

NARRATIVES AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES OF AGING AND OLD AGE: REFLEXIVITY IN AGING STUDIES

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Abstract Booklet



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Note

The abstracts in this booklet are ordered alphabetically by the last name of the (first) author of each paper. The titles, bios, and content are as provided by the authors.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Erin

Gentry Lamb



Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, USA

Erin is Associate Professor of Bioethics and Faculty Lead of the Humanities Pathway at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Trained in the field of literature, her research interests include aging and ageism, disability, death and dying, health care and social justice, and the pedagogy and field formation of age studies and health humanities. She co-edited *Research Methods in the Health Humanities* (Oxford, 2019) and co-authors the comprehensive report on Baccalaureate Health Humanities Programs in the United States. Her scholarly work appears in such forums as *The Journal of Medical Humanities*, *The Health Humanities Reader*, *The International Journal of Aging and Society*, and *Age, Culture, Humanities* with forthcoming pieces addressing aging and ageism in *The Disability Bioethics Reader*, *The Encyclopaedia of Health Humanities*, and *Keywords in Health Humanities*. A founding member and past-chair of the North American Network in Aging Studies, she has chaired the National Women's Studies Association's Aging and Ageism Caucus as well as the executive committees of the Modern Language Association's Forums on Age Studies and on Medical Humanities and Health Studies. She currently co-chairs the Health Humanities Consortium and serves on the Program Planning Committee for the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.

ABSTRACTS



A

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Narrating Literary Gerontology from LIS Perspective

Conducting research on ageing from literary gerontology poses a problem which requires to be addressed. Notwithstanding the number of accomplishments of some scholars in creating a potential corpus of works, whenever users search and attempt to get access to the resources –both digital and physical– in academic and national libraries, a difficulty is entailed due to the scarce presence of this field in some of the most remarkable LIS –Library and Information Science– and bibliographic databases. In an attempt to find a solution, LIS can lend a helping hand shedding a light on by improving the information retrieval, its knowledge organization, and thus its study. Therefore, a domain analysis has been proposed in order to identify a core corpus of documents, authors, item types, journals and publishers among others. In order to do so, a bibliographical methodology has been adopted for this domain analysis which could encompass three main steps: search terms, select bibliographic databases as well as OPACs and work with some complementary toolkits in order to aid cleaning. As a result, and once data were collected and analysed, the data set narrates a core corpus of 70 authors –e.g. William L. Randall, Margaret M. Gullette or Kathleen Woodward–, 60 journals –Journal of Aging Studies, Ageing & Society, or The Gerontologist–, equally to 647 publishers –e.g. Routledge, Oxford University Press or W.W. Norton & Company–, for instance. Furthermore, a temporal evolution was analysed covering from the year 1975– since it took place the Conference on Human Values and Aging, organized by David D. Van Tassel– to 2020.

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Bio

My name is Patricia-Gema Acevedo-Zarco and I am a first year PhD student in Library and Information Science–LIS– at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. MSc in LIS at Universidad Complutense de Madrid (2019-2021) and BA in English Studies at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (2014-2019). I took part of the Erasmus+ Programme at Bath Spa University (England, UK) (2017), and an internship programme in Tufts-Skidmore Spain (2016-2017). Currently working as an intern at the Spanish Senate, Department of Technical Parliamentary Assistance. Recently accepted to participate in 2022 Una Europa Digital Cultural Heritage PhD workshop.

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Narratives on dying older men in public discourse

Research on men and masculinity focuses on values and characteristics of masculine identity, which is often associated with autonomy, being active and in control, physically strong and resourceful. Moreover, social gerontology tends to focus on aging “successfully” and only to a minor extent acknowledge the “dark side” of aging, such as illness, impaired physical and mental abilities, dependency and death. This is of relevance in relation to dying older men, where issues of being dependent, frail and not being autonomous do not align with ideals of masculine identities. Meanwhile, current societal views on a “good death” focus on enabling autonomy and not dying alone. This in turn raises the issue of how to understand cases when men express autonomy to the degree of challenging norms of “good death”, i.e., wanting to die alone or expressions of wills to end one’s life. Consequently, the issue of older men who are dying highlight several complex and potentially conflicting narratives, on societal, organizational and individual levels. In this study we will analyze how the issues of dying and masculinity are treated in public discourse about the death of older men. The point of departure is to scrutinize what types of narratives that are prevalent and how the current narratives of “good death”, “successful aging” and the “fourth age” are dealt with in the chosen cases. Moreover, attention will be drawn to who’s perspectives dominate in the narratives. Is it professionals, relatives, dying older men, policymakers or religious authorities who are given a voice?

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Bio

Axel Ågren is lecturer at Linköping University, Sweden, Department of Culture and Society, Division of Social Work. He is involved in the Aging and Social Change research environment, conducting leading-edge research on key social, political and cultural issues of aging.

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Complicating Hegemonic Complicity: Sport, Masculinity and the Changing Ideals of Later-Life Men's Friendships

While researchers have established that young men's sporting friendships are often structured by violence, minimal intimacy, the degradation of all things feminine, competition, and a corresponding complicity with hegemonic masculinity (Messner 1992), we know relatively little about sporting friendships between older men. Drawing on interviews with and ethnographic research of older male hockey players in two mid-sized Canadian cities, this article finds that while those in late midlife (ages 54–71) continue to perform patterns of male friendship associated with younger men, those in later life (ages 71–82) break with these hegemonically masculine patterns. Instead, their friendships involve locker room talk revolving around joking about oneself (instead of mocking others), an ethic of care, and a recognition of the importance of emotional intimacy. These findings suggest that masculinity, friendships between men, and complicity with hegemonic masculinity are not static over the life course.



Bio

Kristi Allain is an Associate Professor of Sociology and a Canada Research Chair in Physical Culture and Social Life at St. Thomas University (Fredericton, NB). Her work is centered at the intersections of Canadian identity, gender, aging and physical culture. Her current research program addresses the issue of power at play in Canadian winter sport, questioning the ways the old might potentially disrupt common sense notions of Canadian national identity.

B

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Grandmas and Crones: Narrating Aged Women in Contemporary Spanish Cinema

As Beugnet argues, “European cinemas seem almost as reluctant as their Hollywood counterparts to give space to the aging and the old.” (Beugnet, 2006). Furthermore, the few narratives involving aged citizens are usually focused on negative themes, such as frailty, social isolation, health issues or loss of independence (Medina). Nevertheless, ageing and therefore, its cinematic depiction, is not an equal process and aged women are subjected to double standards and further discrimination.

Thus, this paper focuses on these aged women, analysing, from a gender and ageing perspective, the cinematic construction of women over sixty-five in Spanish films released within the last three years. The aim is to fully understand the process of nullification and otherness that older women experience in recent Spanish cinema in relation to their (negative) aging. For this purpose, the corpus includes seventeen films from different genres, from comedy, where older women usually function as satirical elements (Beugnet) to horror, known to exploit the aged female body as a shocking factor (Keetley). Furthermore, the intersectional analysis considers parameters such as screen time, male or female director, setting, and the use of stereotypes and archetypes, such as the grandmother, dowager, or the old crone, as well as their purpose in the narrative.



Bio

Irene Baena-Cuder completed her PhD in Film Studies at the University of East Anglia (UK). Her research explores contemporary Spanish horror cinema from a gender perspective, and she has published internationally. She has recently been awarded with a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Seville (Spain), where she is currently researching the representation of motherhoods and women in relation to their (in)ability to mother in contemporary Spanish horror films.

Elizabeth Barry

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Age, Race, Class and Sex: Audre Lorde, Black Writing and Intersectional Aging

This paper will consider the depiction of ageing and its intersection with other kinds of difference (race, sex, class) in Audre Lorde's poetry and in the famous lecture she delivered at Amherst College in 1980, which tackled these forms of identity and their interaction. It will consider the metaphors of ageing in her writing that connect it with the larger history of Black consciousness, time and experience. Poems such as 'Timing', 'Death Dance for a Poet', and 'The Old Days' speak of the toll taken on individual lives and communities by repeated experiences or unchanging conditions of discrimination, violence and want, representing the gap between chronological and bodily ageing under these conditions, and the transmission of intergenerational knowledge (both positive and negative). Ageing is experienced differently, and its aversive aspects arguably felt earlier, under the conditions of unequal access to resources, healthcare and social status that have characterised Black history. Attitudes to ageing are also determined by pervasive stereotypes (constructions of the Black mother, Black grandmother, and Black stoicism), stereotypes that Lorde challenges through the new cultural archetypes she forges in her creative writing, and by means of her own life-writing as a Black lesbian poet. Framing its discussion of difference with reference to theorists of Black culture Christina Sharpe and Michael Hanchard, and theorists of difference within age studies Rüdiger Kunow and Kathleen Woodward, this paper will use Lorde's writing to explore age through an intersectional lens.

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Bio

Dr Elizabeth Barry is an Associate Professor in English at the University of Warwick in the UK. She is the author of articles on ageing published in *Textual Practice*, *European Journal of English Studies*, *Samuel Beckett Today/ Aujourd'hui*, and a number of essay collections. She is the editor, with Margery Vibe Skagen, of the collection *Literature and Ageing* (Boydell and Brewer, 2020) and will publish a monograph on ageing and time with Bloomsbury in 2023.

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Age-friendly environment in the stories of old people in the Finnish Arctic

An account of what is a diverse group of older people is missing from the setting of the Nordic North's age-friendly environments (AFE). In this chapter, I address that gap by focusing on the concept of an AFE in a rural north and asking (a) what are the particular elements (as part of an AFE) that older people mention as being important for their daily life. (b) are there problems and challenges that create distance among diverse older people and their environments. I do this through first conceptualising an age-friendly environment and distance from an intersectional perspective. Following this, in the light of components of an AFE defined by Eales et al. (2008), I analyse the findings of a case study in which I explore what diverse older people living in the Finnish Arctic say about their different needs, expectations and resources. By identifying distances in the Finnish Nordic Arctic, the chapter widens the understanding and conceptualises AFE in the North.



Bio

Dr. Shahnaj Begum is working as a Postdoctoral researcher at the Unit for Gender Studies, at the University of Lapland. Her research background lies in the disciplines of law and the social sciences, spanning Arctic Studies, human rights, ageing and ethnicity in the North, and gender studies. She is leading two small projects named a) Gender inequality among caregivers in the aging sector in Nordic Countries; b) Understanding Ageing, gender and ethnicity (AGE-Arctic). She is Vice-lead at UArctic thematic network which is entitled "Ageing & Gender in the Arctic".

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“Older and Stronger”:

An analysis on current advertising campaigns

During the past two years, narratives about older adults in the advertising domain have changed to a large degree. Looking at the advertising campaigns conducted during the COVID pandemic period, many mesmerising examples could arise. Contrary to what is found in previous studies on older people portrayals in the advertising domain, not only medical care brands but also big consumer’s brands like Heineken, Cadbury, Cheerios, Lotería de Navidad (Spain), or soft drinks choose to launch stories featuring older people as main characters. One example is Cadbury, one of the most popular chocolate bars in the UK, which initiated a rebranding process with stories from the lives of older adults in a bid to raise awareness of isolation and loneliness. Data revealed by Cadbury started from a large number of older people, 225,000 people in the UK, who declared they haven’t spoken with anyone for the past week. The same study shows that 6 million would appreciate the fact that a short conversation would make a positive difference to their life. But there are not only stories about vulnerable old people. They can also be strong and heroic characters. With lockdowns easing and bars and clubs reopening, Heineken beer has released a global brand campaign called “The Night is Young,” which shows a group of post-vaccinated seniors on a night out and socialising as if they were in their tweens once again. The current work explores such narratives from the advertising domain, in a critical way.



Bio

Andreea Berechet is associate lecturer at SNSPA and has a PhD in Arts, researching on film history. She has worked extensively in the Romanian mainstream media and has been trained as a journalist for more than 25 years. Andreea has been also TV producer and director at Mediavision- ProTV.

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Narratives of formal and informal care of older people. Social and health care professionals and the rise of the professionalized caregiver in Italy

Within social policy narratives, informal care for older people tends to be defined as opposed to formal care. Informal care is provided by relatives, friends, neighbours often on unpaid bases; it is considered to be motivated by love, affection, sense of duty; it is “warm” and natural. Formal care, by contrast, is provided by professionals - care workers, social workers, nurses, medical doctors - in the framework of welfare state or market arrangements; it has a scientific and technical contents and standards; it is “cold” and artificial. In addition, recent policies have underlined the “need” to shift care responsibilities from the public to the private sphere, i.e. from formal to informal care, in order to make care systems sustainable. The underlying assumption and narrative is that, with the development of social and care policies, formal care has progressively taken up the role previously played by informal care and it is now necessary to reverse the trajectory. The paper, stemming from a broader research project on the “meanings of care”, questions this narrative about formal and informal care and their relationship and looks at how the development of eldercare professionalism - in gerontology, geriatrics, nursing and social work - has contributed to the increasing professionalization of informal care. The working hypothesis is that the power dynamics of professions have contributed to the shaping of formal and informal care through narratives that differentiates between them; at the same time, they have promoted practices that blur the boundaries between formal and informal and calling on a specialization and formalization of “informal” care.

The study considers the rise of eldercare professions, i.e. geriatrics, nursing and social work, in Italy from the 1950s to date. The Italian case is of particularly interest due to a very rapid ageing process and, at the same time, a strong emphasis on informal care in supporting older people. Based on the analysis of professional handbooks, protocols, scientific literature in the area of gerontology and nursing as well as on interviews with professionals, the research investigates how professionals perceive, frame and contribute to influence and transform informal care.

The preliminary results point to the partial and selective transmission of “expert knowledge” to the ‘non-experts’ as a key mechanism as a significant contribution to the progressive ‘professionalization’ of informal family care for the frail elderly. As a result of this process, what we know as “informal” care is far from being opposed to “formal” care. At the same time, the shaping of formal care by informal care is far from taking place only in a phase of retrenchment and recalibration of social policies as a result of financial sustainability issues, but seems to have accompanied its rise and development.

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Narratives of formal and informal care of older people. Social and health care professionals and the rise of the professionalized caregiver in Italy

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Bio

Barbara Da Roit, PhD, is full Professor of Sociology at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Her research, embedded in comparative welfare studies, focusses on the relationship between changes in social policies and in social practices with a specific interest in the field of care for older people and young children.

Michele Bertani, PhD, is Research Fellow at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Since the PhD experience at Verona University, he has focused his research on family policies, social change and welfare state adopting mixed methods design.

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Older audiences and cultural consumption: An analysis focused on Romania

As a current global phenomenon that is transforming society, the ageing of the population should also be a concern of all cultural organisations that propose leisure activities in connection with the broader spectrum of cultural consumption. Both research and public policies addressing the cultural needs of older adults from a societal perspective are at their beginnings. Although there is an increasing offer of cultural programs dedicated to senior citizens, a better understanding of how older audiences are accessing them, as well as the factors that are influencing attendance and engagement is an important feature to be explored.

In the case of Romania, the yearly Cultural Consumption Barometers show that young audiences are more active culturally, while the older population tends to concentrate on spiritual/religious activities. Cultural organisations registered a shift in terms of the age of their audiences. A few decades ago seniors were habitual in theatres and museums, for instance. Now the focus seems to be placed on younger audiences, and even on children if we consider museums. This transformation might be related to the strategies assumed by cultural organisations, but also to the changing behaviour of seniors. The Eurobarometer on cultural consumption shows that the Romanians are the ones claiming as the main reason for not participating in cultural activities the high prices associated with them. This might be one of the barriers to cultural access for seniors. This study proposes focused profiling of the senior cultural consumers in Romania, which would offer some insights to cultural organisations to better involve them.



Bio

Monica Bîră, PhD, is senior lecturer at NUPSPA where she teaches PR measurement and communication in cultural and creative industries. Her research interests are built around exploring how the digital transition impacted both the PR practice and the expected outcomes; as well as cultural organisations.

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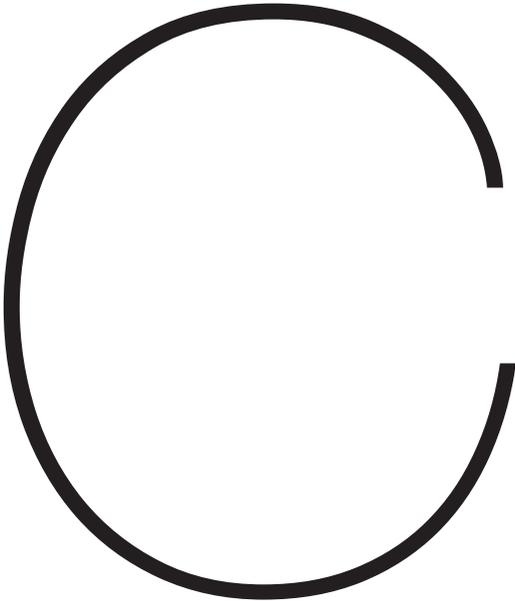
“Suffering together with”: Ethnographic reflections on legacy work in end-of-life care

Fear and anxiety about death are endemic in contemporary western culture. Exacerbated by the increasing medicalization of death, existential suffering (or distress about one’s inevitable mortality) has become a technical problem to be managed through the techniques of biomedicine. In response to calls for an alternative to the medicalization of suffering, legacy activities are increasingly advocated for their relational approach to death and dying. Legacy work consists of inviting patients to reflect on their lives, what matters most to them, and how they wish to be remembered. Positioned by its proponents as an antidote to existential suffering, legacy work is increasingly prevalent in both medical and commercial end-of-life practices. Drawing on insights from Karen Barad and new materialism theory, we explore legacy work in end-of-life care and its entanglements of human/non-human materiality, agency, and care. The context for this exploration is an ethnographic study of a volunteer-based hospice palliative care organization in Toronto, Canada. We conclude with a discussion of the ways in which legacy activities resist, revise, and reinforce cultural norms regarding death and dying, and the implications (some realized, some yet-to-be-seen) of these activities for volunteer-patient relationality and the possibilities for “suffering together with”.

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Bio

Jessica Bytautas is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and a Sessional Lecturer at the University of Toronto Scarborough in the Department of Health and Society. Jessica’s doctoral research is supported by a Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



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Is there truth in fiction? A critical, interdisciplinary analysis of the language of dementia fiction

As human beings, we need narratives to help us to make sense of the world, particularly when the story is a sad one such as the case with a neurodegenerative condition like dementia (Bitenc, 2020). In this paper, we share our experience of working together across the disciplines of social gerontology and linguistics to analyze how readers respond to internal perspectives of fictional characters with dementia. An aim of the study is to use fiction to better understand the internal lives of people living with dementia. Given the potential of imaginative writing to mediate and construct a reality (Zeilig, 2011, p. 22) we have engaged in a linguistic rather than literary evaluation of dementia fiction. The project uses extracts from twelve novels containing first-hand accounts of fictional characters with dementia to explore how readers with varying personal experiences of dementia relate to stories, scenarios and relationships of fictional characters. Readers were purposely sampled for separate reading groups – student social workers; members of the general public; carers of people with dementia; and people living with dementia. Over a six-week period they engaged in facilitated group discussions of the extracts. This paper presents findings from the analysis of the resulting transcripts.

Readers generally endorse the fictional characters and their experiences as 'truthful' narratives and provide some insight into how people with dementia and carers manage self-doubt and personal relationships when living with dementia. These findings suggest that fictional narratives are a potentially useful means of understanding diverse lived experiences of dementia.

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Bio

Dr. Gemma M. Carney is Senior Lecturer in Social Policy on the Ark Ageing programme at Queen's University Belfast, UK. She is Co-Investigator on the Arts, Humanities Research Council funded project, Dementia in the Minds of Characters and Readers. She has published in major journals and serves on the editorial board of *Ageing & Society*. Her book *Critical Questions for Ageing Societies* (with Paul Nash) was nominated for the Richard Kalish Award for Innovation in Publication in 2021.

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Changing Narratives of Aging: Emma Thompson's Performances of Female Old Age in *Late Night* and *Good Luck to you, Leo Grande*

At the onset of her sixtieth decade, Emma Thompson remains an active and prolific actress, whilst 'age' has become a more salient trait in her cinematic roles. In the recent Berlinale presentation of her latest film, *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande* (2022), Thompson's declarations on her character (a recently widowed woman called Nancy Stokes) received considerable media attention. Referring to her character's story, that is, that of an older woman in search of experiencing her first orgasm, Thompson declared that not only is women's pleasure silenced and made invisible still in the twenty-first century, but the female ageing body is also hidden and considered a hateful view to look at. Thompson's previous film in a leading role, *Late Night* (2019), depicts a similarly critical moment in the life of a successful late-night talk show host called Katherine Newbury, whose career seems to reach a dead end when she turns sixty and the channel she works for decides that her show is not profitable anymore. While Nancy Stokes starts a quest to have an orgasm past her sixtieth birthday, Katherine Newbury's quest focuses on proving that a woman's creativity and popularity do not have to diminish with age. In this paper, we present a textual analysis of the counter-narratives of female aging developed through Emma Thompson's latest lead roles. Within the genre of dramatic comedy, these cinematic narratives of female old age address and subvert topics that are still considered taboo from either ageist or sexist perspectives, or both, and which are closely related to (female) sexuality, creativity and body image in later life.



Bio

Dr. Núria Casado-Gual is Associate Professor at the Department of English of the University of Lleida and the principal investigator of Grup Dedal-Lit between 2013 and 2022. She has led two projects for the group in the field of cultural gerontology, has co-edited three volumes of essays and a special issue on cultural representations of aging, and has published articles on cultural interpretations of old age in journals such as *Aging & Society* and *The Gerontologist*. ORCID: 0000-0002-3778-6284

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“WhatsApp Aunts”: Ageism, Sexism, and the Marginalization of Older People in Brazilian Politics

The rise of far-right Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro has shed light on his supporters’ age aspects thus evidencing his opponents’ use of ageist tropes to counter Bolsonaro’s discourse. National surveys indicate that many of the government’s ‘die-hard’ supporters tend to be men and people over 60. As a result, Bolsonaro’s left-wing opponents use ageism coupled with sexism to vilify his electors instead of standing for a more reasonable debate. In this context, we are interested in how issues of age and gender coincide with the stereotype and meme of “tia do zap” (“WhatsApp aunt”) that circulate on the Internet. This stereotype/meme countries right-wing older people as people who spread fake news on social media. By examining the left’s and right’s use of this stereotype in Brazil, we problematize them both, highlighting the lack of intersectionality from the left. While the meme is an ageist oversimplification, it also indicates that old people’s support for Bolsonaro coincides with their retrieval of political and social agencies. For our purposes, we present the political background of Brazil; discuss the far-right’s use of social media to disseminate fake news, a factor that reinforces the idea that conservative old people share false information on the Internet; analyze some of the memes; present an example of an older person who has used this stereotype to reclaim her political and social agencies and do a critique of the left to whom ageism has become a blind spot.



Bio

Mariana Castelli-Rosa is a PhD student (Cultural Studies) at Trent University, Canada. Her areas of interest are Canadian and Indigenous literatures, identity, marginalized communities, aging, intercultural communication and translation.

Mariana Lins is a PhD student in Communication at the Federal University of Pernambuco (Brazil). She is a journalist and is interested in gender studies, aging studies and ageism in the music industry.

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Doctor Foster and the International Narrative of Female Middle-Ageism

This essay revisits the plea for the critical examination of middle-age first made by Margaret Gullette in 1998. While Age Studies scholars have adhered to Gullette's call for critical age studies of older populations, her charge to examine "middle-ageism" has not gained as much popularity. The paper combines Age Studies and Feminist Media Studies to examine the BBC series, *Doctor Foster*. Centered on a 37-year-old female doctor who discovers her 40-year-old husband is in an ongoing affair with a younger woman, *Doctor Foster* tells the story of a woman who is trapped by middle-age. While she is viewed as *too young* to be in a leadership role at her medical practice, she is seen as *too old* to hold the interest of her straying husband.

