrument to develop a narrative approach towards ageing and, hence, understand old age through its diverse and subjective character; and, finally, by taking into account the "performative" aspect of age and ageing, for which the theatre is a natural element of expression and, therefore, an ideal field of study. Taking this triple perspective as general framework, and with the intention of extending the enriching interaction between theatre and age studies to the interconnected fields of applied drama and theatre, this paper explores the potential of applied drama and devised theatre as instruments to both raise awareness of ageism and develop strategies of "conscientization," in Paulo Freire's terms (1970), among older theatre practitioners and their audiences; to gather and reproduce narratives which endow older actors with a renovated and integrative view of their age-based identity; and to enhance the strategies whereby (old) age is embodied and performed, often stereotypically, in the theatre and in everyday life. The analysis will be based on fieldwork conducted with the directors, associated artists and actors of three of the better known of senior-theatre companies within the rich map of senior theatre in the UK, namely, Ages and Stages (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Feeling Good Theatre Company (Leeds) and Elders Company (Manchester). In the light of recent developments within the increasingly interconnected fields of ageing and theatre studies (Basting 2016, Bernard and Munro 2015, Lipscomb 2016, Mangan 2013, Reynolds et al. 2016, Schweitzer 2007), both the participant observation work and interviews conducted with the companies during a research stay in 2018, and some of their most recent scripts will be examined in order to distinguish the different theatrical practices and narratives they promote, as well as the images and discourses of ageing that are derived from them.

## **Andreas Schuch, Graz International Bilingual School**

**ANDREAS SCHUCH** is an English and Computer Science teacher and currently employed at the Caritas Secondary School for Economic Professions and Social Management in Graz, Austria. He is also a PhD student in the field of Game Studies and project assistant for the EU-funded program "MYSTY", which aims to introduce and support the use of digital storytelling in different school contexts to help develop intercultural, digital and other competences. His recent fields of work in academia and education include aesthetic illusion in digital games, game-based learning, digital literacies and intercultural competences.

### **"Digital Games as a Means of Raising Awareness about Ageism and Gender Discrimination: Three Principles for Teachers and Game Developers"**

This chapter presents three principles for how digital games could be used by teachers or designed by game developers to raise awareness about and discuss discrimination, stereotyping, inequality, and other issues connected to age, aging, gender identity, and sexual preference. In other words, an intersectional approach is developed with special focus

on age and gender aiming to facilitate learning and game design processes about harmful social constructions. The three principles are (1) encourage minimizing hurdles for players to access and play games, (2) diversify the content within a game or across multiple games, and (3) encourage intergenerational learning processes. These principles primarily draw on educational research, but are intended to be used by teachers and game developers alike. Regarding principle 2, a model is derived from sample games with the goal to inform lesson plan creation and game selection processes for teachers as well as design choices for game developers. The independent digital game development scene served as the primary source for the development of the model. Because games revolving around age- and aging-related topics appear to be exceedingly rare, the proposed principles were initially developed with LGBTQ\* topics in mind. However, it is demonstrated that the developed model can also be applied to other social dimensions such as age.

**2.15 p.m.**

**LECTURE PERFORMANCE: Susanne Martin, Berlin**

**SUSANNE MARTIN** (PhD) is a Berlin-based choreographer, performer, researcher, and teacher in the field of contemporary dance and theatre. She presents her work internationally in solo performances and collaborative stage works. Her artistic practice and research focus on improvisation as choreographic practice, narrations of the age(ing) body, contact improvisation, and practice as research/artistic research. Festivals that presented her performances include: International Dance and Theatre Festival (Gothenburg), Aerowaves (London), Nottedance (Nottingham), Opera Estate (Bassano del Grappa), Tanec Praha (Prague). Her PhD dissertation *Dancing Age(ing)* was published 2017 by transcript. In her current postdoctoral research at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne she focusses on the collaborative aspects of improvisation.

[www.susannemartin.de](http://www.susannemartin.de)

**"Dancing Age(ing): Performing Ambiguity"**

What does dance have to offer in terms of alternative ways of doing age(ing) and representing age(ing)?

How can a contemporary dance piece address the ambiguity and multiplicity of living through time and avoid repeating stereotypical progress - peak - decline narratives?

As a choreographer I work on the subject of age(ing) since 2003. 2011 - 2016 I made age(ing) the topic of my practice as research PhD in dance studies. Since then and for the very specific conditions of the academic context I develop danced lectures on age(ing), which are a combination of performing and discussing scenes from age-critical or anocritical stage works. In other words, I try to contribute to a critical understanding of age(ing) within and beyond theatre spaces and by using the creative / reflective tools and methods I develop as dancer and performance maker.