After airing for two seasons and earning a BAFTA for lead actress, Suranne Jones, *Doctor Foster* ended in the UK, but has been exported around the world--including the U.S., France, South Korea, the Philippines, and India--both via streaming media and through adaptations. Although the adaptations allow for some cultural distinctions, the overall narrative remains the same in each re-telling.

This paper complicates the text of *Doctor Foster*, arguing that it serves as a startling representation of the middle-aged woman in a patriarchal society--a woman driven by her own internalized fear of aging. It examines the implications of transporting and adapting this problematic narrative into a global media market.



Bio

Melanie Cattrell teaches writing and literature at Blinn College in Bryan-College Station, Texas. She is the former co-chair of the National Women's Studies Association Age and Ageism Caucus and the current Area Chair for Television at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference (SWPACA). Her work focuses on the intersection of age, gender, and sexuality in contemporary televisual narrative.

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LGBTQ2IA+ counter-narratives: Queering generativity through storytelling

A preoccupation with heteronormative metrics of success in aging leaves many studies of “LGBT aging” focused on the needs, failings, and vulnerabilities of older LGBTQ2IA+ people (i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two-spirit, intersex, asexual, and people of other nonnormative sexual and gender expressions). As a result, LGBTQ2IA+ elders are frequently depicted as isolated, re-closeted, or simply nonexistent. Heeding calls to intervene into such bleak and pathologizing portrayals of queer/ trans aging (e.g. Ramirez-Valles 2016; Sandberg & Marshall 2017), this paper explores diverse subjectivities, nonnormative aging experiences, and their potential intergenerational implications. It draws on stories of queerness, gender, aging, futurity, and social change from 13 LGBTQ2IA+ people ranging in age from 23 to 74, recorded in an intergenerational research-generation workshop held in Nogojiwanong (Peterborough, Canada) in 2018. We argue that queer and trans stories are crucial to confronting the erasure of LGBTQ2IA+ aging, aiming to extend ongoing efforts within aging studies to queer concepts of successful aging, aging futures, generativity, and intergenerationality. Ultimately, this paper aims to complicate constricted understandings of queer/trans aging, instead by depicting LGBTQ2IA+ people aging with connection, pride, learning, and purpose, as well as with struggle and vulnerability.



Bio

Dr. May Chazan is a professor, parent, and activist, who has been living in Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg territory (Peterborough, Canada) and working at Trent University since 2013. May holds the Canada Research Chair in Gender and Feminist Studies, coordinates Aging Activisms, and is an Executive member of the Trent Centre for Aging and Society. May Chazan (she/her) Aging Activisms Research Collective - www.agingactivisms.org

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Challenging colonial narratives of aging futures

This piece emerged from arts-based research carried out in Nogojiwanong (Peterborough, Canada) in 2019, which explored community members' perspectives on aging futures within their shared place. Over the course of 2 days, a diverse intergenerational group came together to imagine positive aging futures, recording a series of group discussions and co-creating art through this process. Analyzed against efforts to expand dominant "successful aging" discourses, this research revealed three key themes. First, in contrast to unrooted and individualistic assumptions embedded within successful aging, participants identified attentiveness to place and community, and in particular relationships with Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg land, territory, and nation, as key to their visions for successful aging futures. Second, challenging assumptions about hetero-reproductive generativity as necessary for aging well, participants described their commitments to intergenerational relationships that are expansive, beyond biological ties, and existing within interspecies networks of relationships. Finally, contesting underpinning notions of aging as part of a linear process ending in death – and successful aging as inherently a struggle against this process – participants explored aging futures as part of a spiral temporality involving regeneration, identifying relationships with people and place that extend beyond the linear time frame of singular lives, connected forward into a more distant future and backward into a longer past. We draw forth these themes in the interest of queering and decolonizing ongoing conversations surrounding successful aging and generativity within the field of aging studies.



Bio

Dr. May Chazan is a professor, parent, and activist, who has been living in Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg territory (Peterborough, Canada) and working at Trent University since 2013. May holds the Canada Research Chair in Gender and Feminist Studies, coordinates Aging Activisms, and is an Executive member of the Trent Centre for Aging and Society. May Chazan (she/her) -Aging Activisms Research Collective - www.agingactivisms.org

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The ‘Italian syndrome’ and media discourses around Romanian elderly care workers

Labor migration (especially the East-West migration in Europe) is a recurrent topic in media discourses, playing a cultural, economic, political, and legal role within a transnational field (Trandafoiu, 2022). Italy is the main destination country for Romanian elderly care workers, making a sort of social career of the job (Toc & Gutu, 2021).

An important trait of Romanian labor migration is the feminization of migration (closely tied to narratives of exploitation and empowerment, Madroane, 2018), which is articulated in the media around categories such as care workers for the elderly (*badanti* in Italian) and “transnational grandmothers”, who look after their daughters’ children in the receiving countries, so that the mothers can work (Beciu et al., 2018; Cingolani, 2009).

The Romanian migrant women who are caregivers in Italy are connected to “the Italian syndrome”, which is used by the journalists to refer to strong and persistent forms of depression after the caregivers return to their home country, moving from medical to media discourses. This public problem has sparked complex debates in the Romanian media, around the break-up of families, the children left at home, psychologically affected by the absence of the mother, or the ageing parents (Beciu et al., 2018).

In this context, our paper focuses on how the media debate around Romanian elderly care workers is structured (actors involved, arenas, power structures along the “us” vs “them” rhetoric). A second point of interest is how their identities are built in press articles, media campaigns, and visuals, from a “visual ageist” (Loos & Ivan, 2018) perspective.



Bio

Bianca-Florentina Cheregi is a PhD Lecturer and a program coordinator of MA in Brand Management and Corporate Communication. She is also a member of the Communication, Discourse, Public Issues Lab (CoDiPo), affiliated to the Center for Research in Communication. In the academic year 2017-2018, she was a “Spiru Haret” fellow, with a research project on interactive media campaigns on Romanian migration.

Malina Ciocea is leading the CoDiPo Laboratory of the Center for Research in Communication. She has published extensively on issues in the Romanian public sphere, with a focus on the public problem of migration.

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Dreaming Big: Home Care, Cinema, and the Relational Turn

Public attention landed squarely on long-term residential care during the coronavirus pandemic. However, home care remained largely out of public sight and mind. This erasure left unquestioned the assumption that ageing in place is both desirable and possible for everyone. That is not the case. Moreover, home care faces some of the same problems that provoked the public outcry about nursing homes, including reliance on the global care chain. Situated within what Kim Saw-chuk calls “the relational turn” of age studies, this presentation builds on Kathleen Woodward’s claim that stories that link the perspective of the precarious care worker with that of the “person cared for” can strengthen the global care chain. Through a political economy lens, I note that the few narrative fiction films that delve into conditions that require home care tend to favour the perspective of family members doing care work over those of paid care workers, especially those who migrate across borders and forgo their in-person family relationships to support white Western families. My critical analysis of a rare narrative fiction film depiction of home care, *Still Human* [Lun lok yan, Hong Kong, 2018], illuminates precarity, the limits of family-based models for social policy, and intricate power relations. Even glimpses of (under)paid migrant domestic care-worker perspectives in narrative fiction film can prompt much-needed conversations about how care is a relationship and how that relationship takes place within a broader social, cultural, economic and political context.



Bio

Sally Chivers is Full Professor of Gender & Social Justice and English at Trent University, as well as Past Director & Executive Member of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society. She is the author of *From Old Woman to Older Women: Contemporary Culture and Women’s Narratives* (2003) and *The Silvering Screen: Old Age and Disability in Cinema* (2011) and the co-editor of *The Problem Body: Projecting Disability on Film* (2010) and *Care Home Stories: Aging, Disability, and Long-Term Residential Care* (2017), along with related articles and book chapters.

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Vital involvement versus ultimate confusion: Two contrasting portrayals of dementia in *The Father* and *Florida*

“An old man swept in a vortex into the recesses of his disintegrating mind, trying his poor best to hold onto the last vestiges of normal routines, fluttering for a brief breath out the depths of the chaos in his head and the utter confusion of times,” a description of Zeller’s 2021 cinematic adaptation of *The Father*, is representative of perceptions of dementia as an unremitting and irreversible personal and familial disaster. Indeed, a powerful performance in the leading role overshadows efforts at presenting alternative narratives. We argue that an overlooked previous film adaptation of the same play, Le Guay’s *Florida* (2015), introduces a convincing, less artificial, and more balanced, richly-nuanced, and thought-provoking portrait of a person with dementia, and that the liberties Le Guay’s takes with the original play correspond to the liberties the protagonist takes with dementia. While Anthony’s confusion in *The Father* is an utterly despairing sign of a mind lost, that very confusion is a vehicle for playful imagination in *Florida*. *The Father*’s dramatic and psychological vision immerses the viewer in the anguish of its lead. In contrast, *Florida* capitalizes on the unimpaired, perhaps even augmented ability for storytelling and the imagination that makes it possible. The vitality underlying such acts of unbridled imagination along with a matter-of-fact approach to the interruptions of dementia challenge negative, deeply-seated cultural beliefs. We argue that put one against the other these two adaptations provide a unique opportunity to reexamine the role of popular culture in Gerontological discourse.

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Bio

Amir Cohen-Shalev is a retired professor of Gerontology, teaching in the faculty of Society and the Arts in Ono Academic College in Israel. His research centers on artistic creativity in old age, aging in film and literature, medical humanities and love relationships in old age.

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Older age, aged care, and ageism during the coronavirus pandemic: Narratives from Australia

The coronavirus pandemic has generated numerous media and political responses that bring together health, risk, and age. Within these responses, older people have been cast as ‘the vulnerable elderly’ who are in poor health, considered to be automatically at risk of COVID-19 due to their age, and are less socially worthy and valuable than younger people. This simplistic connection between older age, frailty and ill-health reduces older age to a medical and health problem, which perpetuates and deepens ageism. The implied connection has been particularly evident during the coronavirus pandemic through the imposition of severe lockdown restrictions on older people who are living in aged (or long-term) care facilities. These socio-political and institutional regulations have heightened the isolation from society that older people living in such environments already face, ironically further threatening their health and wellbeing. Drawing on Australian media reports and political responses to coronavirus, and restrictions on people living in Australian residential aged care during 2020, I will explore how ageism and risk narratives during the coronavirus pandemic jeopardised older Australians health, wellbeing, and dignity of risk, while also reinforcing pre-existing barriers to social inclusion.

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Bio

Peta S. Cook is a sociologist at the University of Tasmania, Australia. She works with communities in citizen needs for age-friendly communities, addressing ageism, and increasing social awareness of the needs and wants of older Australians. For her work in these areas, Peta received a 2018 University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Community Engagement and the 2020 Sociology in Action Award from the Australian Sociological Association (TASA).

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Age and Shadows: Narratives of Ageing Masculinity in Jun'ichiro Tanizaki's *Diary of a Mad Old Man*

Jun'ichiro Tanizaki's writing, spanning the period c. 1910-1970, exhibits a tension between traditional Japan of the feudal past and the bright illuminations of the modern Western world. My paper focuses on Tanizaki's controversial fiction *The Diary of A Mad Old Man* (1961). This fictional journal of ageing masculinity, detailing the aged protagonist Utsugi's erotic fantasies about his desirable daughter in law, will be analysed alongside his treatise on aesthetics, which valorises the richness and subtlety of 'shadows', aged objects, spaces and traditions. A.C. Grayling recognises that Tanizaki 'selects for praise all things delicate and nuanced, everything softened by shadows and the patina of age'. These qualities, I suggest, emerge in his novel as narrative strategies for exploring ageing, which contrast the modern with the traditional, highlight generational differences, and set traditional Japanese arts against newer modes of cinema or photography.

The Diary of a Mad Old Man meditates on cultural narratives that comment on the mental and physical vicissitudes of ageing masculinity, sexual arousal, and impotence. In this paper I demonstrate that Tanizaki's work is a meditation on the sensual, aesthetic experience of growing old, and on the potential beauty of decline and leaning backwards into the past – even while the diary is a narrative of failure, it's also a reflection on the elegance and aesthetic quality of that failure. Tanizaki's male protagonist experiences an internalised narrative of decline – specifically, of a slide into senile impotence – on which he muses at length, and which he must learn to manage. I read Utsugi's ageing as an exploration of the fractured, contradictory experience of late life, articulated through Tanizaki's troubled aesthetic of age as an embodiment of both Japanese and Western forms and values – of light and shadow, mobility and stasis, impotence and desire.



Bio

Dr Alice Crossley is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature (University of Lincoln). Her research focuses on intersections between age and gender (especially masculinity) in texts primarily by Victorian and modernist writers. Her recent work includes *Male Adolescence in Mid-Victorian Fiction* (Routledge, 2018), and an article on asynchronicity and aging queerly in the fiction of Israel Zangwill in 19 (2021) and an article on 'The Aesthetics of Ageing in Tanizaki's *Diary of a Mad Old Man*' for a special issue of *Poetics Today*. She's also edited a special issue on age and gender in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies* (2017), and co-edited a special issue of 'Narratives of Aging in the Nineteenth-Century' with Amy Culley for *Age, Culture, Humanities* (2021).

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Letters from the Hospice: Aging, Illness and Creativity in Rachel Joyce's *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy*

Rachel Joyce's epistolary novel *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy* (2014) is a parallel story to the author's previous book *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (2012), which follows an older man's journey on foot across the length of England, to visit his terminally ill friend Queenie, writing to him from a hospice to say goodbye. This companion piece is comprised exclusively of Queenie's letters to Harold, narrating her days, reminiscing about the past and confessing her secret feelings for him as she awaits his arrival.

This paper will analyse how the act of writing serves, on the one hand, as a vehicle for Queenie to carry out her life-review, allowing her to narrativize and thus reinterpret past events and to integrate them into a renewed sense of self, and on the other, as an exercise in creative freedom that enables her to find transformative meaning in her encounter with late life. Having acknowledged the imminence of her death, Queenie's search for the precise words to communicate the bodily, sensory, and perceptive experiences of her day-to-day life in the hospice anchor her to the present moment and to the material reality of her surroundings. The aim of this communication will therefore be to dissect how the novel avoids the pitfalls of romanticizing creativity as a way of transcending illness and disability, while nonetheless framing Queenie's self-expression through writing as a channel to assert her subjectivity and complete her life-long process of adjustment and self-development in face of adversity.



Bio

Mariana Cruz is a Ph.D. student of Modern Literatures and Cultures at NOVA University of Lisbon and the recipient of a Ph.D. research grant provided by FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia). Her current research focuses on representations of institutionalized aging in Contemporary Anglo-American Literature. She has been associated with the Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-Portuguese Studies (CETAPS) since 2017.

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(In)Visible Hero: Heroism as an Aid in the Extraction of Care Labour during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The purpose of this honours thesis was to examine the myriad ways in which heroism supported the extraction and overproduction of care labour in Ontario, Canada. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the label of “hero/heroine” was used to describe the contributions of Healthcare Workers (HCWs) in different settings. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, care labour was largely considered an invisible occupation (Hennekam et al., 2020). However, the severe impact of the pandemic on collective health and wellbeing resulted in a drastic shift in the ways that care labour was framed and discussed. I highlight the use of heroism by policy makers, Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) organizations and mainstream media as a prop to meet the critical needs of heroism through HCW labour.

This study utilized critical framing theory (Entman 1993; Fridkin et al, 2017) to further understand how heroism has been framed and constructed to acquire, maintain, and over-ask care workers and their labour. Narrative inquiries (Austin & Anderson, 2021; Tracy, 2013) were utilized to describe the lived experiences of the heroism narrative amongst HCWs employed in LTCHs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings in this research study indicate that HCWs feel as though the use of heroism discourse along with the overproduction of labour have disconnected them from rest, respite, and community. Additionally, themes of sacrifice, moral injury, and perceived risk in healthcare settings are identified and further discussed. Future implications including stronger pandemic preparedness policy, better support for HCWs, and interprofessional collaboration are considered.



Bio

Crystal-Jade Cargill (she/her) is a BA. Hon Recreation and Leisure Studies candidate at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Her Major is Therapeutic Recreation. Crystal-Jade is interested in understanding how language is used to oppress and exploit marginalized caring bodies working in Long-Term Care. Her methodologies of interest include framing theory, photo elicitation, critical narrative research, and qualitative inquiry. ccargill@uwaterloo.ca

Kimberly Lopez (she/her) works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. Kim is interested in critically examining social structures and processes that reinforce difference and marginalisation. As a community-engaged qualitative researcher, Kim is interested in aging and long-term care, labour and leisure, helping work, and well-being. kimberly.lopez@uwaterloo.ca

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Mater Loquitur: Recovering the Mother's Voice in Elena Ferrante's Troubling Love

Among all intergenerational relationships, the mother-child bond is probably the most intense and definitely one that needs closer examination. Cultural representations have traditionally portrayed the mother as a one-dimensional figure of sacrifice and unconditional devotion to her children: contemporary writing by women, however, has examined the many complexities of what allegedly is the most “natural” of female roles. In her first novel *Troubling Love* (1992), Elena Ferrante (Naples 1943) places the mother figure at the centre of feminine identity while seeking to liberate it from stereotypes, thus presenting motherhood in all its nuances – unpleasant, contradictory or even unspeakable.

The narrative of *Troubling Love* unfolds as a thriller in which the protagonist Delia returns to Naples to confront the mysterious death of her mother Amalia, who drowned in the sea after she unexpectedly got off the train that was taking her to Rome to celebrate Delia's 45th birthday. Her geographical descent into the depths of the Naples of her childhood to find out the truth about her mother's death will instead reveal the painful knots tying her mother's life to her own. The plot uncovers a shared story of gender violence that has thwarted the relationship between mother and daughter: this paper argues that the violence suffered by both women, while marginalising and silencing both female voices, has disintegrated the bond between mother and daughter. It is only by recovering that bond – and, with it, her mother's untold story – that Delia will finally succeed in reconstructing a fragmented self and regain identity.



Bio

Emma Domínguez-Rué graduated in English at the University of Lleida (Catalonia), studied an MA in English Literature at Swansea University (UK), and read her PhD dissertation in 2005. Aside from ageing studies, she has also worked on narratives of disease, detective fiction, and Victorian and Gothic fiction under a feminist perspective. She is Associate Professor and Serra-Hunter Fellow in the Department of English and Degree Coordinator for English Studies at the University of Lleida.

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The portrayal of senior consumers in advertising: advertisers' views on appropriate display of older people in commercials

As the percentage of people over 65+ has increased in the global world population, the marketing strategies have begun to reconsider their purchasing power as well as the representation of silver consumers in the promotional activities. Although previous research highlighted the benefit of graying marketing, the elderly have often been underrepresented in media advertising and portrayed as a homogenous group in terms of physical aspects, lifestyles, needs, values and expectations. In this context, a recurrent topic of fervent academic and public debates remains what is the appropriate display of the seniors in advertising, specifically what are those offensive and inoffensive traits of an older person's portrayal in ads. In this regard, ten in-depth interviews have been conducted to reveal the perceptions of Romanian advertising representatives (N=10) on the appropriate display of seniors in advertising in terms of their physical appearance, role, background, type of advertised product and persuasive strategy. The data showed that whether participants are concerned by the presence of inadequate depictions of silver consumers, they still resort to unrealistic and stylized images of aging due to perceived attitudes of the general public towards old age and its views on getting older.



Bio

Rodica Savulescu - PhD, lecturer in Marketing & Branding at The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Faculty of Management. Her specific areas of interest include brand communication, generational cohorts and the relationship between aging and digital technologies.

Alina Duduciuc - PhD, Lecturer in Social Psychology, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Faculty of Communication and Public Relations. Her research interests are located at the intersection of social psychology, advertising and health communication. Her published activity includes qualitative and quantitative methodologies to study health related behaviors and representation of aging in advertising.

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Empowering People to Fight Disinformation – A Generational Approach

Nowadays information accessibility is broader than ever, as a result of the Internet and new communication technologies' usage growth. Nevertheless, disinformation imposes a critical threat to the quality and trustworthiness of the information at hand and can presumably increase inequalities in access to credible information. While prevailing approaches suggest legal and technological measures, relevant criticism in this regard still exists. Alternatively, a more durable solution could be the educational instruments that empower individuals to fight disinformation. The present scoping literature review explores the existent media literacy training and interventions, examining which target groups they were created for, whether they are evidence-based and to what extent they include an explicit fake news component. We found that inequalities in access to credible information also exist in the form of disproportionate interest for different social groups and generations when tailoring such media literacy tools. The majority of the analysed initiatives took place exclusively in educational settings, mainly targeted students and teachers, and almost never deliberately included older adults. Moreover, the training we analysed was not evidence-based, meaning that the long-term efficacy of the instruments was not tested. The findings suggest the need for a multi-generational approach to media literacy initiatives, as well as the need for more evidence-based studies proposing media literacy training and interventions.



Bio

Elena-Alexandra Dumitru is a PhD candidate in Communication Studies at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration. Her main research interests are exploring the potential solutions to disinformation and examining the generational inclusive media literacy initiatives that could empower individuals to fight disinformation.

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Generational narratives in conspiracy theories

Today's world is changing at a fast pace for all age groups, but poses a particularly difficult challenge for the elderly. Retired individuals or professionals in their final active years before retirement tend to get more and more disenfranchised with the world around them, to the point of feeling a real or imaginary threat to their existence. Technological, cultural and scientific shifts, among others, are contributing to this rising feeling of insecurity. One of the defense mechanisms commonly used by elderly people is to embrace conspiracy theories that provide a bite-size and easy to understand, yet false and often harmful explanations of their struggles. As all conspiracy theories, they state that malevolent individuals and/or organizations are conspiring against the wellbeing of the entire world or are selectively targeting vulnerable groups of people, for their own benefit. What benignly starts by acknowledging that 'the world is not as used to be' can lead to harsh conclusions that virtually everyone and everything is posing a threat in particular to elders.

Generational narratives suggesting that the world has gone terribly wrong compared to the 'good old days' of the previous decades are increasingly common in public speech, from social media to mainstream television. False comparisons that deprecate contemporary times in contrast with an idealized vision of the past are fueling the perceived threat of the younger generations towards matures and seniors. A societal cleavage is artificially escalated by malign disinformation whose goal is to undermine the cohesion and healthy cooperation between various age groups.



Bio

PhD candidate Mihai Dumitru is a professional journalist and a published author, interested in politics, communication and environmental policies. His doctoral studies are focused on fake news and conspiracy theories in the wider context of disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The way that disinformation narratives are spread and the predictive psychological factors that influence their reception if of particular interest of the candidate.

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Re-imagining Dementia: Co-Creating Music for Social Justice

Stigmatising narratives of dementia are profound and cause harm to people living with dementia (PLWD) and their families. The consequences of stigma (e.g., isolation, abuse, neglect), coupled with ageism, were exacerbated during the pandemic, with COVID-19 disproportionately claiming the lives of older citizens globally. In response, we brought together an international group of PLWD, family members, professionals, artists, interdisciplinary researchers, policy makers and others to form a coalition – Reimagining Dementia: A Creative Coalition for Justice – to collaboratively work to transform the discourses, conditions, and practices that oppress and discriminate all who are affected by dementia. In this session, we describe an arts-based research initiative – “Let’s Reimagine” – an international and inter-generational co-created song/video project that aims to challenge stigma, show how PLWD can engage, connect, and live a vibrant life in community with others, and advocate for relational care policies and practices. Grounded in liberatory arts and authentic partnerships, our iterative process involved: engaging in arts-based activities and recording interviews with PLWD to explore experiences of stigma; analysing these activities and interviews to identify key messages to be reflected in the song; co-creating musical riffs and lyrics for the song; working with soloists living with dementia and other coalition members to audio-record different parts of the song; and creating the video, which involved collecting and curating photos, video clips, and art that challenge stigma and support the song’s messages. We offer our process to inspire and inform other collaborative, arts-based initiatives that aim to achieve a more just, caring, and inclusive society. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDTsb7VUZSE>

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Pia Kontos, PhD, is a Senior Scientist at KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network, and Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Her research is interdisciplinary, highly participatory, and arts-based, and she focuses on the development of theories, policies, and practices that challenge stigma and support relational caring for people living with dementia; pia.kontos@uhn.ca

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Media narratives as a mirror – representations of aging and older people over time

Narratives in the media about older people are important to study for at least two reasons. First, in terms of democracy, it is important to study who among the older population has a voice in the public sphere, which the media provides. Second, it is important to identify the roles older people have in the media and what topics they talk about or represent. Earlier studies indicate symbolic annihilation of older people in the media, as well as dominance of negative stereotyping over the years.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate master narratives and counter narratives of age and aging over time in Swedish print media, both in editorial material and in advertising. The aim is to see to what extent the narratives about aging are consistent over time and to what extent the narratives are changing. We draw on earlier research as well as new empirical content analysis from three historically significant time periods. The first period deals with the 1920s, shortly after Sweden implemented a general retirement system, the second studies the 1950s when the retirement system became more economically solid, and the third period take on the 2020s, after the Swedish Discrimination Act started to include age as a ground for discrimination. The paper uses the lens of the media to reveal continuity and change regarding age representations and narratives on aging, as a mirror of societal ideas.