## Statements II (Session 3, continued)

### Emma Domínguez-Rué, University of Lleida

**EMMA DOMÍNGUEZ-RUÉ** graduated in English at the University of Lleida (Catalonia) and studied an MA in English Literature at Swansea University (UK). Her PhD dissertation was published in 2011 with the title *Of Lovely Tyrants and Invisible Women: Invalidism as Metaphor in the Fiction of Ellen Glasgow* (Berlin: Logos Verlag). Aside from ageing studies, she has worked on narratives of disease, contemporary detective fiction, and Victorian and Gothic fiction under a feminist perspective. She is Associate professor and Degree Coordinator for English Studies in the Department of English at the University of Lleida and has recently co-edited three volumes on Ageing Studies: *Ageing and Technology: Perspectives from the Social Sciences* (transcript 2016, with Linda Nierling), *Literary Creativity and the Older Woman Writer: A Collection of Essays* (Peter Lang 2016, with Núria Casado-Gual and Brian Worsfold) and *Re-discovering Age(ing) Through Narratives of Mentorship: Essays in Cultural Gerontology* (Peter Lang 2018, with Núria Casado-Gual and Maricel Oró-Piqueras).

### "Age Identity and Gender Normativity in Detective Fiction: The Amateur Sleuth"

This paper examines the figure of the amateur spinster detective in contemporary detective fiction: from the demure Miss Jane Marple of the Golden Age to the fiercely self-reliant Vic Warshawski, detective fiction as a popular genre has portrayed cultural structures and their evolution.

Even though contemporary women detectives have taken a decided step towards challenging stereotypes in the last decades – not only as regards the construction of the detective character but also towards the renovation of the genre itself (Klein 1995) –, social constructs still offer predominantly negative views on the ageing process specially as it affects women. In detective fiction as in life, “the double standard of ageing” as expressed by Susan Sontag (1997) combines ageism with sexism in a process of sexual disqualification that patriarchal discourse imposes upon women once they become “too old” to be sexually enticing to men. This article briefly outlines the evolution of the amateur detective and its interaction with ageing and gender, and offers a case study that explores the work of feminist theorist Carolyn Heilbrun and her double profile as detective writer Amanda Cross. Her amateur sleuth Kate Fansler challenges cultural representations of age identity and gender normativity, which still relegate middle-aged women to invisibility, and instead proposes a detective character who offers new available roles to the amateur spinster.

### Hanna Baro, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

**HANNA BARO** M.A. studied art history, English linguistics and literature and museum studies in Heidelberg (Germany) and Melbourne (Australia). Since 2016 she has been working as a research associate in the Art History Department at Duesseldorf University where here teaching ranges from early modern to contemporary art. Hanna is currently a PhD candidate at Humboldt-University in Berlin, preparing a doctoral dissertation on the concepts of ageing, transience and temporality in 20th and 21st century art. From 2012-2016 she was a doctoral fellow within the MaxNetAging research school at both the Max-Planck-

Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock (Germany) and the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence (Italy) – Max-Planck-Institute. From 2015-2018 she was an associated member of the postgraduate research program 'Materiality and Production', funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation) at Duesseldorf University.

Her research interests include modern and contemporary art, the history of science, the materiality of art and its production, and visual ageing studies.

### "Ageing: What's Art got to do with it? "

In my paper, I argue that it is crucial to look at the concept and manifestation of 'ageing' not only in regard to human beings but also in relation to art itself and especially to its material objects. Because ageing is a process not only affecting living organisms but also works of art. Some artworks are created with the ambition to last for centuries, others with the notion to reflect and openly show their ageing process. Again, other works have a very short 'life-span' and are meant to 'die' as Jean Tinguely's *Homage to New York* (1960), a work that famously self-destructed during a performance in MoMA's sculpture garden in New York; from birth (creation) to death (destruction) within a few minutes. MoMA's curator Peter Selz underlined the metaphor of the dying object when he remarked of the work: "Its dynamic energy as well as its final self-destruction – are they not artistic equivalents for our own culture?" Half a century after Tinguely's *Homage to New York*, in a time when popular media are torn between representation of enduring war and terrorism and a cult of longevity and eternal youth, contemporary artists are intensely engaged with notions of ageing, transience, and mortality. Taking Tinguely's work as a point of departure, my paper will examine contemporary artworks that use similar *modi operandi* to illustrate the broader implications of the current discourse on ephemeral or 'ageing' artworks. These works, I argue, offer insight into how contemporary artists strategically deploy the fragility of made objects to call attention not only to the transience of materiality, but more importantly to the metaphysical angst this deterioration and destruction provokes. In so doing they put critical pressure on the reception and representation of ageing and mortality in contemporary art and society.

**4.30 p.m.**

#### **SESSION 4: DEMENTIA AND CAREGIVING**

**Chair: Henriette Herwig, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**

**PROF. DR. HENRIETTE HERWIG**, born 1956, studied German Language and Literature, Theology and Social Sciences with a full bright scholarship from the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes* at the universities of Kassel (Germany), Zürich and Berne (Switzerland). She obtained her PhD in Kassel (1985), her *venia legendi* in Berne (1996). Her dissertation on dialogue structures in Botho Strauss' dramas was published in 1986, her habilitation on Goethe's late novel "Wilhelm Meister's Journeyman Years" in 1997. The academic Year 1988/89 she spent as visiting scholar at Harvard University and Duke University. After having taught German Literature in Berne, as well as in Basel, Berlin, Freiburg/Br., Fribourg, Kassel and Vienna she was appointed full Professor at Freiburg University (Germany) in 2001. Since April 2003, she holds a chair for German Literature at the Heinrich-Heine-University of Duesseldorf (Germany) where she co-founded the Graduate School "alternskulturen. aging: cultural concepts and practical realisations" and the interdisciplinary research group on aging studies. The summer term 2017 she spent as Max Kade-Guest Professor at the University of

California Davis. Publications on Goethe, romanticism, 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup> century German, Swiss and Austrian literature, women's literature, Age and Gender, literary theory, Gender Studies and Cultural Gerontology.

## Statements

### Lara Keuck, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**LARA KEUCK** specializes in history of science and philosophy of medicine. She holds a Branco Weiss Fellowship from ETH Zürich for her project on “Learning from Alzheimer’s disease. A history of biomedical models of mental illness”, and leads a junior research group at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Her most recent publications include “Diagnosing Alzheimer’s Disease in Kraepelin’s Clinic, 1909-1912.” *History of the Human Sciences* (special issue “Psychopathological Fringes: Knowledge making and boundary work in 20th century psychiatry”, edited by N. Henckes, V. Hess and M. Reinholdt) 31 (2018):42–64; “History as a biomedical matter: Recent reassessments of the first cases of Alzheimer’s disease” *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* (topical collection “New Perspectives in the History of Twentieth-Century Life Sciences”, edited by R. Meunier and K. Nickelsen) 40 (2018):10; “Slicing the Cortex to Study Mental Illness: Alois Alzheimer’s Pictures of Equivalence”. In: T. Mahfoud, S. McLean, N. Rose (eds.): *Vital Models. The Making and Use of Models in the Brain Sciences. Progress in Brain Research* 233 (2017): 25–51; and a co-edited volume with Geert Keil and Rico Hauswald on *Vagueness in Psychiatry* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

### "From ‚Senium Praecox‘ to Old Age as Risk Factor: Ageing in the History of Alzheimer’s Disease"

The history of Alzheimer’s disease can be told as a history of probing the relationships between ageing and disease. This talk revisits and contextualizes the programmatic accounts of Emil Kraepelin (1911), Robert Katzman (1976), and Ronald Petersen (1999), and looks at how their conceptions of ageing figured in their respective understandings of Alzheimer’s disease as a ‘biomedical’ issue.

At the beginning of the twentieth-century, Emil Kraepelin, took the age-(in)dependence of Alzheimer’s disease to be an open question. The general understanding that biological ageing was associated with mental decline led him to speculate about the possibility of an acceleration of this process in pre-senile cases of Alzheimer’s disease. The clinical and histopathological ordering of organic brain diseases was of interest because it could provide support for the scientificity and legitimacy of psychiatry. In the second-half of the century, Katzman combined a political plea to consider dementia as a cause of death and a focus for research funding—comparable to Nixon’s “war on cancer”—with the hypothesis that dementia occurred more often with old age, but did not necessarily accompany ageing. According to his research programme, dementia should be assessed and researched as a medical problem—a problem to be treated and prevented, precisely because healthy ageing was possible. In the late 1990s Petersen identified the detection of markers for predicting dementia as a precondition for effective therapies against neurodegeneration. In this

framework, old age became integrated as a risk factor, with healthy ageing increasingly turning from a possible biological trajectory to an active task for the individual.

Interpretations of these three accounts figure in almost every history of Alzheimer's disease, and have been used to either elucidate the scientific evolution of the disease's concept or to illustrate the medicalization of ageing. My aim is somewhat different, namely to reinvigorate the various ways in which both ageing and the hypothesized relationship between ageing and dementia have figured in the articulation of research programmes within their specific political, institutional and economic contexts.

## **Shingo Shimada, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**

Prof. **SHINGO SHIMADA** (Dr. phil.): Chair of Modern Japanese Studies II, Department of Japanese Studies, Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf. Research field: Comparative sociology of aging. Publications: *Altersdemenz und lokale Fürsorge im deutsch-japanischen Vergleich*. Bielefeld: transcript, 2018; *Die Erfindung Japans. Kulturelle Wechselwirkung und nationale Identitätskonstruktion*. Frankfurt a.M./New York: Campus 2007; (with Christian Tagsold) *Alternde Gesellschaften im Vergleich: Solidarität und Pflege in Deutschland und Japan*. Bielefeld: transcript 2006; *Grenzgänge – Fremdgänge. Japan und Europa im Kulturvergleich*. Frankfurt a.M./New York: Campus 2000.

### **"Dementia and the Concept of Person"**

This contribution summarizes the theoretical results of an empirical research project in Japan and discusses the relationship between the concept of the person and the care of dementia patients. Here it is emphasized that in contrast to the bioethical discussion in philosophy a relational conceptualization of the person is important and necessary.