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Bio

Maria Edström, PhD, Associate professor at the Department of Media, Journalism and Communication, University of Gothenburg. Her research focuses on gender, media, aging and human rights. During the last years, Edström has been involved in two major projects; Comparing gender and media equality across the Globe, and the challenges of an aging population through AgeCap, Centre for Ageing and Health at the University of Gothenburg.

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DOING RETIREMENT: A conceptual framework for multi-disciplinary research on narratives about retirement

Narratives about retirement are continuously constructed in different contexts and have far-reaching practical consequences. By narratives of doing retirement we mean the larger portrayals and descriptions that shape individuals', organizational and societal perceptions of aging and working life. We suggest that the transition between working life and retirement is influenced by various narratives about work, retirement and, more generally, about aging. The possibility to retire is dependent on cultural and economic factors as well as legal demands. In some societies such as Sweden, retirement is mandatory at a certain age and people unwillingly leave their job. For others, a physical or psychological challenging workload could lead to involuntary early retirement.

In this paper we introduce a conceptual framework, *doing retirement*, to study the narratives about the transition phase between working life and retirement from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The concept allows for a deeper understanding of processes involved regarding age and retirement. Through the lens of doing retirement, it is possible to study narratives about retirement, and how they are performed, on different levels in time, places and materials in order to develop necessary tools to manage present challenges on welfare systems in relation to an aging population. The focus is specifically on structures and processes of production of inequalities and the purpose is to contribute with knowledge that contributes/enables inclusive age structures influencing retirement in society.

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Bio

Eva-Maria Svensson is Professor, docent, LLD, LL.M. in Law at the Department of Law, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg. Her research interests are ageism and age discrimination, gender equality and freedom of expression. She has published extensively on various topics, and has great experience of interdisciplinary collaborations. She is part of the research center AgeCap, Center for Aging and Health.

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The phenomenological interview in critical age studies

Phenomenological philosophers who integrate qualitative interviewing in their studies generally note the methodological importance of embodiment in the encounter with research participants. What embodiment exactly contributes, however, is not spelled out in any detail. As phenomenologists working within the field of critical age studies, we have found ourselves developing our own hybrid resources for self-reflection, to enhance the phenomenological interview on both methodological and ethical levels. Our innovations have been led by the following question: how does an embodied encounter with the other ground the phenomenological interview, in the sense of inaugurating a situated way of knowing?

Our analysis is based on an ongoing exchange of reflections regarding our respective experiences as interviewers working with older people. We focus on the methodological and ethical implications of understanding the interview as an inter-corporeal encounter. This aspect is captured most succinctly by the notion of the other who does not leave me. We are left by the other with a feeling of abiding commitment to them as a research participant, which situates the practices of interviewing and data analysis between the academic possibility of co-creating new meaning and the ethical call of the other. We especially felt this call when interviewing older people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tracing ‘the other who does not leave me’ through various refractions of lived experience—the interview itself, the transcription, the phases of analysis—we explore how bodily proximity and ethical response-ability are enacted in our interview processes.



Bio

Hans-Georg Eilenberger (Tilburg University, h.g.eilenberger@tilburguniversity.edu) is a PhD candidate at the Tilburg School of Humanities and Digital Science working on the NWO-funded research project “Age and Existence: An Empirical-Philosophical Investigation of Late Life”. The aim of this research project is to conceptualize aging in a way that does justice to the lived experience of older people. It is drawing on the philosophies of Simone de Beauvoir and Maurice Merleau-Ponty while also conducting ethnographic fieldwork at different local sites.

Jessica Stanier (University of Exeter, js708@exeter.ac.uk) is a PhD student at the Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health at the University of Exeter. She takes an engaged approach to her research on phenomenology, ageing, and older age. The project draws together Jessie’s interest in critical Husserlian phenomenology with her ethical and methodological commitment to working together with participants. Jessie is Chair of the International Symposium for the British Society of Phenomenology.

F

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Helplessness and authority: the elders in the European visual arts, from La Belle Époque to the Information Age

Undoubtedly, the fine arts are an important part of Western culture. Important forms of visual discourse, painting, sculpture, and photography are increasingly linked to the public agenda. Moreover, since the eighteenth century, in democratic societies, artists tend to be representatives of society rather than of institutional power (state / church). This is relevant because, part of the visibility, the visual arts do more than present (and represent) the society: they participate in its continuous shaping and reshaping (Traue et al., 2019).

Over time in Western societies, the dominant attitude toward the elderly has been different. At certain times, the dominant perception of old age was characterised mainly by negative attributes: helplessness, ugliness, weakness, lust (especially men), malice (especially women). At the same time, there is (and always has been) a positive attitude, old age being associated with wisdom, authority, experience, serenity (Löckenhoff et al, 2009).

Being an exploratory study, part of a larger research, this paper offers a perspective on how the attitude towards old age is reflected by the European art of the 20th century. Making use of critical discourse analysis and undergoing a visual rhetoric analysis, this paper seeks to identify and examine the main transformations of the representation of the elderly in European art in the light of six crucial moments for the political, social, and economic evolution of the continent: the Great War, the interwar period (and the Great Depression), the Second World War, the Space Age, the Cold War (democracy vs. communism) and the Information Age.



Bio

Dragos-Adrian Farmazon is a PhD student in Communication studies at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration. His research focuses on the relationship between power and visual discourse. He is also interested in the fragile relationship between freedom of expression and the “cancel movement”.

Ella Fegitz

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Intergenerational female mentorship at work: the intersection of policy and media narratives

Gender issues in the workplace have taken a central role in mainstream discussions of gender inequality in the West in the past 10 years. Among the issues that are mostly discussed is vertical segregation, which describes the lack of women in senior positions in the industry. Consensus is that ‘mentorship’ between senior and junior women is one of the ways to redress the situation. Circulating in both public policy and the media, the narrative of intergenerational female mentorship consists in a shift in the representation of intergenerational female (and feminist) relationships, away from conflict and toward solidarity. This paper offers an insight into the intersection of policy and media narratives, and their impact on the cultural construction of female generations and of their relationships. It takes as its object of study the work produced by the Women’s Business Council in the UK, an industry-led working group responding to the Minister for Equalities, comparing it with three contemporary popular culture shows that include narratives of female mentorship (*The Good Fight*; *The Bold Type*; *Hacks*). Ultimately, I argue that the contemporary focus on female mentorship produces more positive representations of female and feminist intergenerational relations; at the same time, however, it may be complicit in reproducing neoliberal feminism’s focus on work-place success as the preferred route to personal emancipation, throughout the life-course.



Bio

Ella Fegitz is a postdoctoral fellow in Humanistic Ageing Studies at the Department for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark. Her current research project is an interdisciplinary investigation into the cultural and policy discourses that regulate women’s engagement with work and retirement in old age. She previously studied and published on media representations of femininity and their relationship to neoliberalism.

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Narrating the enviable end. Ending strategies and ambiguous forms of closure in contemporary end-of-life novels

The paper introduces and investigates the *end-of-life-novel* (EOLN): A distinct literary form portraying protagonists that have aged into very old age and face the inevitable end of life.

Inspired by what literary scholar Caroline Levine has termed a *new-formalist* approach, the paper examines how the conception of the end of life informs and *forms* the EOLN, i.e. which aesthetic affordances and patterns of meaning this life phase ‘exports’ to the novels. Consequently, the EOLN – the paper argues – offers insights to the cultural imaginary of the last years of life. The EOLN portrays its older protagonists as engaged in activities aimed at wrapping up, evaluating, and concluding life. Thus, it seems to mirror the understanding that dominates the field of narrative gerontology, in which old age is often perceived as the ‘narrative phase par excellence’: the time to engage in life review and to ‘write’ the ending.

The paper argues that the EOLN on the one hand is characterized by a narrative structure highly suggestive of a conclusive, unifying ending. On the other, it simultaneously undermines this expectation via the mobilization of sophisticated ending-strategies that deprives it of the supposed air of simple finitude and fulfillment. This does, however, not entail that the EOLN should be read as a critical rejection of the ideal of the life review or the possibility of a ‘good end’. Rather, it challenges its readers to make sense of and find value in endings - and forms of aging - that are different from or even less than ideal.



Bio

Nicklas Freisleben Lund is a post-doctoral researcher at the Danish Aging Research Center/ Center for Uses of literature at Southern University of Denmark. His current research focuses on the representation of aging and old age in contemporary Scandinavian fiction. He has published several articles and chapters on contemporary and modern literature and his work has appeared in publications such as *Scandinavica* and *Gerontology*.

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Social dialog in pre-university trade unions in Romania. An aging approach

Decreasing the coverage of collective bargaining and global trade union density poses a threat to social dialogue and a risk of diminishing teachers' rights (Toubøl & Jensen, 2014). An OECD report (2020) shows that more effort is needed to involve teachers in school decision-making. In the context of digitalization, the development of new communication technologies is both a challenge and an opportunity for trade unions revitalization.

Against this background, we conducted a study to discover what channels of communication are preferred by Romanian teachers and other school employees (librarians, administrators, secretaries etc.) in trade unions considering the respondent's age. The paper presents the findings of an online survey (N=3304) conducted in November 2021 on respondents having an age range of 18 to 73 years-old (Average=43.2, DS=9,4).

The findings confirm other studies (Frunzaru and Stefanita, 2021) that show that no matter the respondents' age, the referred way of communication in trade unions is face-to-face, unmediated by technology. Almost all research participants (93%) said that unions should communicate to a large and very large extent through union leaders at the school level. The second preferred communications are those provided by the Internet: the union's website, email, WhatsApp group, and the union's Facebook page. The least preferred avenues of communication are the radio and television. The correlation between age and the preferred channels of communication shows that young and old trade union members prefer face-to-face communication, followed by digital communication.



Bio

Valeriu Frunzaru is the Vice Dean of the College of Communication and Public Relations within the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest. As an associate professor and researcher with a background in sociology, his main areas of expertise are research methods in sociology and online communication.

Oana Stefanita is a senior lecturer at the College of Communication and Public Relations, National University of Political Sciences and Public Administration. Oana holds a PhD in Communication Sciences, and her research interests regard media effects and education. She is also a researcher within the Center for Research in Communication, Media Studies Lab.

Saskia Fürst

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Magical Menopause: Emotional Transformation in Mid-life in Nalo Hopkinson's *The New Moon's Arms*

With the Baby Boomer generation entering their menopausal years at the turn of the century, Western culture renewed its socio-medical interest in the lives of mid-life women and menopause. In her book, *Declining to Decline: The Cultural Combat and the politics of the Midlife* (1997), Margaret Gullette describes this cultural event as dividing “all women’s lives into two parts, the better Before and the worse After, with menopause as the magic marker of decline” (98). She argues that Western, male scientific discourse produced a public discourse on menopause that assumes all women have a “deficiency disease,” indicating a period of decline that only Western (male) science and commerce can remedy (101). Yet, via literature, Jamaican-born author Nalo Hopkinson refutes Western socio-cultural narratives of stagnation and decline for midlife women. Her 53-year-old protagonist, Calamity, has just lost her father and is going through menopause on the imaginary Dolorosse Island in the novel *The New Moon's Arms* (2007). Rather than framing menopause as a period of loss, Calamity has hot flashes that cause missing objects to re-appear, including her father’s cashew trees. Furthermore, Calamity rescues and temporarily adopts a young boy, a sea person that very few Cayaban people know exist. Because of these experiences, Calamity re-examines her contentious relationship with her adult daughter and her selfish decision to exclude her daughter’s father from both of their lives. While far from a perfect character, Calamity is finally able to make an emotional transformation that enables her to have healthier and more harmonious relationships with her family members, partly due to her “magical” menopausal experience.



Bio

Saskia Fürst is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the University of The Bahamas. She completed her PhD on the representations of older Black women in US literature and print advertisements at the University of Salzburg (Austria). Her latest publication is on representations of Black Girlhood in Afrofuturist visual media by Janelle Monáe in *Women: Opportunities and Challenges* (Nova 2020).

G

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Fab over 60: The New Age Instagram Influencers Embarking the Aging Narratives

Influencers are entirely associated with young people creating waves on social media, garnering huge followers. However, imagine if we talk of “being an Influencer” at 60 or even beyond that! At the age when society and people around us expect the older to fit into definitions of melancholy and life of frailty and dependency, they are breaking every stereotype and creating a newer narrative around them! This research will highlight the elderly women influencers who have challenged such norms, broke all stereotypes, and created their niche in social media with their hobbies and life experiences. The research will unveil “Female Instagram Elderly Influencers” who influence and inspire every generation through appeal and presence. The study will focus on the details of their background, the entry point in social media about their posts, and how they have changed social media norms. The study produces an empirical analysis of the Instagram posts of these “Female Instagram Elderly Influencers” and explores how stereotypical third-age representations were made. In addition, content analysis of the Instagram Pages assessing their depictions through their posts, videos and engagements with their audience are studied. This research, in particular, will explore the uncluttered avenues of aging, gender and their diverse roles in setting newer perspectives on aging. This will act as a reference point for the audience to shift their focus and perspective towards the elderly as they now are altering the notion of living life and, of course, challenging the stereotypes and ideologies set by society too.



Bio

Munmun Ghosh (PhD, Statistics, 2011) is an Associate Professor at Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Pune, India. Her current research interests and work are involved in aging and gender.

James Aaron Green

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‘You belong to my time, not his’: Aging, obsolescence, and ‘allotted time’ in Edith Nesbit’s *Dormant* (1911)

Edith Nesbit (1858-1924) remains primarily studied for her children’s fiction, yet her poetry and novels unfold an unconventional and insightful position upon issues of major concern to fin-de-siècle and post-1900 Britain, including socialism, women’s suffrage, and marriage. *Dormant* (1911) is arguably her most complex and ambitious exploration of these and other issues, but entirely neglected in post-millennial scholarship. Using the lens of literary age studies, this paper recovers the novel by arguing that it presents a unique perspective upon age and aging—and women’s position vis-à-vis these themes—during years in which they gained new medical and cultural import. Via its fantastical conceit of rejuvenescence, *Dormant* spotlights ‘the unreality of aging’ s mundane process’ and poses questions of obsolescence, ‘allotted time’, and intergenerational sociality. But, as New Woman Gothic displaced from the fin-de-siècle, the novel also embodies these ideas on a meta-textual level; so too does its generic hybridity resonate with the uncanny nature of its revival themes. Far from justifying *Dormant*’s relegation to the critical margins, I argue that such qualities only intensify the need for its recovery; the ambiguity and tentative feminist orientation of Nesbit’s fiction, never more fully realized than here, are as definitional of the post-1900 years as the more explicitly radical fiction of such contemporaries as Sarah Grand, George Egerton, and Victoria Cross, and less accounted for. Reading *Dormant* with attention to themes of age and aging, this paper complicates our sense of how narrative treated longevity, ageism, and young-old interactions during the formative years 1900-1920.



Bio

James Aaron Green is an APART-GSK (ÖAW) Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Vienna. He specialises in the intersections of nineteenth-century popular fiction and science, and holds additional interests in game studies. His work in these areas is published in *Gothic Studies*, *Victorian Network*, and the *Journal of Victorian Culture*. His first monograph, *Sensation Fiction and Modernity*, is forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan in 2023.

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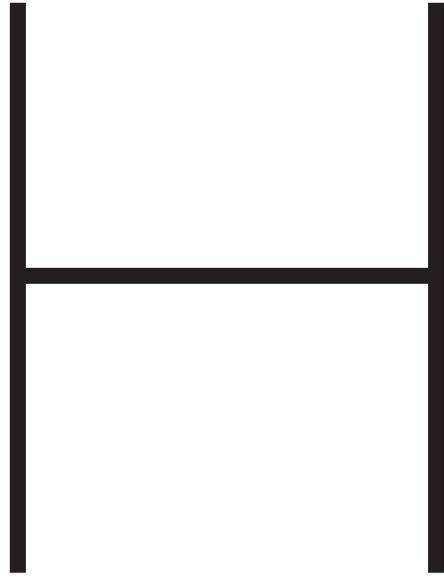
The Farewell Party: Senescing Bodies in Film

Dwelling spaces, temporalities and gender issues are intertwined in the everlasting process of ageing in urban scenarios. The main purpose of this presentation is to discuss part of the results of the dissertation entitled *Imaginaries of Female Ageing in Film*, which analyses the imaginaries produced and/or reproduced by the representation of elderly female protagonists in three different films. This presentation, however, will focus solely on the film *The Farewell Party* (Israel, Sharon Maymon&Tal Granit, 93 min, 2015). The film is a dark comedy that discusses love and friendship amongst the elderly and the questions involving one's right to choose how and when to die. The method of analysis is an interpretation of Casetti & Di Chio's (1998: 126) methodological proposal for interpreting the 'filmic text': isolation, identification and interpretation. Film fragments were selected from six different scenes. Two categories of analysis were chosen: (1) "Temporalities and dwelling spaces"; and (2) "Social, affective and sexual relations of the elderly female body". It is concluded that symmetry is the film's most important cinematographic choice, as it visually creates a sensory balance between freedom and enclosure. The film uses the technique of *Chiaroscuro* and high contrast to communicate visually meaning. *The Farewell Party* (2015) deals with issues related to assisted suicide, collective dwelling spaces, body image and sexuality among the elderly in a number of transgressive ways.



Bio

Nayara Güercio is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies at Trinity College Dublin. She has a MPhil in Literary Translation from Trinity College Dublin (2020), a MA in Communication/ Film studies from the University of Brasilia (2018) and a BA in Social Communication/Media Studies from the University of Brasilia (2013). Nayara is now researching Indirect Translation in academia. She is one of the grantees of the ABEI/Haddad Fellowship for Brazilian students.



Teresa Hartinger

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Representations of Age(ing) in Contemporary Austrian Literature

Age and aging are important “topoi” that have long been the subjects of literary studies, which look at various facets of these phenomena. On the one hand, literature and culture reflect the current discourses of old age in a society at a particular time, but on the other hand, they also create narrative and media depictions, which as a result contribute to a discursive idea of old age (Freiburg and Kretzschmar, 2012). In contrast to this opinion, Seidler emphasizes that literary authors do not want to portray the present of older people, but rather use the selected representations as experimental fields to depict what society might look like in the future (2007).

In my paper I am looking at representations of aging in contemporary Austrian literature and analyze which images of aging prevail and how multifaceted they can be. In doing so, I am primarily examining selected novels from the year 2020 onwards and I am exploring representations of the presence of aging. Through this paper, I would like to approach the question of how age(ing) is constructed literally and the ways in which this is done.



Bio

Teresa Hartinger is a doctoral student of German Studies at the University of Graz, Austria and a member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care. She graduated from the University of Graz as a teacher of German and History. She has been teaching German as a second/foreign language at ISOP Graz (2016-2020) and at FH JOANNEUM (2021-present). In her dissertation she deals with the representation of age(ing) in contemporary Austrian literature.

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Grandmothers' Negotiations of Intergenerational and Technological Ambivalence

Increased longevity and decreased fertility rates have changed families significantly over the past three decades and grandparent-grandchild relationships are lasting longer than ever before. With sociodemographic changes in family forms, a greater contestation of family values and meanings has emerged (Rojek, 1995; Shaw, 2010). Grandparents and adult grandchildren often experience intergenerational ambivalence in family relationships (i.e., simultaneous consensual and conflictual aspects of family relations), but the purposive use of family leisure helps grandparents and grandchildren cope with the ambivalence that they experience (Hebblethwaite & Norris, 2010). Technology use is increasingly implicated in these grandparent-grandchild relationships. While older adults are agentic and make deliberate choices about their engagement with digital media (Hebblethwaite & Ivan, 2016), this use of technology is rife with both opportunities and challenges with respect to their family relationships. Yet little research has examined the complexity of the relationship between intergenerational and technological ambivalence for older adults.

This presentation, therefore, will explore the intersections of intergenerational ambivalence and technological ambivalence for grandmothers from seven different countries, including Canada, Romania, Peru, Israel, Spain, Italy, and Colombia. Narrative thematic analysis (Smith, 2016) was used to analyse data from 26 focus groups that explored grandmothers' experiences of digital media in their relationships with their families, friends, and communities. Drawing on data from the themes of intergenerational and technological ambivalence, we engaged in restorying of the data to construct creative nonfiction short stories that encourage a deeper thinking about the ways in which grandmothers negotiate their experiences of intergenerational and technological ambivalence.



Bio

Shannon Hebblethwaite is Professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Concordia and Director of engAGE: Concordia's Centre for Research on Aging. Shannon's research centres on social inclusion and the role of leisure in well-being among individuals and in families. Through interdisciplinary research collaborations, her work has engaged marginalised communities, including older adults, grandparents, first-time mothers, and persons living with disabilities. She is Associate Editor of the *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*.

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To Age or Not to Age: Fear Narratives in Older Age Discourse

Although not long ago the topic of ageing used to be the subject of interest only in medicine, social work, or public policy, present-day humanities and social sciences demonstrate the flowering of works providing a comprehensive research into this stage of life. They tend to define an older person, describe old age as a cultural phenomenon, comment on the interaction between different age stages. However, an approach which dominates in the older age discourse is its medicalization, usually associated with weakening, diseases and dependence of the person. It is considered to be a problem causing decline which is devastatingly frightening for the ageing individual. This presentation aims to analyse the representation of fear in the conceptualization of old age. The present research is based on the belief that old age involves not only chronological and biological changes. Rather, it is a complex system of interactions between the ageing self, its body, and society, which highlights the need to approach old age as a social construct in the unity of biological, psychological, social, and cultural aspects. As a matter of fact, this paper aims to summarise the “ageist stories” of old age with the focus on irreversible degeneration of the body, series of losses, psychological concerns, dependence and/or abjection of the elderly, and their invisibility. This research may provide further insights into the issues of ageing, as well as valuable nuances of our perceptions of old age and how older people can be devalued in society through powerful negative discourses.



Bio

Snizhana Holyk (PhD) is Associate Professor of English Language and Literature, Head at English Philology Department, Uzhhorod National University. Her research interests are currently focused on the conceptualisation of old age in the interdisciplinary perspective. She frequently speaks at international conferences and is the author of more than 20 papers, including peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes.

J

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Youth Culture and Midlife in Richard B. Wright's *"In the Middle of a Life"*

This paper explores Canadian author Richard B. Wright's 1973 novel as a text that engages critically with two of the master narratives associated with aging in the 1960s and 70s: the "midlife crisis" and the "generation gap." In contrast to a psychoanalytic understanding of the midlife subject as occupying a particular stage in a teleological process of development, the novel insistently figures protagonist Fred Landon's subjectivity as defined by traits inherited from his ancestors that have remained stable throughout his life. It is through Landon's preoccupation with his ancestry that the novel articulates a counter-narrative to the middle-ageism that characterizes his encounters with a youth culture represented by his daughter and by a corporate world eager to capitalize on an expanding youth market by sidelining older workers including Landon. While he struggles to find both a job and a constructive basis for communication with the young and the old, the text's focus on the resemblances that connect Landon to his grandfather, mother, and daughter emphasise intergenerational similarities in a culture preoccupied with differences and ultimately enable Wright to move beyond the context of Landon's family to imagine the possibility of a more age-equitable society. Framing Landon's "midlife crisis" not as an interior psychological phenomenon but as an experience that makes visible the social and economic forces that amplify intergenerational hostility, Wright's novel remains relevant for a time in which population aging, precarious employment, and climate catastrophe have all intensified, serving as flashpoints for an "adversarial ageism" that deflects attention from the real sources of these problems (Harvie).



Bio

Sara Jamieson is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Her research is focused on representations of aging and old age in contemporary Canadian literature and includes articles on the writing of Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, Joan Barfoot, Paul Quarrington, Carol Shields, and Joe Ollmann. She is currently working on a project on midlife in Canadian literature and culture.

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Colonizing Care: Trollope's Fiction of Independence

As COVID-19 ravaged care homes across the world, global leaders met the deaths of thousands of older people with a collective shrug of inevitability. In this presentation, I will argue that the structural ageism that made this eldercide possible was shaped, in part, by the legacy of an imperial imaginary that linked older bodies with racialized others through an economic discourse of expendability. Focusing on Anthony Trollope's antipodean *The Fixed Period* (1882)—a dystopian novel about the failed attempt to euthanize everyone at the age of 68—I suggest that his novel stages the tension between care and independence as a colonial romance, a configuration that continues to resonate in debates about the value of human life: of who is deserving of care in a time of crisis and who is not.

This work has three sections: the first, short section will turn to feminist care theory as a way of critiquing the link between independence and the value of human life, a link which a postcolonial perspective helps us to destabilize. The second, longer part of this talk will analyze Trollope's novel to suggest that the nineteenth century linked age and empire through the prism of gendered expectations about dependence and independence. Finally, I will conclude by showing how the legacy of the empire resonates in our current care crisis, and why turning back to the nineteenth century is an important step in addressing it.



Bio

Jacob Jewusiak is a Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature at Newcastle University. His first book, *Aging, During, and the English Novel: Growing Old from Dickens to Woolf*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2020. He recently co-edited a special issue of *19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long-Nineteenth Century* on the theme of "The Old Nineteenth Century." His articles have appeared in journals such as *NOVEL*, *ELH*, *SEL*, and *Textual Practice*.

K

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Narrating Intergenerational Legacy: David Attenborough's *A Life on Our Planet*

In his documentary *A Life on Our Planet*, Sir David Attenborough's commentary strongly emphasizes intergenerational responsibilities, framing his story as a witness statement of a 93-year-old man, as he mentions in the beginning of the film, passing on knowledge to following generations. Basing the documentary on his own life's story, Attenborough narrates the planet's 'disastrous decline,' and criticizes the ways humans have been its cause.

In our interdisciplinary analysis, we look at the role of legacy in Sir David Attenborough's documentary and the intersections of his personal story with the planet's history. We critically investigate the relational and temporal perspectives embedded in the narrative of environmental decline caused by humans; the way in which they manifest in speaking about generations, speaking about responsibility and guilt, and in the plea to action for a better future. We draw from Aging Studies and Climate Ethics research in order to explore the underlying narratives, the constructedness and images of 'generations,' and their implicit anthropologies. We thus hope to contribute to a broader conversation about the multifaceted entanglements of aging, intergenerationality, and legacy as discussed in the context of the Anthropocene.



Bio

Anna-Christina Kainradl is a doctoral candidate. Her research focuses on old age and migration in Austria, and Climate Ethics. She also teaches Medical Ethics at the Medical University of Graz and is involved in projects dealing with age, autonomy, knowledge and health literacy.

Eva-Maria Trinkaus is a postdoctoral research assistant. Her research is in American literature with a focus on aging, food, and space/place. She also teaches English at the University of Applied Sciences in Graz and manages the Age and Care Research Group Graz. They are both researchers at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care at the University of Graz in Austria.

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Literary Digiscapes: Exploring Digital Technology in Narratives of Aging

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has broadened the role of technology in the lives of older adults and the young alike. A large, diverse demographic was forced to adopt digital technology-enhanced solutions in order to conduct essential activities and maintain critical relationships in health (doctors' appointments, vaccinations, testing), education (online teaching and learning), social engagements, work (Zoom meetings), and daily necessities (click-n-collect groceries, ordering restaurant food). These technologies change and influence the way we build and maintain relationships, among each other as well as with the technology itself. While the pandemic has brought the role of digital technology in our lives into sharp relief, fictional and non-fictional narratives about the influence of technology have existed prior to the current pandemic.

Adopting ideas from literary foodscapes (Trinkaus, 2021), which focused on the role of food and spaces/places for narratives of aging, we propose a concept of Literary Digiscapes in order to understand and analyse the role of digital technology in narratives of aging. We identify the characteristics of Literary Digiscapes such as devices, services, spaces/places, and people represented in the narratives. Using these criteria, we illustrate the use of Literary Digiscapes in contemporary literature and media as well as that in popular fiction, such as Star Trek episodes. We are looking at how peoples' interactions with technologies are represented in these texts, as well as how these representations convey images of aging and old age.



Bio

Unmil Karadkar works as a Scientist in the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging & Care (CIRAC) at the University of Graz, Austria. He blends techniques from Social, Information, and Computational Sciences to study the intersection of aging-related data and the communities that create, use, and manage such data. He serves as the lead for Data Governance in Aging in Data, a SSHRC-funded Canadian project. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from Texas A&M University and worked in the School of Information at the University of Austin before moving to Austria.

Miroslava Kinczer

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Narratives about care in long-term care institutions for older adults

The physical environment in terms of barrier-free and universal design, and the use of active and passive modern technologies seems to be a topical issue. In my research, I focus on the relationship between the physical environment of one facility for older adults in Bratislava, Slovakia, and the subjective personal well-being and quality of its client's life. I am interested in how the above-mentioned non-human actors (Latour, 2005) affect the relationship between clients and staff of the facility.

Because my field research will be situated in a long-term care facility for older adults, I considered attending a certified nursing course as a part of my pre-research as a precious experience for understanding the knowledge base for nurses and staff in this kind of institution. Moreover, participation in this course has revealed an essential thing – how caregivers speak about their clients and the care they are giving to them and what they learned throughout the certified course about caregiving. Through direct open participant observation and semi-structured and informal qualitative interviews focused on caregiving during 80-hour practice in long-term care institutions, I capture narratives that caregivers use about their clients and their daily routine.

I believe narratives held by caregivers in long-term care facilities also enter the network made by actors in the meaning of Latour's actor-network theory and play an essential role in shaping the relationships between staff and older adult clients.



Bio

I studied social anthropology for my bachelor's and master's degrees at Comenius University in Bratislava. After graduating, I was employed at the Ministry of Labour, social affairs, and family of the Slovak Republic in the section of social services. In 2021 I decided to leave the ministry and start a Ph.D. with a topic that can help me better understand the actors which consist of the well-being of clients of long term care institutions.

Andrzej Klimczuk

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Narratives of Senior Social Entrepreneurship in the Silver Economy

The basic assumption of the paper is the recognition that the complexity of the challenges related to population ageing forces the development of cooperative links in the area of the silver economy between public policy entities representing various sectors. In other words, there is a need for more intensive and better-coordinated cooperation between organisations in the commercial sector, public sector, non-governmental sector, informal sector and social economy sector (e.g., cooperatives). In this context, it is essential to implement the assumptions of the governance theory, co-production, and mixed economy of welfare (multisectoral social policy). As a consequence, the paper will point to selected threads of the European discourse on the relationship between population ageing, social entrepreneurship and social innovations.

Examples of best practices and initiatives will also be provided. The summary will contain recommendations for European public policy entities and proposed directions for further research.



Bio

Andrzej Klimczuk, PhD, a sociologist and public policy expert, assistant professor at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland. His research focuses on gerontology, labour economics, public management, and social policy. His recent monographs include *Economic Foundations for Creative Ageing Policy* (the two-volume set, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, 2017). He is a Sections Editor in the *Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Ageing* (Springer Nature, 2021).

Janna Klostermann

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Relational imaginaries and ‘fuller stories’ of ageing and care

How can we think and write about ageing and our lives in ageing societies in more relational, expansive ways? How can we tell fuller stories of our own and others’ lives, while working to cultivate more sustainable, equitable and habitable ageing futures? In this paper, I draw on the work of feminist social theorists (Code, 2006; Doucet, 2016, 2021; Somers, 2008) to argue for embodied and relational knowledge-making approaches that (a) recognize our own implication and participation in social relations of ageing; (b) support with telling fuller and more deeply situated stories that make links to structuring conditions and circulating narratives; and (c) honour our own and others’ creative potential, opening to possibilities. I share how I enacted such an approach in my doctoral research both by developing and using an adapted “listening guide” to analyse research interviews (Doucet & Mauthner, 2008) and by producing a ‘sociological memoir’ to recast conversations with women in different age cohorts. As I’ll argue, taking responsibility for knowledge production involves opening to creative possibilities or to the unexpected. There can be something generative there, something powerful about seeing with fresh eyes.



Bio

Janna Klostermann is a feminist sociologist exploring the politics of care in our ageing society. She is currently a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow in Brock’s Department of Sociology, where she is undertaking a project entitled, ‘Imagining Equitable, Sustainable Care Relations in a Post-COVID-19 Canada.’ ‘Care has limits’ is the title of her PhD dissertation. She can be reached at jklostermann@brocku.ca

Pia Kontos, Sherry L. Dupuis, Romeo Colobong
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Using research-based film to challenge the dominant ‘tragedy’ narrative of dementia and foster relational caring

Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ARD) is associated with stigma (stereotypes, prejudice, discriminatory practices) that creates social exclusion, diminishes dignity, and threatens well-being and quality of life. Decreasing stigma associated with dementia is a public health priority across international settings, with urgent calls for culture change. The use of drama and film in challenging master narratives and addressing social injustices are increasingly advocated for education that aims to promote personal and social transformation. However, the effectiveness of filmed research-based drama about stigma has yet to be evaluated in the context of ARD. We evaluated the impact of a research-based film – Cracked: new light on dementia – on the attitudes, beliefs, and practices of staff, family, and people living with ARD in community-based care settings, and the general public. Focus groups were conducted pre-screening and immediately post-screening, and interviews were conducted at 3 and 8 months post-screening. Our analysis illustrates the effectiveness of Cracked in conveying an alternative narrative and reducing stigma by: challenging misconceptions and stereotypes about ARD (e.g., only a negative trajectory); raising awareness about the possibilities of living well with ARD (e.g., meaningful activity and relationships); and fostering relational patterns of caring (e.g., patience, respecting choices, showing compassion). It further identifies aesthetic qualities of Cracked (e.g., emotional connection, realism, visual engagement) that were key to engagement and transformation of the participants. Cracked is thus well-positioned to respond to urgent calls to reduce stigma, foster relational caring, and improve the quality of life and well-being for people living with ARD.

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Bio

Pia Kontos, PhD, is a Senior Scientist at KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network, and Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Her research is interdisciplinary, highly participatory, and arts-based, and she focuses on the development of theories, policies, and practices that challenge stigma and support relational caring for people living with dementia.

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Using research-based film to challenge the dominant ‘tragedy’ narrative of dementia and foster relational caring



Bio

Sherry L Dupuis, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, Co-Director of the Partnerships in Dementia Care Alliance, and University Research Chair at the University of Waterloo, in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Sherry’s research program focuses on culture change in dementia and long-term care that promotes relational caring and living life to the fullest. She is committed to ensuring that the voices of persons with dementia and their informal and formal care partners are actively included in research, education, and practice. To this end, she uses critical participatory action research and liberatory arts-based approaches as a means of promoting personal transformation, social justice, and social change in dementia and long-term care.



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Ageism in the Provision of Immigration Settlement Services in Toronto and Vancouver: A Review of Annual Reports

There is a gap in which senior immigrants — newcomers aged 50 years and older — are minimally considered in migration or aging studies. Yet given Canada's aging population, immigration plays a central role. This research explores: How do Canadian immigration settlement services discriminate against senior immigrants sponsored by their family in Toronto and Vancouver within the last three years? Using the social gerontology lens by Marier (2021) and an intersectional life course approach by Brotman et al. (2020), I consider seniors in terms of their social needs and the difficulty of transitioning in later life. This study performs a content analysis of the most recent annual reports published within the last three years, accounting for 14 settlement service organizations providing services for seniors using the IRCC search engine. The results indicate ageism against seniors along multiple dimensions. Firstly, services for immigrants and services for seniors are two separate categories in the services provided which do not align with the reality of needs and intersectional identities as both seniors and immigrants. Services make a clear effort to provide access to digital literacy skills, exercise, nutrition, and social opportunities to mitigate isolation for seniors. However, most organizations fail to provide services for seniors' health that are sensitive to language barriers and challenges navigating the healthcare system. Finally, most services regarding economic concerns do not cater specifically to seniors who face different challenges regarding language, employment, and pensions, in ways that differ significantly from younger economic class immigrants which are unfairly prioritized in immigration.



Bio

Alessandra is a master's candidate in Public Policy & Public Administration completing an internship with Indigenous Services Canada, and holds a BA in Communication & Cultural Studies, both at Concordia University. Her research focuses on the intersections of laws and policies related to (im)mobility and the admissibility of immigrants to healthcare, and social services that fail to respond to their diverse needs.

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Exploring caring through story: Experiences of essential carers in long-term care

The COVID-19 pandemic brought strict visitation protocols of unprecedented duration to long-term care (LTC) homes as part of infection prevention and control policies. In Ontario, Canada, at their most extreme, protocols only permitted scheduled phone or virtual visits with residents, the occurrence and length of which were subject to the availability of electronic devices, wireless technology and overburdened staff. Critiques of these restrictions have importantly identified concerning health impacts of social isolation on residents, which contributed to revised protocols that enabled carers designated as ‘essential’ to visit LTC residents, albeit still following strict public health measures. Following these reforms, there has been little exploration of the experiences of essential carer visits with residents of LTC, leaving much unknown about how caring as an intersubjective and embodied phenomenon was expressed and experienced by family during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this paper, we draw on insights from narrative inquiry to explore these experiences with essential carers. Stories drawn from this methodological approach enable us to see a complexity and richness of caring that challenges the one-dimensional tragedy narrative that has been predominant in analyses of visitation protocols. To this end, exploring experiences of caring through stories offers a powerful resource to challenge prevalent perspectives, potentially inform visitation policies in future outbreaks, and to contribute new understandings of the very nature of caring.



Bio

Melanie Lalani, MA, is a PhD student in the Social and Behavioural Sciences program at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Her research focuses on developing theories, policies and practices that support a relational ethic of caring for people living with dementia in long-term care (LTC), with a particular interest in relationality between people living with dementia and young children.

M

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Redefining Reflexivity as Resistance: Intergenerational Feminist Eco-Imaginarities as Counter-Narratives

Since the 1980s, scholars in the field of cultural gerontology have turned to cultural manifestations to investigate ideas about the meaning of identity within the life course. Narratives both reaffirm and subvert dichotomies of gender and age. In a feminist tradition, Susan Sontag identified early on aging as a social judgement of women based on a lack of imagination rather than a biological eventuality, when she pointed to the „Double Standard of Aging” (1973) as applied to men and women and recognized socially and culturally set boundaries as imagined predicaments. Since the beginning of the 1990s, ano-criticism (Maierhofer) links theories of gender and age to emphasise the narrated expressions of counter-worlds as voices of resistance and subversion – necessary for social and cultural change.

When Amitav Gosh identifies the failure to address issues of climate change as “a crisis of the imagination”, he suggests that narratives create thought experiments challenging the status quo. Addressing asymmetrical structures of power (Sachs 2014), eco-imaginarities provide counter-worlds on different levels. Regarding gender, age, and generations, climate discourse has highlighted this asymmetry and often ignored intergenerational collaboration. By portraying older adults as “greedy geezers” (Fairlie 1988) and the young as victims of previous generations, intergenerational tensions have increased. Acknowledging the feminist documentary, *The Gleaners and I* (2000) by Agnès Varda as an eco-imaginary of collaboration, this presentation seeks to provide an understanding of the importance of telling stories across the generations. By (re)presenting a feminist collaborative, multi-generational voice within the climate discourse, intergenerational narratives are imagined.



Bio

Roberta Maierhofer (roberta.maierhofer@uni-graz.at), University of Graz, Austria, focuses on her research on (Inter)American Literature and Culture, Gender, Generations, and Age/Aging. In her publication *Salty Old Women: Gender, Age, and Identity in American Culture*, she developed a theoretical approach to gender and age/ing (ano-criticism), and was thus in the early 1990s, one of the first to define her work within the field of Cultural/ Narrative Gerontology.

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Not Too Old to Board a Raft and Go on an Adventure – Narratives of Aging in *Silver Lining*

Gloria, Maureen, “St. Michael,” May and her sister June are residents of the Silver Retirement Home in Gravesend. These seemingly useless old women, living in a care home and stuck in the past tend to be preoccupied with trivial things in their lives. One day, their everyday life is interrupted by a heavy and life-threatening storm. While waiting to be rescued, they decide they have to take matters into their own hands and save themselves, contrary to the initial impression of the situation. This paper analyzes Sandi Toksvig’s play *Silver Lining* and explores stereotypes of aging through the many representations visible through the characters in the play. There are various ageist remarks and negative aging stereotypes at the expense of the older women made by a young carer, however, there are comments and jabs made by the residents themselves as well. Despite the strong emphasis on ageist remarks, the play’s focus is not on pitting old against the young, rather it focuses on the five “forgotten” women trying to escape the flooded care home, having us follow their escape story. *Silver Lining* utilizes jokes and snide remarks for character building and entertainment, but manages to surprise the spectator (or the reader), challenging their prejudices toward older people. Analyzing Toksvig’s play using drama theory with an Aging Studies lens, this paper is exploring narrating the women’s transition from seemingly incapable individuals to a group of older women being proactive and fleeing to safety.



Bio

Urša Marinšek holds MAs in English Language and Literature and Sociology from the University of Maribor, Slovenia. During her studies, she worked as a nursing home assistant and as a tour guide in a karst cave. Her research interests include Slovene translations of Shakespeare’s plays, stylistics, drama, as well as aging studies. She is a member of the Age and Care Research Group Graz, and is a project assistant at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care at the University of Graz, Austria.

Dayna McLeod

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May-December queer romance on screen: middle-aging women and their younger objects of desire

My presentation engages with and excavates middle-aging representations of queer female subjects in film and their younger partners. I discuss how queer narratives and characters are made legible to audiences through pairings of desire: that their on-screen romance keeps active for the viewer their queerness, rejection of queerness, potential queerness, and or participation in queerness as seductress or seduced. Although representations of queer, trans, and nonbinary subjects are increasing in fictional and factual film and television, middle-aging subjects are still largely absent. My paper examines how sexuality, gender, desire, queerness, age, class, and race are represented and embodied in films like *Desert Hearts* (directed by Donna Deitch, 1985), *High Art* (directed by Lisa Cholodenko, 1998), *Carol* (directed by Todd Haynes, 2015), and *The Hours* (directed by Stephen Daldry, 2002). I use these films as a starting point in marking the absence of aging queer women on screen as well as explore what it is about intersections of aging, sexuality, gender, race, class, and constructions of womanliness (whatever that means) that finds these subjects few and far between. My paper also examines the stereotypes that are employed to communicate with an (often mainstream) audience about these subjects. Here, I situate the (hetero)normative mediatized backdrop that queer, trans, and nonbinary subjects are set against, and I compare queer female characters to heterosexual characters, given the abundance of straight representations in film, and as the backdrop that we are always already compared to as queer female subjects.



Bio

Dayna McLeod is an artist-scholar and recent Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture research-creation postdoctoral fellow. She earned a PhD from the Centre for the Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture at Concordia University. She is part-time faculty at the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at McGill University, and at Concordia University in various Humanities and Fine Arts departments.

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Inner Drama of Aging Illustrated in Fairy Tales Narratives: New Psychic Dimensions in Old Age

What are narratives of the fairy tales from a psychological perspective? They are the parable of the journey through life; they describe the eternal paradigms of human life; Rich treasures of human wisdom; and include the whole process of individuation. They are traditional narratives, constructed over the years, told - repelled so many times and so many people those purely personal elements and cultural idiosyncrasies tend to fade, disappear; the drama remains universally valid. Hence we have similarities of narratives in different cultures.

Psychological development is continuous, occurs not only in the period of infants and childhood, it continues significantly after the middle of life, and later, at the age of old age. Identity is formed in the sense of rooting in the Self (Jung) after the middle of life; previous psychological structures are structured in relation to the task of adaptation and accommodation. The identity after the second half has a different direction, towards becoming ourselves, in the sense of inner destiny, a process led by the Self. A second birth can begin after 30 years, usually around 40 years, sometimes after 45 even after 50, when a new era of psychological and spiritual transformations begins.

Growing up in age is a *psychological and spiritual age*. Metamorphosis from the middle period of life, can give rise to the true self; this personality begins to appear and update in the second half of life. It is also possible a stage of crystallization between the middle of life and old age. At the transition to old age, a third period of transformation and metamorphosis occurs. This metamorphosis gives rise to a typical sense of the spiritual and limitless sense (self, which prepares man for the final passage, perhaps the IV metamorphosis/ transformation, physical death. We will discuss the narratives of "elderly" heroes which reveal the psychology of maturity, the developmental tasks that the person would fulfill / develop / master in part II / III of life.



Bio

Prof. Mihaela Minulescu is Jungian psychoanalyst, member of IAAP, and founder of Romanian Association of Analytical Psychology. She teaches Clinical Psychology and Psychological Assessment at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Psychology Department. Mihaela Minulescu published studies on personality psychology, in books and journals. She is involved in analytical international training and supervision in analytical psychoanalysis, and studies in the process of psychic development, individuation, as a continuous process along life.

Marta Miquel-Baldellou

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Suspense Matters, and So Does Age: Aging as a Cameo in Alfred Hitchcock's Films

In addition to acquiring worldwide acclaim as the master of suspense and director of countless masterpieces, Alfred Hitchcock also gained much popularity for being particularly fond of cameos. Hitchcock's subtle appearances in his own films were initially sporadic, but began to recur as he gained recognition and grew in status as a director. Film scholar Jason Holt (2007) associates Hitchcock's cameos with three narratological functions, which involve aspects related to the narrative, the director, and the audience. As Holt claims, Hitchcock's cameos may contribute to reinforcing narrative aspects, they break the cinematic illusion through self-reflexivity, and they also challenge the audience to play detective and manage to spot his fleeting presence. These functions—associated with the subtle, but outstanding, appearance of a detached aging man, who happens to be Hitchcock himself—are also indicative of the role that aging plays in many of Hitchcock's films.

Although aging characters do not always play a leading part in Hitchcock's pictures, their presence becomes pervasive, with films featuring dominating matriarchs, as is the case of *Rebecca* and *Psycho*, or liberated and intellectual aging women, as happens in *The Lady Vanishes* and *Suspicion*. The portrayal of female aging in these films contrasts with that of ailing aging men in *Vertigo* and *Rear Window* or of concerned male mentors in *Rope*, who are often given a more central role to play, despite their vulnerability, in comparison with their female counterparts. From a narratological perspective, like Hitchcock's cameos, these aging characters mostly stand apart as commentators through their directorial gaze and aid in luring the audience into solving the puzzle. A panoramic overview of the manifold aging characters in Hitchcock's films will serve the purpose of analysing how they illustrate, but also subvert roles traditionally associated with the aged, and how they metaphorically replicate the narratological functions attached to Hitchcock's cameos in his own films.