## **Raquel Medina, Aston University Birmingham**

**RAQUEL MEDINA** (PhD) is Head of Spanish at Aston University, *School of Languages and Social Sciences, Aston Triangle* since January **2017**. Her research projects concern CinemAGender (for what she is **Director** of the International Research Network), the International Network of Dementia Culture Narratives (**Co-Director** with Dr Sarah Falcus), "Escritoras y Escrituras" (**Collaborator**), Gynocine (**Collaborator**) and Genealogías (**Principal Collaborator**). The most recent publication of Raquel Medina is the monography *Cinematic Representations of Alzheimer's Disease*. Palgrave MacMillan, August 2018, 221 pp. ISBN 9781137533708.

### **"The Politics of Memory: Documentary Films with People Living with Dementia"**

Forgetting the historical past in the age of Alzheimer's disease (AD) is particularly interesting and offers symbolic parallelisms. Alzheimer's disease starts to emerge as both a metaphor for talking about historical, individual, and collective memory in cultural texts and as a global reality. In countries in which dictatorial and repressive regimes were followed by democratic governments, the questions of what to remember or what to forget emerged with full force. Forgetting or remembering for the good of the country, and for a definitive reconciliation of its people, is developed into the master narrative of many democratic governments during transitional periods. This presentation aims to investigate the depiction of Alzheimer's disease as a metaphor to discuss questions around historical memory and forgetting, postmemory, and personal and collective memory in documentary films dealing with forgetting and remembering in Spain and Argentina. Amongst the many documentary films that deal with historical memory in these two countries, this presentation will analyse those which have as their focal point and /or main characters people living with AD. In addition, the different ways in which the person living with AD are placed in front of the camera inevitably fosters exploring the ethical boundaries of representation. *El tiempo suspendido/Time Suspended* by Natalia Bruschtein (Mexico 2015) and *Cartas a María/Letters to María* by Maite García Ribot (Spain 2014) will be at centre of this analysis, although other documentary films will be also considered.

## **Birgit Meyer, Opera Cologne**

**BIRGIT MEYER** was born in Cologne and studied medicine in Regensburg and Munich from 1979 to 1986. After completing her studies, she began a degree in theatre studies, while working at hospital "Klinikum Rechts der Isar" in Munich and completing the requirements for her formal medical doctorate, which was conferred at the beginning of 1990. She continued her theatre studies, with an emphasis on opera until 1992, when she was hired as a dramaturge at the Tiroler Landestheater in Innsbruck. She re-mained there until 1999, rising to the post of head music dramaturge. In the summers between 1996 and 2001 she was employed at the Salzburg Festival. She joined the management at the Vienna Volksoper as head dramaturge in 1999, where she remained until 2009. There she developed and led various exhibitions and events relating to the program of the Volksoper. She taught dramaturgy at the Bavarian Theatre Academy in Munich from 2004 to 2008. In the autumn of 2009 she was appointed a lecturer in dramaturgy for the stage direction course at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna.

Birgit Meyer has been director of opera and head dramaturge at the Opera Cologne since 2009.

## **"Opera and Dementia – The Project „Oper für Jung und Alt“ at the Children's Opera Cologne"**

The project ›Oper für Jung und Alt – Opera for Every Age‹, which won the 2017 Rudi Assauer Prize, the most important award for dementia projects in Germany, enables people with dementia and their accompanying persons to attend performances at the Cologne Opera. They come to see selected performances from the regular performance schedule of

the Cologne Children's Opera. These productions are suitable for children and adults alike and offer the highest standards of music and acting. The audience experiences a performance in close proximity to the singers, making direct contact with them, and the entire ensemble is attuned to the audience's reactions. Together with the young audience members, a visit to the opera thus becomes an intergenerational experience.

**7.00 p.m.**

**PANEL DISKUSSION: "Why Do We Need Cultural Perspectives on Ageing?"**

**Chair: Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, Heinrich Heine University  
Düsseldorf**

**with**

**Stephen Katz, Trent University, Peterborough (ON)**

For the short biography see 28 November 2018.

**Dov Shmotkin, Tel Aviv University**

For the short biography see 28 November 2018.

**Mirko Sporket, University of Applied Sciences, Münster**

**MIRKO SPORKET** is Professor of sociology (ageing and demography) at the University of Applied Sciences in Münster, Germany since 2013. His previous appointments were the position of a Researcher at the Institute of Gerontology (Technical University of Dortmund), 2003-2009 as well as at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Rostock/Germany) and deputy director of the Max Planck International Research Network on Aging (MaxNetAging).