Bio

Dr. Marta Miquel-Baldellou is a Work Team Member of the research group Dedal-Lit at the University of Lleida. Within the field of aging studies, she is particularly interested in the analysis of age performance in classic films and of aging discourses in popular and gothic fiction. In relation to these subjects, she has contributed chapters to different volumes of the Aging Studies Series of Transcript Verlag (Bielefeld, Germany), as well as to edited collections on aging studies published by Peter Lang, Brill/Rodopi, and Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

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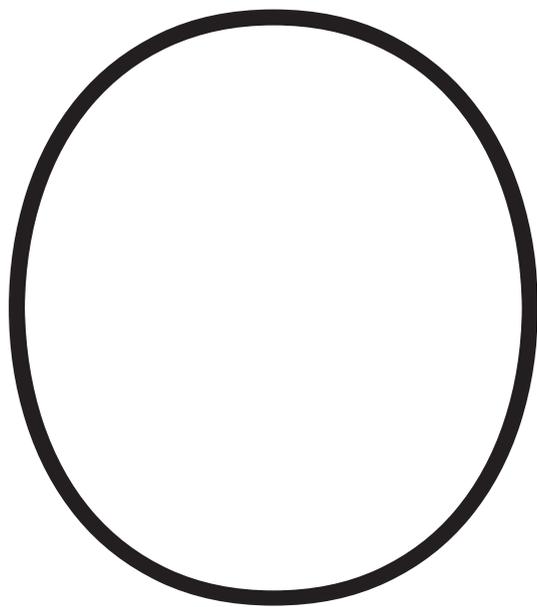
‘Old age is decline’: Visual ageism in four Romanian ads

The role of the media, and particularly of advertising, in construing and promoting a distorted image of older people (the ‘ageing well’ discourse) has been well documented in the literature. The term of visual ageism (Loos & Ivan, 2018; Ivan et al., 2020) has been proposed to refer to under-representations and misrepresentations of older people in visual media. This paper seeks to examine the use of the image schema of decline as an example of visual ageism in four ads from a campaign targeting both 55+ unemployed people from a county in Western Romania and their potential employers. Furthermore, this paper examines how the highly conventional metaphorical up-down orientation of good is up/ bad is down has been used to visually convey old age as physical and social decline (the process of going down). The older adults targeted by the ads are portrayed sitting in armchairs, hunched over, wearing glasses (physical attributes), and willing to take on lower status jobs for which they are overqualified (social dimension) and diligently (an aspect that is overstated in ads) perform their duties. Finally, the paper discusses the implications that the metaphorical framing of old age (aging) as a decline has for the negative stereotyping of ageing in advertising and for perpetuating negative imagery of older adults through visual ageism.



Bio

Elena Negrea-Busuioc is an Associate Professor at the Department of Communication, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Bucharest, Romania), where she teaches courses on Metaphors in advertising, Visual communication, and Public communication in the EU. Her research interests revolve around metaphor use in communication, visual communication and discourse analysis (especially EU-related discourse).



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Her Digital Presence: Narratives of Aging and Technology of “Granfluencers”

Park Mak-rye, known as the “Korea Grandma,” is a youtuber with 1.3 million subscribers, an Instagram star, and a new media phenomenon. Sassy, down-to-earth, and bold, this seventy-four-year-old woman is one of the most powerful “granfluencer” of South Korea. Unlike many of the granfluencers of the global West who gained critical attention over their trendy fashion styles and suave charms of an older adult, the charm of Park lies in her “comic” handles of technologies. From her broken hashtags to makeup tutorials for orthopaedic clinics, Park thrives in her un-pardoning frustrations, fascinations, and struggles over new technology and the new digital culture. In this paper, I analyse her Instagram posts and YouTube vlogs in order to illustrate the unique ways Park pushes back against the prejudiced rhetoric of old people’s digital illiteracy. Bringing together Park with a few well-known North American granfluencers, I show how just the experience of Park’s frustration with technology as an aging woman establishes her presence in the digital world.



Bio

June Oh is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Michigan State University. Her research interests lie in age studies, 18th-century British literature, disability studies, and digital humanities. As a BIPOC woman, she is committed to bringing an aging body and mind into discourse as it intersects with racism, sexism, classicism, and ableism in the historical past as well as our present time.

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Restorying Ageing: Older Irish Women and Life Writing

'Narrative' is a concept central to 'Restorying Ageing', an exploratory interdisciplinary study about intersections of women's ageing and creativity, and older women's potential to intervene in public discourse on ageing through life writing. The project brings together theoretical and methodological approaches in humanities and social science, centring in cultural gerontology. It takes its cue from Margaret M. Gullette's concept of "critical age autobiography" (1997), which contends that cultural stereotypes about ageing can be challenged with individual stories. Focus groups and a subsequent life writing workshop aim to explore and challenge prevalent cultural constructions of ageing, as older Irish women reflect on gendered media representations, explore older women's life writing, and the potential to bring their own voices to bear on and restore cultural representations of later life.

The narrative of aging as decline is particularly debilitating for older women, whose value is often conflated with having a youthful appearance, and who are frequently obscured or stereotyped in cultural representation. Centrally, this project explores the topic of representation, including both ageism and age-affirmative portrayals of older women in cultural and medial texts, and its power to inform the experience of growing older, as well as the creative potential of life writing to intervene in dominant cultural narratives about older women by demonstrating their diverse lived experience. In this presentation, we outline initial thematic findings from two focus group sessions, a creative writing workshop, and follow-up diaries with a group of women aged 50 and older. This project is a collaboration with the national organisation Age & Opportunity and is funded by the Irish Research Council.



Bio

Dr Michaela Schrage-Früh is a lecturer in German and Comparative Literature at NUI Galway. She has published widely on representations of gender and ageing in literature and culture and is co-editor of four edited collections, *Ageing Women in Literature and Visual Culture: Reflections, Refractions, Reimaginings* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), a special issue of *Nordic Irish Studies*, entitled *Women and Ageing in Irish Writing, Drama and Film* (2018), *Women and Ageing: Private Meaning, Social Lives* (Routledge, 2020), and *Ageing Masculinities in Irish Literature and Culture* (Routledge, 2022). She is Principal Investigator of the IRC-funded project "Restorying Ageing: Older Women and Life Writing".

Dr Margaret O'Neill is a postdoctoral researcher with the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology in NUI Galway. She has published widely on representations of women's and men's ageing in contemporary Irish culture and society. She is co-editor of three edited collections, *Ageing Women in Literature and Visual Culture: Reflections, Refractions, Reimaginings* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) a special issue of *Nordic Irish Studies*, entitled *Women and Ageing in Irish Writing, Drama and Film* (2018), and *Women and Ageing: Private Meaning, Social Lives* (Routledge, 2020). She is Co-Investigator of the IRC-funded project "Restorying Ageing: Older Women and Life Writing".

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Investigating narratives of intersectionality: stories of ethnic-culturally diverse ageing in contemporary British advertising

Storytelling has been shown to have a persuasive effect on audiences. It contributes to people's ability to learn new information and increases audiences' susceptibility to false information. Consequently, misinformation concerning ageing and old age in broadcast fictive forms, such as advertising, may influence audiences' perception and behaviour regarding older people. With the ageing population of the United Kingdom (UK) becoming increasingly diverse, socio-cultural artefacts that capture the zeitgeist, including advertising, have started to gradually reflect a more multicultural modern Britain. Nevertheless, research by the UK's Advertising Association underscores that advertising seemingly still falls short of portraying realistically Britain's minority ethnic population and their lives.

This conference paper examines the similarities and differences in the stories told with older people of different ethnic backgrounds found in contemporary UK advertising. So far, no study into ethnicity in advertising has focused on the older population in the UK. A total of 6,228 adverts, aired during primetime on three major commercial TV channels in the UK, were analysed, using narrative analysis.

The findings show that older people from ethnicities other than white appear to experience less nuanced and less positive portrayals in the stories told. While ageism overall might have decreased from previous decades, this appears to hold true only for certain sub-sections of the older population. The presented findings derive from an ongoing interdisciplinary research initiative, based at the University of West London, which investigates the public perception of ageing and old age in the UK.



Bio

Dr Dennis A. Olsen is an Associate Professor of Advertising and Branding at the University of West London, UK. Before joining West London, Dennis worked for several years as a strategic planner at a multinational communications and advertising agency in Germany. His research interests revolve around ageing societies—particularly the study of stereotypes in the media, DEI campaigns, and shifting consumer behaviours.

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The Fall of the Patriarch – ageist discourse in two Romanian contemporary movie

A good part of Romanian movies after 2000 feature characters who embody old age. Either as leading (*Moartea domnului Lazarescu*, 2005; *Heidi*, 2015; *Câinele japonez*, 2013) or as supporting characters (*A fost sau n-a fost*, 2006; *Bucuresti non-stop*, 2015; *Acasa la tata*, 2015; *Sieranevada*, 2016; *Întregalde*, 2021), their representation is generally stereotyped and does not much evolve throughout the time. Old age is associated with physical impairment, mental decline, peevishness, loneliness, social marginalization, social exclusion, etc. Old men characters are generally featured more often – and by far more often as leading characters – than old women characters. In most of these movies, there is a clash between generations, more specifically between the father and the (biological or symbolic) son or daughter, whose outcome is, in general, the physical or symbolic death of the father.

Drawing on critical discourse analysis, we propose here an investigation of ageist discourse in *Moartea domnului Lazarescu* (2005) and *Întregalde* (2021), two of the most powerful movies from the point of view of the abovementioned problematic. More precisely, we will first run a linguistic analysis of the script of each of the two movies, in order to identify the main semantic domains used in relation to ageism. Then we will undergo a socio-semiotic, multimodal analysis, in order to understand the extent to which the iconic element amplifies the use of particular linguistic forms or patterns.

We will show that, despite the almost two decades that separate *Moartea domnului Lazarescu* and *Întregalde*, the two movies are remarkably congruous from the point of view of the ageist discourse and, in general, of the representation of old men characters. The overtly derogatory language and the plain, realistic cinematography equal old age with a loss of social status and of human dignity. Moreover, when they are not the object of indifference, condemnation or disdain from the younger generations, old people are shrouded in a charity that does not clearly seek to improve their social and psychological situation, but rather, as *Întregalde*, to ease young persons' own consciousness.



Bio

Denisa-Adriana Oprea, Ph.D., is Associate Professor at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania. She is currently teaching Communication Theory and Films Studies courses. A former scholar in Canadian Studies, she has published widely in the field of Québec literature and of media studies. She has also translated several books into/from French/Romanian languages.

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The Stories We Told Ourselves: Paradigm Differences in Old Age Narratives from the Medieval and Early Modern Period from Today

Poring through *Ars Moriendi* manuscripts from the Middle Ages, one sees innumerable deathbed and dying scenes. These books counsel the dying on the art of dying well. But something unexpected is amiss; there are no images of older adults in these manuscripts. Similarly, medical textbooks from the period also do not feature aged adults posturing as ill or dying. By analyzing medieval and early modern historiography surrounding aging and texts/images where older adults do appear, we instead find that “old age” often makes its appearance in wisdom (or lack thereof) narratives. How then, did the narrative of older adults as sickly, frail, and dependent become appended to aging? Using a combination of art historical visual analysis and close textual reading, I shall attempt to tease out social constructs of aging as emphasizing a “physical state” that is arrived at, rather than contemporary notions of aging as a degenerative physical condition. This paradigmatic difference in understanding aging as a “space” imparts a sense of stasis or stability to old age where we see decline today. Understanding this narrative allows the agency to be put back into the hands of older adults, but concomitantly, their behaviors and actions are scrutinized less generously. Although we can never reclaim these age narratives from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, perhaps understanding their views and conditions can inflect our ideas around aging today.



Bio

Xiaoli Pan is a second-year Ph.D. student at Case Western Reserve University specializing in medieval art history. Her interests are interdisciplinary and combine the history of medicine and art history. She focuses on sculptural bodies as indices of health and wellness in the Middle Ages as well as anatomical imagery in medical manuscripts. She completed her Bachelor's at New York University in Art History and her Master's at Yale University in Religious studies on medieval art.

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Daring to Age? Narratives, counter-narratives and the double-standard of ageing

In her seminal paper, Julia Twigg (2004) noted the importance of feminist approaches in social gerontology in putting subjectivity at the centre of the experience of embodied ageing. This is particularly important, she showed, because of the complex, ambiguous and often paradoxical nature of much embodied experience particularly for women as they age. One example is that of 'natural' ageing: how are we to define it and what does it mean to individual women? Another example is the ambiguity between resistance to the double-standard and capitulation to it which may manifest in different approaches to beauty routines and self-presentation: where is the line to be drawn between self-fashioning and taking pleasure in beauty and make up in later life, on the one hand, and denial/disguise of the ageing face and body on the other? This paper employs a feminist perspective to consider these questions using a selection of narratives and counter-narratives with regard to the hegemonic double standard of ageing. Employing visual and other texts, it seeks to shed light on contemporary dilemmas and paradoxes that are even more complex and multi-layered than those highlighted by Twigg nearly twenty years ago. Where standard narratives seek to deny age, the counter narratives insist on the possibility of mature beauty and identify its features. However, whilst undoubtedly hopeful, the tentative nature of these narratives also highlights the dilatory nature of the progress made in the half-century since Sontag wrote. I conclude by suggesting some reasons for this.

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Bio

Susan Pickard is Professor of Sociology at the University of Liverpool, UK. She has researched and taught in the field of age studies over many years, publishing on diverse topics including the distinction between health and illness in old age, the lived experience of frailty, intergenerational relationships, the nature of abjection in the fourth age, the life course and feminist theoretical and empirical approaches to ageing and old age.

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Roma life histories and social exclusion in later life. An intersectional perspective

Social exclusion in later life disproportionately affects Roma people in Romania. This paper aims to understand the lived experiences of social exclusion of Roma with the use of life histories and events calendars. The paper indicates the turning points that led to particular social pathways to social exclusion across different socio-economic and political changes. The data come from 15 biographical interviews with older Roma living in rural and urban Romania, collected in 2021 as part of the AMASE project - “A multidimensional approach to social exclusion in later life. Health consequences for aging populations”. We employ an intersectional life course perspective in order to look at relationships between systems, events, trajectories, and linked lives, while highlighting how various disadvantages combine to influence individual pathways to social exclusion in later life. Narrative data analysis allows the assessment of the significance that our participants place on the various macro, mezzo and individual events that shaped their biographies. Results show that narratives of social exclusion in later life shift between systemic disempowerment and individual or contextual empowerment. Alternative narratives combine and counterpose a rhetoric of frailty and social exclusion with collective intergenerational negotiations and community support. The new insights into Roma lived experiences of social exclusion across the life course can constitute a valuable input for participatory policy approaches to social inclusion.

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Bio

Iuliana Precupețu, PhD, is a senior researcher at the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, and at the Research Institute for Quality of Life. She is a sociologist specializing in quality of life, health inequalities and social exclusion in later life.

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Marja Aartsen, PhD, currently works as a research professor at NOVA Norwegian Social Research at Oslo Metropolitan University. She is a sociologist by training and specialized in longitudinal research on social exclusion, social inequalities, loneliness, and cognitive functioning in older adults.

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“Back in the days, I used to...” versus “today, I’m” – narratives of technology use from Romanian older media generations

Research on information and communication technology (ICT) in relation with ageing studies revealed that even though at the start older adults appeared to be technophobic, they in fact choose to use ICT if it answers to their particular needs of connecting with loved ones (Ivan & Fernández-Ardèvol, 2017). The current technological era (Grinin et al., 2017), social media and the new communication and information devices changed how people belonging to different generations consume information (Gumpert & Cathcart, 1985; Siibak et al., 2014). However, investigating the usage particularities of communication devices for different age groups, especially when older generations are concerned is less explored than, for example, the use of ICT amongst Millennials, Gen Z etc (Leung, 2013; Pînzaru et al., 2016; Tapscott, 2008).

In Romania, national statistics deliver little to no information about the common use of ICT in the older population (INSSE, 2018, 2021a, 2021b). In addition, the current trends are gravitating towards investigating generations’ media usage considering the historical and cultural space where they can be found (Bolin, 2016; Opermann, 2014),

The current work explores usage narratives and particularities of different age groups in Romania. Respondents (n=18) aged 52 – 79, 8 males and 10 females, took part in 17 family interviews (Eggenberger & Nelms, 2007) conducted between February-July 2021. Results point towards two different media generations within this age cohort. The main lines separating one generation from the next are not necessarily age related, but rather in accordance with technologies that were available during the respondents’ formative years (Gumpert & Cathcart, 1985; Mannheim, 1972; Vittadini et al., 2013). It results that a generation’ preferences for a specific device or for a specific usage of ICT technology is shaped around the technology that appeared during its formative years and matured while the generations also matured. Moreover, technology that was available once the respondents’ formative years have passed, is reported to have been adopted only in compulsory circumstances (a job-related requirement or the need to keep in touch with loved ones that use a different technology).

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Bio

Roberta M. Raducu is a PhD student in Communication studies at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration. Her main research interests are investigating generations as audiences in relation to different information and communication technology, as well as investigating the evolution of generations’ relationship with different information and communication devices.

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Daring to Age? Narratives, counter-narratives and the double-standard of ageing

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has created a heightened need for information especially in the older population due to its increased susceptibility in this period. However, COVID-19 information seeking in later life seems difficult to address using the existing databases as they mostly refer to the general population. This study was aimed to clarify how health satisfaction, socio-demographic background, and country of residence are associated with choosing options for COVID-19 information-seeking among older internet users. The analytical sample for the study (n = 4233) was drawn from the 2020 wave of the Ageing + Communication + Technologies (ACT) cross-national longitudinal research study investigating media use particularly in later life. Multinomial and logistic regression models were employed to analyze the data. Health satisfaction was negatively associated with mentioning one online/offline interpersonal communication source/behavior, and positively - with mentioning designated websites as COVID-19 information source. Substantial socio-demographic differences (along gender, age, education, and marital status lines) were found, particularly regarding the mentioning of digital media as COVID-19 information source. Moreover, sizable cross-country differences were observed in all examined models. The results point to the existence of a remarkable divide with respect to choosing the ways of obtaining COVID-19 information even in an advantaged segment (Internet users) of the older population. The study and its results underscore the importance of studying information behavior and technology use in older adults during COVID-19 using the unique data collected from older adults.

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Bio

Dr. Dennis Rosenberg, PhD (Sociology) is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Jyväskylä (Finland), Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, and a lecturer at the Department of Human Services, University of Haifa (Israel). He finished his postdoctoral fellowship at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel (2019-2020) and at the University of Haifa, School of Public Health (2019-2021). His research refers to the use of technology (e-government, health-related Internet use, and technology use in later life). Other fields of his study include Arab society in Israel, immigrants' social integration, and (medical) cannabis use and policy. The articles he wrote (as an only author or in co-authorship) were published in leading journals including *Computers in Human Behavior*, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and *New Media & Society*.

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Intergenerationality, Age, and Environment in Children's Picturebooks

Building upon works by scholars such as Vanessa Joosen, who have suggested that age studies and studies of children's literature have much in common, this paper brings together these two fields of studies and, furthermore, explores the ecocritical potential of this intersection. The central question in the paper is how intergenerationality, something that is central to ageing studies and children's literature, may help us to re-imagine our relationship to place, space and time. Addressing this question, we turn to picturebooks for children and consider how literature that is a dialogue between those at different stages of the life course might imagine temporalities and possibilities beyond the human. We examine two contemporary picturebooks that are not explicitly "environmental" texts but link intergenerational relationships and the natural world: Jeanne Willis and Briony May Smith's *Stardust* (UK, 2017) and Toyomitsu Yamauchi, Shunsaku Umeda, and Yoshiko Umeda's *Jichan no naisho no umi* [Grandpa's Secret Sea] (Japan, 1993). Paying specific attention to the employment of the natural world in both text and illustrations, we consider how far this temporal convergence is associated with non-human, even planetary, time. Examining two texts from different cultural contexts, we also consider how the adult-child relationships and the mobilization of the natural world in their depictions may be contextually specific. Ultimately, our reading of the two picturebooks reiterates the importance of thinking about aging from a lifecourse perspective and more significantly, of re-imagining the human life course from the nonhuman perspective



Bio

Katsura Sako is Professor of English, Keio University, Japan. She has research interests in literary and cultural studies of ageing, gender and children's books. She has published on these topics in journals such as *Women: Cultural Review*, *Feminist Review* and *Contemporary Women's Writing*. She has also written and edited, with Sarah Falcus, *Contemporary Narratives of Dementia: Ethics, Politics, Ageing* (2019) and *Contemporary Narratives of Ageing, Illness, Care* (2022).

Sarah Falcus is a Reader in Contemporary Literature at the University of Huddersfield. She is interested in the intersection of ageing studies and literary studies, and is the co-author of *Contemporary Narratives of Dementia: Ethics, Ageing, Politics* (Routledge, 2019) and co-editor of *Contemporary Narratives of Ageing, Illness, Care* (Routledge, 2022) (both with Katsura Sako). She recently co-edited a special issue of *International Research in Children's Literature* (2021) focussed on the intersection between Ageing Studies and Children's Literature Studies. She is the co-director of the Dementia and Cultural Narrative Network

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Stories Real and Stories Imagined: Intergenerational Aspects of Merging Memory and Imagination in David Almond's Oeuvre

This paper reflects on memory and imagination via age studies and children's literature studies by introducing the 'simulation theory' of memory as discussed in philosophy of mind. This theory suggests that remembering is a form of recreative or simulative imagining. In other words, remembering is regarded as imagining the past, and is considered as 'memorial fabulation' (Chambers 2001), or 'imaginative compilation' (Sutton 2010). David Almond's oeuvre features an array of young characters who creatively engage with notebooks in order to merge memory and imagination, echoing Almond's writing process for the semi-autobiographical story collection about his youth, *Counting Stars* (2000). *The Savage* (2008), for example, depicts Blue's notebook as a venting repository in his grieving process. Likewise, *My Name Is Mina* (2010) evokes Mina's journal as a testing ground for her thought experiments. Davie in *Clay* (2005) and the (same-named) protagonist Davie in *The Colour of the Sun* (2018) are portrayed writing and illustrating in notebooks, all while exploring their identities and creating stories. Other books by Almond, such as *Kit's Wilderness* (1999), *The Fire Eaters* (2003), and *A Song for Ella Grey* (2014) depict the protagonists 'scribbling' on paper (Almond 1999: 221). These child characters imaginatively recreate past experiences, twisting them into stories in notebooks. By examining Almond's writing process and his characters' writings as forms of thinking, feeling, coping and healing, this paper delves into the intergenerational transposition of intense interactions with notebooks from Almond to his child writer characters, encompassing fusions of stories real and stories imagined.



Bio

Emma-Louise Silva is a postdoctoral researcher aboard the ERC-project 'Constructing Age for Young Readers', focusing on age studies, cognitive narratology, genetic criticism and philosophy of mind. She combines this role with a lecturing position at the University of Antwerp, where she teaches the 'Joyce Seminar'.

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Back to the drawing board: Using body mapping to reconfigure narratives around menopause

Although menopause has enjoyed a renewed focus in recent years including considerable feminist based research already written on the topic, attention to LGBTQ+ experiences of menopause is negligible. This research therefore hopes to uncover those neglected life experiences and utilise them to completely reconfigure the bio-psycho-social picture of menopause and the multiplicity of experiences that abound within it by centralising marginalised perspectives. Drawing upon cross-cultural research into menopause, such as that of Margaret Lock (1986, 1993, 1998) and those academics investigating health inequality along racialized lines (e.g. Trawalter, Hoffman and Waytz, 2012), this research will work redraw the picture of menopause experience not just to include marginalised identities as an afterthought, but as the centrepiece and focus of the picture. Utilising a phenomenological investigation of queer experiences of menopause, participants are invited to use body mapping, or a similar arts-based research method to explore their experiences through both visual and linguistic methods, and to tell their stories and control their own narrative. Body mapping will be followed by a semi-structured interview which is analysed through reflexive thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2019) in order to centre researcher subjectivity and the importance of reflexivity throughout the research process. This ongoing research project seeks to consider the ways in which sexuality and gender identity affects one's experience of menopause and the potential for positive experiences of embodiment. Key concepts and themes such as queerness, disrupting Western binaries, medicalisation and the (im)materiality of "the" body will be explored.



Bio

Rebecca Ann Simmons is a PhD researcher at the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. Her research aims to uncover the multiplicity of experiences among LGBTQ+ people who are or have experienced menopause - using creative methods such as body mapping to do so. She is affiliated with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Leeds.

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Reading Retirement

It's a relatively well-established fact that men age badly compared to women. They live shorter lives and many experience increasing meaninglessness as they retire. In losing their job, it is often argued, they lose what gave them identity, status and meaning. While there are clearly exceptions to this caricature, many recent critically acclaimed novels by bestselling authors represent male protagonists, who are frustrated with their retirement and experience a deep emptiness in their lives directly related to their retirement. This paper gives, first, a brief overview of a handful of such novels, which I refer to as 'retirement novels' (and propose as a subgenre of the *Vollendungsroman* worthy of more attention) in contemporary anglophone literature: e.g. Philip Roth (*Everyman*), Julian Barnes (*The Sense of an Ending*), David Lodge (*Deaf Sentence*), Caryl Philips (*A Distant Shore*), Edward St. Aubyn (*Dunbar*). Focusing on the description of the protagonist's retirement experience, I discuss how it relates to matters of setting, time, narrative perspective, plot and characterization and thus aim to offer an account of the genre of the retirement novel that can be used to analyze other examples in contemporary literature. Following this literary analytical part, the paper also reports initial findings from an ethnographic study that uses the technique of shared reading with groups of males on or on their way to retirement. I ran one such group which met over 8 weeks, and which (along with a number of other groups) was followed by a research team that included an anthropologist and a philosopher involved in public health research. We asked if shared reading could increase this group's experience of meaningfulness and well-being in this crucial life phase of transition? Can the experience of reading under these conditions help counter the typical decline narratives of the male retirement novel? Initial findings suggest that reading might indeed impact the narrative arcs of participants in more meaningful directions than those of their fictional counterparts.



Bio

Peter Simonsen is professor of European literature at the Department for the Study of Culture at the University of Southern Denmark. He is Head of English Studies and leads the Center for Uses of Literature. He has published widely on Romantic poetry and contemporary literature about age and aging in a variety of contexts. More recently he has become interested in empirical approaches to the study of literature.

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Music Is Life: Experiences of Relational Caring through Musical Engagement

Many calls for relational approaches to dementia care have been made and yet few studies have explored relational caring in practice and fewer, if any, have explored the arts as a medium for relational caring. In fact, most approaches to the arts with people living with dementia (PLwD) prioritize the arts as clinical intervention, limiting other possibilities of the arts for PLwD. We wanted to address these critiques by creating a research-based documentary that explores the experiences of a theoretically grounded relational caring approach that uses the arts, especially music, as a medium for relationality. We conducted 30 video-recorded research conversations with diverse participants, including 10 PLwD, involved at the Dotsa Bitove Wellness Academy (DBWA), an arts-based curriculum/space intentionally grounded in relational caring philosophy and literacies (e.g., mentorship, role-modelling of relational caring principles). Three themes (lyrical connecting, musical transformation, and music is relational being) were identified and used to structure a documentary, *Music Is Life*, that challenges dominant narratives and explores the meaning of music and musical engagement for members of the Academy. Preliminary research on the impacts of the film suggest it is effective in challenging stigma associated with dementia, prompting critical reflection, and inspiring new ways of being and relating with PLwD: “... As someone who thought they were using compassionate support, this documentary completely changed how I practice as a music therapist.” This research demonstrates the importance of relational musical engagement for creating relational spaces where all can thrive, with important implications within and beyond dementia care.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC84ZIctVED6a_9eP95KHJlw

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Music Is Life: Experiences of Relational Caring through Musical Engagement



Bio

Christine Jonas-Simpson, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Nursing at York University. She conducts arts-based research through music, drama, paintings, and documentary film exploring how human beings transform through loss. Her films open conversation, and enhance compassion and understanding, co creating new possibilities for humanity - where everyone thrives. See <https://vimeo.com/christinejonassimpson>; jonasimp@yorku.ca

Sherry L Dupuis, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, Co-Director of the Partnerships in Dementia Care Alliance, and University Research Chair at the University of Waterloo. Her research program focuses on culture change in dementia and long-term care and uses critical participatory action research and liberatory arts-based approaches to promote personal transformation, social justice and social change; sldupuis@uwaterloo.ca

Pia Kontos, PhD, is a Senior Scientist at KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network, and Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Her research is interdisciplinary, highly participatory, and arts-based, and she focuses on the development of theories, policies, and practices that challenge stigma and support relational caring for people living with dementia; pia.kontos@uhn.ca

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Lessons from the mentor for life: An intergenerational narrative about ageing, loss and gain

This paper offers a fresh examination of contemporary American writer Mitch Albom's bestseller *Tuesdays with Morrie* (1997) from a perspective of literary age studies. Especially, it focuses on the concept of later-life mentorship and narratives about ageing, care, and death. In Albom's book, the classic mentor figure, commonly seen as the archetype of a wise old teacher, is revived through the healing power of an end-of-life narrative. The mentorial relationship between a young man and an old man shows that personal growth is an ongoing and ageless process of becoming that can lead to wisdom and a better understanding of ageing and living-with-dying. It also reveals that later-life narratives of mentorship are an integral part of the transmission of knowledge and humanistic values to establish solid relationships between generations. Life lessons with Morrie, collected in the form of a memoir, provide readers with important tools to learn to accept life in all its dimensions and circumstances. Relatedly, Albom's first-person account reveals how the power of narrative can deconstruct negative western notions of old age and encourage new perspectives about ageing, care, disability, and, ultimately, death.



Bio

Ieva Stoncikaite holds a PhD (2017) in literary gerontology. She is a member of ENAS and the research group Grup Dedal-Lit at the University of Lleida, Spain. Ieva's research interests include interdisciplinary age studies, in particular, literary-cultural expressions of ageing, ageism, and arts-based research on ageing and later life.

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Living with Dignity During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 outbreak has greatly affected resident and caregiver experiences of dignity and care given at nursing homes. The preservation of dignity is one of the most important goals of long-term and end-of-life care as it reduces feelings of distress, promotes quality of life, and prepares residents for a comfortable death. Unfortunately, there has been a dearth in narratives from nursing home residents, caregivers, and clinicians on experiences of dignity during the pandemic. This paper plans to explore some personal experiences and shared anecdotes from nursing staff, residents, and a wound-care physician during my time volunteering and shadowing at a nearby nursing home as well as analyse existing literature and observations on care and experiences of dignity in nursing homes before and during the pandemic. I argue that the dignity of residents has been negatively affected during the pandemic through the exacerbation of pre-pandemic issues such as nursing shortages and financial barriers as well as the implementation of inadequate state and federal policies that lack understanding of resident experiences. To promote optimal health and care for residents, it is important to understand what dignity means to residents and all stakeholders in the nursing home setting. Moving forward, there needs to be an exploration of better ways to foster continuing social relationships and communication not only between residents, families, nursing staff, and healthcare providers, but also with local, state, and federal agencies.



Bio

Millie Sun is a M.A. Bioethics and Medical Humanities student at Case Western Reserve University with interests in aging, ageism, long-term care, and dementia. Her interest in aging studies and long-term care stems from volunteering and shadowing at a nursing home for 3 years and experiencing how care has changed through the pandemic. She hopes to pursue a career in medicine with an interest in primary care and geriatrics.

T

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‘Ageing means entering a jungle’. Defiant, reactive, and compassionate ageism in personal narratives of growing old belonging to non-seniors

The present paper focuses on personal narratives of Romanian adults revolving around their representations of old age and the meanings they ascribe to the process of ageing, with special attention towards new or less explored forms of ageism: defiant ageism, reactive ageism, and compassionate ageism. The aim is to probe the narratives of non-seniors related to old age and ageing as a distant reality, affecting eminently the others and their narratives related to old age and ageing as intimate possibilities and ideal(ized) constructions. A special goal of the study is to investigate the interplay between these two categories of narratives in an effort of understanding how ideas about old age in general and in contemporary times in particular shape self-representations of growing old. There were carried out semi-structured interviews with 25 people aged between 30 and 59 years, using strategies to cultivate and encourage the narrative dimension, as well as taking into consideration an epistemology derived from narrative gerontology. There are discussed the most significant findings, such as the fact that one of the main articulators of the personal narratives on ageing is ageism, and there are proposed two new concepts – defiant ageism and reactive ageism – for a better understanding of ageism specifics. Moreover, the paper examines the roles played on one side, by the macro-narrative of successful/active ageing and, on the other, by that of social death in how these personal narratives are elaborated and in how they draw symbolic boundaries between older and younger people, between the inward of ageing and the outward of old age.



Bio

Adriana Teodorescu is a PhD Lecturer in the Department of Social Work, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca. Her main research interests are social gerontology and death studies. She is the coordinator (together with Dan Chiribuca) of the collective volume “Shaping Ageing. Social Transformations and Enduring Meanings”, published in 2022 at Routledge. Editor-in-chief of “Eastern and North European Journal of Death Studies”.

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Aerial Ellipses: Re-Reading Dementia-Gain and Narrative Care in Postcolonial Fiction

In this paper I unpack the relationship between narrative care, dementia, and postcolonial healing in Shani Mootoo's *Cereus Blooms at Night* (1996), a novel typically celebrated in postcolonial studies for the narrative care provided by nurse Tyler to Mala, an older Indo-Caribbean woman. I explore tensions between, on the one hand, dementia studies scholarship that de-centres the significance of narrative coherence to personhood, and, on the other, the importance of narrative testimony to postcolonial healing foregrounded in postcolonial critique. These contrastive approaches beg an urgent question: if one cannot narrate 'history', does this mean that older people living with dementia might become excluded from participating in forms of postcolonial redress? In response, I advance a postcolonial ageing studies methodology to conceptualise dementia as a condition that might bring about forms of experiential 'dementia-gain' in communities living with the consequences of colonisation. I interpret Mala as living with dementia, a condition that is figured through aerial motifs: sky, air, insects. In dwelling upon these motifs alongside the novel's elliptical form that foregrounds the unsaid, imperceptible, and disrupted, I argue that Mala's experiential difference inaugurates non-narrative forms of care. Re-reading Mootoo's novel with due attention to these 'aerial ellipses' - the unseen and extra-lingual aspects of dementia - complicates recourse to narrative as a healing locus for colonial trauma. Instead, we can consider how Mala's cognition reimagines the past and fosters speculative caring affiliations. Ultimately, I demonstrate how Mootoo's aesthetics of (old) age and dementia-gain leads readers to engage with more gainful relations with colonial pasts and the possibilities of intergenerational care in the present.



Bio

Dr Emily Kate Timms explores the intersections between postcolonial thought and cognate fields such as critical gerontology, age studies, and dementia studies. She received her PhD from the University of Leeds in 2021 and her thesis argues for postcolonial ageing studies as a necessary frame for our understanding of ageing in a world marked by colonial modernity and its continued global manifestations. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Vienna.

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Ce qui en reste tient plus de la mort. Reflecting on old age with Montaigne

Ours is not the only fragment of Western history in which a preoccupation with aging has been accompanied by a certain prescriptive optimism. With longer lives becoming more common in the Renaissance, for example, Galenic booklets developed into something of a consumer product, promising ways to preserve health in old age. If only the old person took care of herself or himself as per the learned recommendations, life was still to be enjoyed. This should have a familiar feel. Propelled by both medical advances and progressive politics, the expansion of the current discourse of aging well, active aging, etc. suggests a revolution in aging, and in thinking about it, is in the making. This may be so, but even the best intentions are prone to at least a bit of violence to the facts when wearing their militant clothes. It will thus be instructive to contemplate a negative to this picture in which old age is essentially a manageable extension of other life stages, cleanly ended by – what else? – a good death. Such an alternative can be found scattered in Montaigne's Essays. Even those of us who age in this time of longer, healthier lives experience or will experience illness and loss, the erosion of cognitive acuity and physical strength, and the looming shadow of death. No amount of denouncing ageism will make things otherwise. I will suggest, turning to Montaigne's lamentations, that consolation, not detached utopia, is at least at times in good order when facing one's own – and especially others' – inevitable decline.



Bio

George Tudorie is interested in the philosophical aura of the social and human sciences, and especially in the philosophies of science that have been associated with various fashions in psychology and psychiatry. He teaches in Bucharest, and his first book, *Marginality in Philosophy and Psychology*, has been published earlier this year by Bloomsbury.

W

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Tensions and opportunities for narrative work in the context of long-term care digital planning

Long-term care residents are now more dependent on digital technologies for social connections than ever before. These new digital practices have brought about new roles and responsibilities for device management and technology support. This paper will report preliminary findings from a collaborative research project that involves 45 residents across three long-term care sites on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. The project combines narrative work with group problem-solving and aims to translate rich data on residents' lived experiences into tangible recommendations for media-related services and practices in long-term care. Research will be conducted from June to September 2022.

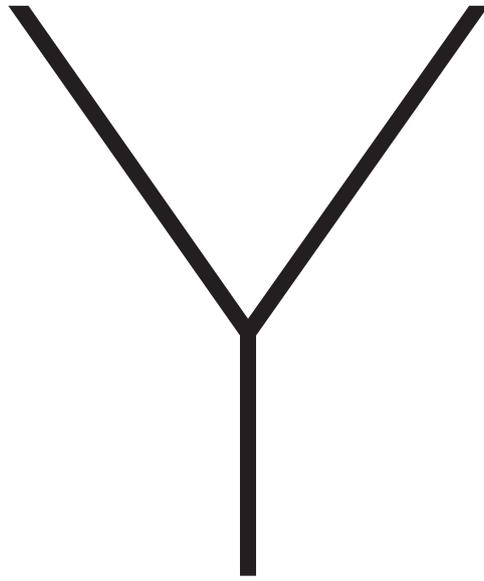
This paper will examine the tensions and opportunities that arise when long-term care residents' narratives about their own (digital) communication practices come into dialogue with family caregivers, staff, and administrators at planning sessions. The analysis will draw on participant observation in planning meetings and an expected 45 in-depth interviews with residents. The interview procedure combines narrative inquiry on social and communication practices through the life course with the mapping of communication networks and resources.

In the public imagination, long-term care has become the symbol of decline and dependency (Gilleard & Higgs, 2017). This paper will discuss how narrative inquiry can be used to engage long-term care residents in collaborative problem-solving about long-term care policies and services.



Bio

Sarah Wagner is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Sociology, University of Victoria. Since 2019, Sarah's research has been addressing communication inequalities at long-term care sites in both Canada and Japan. Sarah employs creative, critical, and collaborative methods to examine the factors that shape individuals' civic positioning in digitalization.



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Minority ethnic older adults' narratives about COVID-19 public health campaigns

This study explores minority ethnic older adults' narratives about COVID-19 public health campaigns in the UK from March 2020 to the present. In this qualitative multidisciplinary research (funded by British Academy/Leverhulme), we aim to explore these older adults' lived experiences, thoughts, feelings, stories, and reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple national lockdowns, with a special reference to the UK National Health Service (NHS) campaigns. Surveys have shown that minority ethnic groups faced a greater risk from COVID-19 than others and such risk was said to be driven by factors such as living arrangements and jobs rather than pre-existing health conditions. This is also the group who showed lower vaccine uptake in the early stage of the UK national vaccination programmes. It is therefore critical to understand their responses and perceptions of COVID-19 public health messaging. Based on 20 tele-depth interviews and 20 online, 1-2-1 in-depth interviews, our particular focus will be on minority ethnic older adults' (N=40) responses and reflections on the use of emotions and language in NHS COVID-19 campaigns. The interview participants are from a range of ethnic backgrounds, levels of education, and employment status. Our presentation will offer preliminary findings from the interviews. Through the lens of advertising studies, psychology, and linguistics, the interview data is investigated using thematic and discourse analysis, in order to: 1) better understand how best to communicate with vulnerable groups in the society in times of crisis; and 2) to shed light on future public health message design and strategy.



Bio

Virpi Yläanne is Senior Lecturer in Language and Communication at Cardiff University, Wales, UK. Her research focuses on ageing and identity, including the representation of ageing in media contexts, and in biographical narratives. Her publications include a recently edited book *Ageing and the Media* (Policy Press, September 2022), and articles in journals, such as *Journal of Aging Studies*, *Ageing & Society*, and *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life*.

Sonia York-Pryce

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Inappropriate Behaviour: older professional dancers defy aesthetics and age discrimination to continue to perform

Within Western dance culture youth and bodily perfection reign supreme. This is mirrored within society; ageing is not considered a positive or valued time of life. A dancer aged over 35 is considered surplus to use, just as they are “growing up”, devaluation occurs. Their identity is bound up in what they do and who they are. Therefore, creating opportunities through the genre of screen dance enables audiences to appreciate dance films featuring this disenfranchised demographic, they can be viewed on any screen, but are rarely programmed in our theatres. Using film highlights creativity and life experience embodied in these dancers who are culturally considered as past his/her dance-expiry-date. Film invites the viewer to look beyond their age giving recognition to their artistry and enables them visibility. Dance films are a way to “re-present” these dancers and to represent a demographic that is invisible in Western society. In my arts practice I produce dance films that concentrate on the corporeal ability of these dancers, showing that aging and dance can be viewed positively despite an art form that prejudices decline. This paper discusses aging seen through dance films that highlight these older undervalued practitioners who still want to perform. This follows on from my doctoral research which focused on how a cohort of professional dancers navigated ageing and bias. Hence, screen dance provides a platform to discuss the corporeal politics that surround the dilemma of the older professional dancer and allows an audience to understand how their practice rather than their age defines them.



Bio

Sonia York-Pryce has a PhD in Visual Arts, Griffith University. Sonia is a dancer, and interdisciplinary artist. She trained in classical ballet and contemporary dance in London, UK. Her doctoral research, “Ageism and the Mature Dancer”, documents through interviews with older professional dancers over the age of 40 still performing, how they navigate ageing and discrimination. Her dance films investigate themes of the aging body and dance.

Further details can be found on Sonia’s website <https://soniayork-pryce.wixsite.com/mysite>

PANELS



Σ

Panel #1

Using creative methods to share new narratives about ageing

This panel presents a variety of creative methods that create, establish and circulate new narratives of older age through theatre, poetry, creative writing, and zine making. The panel examines how creative methodologies can help disseminate counter-narratives that challenge stereotyping, rewrite ageist narratives and connect intergenerational groups. By reflecting on cultural narratives, processes and strategies this panel brings together different creative insights that might shape future representations and understandings of ageing. If possible, we would like to build in time to share the creative outputs from each research project.

Chairs: Jade Elizabeth French & Melanie Lovatt

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Dr. Jade Elizabeth French is a Doctoral Prize Fellow researcher at Loughborough University. She is interested in how a 'poetics of ageing' manifests in twentieth-century poetry, fiction and visual arts. She works within the interdisciplinary bounds of literary studies, health humanities and ageing studies, most recently on the ESRC-funded project 'Reimagining the Future in Older Age'. (Loughborough University)

Dr. Melanie Lovatt is the Principal Investigator on the ESRC-funded project 'Reimagining the Future in Older Age'. She is a senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Stirling. Her main research interests converge around time, the life course, health and illness, and relationships. She is increasingly interested in fictional representations of ageing and time, and how fiction can be used as a research method. (University of Stirling)

PAPERS

1. Using forum theatre to reimagine the future in older age

The lack of diverse cultural narratives of ageing can undermine the ability of people to meaningfully engage with transitions to later life and imagine potential futures that do not conform to dominant decline or age-defying narratives (Laceulle and Baars 2014). In this paper we discuss the potential of forum theatre to challenge reductive dominant narratives and to provide the opportunity for counter narratives of ageing futures. In 2021, we worked with arts and theatre company Active Inquiry and a group of self-identified older adults. Over a series of online workshops we used techniques of forum theatre (Boal 1974) to identify systems of age-based oppression and opportunities for resistance. This culminated in the creation of two forum theatre pieces that were performed live online in June 2021. We present initial findings that discuss 1) the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on participants' aged identities and thoughts about the future, and 2) the effectiveness of the theatre workshops and performances in creating counter narratives that portray alternative representations to older people's futures.

Panel #1

We conclude that forum theatre can be an effective technique in opening up conversations about the future in later life, identifying barriers to achieving future aspirations, creating counter narratives, and engaging wider audiences in these conversations.

Dr. Melanie Lovatt, University of Stirling (melanie.lovatt1@stir.ac.uk),

Dr. Valerie Wright, University of Glasgow (valerie.wright.2@glasgow.ac.uk)

Dr. Jade Elizabeth French, Loughborough University (j.e.french@lboro.ac.uk)

2. 'Growing Old Disgracefully: using creative writing methodologies to counter ageist narratives and promote social inclusion in the cultural industries'

Work on ageism has examined representations of older people and the impact these have on prejudicial attitudes (Edström, 2018). Less attention has been paid to the cultural industries as producers and disseminators of cultural representations (O'Brien et al 2017). Specifically, De Benedictis et al (2017) call for urgent attention to issues of 'cultural labour, diversity in the workforce' and upon market logics that 'discipline cultural workers' and contribute to the production of denigrating and reductive representations and narratives (2017:337). This paper details the outcomes and practices of a project funded by the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) Flexible Grants for Small Groups scheme, which made use of creative writing workshops to examine and begin to counter damaging narratives of ageism in the cultural industries. The project brought cross-field cultural workers (actors, directors, dancers) into close partnership with academics, with the aim of democratizing the research process by bringing the voices of the cultural workers into the co-production of data and analysis of the research. The project deployed creative practice as a methodological tool, making use of creative writing workshops. Specifically, our workshops generated versions of 'I-poems'—what Langer and Furman (2004) term 'research poems.' 'I-poems' are usually researcher-created: working from an interview transcript, with each instance of 'I' being isolated and re-presented in the form of a poem (Koelsch, 2015). Our workshops focused on the co-production of research by creating 'I-poems' with participants and then drawing participants into their analysis in order to ascertain: (i) the performers' experiences of their ageing bodies; and (ii) how ageism may operate and at what specific junctures in their careers.

Professor Susan Watkins, Leeds Beckett University (s.watkins@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Panel #1

3. Using Creative Methodology to Explore Life-time LGBTQ+ Love and Relationship Experiences: Towards Positive Intergenerational Exchange

This study explored younger and older peoples' LGBTQ+ love and relationship experiences using creative methodology. Three 2-hour virtual intergenerational storytelling and creative writing workshops were conducted at the height of COVID-19. Participants included 3 middle – older aged adults; 2 adults; and 5 youths who identified as either lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer. Participants' stories were audio-recorded, transcribed and thematically analysed to capture understandings of: intergenerational knowledge exchange; LGBTQ+ love and relationships across sociocultural and environmental contexts; and unpack diverse experiences shared through a self-reflexive creative writing process. Six themes emerged from the analysis: role of technology in facilitating and hindering love and relationship experiences; making non-romantic connections within LGBTQ+ communities; impact of COVID-19 on LGBTQ+ love and relationships; creating one's own community (logical versus biological families); and storytelling as beneficial for understanding one's own experience. Key findings culminated in a collection of short stories premised on lifetime LGBTQ+ love and relationship accounts of inclusion and exclusion, and were shared broadly in the shape of a zine. Participants reported that being able to craft their stories was a freeing experience, enabling sense-making to occur. Using creative methodology was demonstrated as an effective way to facilitate intergenerational engagement, and bring to light the complexities of LGBTQ+ love and relationships across generations.

Dr. Mei Lan Fang, University of Dundee (m.l.fang@dundee.ac.uk)

Mei Lan Fang is Lecturer in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Dundee and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Gerontology, Science and Technology for Ageing Research (STAR) Institute at Simon Fraser University. Her current research focuses on co-creating ecosystems of intergenerational and inclusive spaces and places with and for people working and living in the community.

Jade Elizabeth French is a Doctoral Prize Fellow researcher at Loughborough University. She is interested in how a 'poetics of ageing' manifests in twentieth-century poetry, fiction and visual arts. She works within the interdisciplinary boundaries of health humanities and ageing studies, most recently on the ESRC funded project 'Reimagining the Future in Older Age'.