**Ulla Kribernegg, Graz University**

**ULLA KRIEBERNEGG** is Associate Professor and co-director of the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz. The focus of her work in the field of literary and cultural gerontology is on cultural representations of aging and old age as well as on biogerontological discourses and dementia. In her latest book *Putting Age in its Place*, which is forthcoming with Winter Verlag, Heidelberg (2019), she analyses the fictional world of long-term residential care in contemporary North American film and fiction, looking at the role of space and place for the narrative construction of old age and care. This question was also

central for the volume *Care Home Stories: Aging, Disability, and Long-Term Residential Care* (transcript 2017), which she co-edited with Sally Chivers. Ulla Kribernegg directs the project “Alter(n) und Pflege gemeinsam neu denken: Interdisziplinäre Alter(n)sforschung am Standort Steiermark“ („Rethinking Age/ing and Long-Term Care: Interdisciplinary Age Studies in Styria“ (2018 – 2020)), which is a networking platform for different local, national, and international partners facilitating knowledge transfer from science to practice, and vice versa. Together with Heike Hartung and Roberta Maierhofer, she edits the book series *Aging Studies* (transcript, Bielefeld) which since its foundation in 2009 has produced more than 15 peer-reviewed volumes.

Ulla is chair of the *European Network in Aging Studies* (ENAS) and executive board member of the *North American Network in Aging Studies* (NANAS). As a scholar committed to interdisciplinary Age Studies, she heads the recently founded “Age and Care Research Group Graz” and is part of the *Transdisciplinary Research and Competence Network End of Life* as well as a member of the *Humanities and Arts Committee* of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). In 2017, she was awarded the *Inaugural Stephen Katz Distinguished Visiting Fellowship in Interdisciplinary Aging Studies* of Trent University in Canada. She has won several grants and awards for research and teaching, among them the Excellence Award for Teaching of the University of Graz (2016) and the Faculty Research Grant of the Canadian Government (2013) for a research stay at the University of Toronto’s Center for the Life Course and Aging.

## **Friday, 30 November 2018**

**9.00 a.m.**

### **SESSION 5: TECHNOLOGY AND AGEING**

**Chair: Emma Domínguez-Rué, University of Lleida**

For the short biography see 29 November 2018.

### **Statements**

**Kim Sawchuk, Concordia University, Montréal**

**KIM SAWCHUK** is a Professor in the Department of Communication Studies and the Director of Ageing Communication and Technologies (ACT), an international research team investigating the nexus between ageing and digital culture. ([www.actproject.ca](http://www.actproject.ca))

## **"Participatory action research to policy engagement: Reframing telecommunication services sales practices in Canada as elder abuse"**

In this presentation, I discuss how the ongoing work of ACT (Ageing, Communications and Technology) and our attempts to address system digital exclusion. More specifically, I discuss how our community-based research practices, which mobilizes methods of research creation and participatory action research, has led to public mobilization and policy intervention. I focus on the current case of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunication Commission's (CRTC) inquiry into misleading and aggressive sales practices of telecommunication service providers, and their efforts to understand how Canadians, and especially seniors, are targeted by large telecommunication companies. The CRTC's "digital-first" methods for public engagement with seniors has led to seniors last. I explore our methods of public engagement, and how precarity and age intersect with online consultations and political inclusion. I argue that complementary methods are needed in matters of public consultation, and I explain how working with older adults in Montreal led us to reframe the governmental discourse of "misleading and aggressive" as elder abuse.

### **Barbara Ratzenböck, Graz University**

**BARBARA RATZENBÖCK** studied sociology at the University of Graz, Austria and at Hendrix College, Arkansas, USA. Currently, she is conducting research as a Ph.D. candidate at the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz. Her PhD project focuses on women aged 60+ and their use of information and communication technologies in everyday life. She has also been actively involved in the international research project Ageing + Communication + Technologies as member of the ACT student committee and student advisor. Additional roles in the field of Aging Studies include serving as Executive Director of the European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS). In addition to her research interests in Aging Studies, sociology of art and literature, and art-based research, she is also passionate about facilitating interdisciplinary learning experiences. Serving as academic co-director of the Graz International Summer School Seggau (GUSEGG) and founding member of the student-led PhD platform Evidence & Imagination at the University of Graz, she supports intercultural exchange among international students and researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

## **"Beyond Media Generations: The Multidimensionality of Older Women's ICT Experiences"**

Two dominant trends are currently about to change the social structure of European societies: population aging and digitalization. In Austria, a considerable amount of older adults in general and of older women in particular is not online. This is a potential issue for social inclusion in an increasingly digital society. Thus, it is important to investigate what older adults, and particularly older women, think of new ICTs, such as the Internet, and which

areas of use are relevant to them. Analyzing 12 in-depth interviews with Austrian women aged from 60 to 70 as well as quantitative data (n = 1,281) on the older Austrian online population of the same age range from the online survey of the “Cross-National Longitudinal Study: Older Audiences in the Digital Media Environment” (ACT Project) for contextualization, this presentation will focus on current and past patterns of use and evaluation of ICTs by older women and their connection to biographical trajectories. As will be shown, early media experiences as well as professional and private life course experiences with media are highly relevant for current media engagement in terms of older women’s “inner ‘dialectic’” (Mannheim) that these experiences remain part of when making sense of new media devices later in life. However, we do have to look beyond “generational” experiences, if we want to fully understand the evaluation and use of media technologies by women 60+. Culturally dominant images of gender and age, e.g. with regard to the grandmother role and tech (in)competence, care responsibilities and family involvement, opportunities for self-realization in retirement, as well as individual interests shape the media engagement of women aged 60+. A digitally inclusive society will thus have to acknowledge the multidimensionality of older women’s ICT experiences and older women’s agency in creatively interpreting their life-long experiences with media technology change.