Melanie Lovatt is the Principal Investigator on the ESRC-funded project 'Reimagining the Future in Older Age'. She is a senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Stirling. Her main research interests converge around time, the life course, health and illness, and relationships. She is increasingly interested in fictional representations of ageing and time, and how fiction can be used as a research method.

Susan Watkins is Professor of Women's Writing in the School of Cultural Studies at Leeds Beckett University. She is the author of *Twentieth-Century Women Novelists: Feminist Theory into Practice* (2001), *Doris Lessing* (Contemporary World Writers, 2010) and *Contemporary Women's Post-Apocalyptic Fiction* (2020). She is co-editor of *Scandalous Fictions: The Twentieth-Century Novel in the Public Sphere* (2006) *Doris Lessing: Border Crossings* (2009) and *The History of British Women's Writing Vol IX 1945-1975* (2017).

Valerie Wright is a historian of modern Scotland with particular expertise in gender, social and political history. She is currently Research Associate in History at the University of Glasgow. She has worked in a variety of disciplinary contexts including urban studies and sociology, most recently on the ESRC-funded project 'Reimagining the Future in Older Age'.

Panel #2

Narratives of Age and Gender: Participatory Research, Storytelling and Autoethnography

Chair: Nicole Haring

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Nicole Haring is a PhD candidate at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. Her research interests focus on feminist theory and pedagogy, gender studies and cultural gerontology. Currently, she holds a doctoral fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Science to work on her dissertation project on intergenerational storytelling on gender.

PAPERS

1. Caring during Covid: Gender, Age and Autoethnography

Previous research into care homes and carers (Grist & Jennings 2020) found that care work in Britain is underfunded, undervalued, and represented in negative ways in print and popular media. With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing, this presentation continues our investigation of institutional care provision and focuses in particular on narratives of gender and age during the context of the pandemic. We explore news media representations using an innovative collaborative intergenerational autoethnographic approach. This paper will tease out narratives of gender, care, and age in relation to a sample of news reports from 2020-2021 and will showcase the development of methodological practices in storytelling using autoethnography.

Hannah Grist (University of Bristol)

Ros Jennings (University of Gloucestershire)

2. Restorying Women's Ageing through participatory Celtic Rituals of the Seasons: An Autoethnographic reflection

In this decade of postcolonial commemoration of independence in Ireland, the impetus to unearth, retell and reclaim women's stories, which historically had been written out or silenced under patriarchal structures; has gathered momentum. My study, an autoethnographic and poetic inquiry into older women's sense of identity, explored the journey of twelve women, including myself, who participated in the yearlong Celtic Rituals of the Seasons, endeavouring to make meaning of our identity as ageing women in contemporary Ireland. Within the contextual mythological landscape of Uisneach; a liminal theatre of rituals emerged; in which, we, as ageing women, acted out the negotiation and storying of our lived experiences.

Panel #2

Subsequently, we performed the embodiment of the Goddess Ériu through collaborative fire burning ceremonies, poetry, song, music, chanting and dance. Immersed in this portal of awakening space; the sisterhood evolved as a communitas to renegotiate and restore our transformed sense of ageing and identity. This presentation captures my autoethnographic reflections on how participatory ritual performance act as a conduit for the restorying of women's lived experiences of ageing and identity.

Caroline Coyle (University of Gloucestershire)

3. Gender, Generations, and Education: Intergenerational Storytelling as Participatory Knowledge Transfer

This talk presents research findings from an intergenerational storytelling intervention with educators from different generations. Inspired by Chazan and Machnab's (2018) method of "the intergenerational feminist mic", the research intervention in the form of participatory action research was designed to create a knowledge transfer among generations to discuss their perceptions of the role the educational systems play in (re)producing gender norms. Teacher trainees, educators and retired teachers came together to share their stories. Intergenerational exchange was enabled by creating groups of three (one from each life stage), where each of them functioned once as interviewer, interviewee, and photographer to create a storytelling process that resulted in short digital stories. Additionally, this project expanded Chazan and Machnab's (2018) method by combining digital storytelling with literary analyses of feminist texts prior to the storytelling process to engage with a variety of narratives within the intervention.

CONTRIBUTORS

Hannah Grist is co-director of the Centre for Women, Ageing and Media (WAM) at the University of Gloucestershire, UK, and Lecturer in Academic Practice at the University of Bristol, UK. Hannah's research interests lie in questions of ageing, representation, and care and she has recently published with Ros Jennings *Carers, Care Homes and the British Media: Time to Care* (Palgrave MacMillan).

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Ros Jennings is Professor of Ageing, Culture and Media and Co-Director of the Centre for Women, Ageing and Media (WAM) at the University of Gloucestershire. She works across the Schools of Health & Social Care, Business and Media developing researcher capacity focusing on methods skills and more especially autoethnography. Forthcoming books include: (September, 2022) *Troubling Inheritances: Music, Memory and Aging* (edited with Sara Cohen and Line Grenier).

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Panel #2

Caroline Coyle is a PhD candidate at WAM (Women, Ageing and Media Centre), University of Gloucestershire, UK. Her study utilises autoethnographic and poetic inquiry to explore older women's identity through the rituals of the Celtic Festivals of the Seasons in Ireland.
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Nicole Haring is a PhD candidate at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. Her research interests focus on feminist theory and pedagogy, gender studies and cultural gerontology. Currently, she holds a doctoral fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Science to work on her dissertation project on intergenerational storytelling on gender.
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Panel #3

Intergenerational Relations at Times of Scarce Resources

Chairs: Liat Ayalon & Roberta Maierhofer

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Liat Ayalon PhD, Professor in the School of Social Work at Bar Ilan University, Israel, coordinates the PhD EU funded program on ageism (<https://euroageism.eu/>), and is the PI (Israel) of the EU Gender Net+ Project “Analysing Social Constructions of Ageing Masculinities and their Cultural Representations in European Literatures and Cinemas” (<https://www.mascage.eu>). She has led the COST research network on ageism (<https://www.notoageism.com>) and consults national and international organizations concerning programs and services for older adults.

Roberta Maierhofer, Professor of American Studies and Director of the *Center for Inter-American Studies*, is a founding member of the *European Network in Aging Studies* (ENAS) and supported the establishment of the *North American Network in Aging Studies* (NANAS). Since the beginning of the 1990s, she has been one of the first to define her work within the field of Cultural/ Narrative Gerontology by developing a theoretical approach to gender and age/ing (anocriticism).

PAPERS

1. “We Should Be at the Back of the Line”: A Frame Analysis of Old Age within the Distribution Order of the COVID Vaccine

This paper explores the perceptions of older people in the context of establishing the order for the coronavirus vaccination. This study involves a frame analysis of the online comments on a December 10th New York Times article about the U.S. recommendations for distributing the coronavirus vaccine. We aim to understand how commenters place older people in line for the COVID-19 vaccine and the frames and factors that commenters use as reasoning for their proposed position of older people. From the data emerged two frames as criteria for prioritization: social contribution and vulnerability. Older adults themselves frequently commented that they should be deprioritized so that younger others and workers can be inoculated earlier. Findings demonstrate the pervasiveness of ageism throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Older commenters’ sacrificial remarks may reflect generativity, internalized ageism, and social pressure from online forums.

Presenter: Laura D. Allen

Authors: Laura D. Allen, Idalina Z. Odziemczyk, Jolanta Perek-Białas, and Liat Ayalon

Panel #3

2. Internalized ageism and technology non-use: Deconstructing the impact of intergenerational relations

Today, everyday information and communication technology (EICT), such as online banking, e-shopping, or e-mail, are essential for young and old to live active and healthy lives. Nevertheless, stereotypical depictions of older adults as incompetent, technophobic, or not interested in EICT persist and may have the potential to act like self-fulfilling prophecies, hampering older individuals' EICT engagement. This study aimed to explore internalized ageism as manifested in older non-users' narrations about EICT and shed light on disempowering and ageist environments. Semi-structured qualitative interviews with so-called "non-users" were employed (N=15). Data analysis was based on qualitative content analysis, including both deductive categorization and inductive coding. The findings elucidated internalized ageism as a barrier to EICT, perpetuated through disempowering intergenerational contact. Although intergenerational relations are commonly praised as an effective measure to combat ageism, this study revealed power imbalances across generations and ageist practices in the context of older adults' EICT usage.

Presenter: Hanna Köttl

Authors: Hanna Köttl, Vera Gallistl, Rebekka Rohner, and Liat Ayalon

3. Ageism and Intergenerational Relations in the Global Climate Movement

The call for climate action has attracted global support in recent times. People across age groups, especially the youth, have united to exert unrelenting pressure on governments, corporations, and intergovernmental organizations to treat the climate crisis as a crisis. Over time, climate change discourse has turned increasingly ageist toward both younger and older generations. This has the potential to engender intergenerational conflict and tension at a time when intergenerational solidarity and cooperation would serve us better. Using a purposive sampling method, we selected 60 entities to gain an overview of common ageist and non-ageist views in current climate discourse to examine how they may impact intergenerational relations. We used a summative content analysis approach to analyze the different worldviews. The results are broadly divided into two categories – messages of intergenerational tension and messages of intergenerational solidarity. The first category comprises the views of primarily younger generations who hold older generations responsible for the current state of the planet; the second category illustrates examples of solidarity and compassion from primarily older to younger generations. Together, these allow for an examination of the potential role of ageist and non-ageist sentiments in intergenerational relations. The climate debate is rooted in valid concerns surrounding intergenerational equity and justice. However, it has polarized people across age groups, often targeting those who support the climate fight as their legacy for future generations. Therefore, the use of ageist sentiments in climate discourse must be reconsidered and replaced with messages of inclusivity.

Presenter: Senjouti Roy

Authors: Senjouti Roy and Liat Ayalon

Panel #3

4. A Thematic Analysis of Weibo Topics (Chinese Twitter Hashtags) Regarding Older Adults During the COVID-19 Outbreak

We explored the portrayal of older adults and the public response to topics concerning older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic in Chinese social media (Weibo topics, equivalent to hashtags on Twitter), as well as the temporal trends of dominant themes to identify changes over time. Topics related to older adults were searched in the Weibo topic search engine between January 20 and April 28, 2020. Overall, 241 topics and their view frequency and comment frequency were collected. Inductive thematic analysis was conducted to classify the topics into themes. The popularity of each theme was also analyzed. In addition, the frequency with which each theme appeared during the 3 major stages of the pandemic (outbreak, turnover, and post-peak) was reported. Six main themes were identified. “Older adults contributing to the community” was the most prominent theme with the highest average comment frequency per topic. It was also the most dominant theme in the first stage of the pandemic. “Older patients in hospitals” was the second most prominent theme and the most dominant theme in the second and third stages of the pandemic. The percentage of topics with the themes “Care recipients” and “Older adults caring for the young” increased over time. The portrayal of older people as being warm, competent, and actively exercising their agency is prevalent on Weibo. The Weibo-viewing public shows signs of interest in intergenerational solidarity during the pandemic in China. These findings are different from findings reported by studies conducted in the West.

Presenter: Wanyu Xi

Authors: Wanyu Xi, Wenqian Xu, Xin Zhang, and Liat Ayalon

CONTRIBUTORS

Laura Allen is a doctoral student within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions ITN EuroAgeism program in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. She was previously a U.S. Fulbright scholar in the Netherlands researching quality of life and safety from the administrator’s perspective within the long-term care setting. She has a Bachelor of Science in healthcare administration and a certification in long-term care administration from Western Kentucky University.

Hanna Köttl is a PhD student within the ITN EuroAgeism at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Bar Ilan University. She attained her Bachelor’s degree in Occupational Therapy at the University of Applied Sciences in Vienna (2014) and graduated from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (2017) in Occupational Therapy. Her research interests include mental health and well-being in later life, psychosocial interventions and everyday technology use in older adults with and without cognitive impairments.

Senjooti Roy is a postdoctoral research fellow at Bar Ilan University, Israel. She is interested in the qualitative exploration of ageing experiences and has studied indigenous health beliefs of older adults in the Himalayan region, long-distance caregiving, and age and gender stereotypes in media. She is currently examining intergenerational relations in the context of climate change.

Panel #3

Wanyu Xi (Betty) currently is a PhD candidate at Bar-ilan University and an early-stage researcher of an EU funded project EuroAgeism. Her research focuses on the psychosocial aspect of aging in the technology-related context. Her research had been published in journals such as *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences* and *Psychological Sciences*, *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*.

Panel #4

Narratives of Informal Late Life Care in Canada: Who Gives, Receives, and Challenges the Conditions of Care?

Chairs: Dana Sawchuk & Janna Klostermann

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Dana Sawchuk is Professor of Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada. Her research focuses on print media representations of older adults and audience-centered understandings of magazines among older readers, as well as on job loss among older workers. She is a co-investigator on a SSHRC-funded project entitled, “Strengthening Care Mobilization in Canada’s Social Welfare State,” from which the papers on this panel derive.

Janna Klostermann is a feminist sociologist exploring the politics of care in our ageing society. She is an assistant professor in the University of Calgary’s Department of Sociology. ‘Care Has Limits’ is the title of her PhD dissertation.

PAPERS

1. Distressed and Deemed Essential: Evolving Narratives of Family Caregivers in Canadian News Media, 2010-2021

Given shortcomings in infrastructure and investment in public support for late life care in Canada, reliance on unpaid caregivers (generally family members and most often women) is substantial. It is also problematic, as unpaid carers face negative psychosocial, health, and economic outcomes. As a first step in addressing this situation, it is crucial to examine narratives that mediate public understandings of family care responsibilities. As such, this paper examines dominant framings of unpaid caregivers in Canadian news stories since 2010. In earlier articles, caregivers are often framed as martyrs or those who are “pushed to the brink”; they are also frequently cast as important resources keeping the health care system afloat and older adults in their homes. While elements of such narratives persist during the 2020-21 pandemic period, new framings also emerge -- primarily within the context of the widespread loss of life and visitor restrictions in Canadian long term care facilities. This paper thus also explores the relationships between COVID-era news articles and the arguments made by “More Than a Visitor” advocates in response to this context. Finally, the paper comments on the implications of such framings in supporting efforts to change the conditions and consequences of unpaid carers’ work.

Dana Sawchuk, Department of Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University, dsawchuk@wlu.ca

Maria Cherba, Department of Communication, University of Ottawa, maria.cherba@uottawa.ca

Lauriane Giguère, School of Psychology, University of Ottawa, lgigu023@uottawa.ca

Panel #4

2. Canadian Media Portrayals of Older Adults as Care Recipients: Representing and Promoting Intergenerational Conflict

While problematic depictions of older adults in the mainstream media are not a new phenomenon, they have been the subject of increasing attention since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. This paper joins and expands on this scholarly conversation by examining how older adults in unpaid care relationships are portrayed in Canadian English and French news media articles over the 2010-2021 time frame. Despite efforts in academic literature (gerontology, political economy of care, family sociology) to understand older adults in relational terms, media representations of informal care tend to exclude the agency and voices of older adults altogether and generally describe them by their disease labels. In the years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, older adults are generally characterized as sick individuals whose needs are at odds with those of their family members (evoking elements of intergenerational conflict) and who need to be managed by informal caregivers in conjunction with medical professionals. The increasing representation of informal caregivers as part of the formal health care system has the effect of further medicalizing older adults and their relationships; this depiction functions to support advocates' assertions that informal caregivers be considered essential visitors to long-term care facilities

Rachel Antonia Dunsmore, Department of Sociology & Criminology, University of Manitoba, dunsmore@myumanitoba.ca

3. Beyond 'Caring for the Carers': How the Problems and Solutions of Unpaid Care are Framed and Reinforced through Canada's Caregiver Organizations

Although advocacy by caregiver organizations is imperative, this needs to be accompanied by clear articulation of key assumptions embedded in advocacy campaigns. This paper examines how public narratives about care, and its problems and solutions, are reproduced within public documents from caregiver support and advocacy organizations in Canada. With notable exceptions (in the French-Canadian province of Québec, and in a feminist Care Economy group), framings consistently emphasize the need to support carers to continue in their important work while protecting them from adverse effects. An aging population, caregivers' selflessness, and an unaware public (and professionals), rather than the erosion of formal support or gendered inequities, are implicated as causal forces behind the problem of unmet needs. That caregiver populations are diverse is used to legitimize individualized solutions (e.g., clinical needs assessments tools), while caregiving is also framed as a universal experience. The citizenship of family/friend carers is discursively bounded around their right to be involved and recognized within health systems and by professionals, as opposed to their rights not to care, or to choose the level and type of their involvement. Findings are discussed in relation to the mandate and politics of these organizations, as they reinforce broader familialist, clinicalized, and gender-silent understandings of care. As such, this study contributes to feminist scholarship prompting a move beyond helping carers to cope with their roles, to consider the right of carers not to care (see Klostermann, 2021).

Laura Funk, Department of Sociology & Criminology, University of Manitoba, laura.funk@umanitoba.ca

Panel #4

CONTRIBUTORS

Dana Sawchuk is Professor of Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada. Her research focuses on print media representations of older adults and audience-centered understandings of magazines among older readers, as well as on job loss among older workers. She is a co-investigator on a SSHRC-funded project entitled, “Strengthening Care Mobilization in Canada’s Social Welfare State,” from which some of the papers on this panel derive.

Maria Cherba is an assistant professor at the Department of Communication, University of Ottawa. She is interested in applied health communication research to inform health care provision. She has participated in several projects in partnership with universities and health care organizations in Quebec, Ontario and Nunavut to improve services to the community, covering topics such as patient-provider communication, cancer and end-of-life care, psychosocial support, and telemedicine.

Lauriane Giguère is a student in the clinical psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Ottawa. She also completed a BA Honors in psychology where her specialization in psychosocial oncology was developed. Her work concerns the impact of fear of cancer recurrence on cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers. Her interests lead her to research on the role and expectations placed on caregivers and how this impacts their fear of cancer recurrence.

Rachel Antonia Dunsmore is a PhD student (Sociology and Criminology) at the University of Manitoba. She has completed a BA Honors in Sociology with a focus on social theory. Her MA thesis in Health and Aging examined media reporting on Long-Term Care in Ontario with specific attention to the portrayal of age(ing), care, and safety in the eight months following the WHO’s declaration of a global pandemic.

Laura Funk is Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba, Canada. Her scholarship explores how older adults and paid and unpaid carers interpret the meanings of their experiences, within the context of broader, often gendered, discourses surrounding age, care and responsibility in Canada. Most recently, this has extended to exploring the implications of these processes for the politicization of unpaid care work and the mobilization of unpaid carers.

Panel #5

Ageing in Narratives and Counternarratives of Migration

Mobility is one of the crucial, perhaps even the prototypical experiences of our time. Focusing on narratives about migration and aging, this panel intends to investigate how different generations of migrants have shaped cultural practices. The focus will be on how the migrants' perspectives affect these narratives across the life span. A further interest is how ageing shapes narratives which may reinforce, criticize or destabilize the dominant culture.

Chair: Heike Hartung

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Heike Hartung is an independent scholar in English Studies (PhD Freie Universität Berlin; PhD habilitation University of Potsdam), affiliated at the University of Potsdam, Germany, and the University of Graz, Austria. In her publications she applies the methods of literary theory and cultural studies to the interdisciplinary fields of ageing, disability and gender studies. She is a founding member of ENAS and a co-editor of the transcript Aging Studies publication series.

PAPERS

1. Migrating knowledge: Dementia epistemologies in a transcultural setting

How do Canadian and Brazilian geriatricians debate dementia prevention? Based on interviews with specialized doctors in Brasilia and Montreal, combined with observations in two geriatric outpatient units in the two cities, this talk juxtaposes how internationally circulating scientific data on the prevention of dementia is being integrated into local discourses on the aging body. The hopeful body – prevention as a promise for a functional citizen – can be found especially in the public discourse. However, the aging body evoked by clinicians is, for different reasons in each context, rather based on a pessimistic discourse. The question remains what such discourses and the practices resulting from such models, mean for the aging person and the world she lives in.

Annette Leibing (University of Montreal: aleibing@videotron.ca)

Panel #5

2. Wandering Ages in Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tale *The Shadow* (1847)

Hans Christian Andersen's *The Shadow* tells the story of a writer in search of beauty, truth, and goodness, whose quest brings him from 'the North' to an unspecified country of 'the South'. The motif of wandering, growing, and fading is repeated on a meta-level, when the writer is abandoned by his own shadow, who, now a deracinated migrant himself, embarks on his own journey—man years, and, upon his return, attempts to replace what has then become old with new ideas. Andersen's tale thus presents us with a complex concatenation of (counter)narratives revolving around the trial of strength between old and new, rooting and uprooting: While the writer's migration story is embedded in a cultural conflict between 'North' and 'South', his relationship to the wandering shadow leads to a generational conflict, which, as will be shown, can be read as a dystopian inversion of Plato's allegory of the cave.

Katharina Fürholzer (University of Pennsylvania: kfuer@sas.upenn.edu)

3. Queer Kinship: Masculinity, Age and the Closet in the Windrush Generation in Bernardine Evaristo's *Mr Loverman* (2013)

The two Caribbean immigrant men at the center of Bernardine Evaristo's novel *Mr Loverman* (2013) are in a secret queer relationship, unbeknownst to their wives and families, way into their seventies. The trauma of the precarious existence in homophobic historical and cultural contexts (1950s Caribbean and its diaspora, and London of the 1960s and 70s) and their forced double lives have led to ambivalent attitudes towards their past. The characters' outlook on life in their old age develops from fatalistic nostalgia of a 'wasted life' in the metaphorical closet, to the optimism of a utopian 'myth of return' from London to their Antiguan homeland upon coming out. The multifaceted engagement with, and ultimate rejection of, typical tropes of this 'Windrush' generation in old age, such as heterosexist masculine standards, and the figure of a tragic, isolated and lonely queer elder contributes to narrative negotiation of the dominant scripts of black British aging at the threshold of queerness and ethnicity.

Kristina Weber (University of Rostock: kristina.weber@uni-rostock.de)

CONTRIBUTORS

Annette Leibing is a medical anthropologist (PhD University of Hamburg, Germany), who is full professor at the Nursing faculty at the Université de Montréal, and member of several research groups. Her research focuses on issues related to aging, by studying Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, aging and psychiatry, pharmaceuticals, elder care and stem cells for the body in decline, among others.

Originally a translator (Spanish), Katharina studied Scandinavian Studies, Comparative Literature, and American Literary History in Munich and London. In 2017, she obtained a Joint-PhD from Münster and Ghent for a thesis on the ethics of pathographies. After working at the Institute of History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine, Ulm, she joined the University of Pennsylvania as a post-doctoral visiting scholar to work on a book on poetry and aphasia.

Kristina Weber is a PhD candidate at the University of Rostock. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in British and American Studies in Rostock. She has been pursuing her PhD on the topic of the intersections between queerness, especially asexuality, and ethnicity in Anglophone postcolonial literatures. Her research interests include black British and postcolonial literatures, the Caribbean, gender and queerness.

Panel #6

Queering ageing men and masculinities – cultural representations and lived

What are the available narratives on ageing and growing old as a man beyond the heteronormative life course? How do old gay men navigate ageism in gay culture, obsessed with youthful masculinity? And how can queer later lives provide counter-narratives on masculinity and ageing?

In their pioneering article “Towards a new sociology of masculinity” from 1985, Carrigan, Connell and Lee discussed the significance of gay liberation for ways of rethinking hegemonic masculinity and dominant cultural and societal narratives of what it means to be a man. Also, over the years gay and queer scholarship has been a significant resource in critical studies of men and masculinities. Following in this tradition this interdisciplinary panel seeks to explore narratives on ageing among queer/gay/trans men and masculinities, and what they may provide in terms of thinking and rethinking ageing masculinity and growing old as a man. The panel brings together papers that analyze literary representations as well as lived experiences, discussing the challenges faced by gay, queer, and trans men as well as their resourcefulness, agency and ways of ageing differently.