### **Linda Nierling & Bettina Krings, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology**

**LINDA NIERLING**, Dr. is a researcher at the Institute of Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany. Her main research focus lies on digital work, assistive technologies, technology assessment, ageing studies and sustainable development. She is currently doing research on the conceptional framing of the role of digital technologies in different societal fields like work, care and how this can be in line with approaches of a sustainable future.

**BETTINA-JOHANNA KRINGS**, Dr. in Sociology, is a senior researcher and actually the head of the research department of “Knowledge society and knowledge politics” at the Institute of Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany. Her main research fields are: the relationship of technology and work structure, human-machine interfaces, theory and methods of technology assessment and sociological theories of modern societies.

### **"Eng-age-d or *dis*-abled? Assistive Technologies in a Cross-Sectoral Approach"**

In a huge variety of applied research projects technical solutions are currently discussed and applied in the context of ageing societies. Often specific imaginaries of elderly persons are apparent ranging from “active agers” who should be supported in their active life by specific technologies to “frail elderly” persons which are co-surveyed or co-controlled by technologies. What is often neglected is the specific value – support or stigma – technologies can have for the person who uses it, in active and/ or care stage of life. Technologies, thus, play a different role depending on the specific group, the specific person, the specific use they are dedicated to. However the specific value or connotation – supporting for an active engagement in life or compensating bodily defects – are often not considered when reflecting

on technologies in the context of ageing societies. In this paper, these framings of technologies for the elderly are enriched by the debates on technologies in disability studies. For people with disabilities, technologies in general are strongly welcomed and play a central role for them, e.g. in the fields of education and employment. However, the role technologies play and how they are framed is subject of intensive debates in the community, especially discussing whether a medical or social connotation comes with its implementation and use. Often, there is the call to consider technologies as “mainstream”, contributing to living a “normal” life rather than framing them as medical support, which is interpreted rather as stigmatisation. In this paper, based on the comparison of the two different user groups the need to reflect on the value-leadeness and the context-relatedness of technologies for the elderly will be outlined.

**11.00 a.m.**

### **SESSION 6: WORK AND AGEING**

**Chair: Peter Angerer, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**

**PETER ANGERER** (Prof. Dr., MD) is Director of the Institute of Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine, University of Dusseldorf, Germany. He graduated from medical school in 1983, specialized in occupational medicine 1991, environmental medicine 1996, internal medicine in 1996, and cardiology in 2003. During his entire clinical training he worked as a researcher in the fields of classical occupational medicine, clinical preventive cardiology, and new frontiers in occupational medicine as hypoxic environments, shift work, health promotion for unemployed people, since 2011 mainly focussing on psychosocial factors at work ("work stress") - analysis and prevention. Improving work conditions in the health care system, especially in hospitals, with special attention to healthy ageing at work are major topics of interest.

### **Overview: Hans Martin Hasselhorn, Wuppertal University**

**HANS MARTIN HASSELHORN**, MD, is Professor of Occupational Health and head of the Department of Occupational Health Science at the University of Wuppertal since 09 2015 ([www.arbwiss.uni-wuppertal.de/en](http://www.arbwiss.uni-wuppertal.de/en)). Before this, he headed the Division Work and Health at the Federal Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, BAuA in Berlin and from 1999 until 2009 he was senior researcher at Wuppertal University, Germany. From 1992 – 1997 he worked as an Occupational Health Physician at the University Hospital Freiburg, followed by a two year visit as EU Marie Curie Scholarship holder at the Stress Research Institute in Stockholm.

Current key research interests are the complex relations of work to employment participation among older workers.

Prof. Hasselhorn has initiated and lead several research projects within the field of “work and employment participation”, such as the European Nurses Early Exit Study, NEXT (2002-

2006) and currently the German National Cohort Study on Work, Age, Health and Work Participation, lidA ([www.lidA-studie.de](http://www.lidA-studie.de)). This large representative study has been investigating the transition from work to retirement among the German baby boomer generation since 2011. From 2014 to 2015 he coordinated – for the European Joint Programming Initiative More Years Better Lives (MYBL) –the international interdisciplinary project “Understanding Employment Participation of Older Workers”, [JPI UEP](http://JPI UEP), where research needs within retirement research were defined.

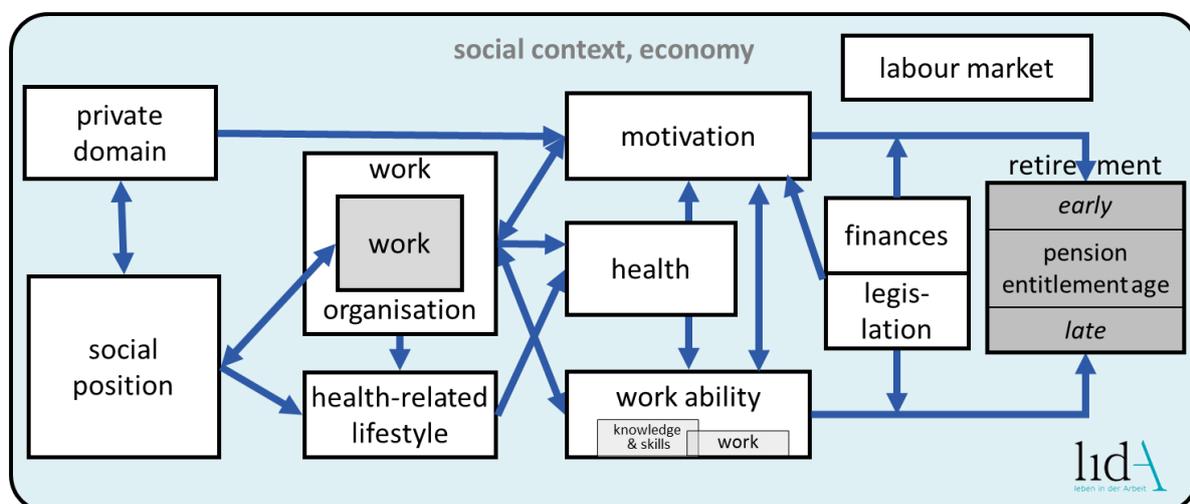
Prof. Hasselhorn has published about 250 scientific publications, including two monographs, two teaching books and 96 peer-reviewed journal articles.

### “The complexity of employment participation of older workers”

**INTRODUCTION:** The work force in Europe is ageing and in many countries the number of people available to the labour market is shrinking. Anticipating demographic changes, many European states have increased official pension entitlement age, some countries by ten years of life. Prospectively, working lives of the work force will be extended; but still today, most people leave employment long before reaching official retirement age. What are the reasons for this? And how can we capture this – in research, in organisations and on the (inter-)national level?

**METHOD:** A conceptual framework on the determinants of work participation will be presented and discussed under the assumption that causation of work participation in advanced working age is under-researched and that current research usually is focussed on single or very few domains only and therefore lacks a “broad view” capturing the complexity of employment participation.

**FINDINGS:** The ‘lidA conceptual framework on work, age, and work participation’ (Figure 1) was developed within the German lidA Cohort Study” ([www.lida-studie.de](http://www.lida-studie.de)). It visualises determinants of employment participation (eleven ‘domains’) in advanced working age and their inter-relations. The domains are: *social status, life style, domestic factors, work organisation, work factors, health, work ability, motivation to work, financial factors, pension system and the labour market.*



**Figure 1: The 'lidA conceptual framework on work, age, and work participation' (Hasselhorn & Apt 2015, Hasselhorn et al. 2015)**

The framework reveals four key characteristics of withdrawal from employment:

- A. COMPLEXITY: leaving working life is the result of an (often causal) interplay of different domains
- B. PROCESSUAL CHARACTER: (early) retirement is a process with often early determinants in the life course
- C. INDIVIDUALITY: Retirement has a strong individual component; and, finally,
- D. STRUCTURE: retirement is embedded in a strong structural frame (e.g. legislation).

CONCLUSIONS: The framework with its four key characteristics of withdrawal may have implications for *national policy*, *organisation policy* and not least *research*. *Research* has to consider the complexity of work participation and assess the benefit of broader conceptual (multi-disciplinary, cross national assessments) and methodological research approaches (e.g. qualitative and mixed methods, life course view) in the field.

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- Hasselhorn HM, Ebener M, Müller BH (2015) Determinanten der Erwerbsteilhabe im höheren Erwerbsalter – das „lidA-Denkmodell zu Arbeit, Alter und Erwerbsteilhabe“. *Zeitschrift für Sozialreform* 61;4:403-432
- Hasselhorn HM, Apt W (2015) Understanding employment participation of older workers: Creating a knowledge base for future labour market challenges." Research Report. Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) and Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA). BMAS/BAuA, Berlin, 2015, <http://www.baua.de/de/Publikationen/Fachbeitraege/Gd81>

## Statements

**Peter Angerer & Andreas Müller, Heinrich Heine University**

**Düsseldorf / University of Duisburg-Essen**

For the short biography of **PETER ANGERER** see 30 November 2018.

**ANDREAS MÜLLER** (Prof. Dr.): 1996–2003 Diploma in Psychology, University Leipzig, Germany; 2003–2007 Research Assistant, University Leipzig, Germany, Department of Work- and Organizational Psychology, and Technical University Munich, Germany, Institute of Psychology; 2007: Dissertation (Dr. phil.), Technical University Munich, Germany, Thesis: "The supporting effect of iterative goal-clarification and action-planning on collective problem-solving"; 2007–2012: Lecturer, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany, Institute for Occupational, Social, and Environmental Medicine; 2013: Habilitation [Postdoctoral lecture qualification], Dr. med. habil, Medical Psychology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany, Thesis: "Age-sensitive job design"; 2012–2017: Senior Lecturer Heinrich-Heine-

University Düsseldorf, Germany, Institute for Occupational Social-, and Environmental Medicine; since 2017: Professor (Full) University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany, Institute of Psychology, Work and Organizational Psychology.

His research interests lie within the fields of work stress, human-centred work design and work and aging.

### **"Consequences of Age Stereotypes on Older Workers"**

The relevance of work participation of older persons steadily increases due to demographic changes. However, older workers are often confronted with negative age stereotypes such as being less flexible, adaptable or productive. Against this background, our presentation summarizes research evidence on individual consequences of age stereotypes on older workers. Most available studies report significant associations between negative age stereotypes and decreased self-efficacy, job satisfaction, performance as well as learning, development or increased retirement intentions of older employees. From a practical perspective, this findings indicate that interventions are needed to reduce negative age stereotypes and to promote well-being and work participation of older persons. However, there are also serious flaws in the quality of existing studies. Thus more high-quality research on the individual consequences of age stereotypes on older workers are needed.

### **Morten Wahrendorf, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**

**MORTEN WAHRENDORF** is a sociologist with expertise in research methodology. His research areas are work stress, health inequalities, life course epidemiology, comparative welfare research and ageing. He has previously worked at the International Centre For Life-course Studies in Society and Health (ICLS) at University College London, and is presently head of the working group "work and health" at the Institute for Medical Sociology University Düsseldorf, Germany.

### **"Who in Europe Works beyond the State Pension Age and under which Conditions?"**

There is much research about those who exit the labour market prematurely, however, comparatively little is known about people working longer and about their employment and working conditions. In this presentation, we describe the employment and working conditions of men and women working between 65 and 80 years and compare them with previous conditions of those retired in the same age group. Analyses are based on wave 4 data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) with information collected between 2009 and 2011 from 17,625 older men and women across 16 European countries. Besides socio-demographic and health-related factors (physical and mental health), the focus lies on employment conditions (e.g. employment status, occupational position and working hours) and on stressful working conditions. Findings deliver empirical evidence that paid employment beyond age 65 is more common among self-employed workers throughout Europe, in advantaged occupations and under-favourable psychosocial circumstances, and

that this group of workers are in considerably good mental and physical health. This highlights that policies aimed at increasing the state pension age beyond the age of 65 years put pressure on specific disadvantaged groups of men and women.

### **Silvia Koton, Tel Aviv University / Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore**

**PROF. SILVIA KOTON**, PhD, MOccH, RN has been working on stroke epidemiology for over 18 years, from the time when she conducted her PhD thesis at Tel Aviv University (TAU). She has broad expertise in research and teaching epidemiology, especially cardiovascular diseases epidemiology. Since the establishment of the ongoing triennial National Acute Stroke Israeli (NASIS) registry in 2004, as a member of the registry's steering and publications committees, Prof. Koton carries out studies aimed at characterizing stroke at a national level. During her Master's studies in Occupational and Environmental Health (T), she acquired the knowledge required to study different aspects of workers health, including the effects of stroke and aging on workers' life. Her previous training as Registered Nurse and experience as case manager and coordinator of home-care for persons with poor physical, cognitive and social functioning, makes the topics of patient-reported outcomes and caregivers burden a natural area for her research. At Johns Hopkins University, Prof. Koton has been working with the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study since 2012. She is member of the ARIC Neurocognitive Study (NCS) Analysis Workgroup and ARIC Physical Function and Aging Working Group. During her current sabbatical at the Department of Epidemiology, Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, Prof. Koton will be conducting several studies in the area of stroke, aging and cognitive impairment.

### **"Active Aging: Back to Work after Illness"**

Longer life expectancy and decreasing fertility rates result in increases in the size of aging populations in many countries. In general, growing old is related to biological and cognitive changes often resulting in increased risks of non-communicable diseases such as cancer, ischemic heart disease, stroke and trauma. Health is one of the main factors affecting retirement. However, nowadays effective treatment result in higher proportion of survivors after onset of illness, many with no visible or only minor disabilities. Returning to work is one of the most important factors in social re-integration after illness. It also contributes to the physical and mental well-being as well as the economic well-being of the individual, while helping organizations and societies to successfully deal with the economic and societal challenges posed by the aging of population.

Different aspects of returning to work after illness will be discussed using stroke as a model for a disease that may affect the long-term physical, mental, and social health of the individual. Stroke is traditionally considered a disease of old ages, and indeed, the incidence rates of stroke significantly increase with age. However, about 20% of strokes occur in working-age individuals. Studies including people under the age of 65 have shown that even for high-functioning stroke survivors, with mild or even no obvious disability, returning to work is challenging. Workplace challenges may be even more meaningful for

the old patient. Based on literature, recommendations to support return to work after stroke or illness in general will be presented.

**1.00 p.m.**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS – END OF CONFERENCE**

**Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**