Chair: Linn J Sandberg

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Dr Linn J Sandberg is Associate Professor and senior lecturer in Gender Studies, Södertörn University, Sweden. Her work combines critical cultural gerontology and feminist and queer theory and she has published extensively on gender, sexuality and ageing and dementia. Sandberg is the Principal Investigator of the Swedish team of the European consortium MASCAGE, studying ageing masculinities in Europe (www.mascage.eu).

PAPERS

1. Survival, Sex, and Sadness: Andrew Holleran’s Aging Gay Masculinities

Linda M. Hess

Panel #6

2. Rage across time and gender. How to become a man away from heteronormative hegemonic norms and fight ageism from a trans perspective.

Hernando C. Gómez Prada
Marcos Bote

3. ‘The lines on a face tell a story’: Older gay men querying gay ageing/ageism

Paul Simpson

4. Queer temporalities and agency in later life

Miranda Leontowitsch
Ralf Lottmann

5. “The boring side of the strait”: escaping ageing masculinity and exploring trans femininity in Fredrik Ekelund’s *Q* (2018)

Linn J Sandberg

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Linda M. Hess is a senior lecturer and postdoctoral researcher at the Chair of American Studies at the University of Augsburg. She is the author of *Queer Aging in North American Fiction* (2019), and has published articles in the fields of age studies, ecocriticism, and humor studies. Recently she co-edited the volume *Life Writing in the Posthuman Anthropocene* (Palgrave 2021 with Ina Batzke and Lea Espinoza Garrido). Her current research focuses on ideas of grievability, preservation, and loss in ecocriticism.

Professor Ph. Hernando C. Gómez Prada holds a PhD in Audiovisual Communication, Advertising and Public Relations from the Complutense University of Madrid, and he is an ANECA-accredited assistant Professor. Previously, he developed his teaching and research work at Universität Leipzig (Germany), and he worked as a field researcher at the University of Murcia (UMU) and University of La Laguna (ULL). Currently, he is a professor in the MA in Masculinity Studies at the Castilla La-Mancha University (UCLM)

Panel #6

Professor Ph. Marcos Bote holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Murcia and a degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Granada. He is Associate Professor of the Department of Sociology at the University of Murcia and member of the University Institute for Research on Aging of the University of Murcia. His main lines of research are aging, health and disability, as well as the body and sexuality.

Dr Paul Simpson currently lectures in Sociology at the University of Manchester, UK. He has published extensively on gay male ageing (including a monograph, *Gay Men, Ageing and Ageism: Over the Rainbow?*) and on disadvantaged men and health. Paul is co-editor of a book series *Sex and Intimacy in Later Life* (Policy Press), and has co-edited three volumes in this book series. He has published 12 book chapters and 23 journal articles variously on masculinities and on ageing sexualities.

Miranda Leontowitsch is a Senior Researcher at the working group Interdisciplinary Ageing Research (IAW) at Goethe-University Frankfurt. She received her PhD at Royal Holloway University of London, and worked at University College London and St George's University of London prior to moving to Germany. Her research interests are gender and masculinities in later life, health and self-care in later life, and qualitative methods.

Ralf Lottmann has studied Sociology in Berlin and Gerontology in Amsterdam. He worked for care providers and the German Parliament before moving on to research projects at the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences (ASH) in Berlin (2013-2017) and the University of Surrey for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship-Project on Ageing & Diversity (2017-2019). Since 2020 he is Professor of Health Policy at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences.

Panel #7

Thinking Aging and Dementia Intergenerationally

This panel wants to look at intergenerational discourses from different perspectives. Narrations of old age are also formed in the encounter between generations. In societies, in which the care of elderly people is increasingly being delegated to experts and institutions, there is a risk that this process of negotiation and mediation between generations will be cut off or at least marginalized. While younger generations in intergenerational contexts can become clearer about their own wishes for aging and also about their fears, elder generations can utilize them for their own identity formation and biographization. The contributors of this panel combine different perspectives from sociology, pedagogics and the visual arts reflecting intergenerational experiences in the context of dementia.

Chairs: Susanne Christ & Jonas Metzger

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Dr. phil. Susanne Christ is a coordinator for research funding at the Evangelische Hochschule Darmstadt since 2021. Previously she worked in various research projects at the University of Mainz. She wrote her dissertation on Narrative Modes of Presenting Dementia in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction at the Justus-Liebig-University Giessen and the Karl Franzens University Graz and is engaged voluntarily in different initiatives for people with dementia. Service-Center Research, Evangelische Hochschule Darmstadt

Dr. rer. soc. Jonas Metzger is a research and teaching associate at the Institute for Special Education and Inclusive Education at the Justus-Liebig-University Giessen. There he is responsible for the subject of geragogics. His research areas include demographic change and aging societies with a focus on dementia and new concepts of care. As a consultant, he advises organizations for the elderly and communities on the implementation of new local care structures. Institute of Special Education and Inclusive Education, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen

1. Ageing Society: New generation conflicts

In times of crisis (climate, refugees, nursing) generational conflicts emerge again. With decreasing resources and systems that are reaching their limits, the former option of solving problems by using more resources comes to its end. Against this background, this contribution discusses current developments in the care of people at the end of life, such as the assisted suicide, and asks how intergenerational solidarity can look like.

Prof. Dr. Reimer Gronemeyer, Institute of Sociology, Justus-Liebig University Gießen, reimer.gronemeyer@sowi.uni-giessen.de

2. The potential of ambivalences in intergenerational educational processes discussing aging and dementia

Based on seminars on the topics of aging and dementia, in which learners from different generations participated, this paper presents age-and-generation-specific experiences of ambivalence in educational processes. It analyzes how an intergenerational composition of student groups can create or prevent certain narrations of age, especially if some members of the group are themselves affected by age discrimination. Against the background of a discursive context, that increasingly pits old and young generations against each other (climate change, pensions, corona, voting rights), intergenerational educational processes – and how they can be used to promote solidarity and an understanding between generations – are reflected.

Dr. Susanne Christ, Service-Center Research, Evangelische Hochschule Darmstadt, suchrist@uni-mainz.de/ Dr. Jonas Metzger, Institute of Special Education and Inclusive Education, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, jonas.metzger@sowi.uni-giessen.de

3. Changing Minds, Changing Perspectives? Narratives about Generativity in Dementia Care Contexts

The relationships between different generations are constantly being renegotiated, especially in private care contexts. Roles, responsibilities and expectations change. These processes are often painful and full of conflicts, but can also trigger processes of emancipation both for the caring children, as well as for the parents or grandparents who are being cared for. Based on extensive empirical material this panel contribution aims to investigate how generational relationships are negotiated in the contexts of dementia care.

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Panel #7

4. Intergenerational aspects in the artistic practice of people with dementia

Today more than ever before research is done about dementia, how people with dementia can be cared for and what place they should have in society. However, the perspectives of people with dementia are still rarely considered in this discourse. This is where Oliver Schultz's contribution comes in. From a perspective of artistic practice and using pictures painted by people with dementia, he addresses the question how people with dementia perceive intergenerational experiences. He asks how one's own childhood and childhood memories shape the pictures painted by people with dementia and to what extent statements about generational relationships are expressed in them.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Prof. Dr. Reimer Gronemeyer is theologian, sociologist and professor emeritus at the Justus-Liebig-University Giessen. He works on aging in society. He focuses on the topics of dementia, the hospice movement and palliative care. He is involved in a number of associations and foundations on these issues, including co-founding and chairing the Aktion Demenz e.V. and a member of the board of trustees of the German Hospice and Palliative Foundation.

Dirk H. Medebach, M.A., research and teaching assistant at the Institute of Sociology and doctoral student at Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Germany. Since 2015: Founding member and head of the working group "Age(ing) in Society at Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Law (GGS). Research focuses on aging and dementia, sociological theory, historical sociology, cultural and media research.

Dr. Oliver Schultz, visual artist and Germanist, has been conducting artistic groups for people with dementia for 16 years. In exhibitions, lectures and training courses he talks about the original and inspiring perspectives of people with dementia. He did his doctorate at the Alpen-Adria University in Klagenfurt/Vienna. Currently he works in different research projects on the nursing shortage in elderly care. He is co-editor of the magazine demenz: das Magazin.

Panel #8

Narrative as a Boundary Concept in Gerontology: The Story Behind the Stories

Ever since the “narrative turn” was taken up by the humanities and social sciences in the 1980s and early 1990s, there has been an increased interest in narrative as a medium for gaining knowledge in gerontology. Narrative gerontology in particular assumes that the “life lived is inseparable from the life told” (Bruner 1987). Central to this notion is the metaphor of life as story or, as Kenyon and Randall put it, “[W]e not only have stories, we are stories” (1999). As a boundary concept, “narrative” inhabits several disciplinary worlds. Its analysis can focus on individual identification strategies, on the storytelling process and its context, or on aesthetic dimensions, for instance when analyzing cultural representations including film and fiction. Often loosely defined yet broadly applied, narrative work can range from personal life stories to master narratives that convey cultural and/or political values. The purpose of our panel is to take a critical look at “narrative” within gerontology to include mapping the uses of narrative as actions, objects, ways of knowing and acts of resistance.

Chairs: Kate de Medeiros & Ulla Kribernegg

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Kate de Medeiros is a professor of gerontology at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio, USA. Her research is broadly focused on understanding the experience of later life using narrative and other qualitative methods. She is a founding member of the North American Network in Aging Studies and the current Governing Council Chair. She is the author of *Narrative Gerontology: Theory, Research, and Practice*, is the current editor of *Narrative Works*, and has published numerous articles related to narratives, identity, self, and aging.

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Ulla Kribernegg is Associate Professor of American Studies and founding director of the Center of Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care (CIRAC) at the University of Graz, Austria. She is vice chair of ENAS and Associate Editor of *The Gerontologist* as well as co-editor of the Aging Studies book series. Her latest book, *Putting Age in its Place: The Care Home in Film and Fiction* (forthcoming), focuses on the spatiality of aging and care. Since 2020, she has been a fellow of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society (TCAS).

1. How Has Narrative Been Used in Gerontology? Findings from a Qualitative Evidence Synthesis

Narrative gerontology emerged as a concept in the 1990s to describe the ways that people age biographically as well as biologically. Since then, narratives and narrative approaches have gained popularity as methods and ways of knowing. This paper presents findings from a qualitative evidence synthesis (QES) of narrative within the gerontological literature. QES describes methods to systematically review qualitative evidence (e.g., extracted text). The purpose is to gain a deeper understanding of a concept rather than evaluate study designs or findings. An initial search returned 1,480 papers. Upon further analysis, the following three large categories with regards to narrative were identified: definitions, accounts, processes, and possibilities. Overall, findings provide a comprehensive overview of uses of narrative within gerontology.

Kate B. de Medeiros, PhD, FGSA

2. Understanding Cultural Narratives of Dementia: Tasks and Tools for Humanities Scholarship

Humanities scholarship on dementia has long focused on the depiction of dementia in literature, film, and other genres. Recent research on neurodiversity includes humanistic scholarship on creativity within dementia. It is time for interdisciplinary humanities scholarship to focus on narratives of dementia that circulate within aging societies, are embedded in policy, and shape experiences of typical people living with dementia or providing dementia care. This paper argues for the normative importance of studying values-laden cultural narratives, recognizing competing or evolving narratives within a society, and demonstrating how to reframe flawed narratives beyond necessary attention to ageist and ableist language. It presents examples of approaches to social narrative analysis; describes tools and training that could be integrated into humanities scholarship on dementia and aging, and considers the potential role of social narrative analysis in articulating and launching policy ideas for aging societies.

Nancy Berlinger, PhD

3. Has Narrative Mattered Too Much?

The prevailing focus on narrative across disciplines has also attracted criticism. In Health Humanities, researchers have argued that narrative is used in overly normative, prescriptive and constraining ways when it is exclusively aligned, for example, with 'sequence, succession, causality, or closure' (Tammi 22). Do human beings really live by the diachronic continuity that narrative seems to impose?, critics ask (e.g. Strawson). (Chronic) pain, disability or dementia and their representations seem to resist narratability and narrativization.

Panel #8

This controversy around narrative's limitations has produced intriguing new perspectives on what may lie beyond narrative, such as the lyric and episodic mode. Figurative language, too, offers alternative conceptualizations of meaning making. For age studies, this critical discourse offers important impulses to both challenge and expand the role of narratives.

Anita Wohlmann, PhD

4. Narrative as a Boundary Concept

This paper addresses narrative through the lens of “boundary concepts,” looking at how gerontologists and literary studies scholars can collaborate across disciplinary borders despite using different methodologies and theories. Defining narrative as a boundary concept highlights its cohesive power and can help us come together in making sense of stories, big or small, broken or linear, fictional or non-fictional, visual or verbal, that relate the experience of growing old. The idea of boundary concepts challenges us to revisit the conceptual frames, strategies, and vocabularies we use in our different fields when talking about narrative. Where can we discover common ground, and where do we agree to disagree? Finally, I will look at a concrete example of using narrative as a boundary concept: interdisciplinary collaboration in the field of health humanities can help us to refurbish our methodological “toolboxes” in order to build further bridges.

Ulla Kriebnernegg, PhD

CONTRIBUTORS

Nancy Berlinger, PhD, is a research scholar at The Hastings Center, an independent bioethics research institute based in Garrison, New York (USA). She is trained in literature and conducts interdisciplinary conceptual, critical, and empirical research in bioethics and health humanities. Since 2016, she has directed Bioethics for Aging Societies, a series of research and public-facing projects on ethical and social challenges arising from population aging, not limited to health care contexts or end-of-life decisions, and with special attention to dementia and to housing. She has an overarching interest in cultural narratives: how shared ideas and values can shape collective change toward social justice, and what sustains change.

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Anita Wohlmann is Associate Professor in Contemporary Anglophone Literature at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, where she is a member of the Center for Uses of Literature. She is co-editor of the journal *Age, Culture, Humanities*, a member of NANAS' governing council, and a founding member and coordinator of the German Network for Narrative Medicine. Her newest monograph is *Metaphor in Illness Writing: Battle and Fight Reused* (2022).

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Panel #9

Bringing Dementia and Aging into Conversation with Critical Race and Diaspora Studies: New Perspectives on David Chariandy's *Soucouyant*

Scholarship in age studies to date is dominated by the insights of established, white critics. To encourage diverse, new perspectives in the field, the proposed panel on David Chariandy's critically-acclaimed novel *Soucouyant* (2007) will foreground the research of emerging scholars. Owing to its portrayal of the powerful connections between dementia, caregiving, and cultural memory, *Soucouyant* has attracted widespread attention from cultural and age studies critics. As Sally Chivers observes "the novel offers a means to bring dementia and aging into critical multi-cultural, race, and diaspora studies as well as to bring central contributions from those fields into age studies." By drawing on race and disability studies theory, the contributors to the panel fulfil this promise and offer important new intersectional approaches to *Soucouyant*.

Soucouyant tells the story of a young man in the 1980s who returns to his ailing mother's home in Scarborough, Ontario after a two-year absence. The boy's mother, a widow from Trinidad named Adele, was left on her own by her two sons to cope with early-onset dementia. In her sons' absence, Adele is cared for by her friend, Mrs. Christopher, and, later, by a young woman named Meera who attended school with Adele's sons. Rather than portray the mother's dementia as an individual pathology, *Soucouyant* suggests that Adele's illness was partly instigated and certainly exacerbated by the traumatic dispersal of native Trinidadians by Allied military forces during WWII, and the subsequent scattering of these peoples across North America.

The first paper on the panel by Marlene Goldman provides a foundation for the panel's emphasis on critical race and disability studies approaches by analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of prior scholarly responses to the novel, paying particular attention to age-studies scholarly interventions. The second paper by Walter Villaneuva offers new insight into the specific challenges faced by racialized youth caregivers. The third paper by Whitney Buluma draws on race and diaspora to analyze the unjust expectation that racialized women should "naturally" provide unpaid care for members of their community. Taken together, the panelists' insights highlight new facets of the literary narrative and, in the process, draw attention to the real-life challenges faced by "parentified" youth caregivers and under-paid, under-valued, racialized adult caregivers in Canada—challenges that have been exacerbated and gruesomely exposed since the onset of the Covid pandemic in 2020.

Chair: Marlene Goldman

<http://marlenegoldman.ca>

Dr. Marlene Goldman is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto who specializes in Canadian literature, age studies, and medical humanities. She recently completed a book entitled *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer's in Canadian Literature* on the intersection between narrative and pathological modes of forgetting associated with trauma, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease (McGill-Queen's Press, 2017). She is currently writing a book entitled *Performing Shame: Simulating Stigmatized Minds and Bodies* (forthcoming Routledge 2023).

Panel #9

Dr. Marlene Goldman is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto who specializes in Canadian literature, age studies, and medical humanities. She recently completed a book entitled *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer's in Canadian Literature* on the intersection between narrative and pathological modes of forgetting associated with trauma, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease (McGill-Queen's Press, 2017). She is currently writing a book entitled *Performing Shame: Simulating Stigmatized Minds and Bodies* (forthcoming Routledge 2023). In addition to her scholarly works, she has written, directed, and produced a short film about dementia entitled "Piano Lessons" based on Alice Munro's short story "In Sight of the Lake" from her collection *Dear Life* (2004). Her film *Torching the Dusties*, about aging and intergenerational warfare from Margaret Atwood's recent collection *Stone Mattress* (2014), premiered at the Fright Festival in London, U.K. She recently completed her third film, *Mani Pedi*, based on the story by the same name by Souvankham Thammavongsa. *Mani Pedi* premiered at the Toronto Short Film Festival (March 2022), and will be appearing at the LA Women's Short Film Festival (April 2022). She is the author of *Paths of Desire* (University of Toronto Press, 1997), *Rewriting Apocalypse* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2005), and *(Dis)Possession* (McGill-Queen's Press 2011). For more information about Dr. Goldman's research, film making, and publications, please see her website: <http://marlenegoldman.ca>

PAPERS

1. Mapping Intersectional Analyses of *Soucouyant*

Since its publication fifteen years ago, David Chariandy's novel *Soucouyant* (2017) has garnered widespread attention from leading cultural and age studies critics. To contextualize the important, intersectional research by my fellow panelists, my paper analyzes prior research on the novel that demonstrates how gender, age, class, and race shape both the experiences of dementia and caregiving. With this aim in mind, my paper will draw links between Jennifer Bowering's foundational article, "'A Bruise Still Tender': David Chariandy's *Soucouyant* and Cultural Memory" (2010); Sharon Beckford's "Always a Domestic? The Question of Canadian Redemption and Belonging in Selected Literature by Black Canadian Writers" (2012); my own article "Gothic and Apocalyptic Portrayals of Dementia in Canadian Fiction" (2015); Katja Sawkosky's "Haunting Conflicts: Memory, Forgetting, and the Struggle for Community in David Chariandy's *Soucouyant*" (2017); and, finally, Sally Chivers' "Your own guilty story" "Rethinking Care Relations through David Chariandy's *Soucouyant*" (2019). Drawing on these articles, I demonstrate the critical importance of approaching the text's portrayal of both dementia and caregiving from an intersectional theoretical perspective.

Marlene Goldman

Panel #9

2. The Invisible Labour of Informal Care: Parentified Caregiving in David Chariandy's *Soucouyant*

The majority of scholarship on David Chariandy's novel *Soucouyant* focuses on how Adele's dementia represents the preservation of "cultural memory" and the perniciousness of "historical trauma." However, by metaphorizing Adele's mental condition, these critics risk treating her dementia as mostly figurative, thus eliding a more detailed discussion of the literal ramifications of her dementia diagnosis. Moving beyond these readings, my paper will approach Adele's disorder as a literal medical condition and explore how her caregiving needs affect her and those around her. *Soucouyant* subverts traditional caregiving narratives by depicting the difficult and typically invisible labour of informal caregiving undertaken by the families and friends of those who are ill or otherwise disabled. Because Adele's family is unable to access proper public healthcare resources, the burden of care falls upon the protagonist and his brother, who become "parentified children." Parentified children, according to Nancy D. Chase, are "parents to their parents, and fulfill this role at the expense of their own developmentally appropriate needs and pursuits." The novel provides a depiction of informal caregiving that is multi-faceted and asks us to question why it is exactly that we place the burden of care on those who are not equipped to handle such pressures instead of putting the onus on the government and the public healthcare system to take care of its most vulnerable members. Aging Studies scholar Larry Polvika notes that although policymakers often offer "pious expressions of appreciation" and acknowledge that informal caregiving is "the backbone of our long-term care system," governmental support for these caregivers remains inadequate. By showcasing the struggles of informal caregivers, Chariandy's text combats this dangerous and empty political rhetoric.

Walter Villaneuva

3. The Case for Reparations and Unpayable Debt in *Soucouyant*

In Chariandy's novel *Soucouyant* (2007), after Adele dies tragically from a fall, her friend, a middle-aged Black woman named Mrs. Christopher, confronts Adele's son, shows him her arrears dating back to 1963, and insists on being paid for all the years she cared for other people. Her complaint, however, does not simply relate to efforts on behalf of Adele; she requests payment for every job where she was denied adequate compensation. Adele's son, who expressly left his mother in the care of her friend, perceives Mrs. Christopher's demand as absurd. Readers have likewise described it as "uncharitable, or worse, "monstrous." In my paper, I argue that far from behaving in a monstrous fashion, by showing Adele's son her ledger book, Mrs. Christopher is attempting to concretize and quantify an inherently unquantifiable racist and sexist injustice. Marginalized and spectralized as a domestic worker since her arrival in Canada in the 1960s, Mrs. Christopher resorts to using the language of monetary debt to convey the extent of her past exploitation. Tragically, it is the only language Adele's son and, by extension, mainstream Canadian society seems to understand.

Whitney Buluma

CONTRIBUTORS

Walter Rafael Villanueva is PhD candidate in the Department of English and a Research Assistant at the Centre for Global Disability Studies at the University of Toronto. His research primarily focuses on depictions of mental illness and disability in contemporary Canadian literature.

Whitney Buluma is pursuing a double major in Psychology and English with a minor in Professional Writing & Communications at the University of Toronto.

Panel #10

Research Creation for Age Studies

This panel explores research-creation as a methodology for age studies. The first paper offers both theoretical discussion and practical examples of how research-creation on age-related topics contributes to reconfiguring dominant understandings of age and aging. The following three papers each offer a detailed case study of a specific research-creation project, and encompass a diversity of older populations, including people with dementia, racialized older adults, Indigenous elders, and minority-language speakers.

Chairs: Julia Henderson & Ulla Kribernegg

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Julia Henderson is a Postdoctoral Fellow with Concordia University's Ageing+Communication+Technologies Lab and McGill University. Her research involves collaborative creation with people with lived experience of dementia. She is Vice Chair of NANAS. Her work is published in *Theatre Research in Canada*, *Canadian Theatre Review*, *RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, and *ACH*.

Ulla Kribernegg is Associate Professor of American Studies and founding director of the Center of Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care (CIRAC) at the University of Graz, Austria. She is vice chair of ENAS and Associate Editor of *The Gerontologist* as well as co-editor of the Aging Studies book series. Her latest book, *Putting Age in its Place: The Care Home in Film and Fiction* (forthcoming), focuses on the spatiality of aging and care. Since 2020, she has been a fellow of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society (TCAS).

PAPERS

1. Reconfiguring Age through Research-Creation: community-based art and collective creativity

This paper examines the legacy of “research-creation,” putting it into conversation with the insights of critical age studies. Briefly, research-creation is a peculiarly Canadian term that promotes creative processes and artistic practices as a legitimate form of knowledge production. As Natalie Loveless asserts, research-creation presents a challenge to reigning pedagogical and research modalities that may “reconfigure” the world (2019, 8). I draw upon contemporary debates on research-creation (Loveless; Chapman and Sawchuk) and examples from the work of the ACT project (www.actproject.ca). As I discuss, critical age studies in conjunction with research-creation may provide a means to reconfigure dominant understandings of age and aging. At the same time, community-based projects, undertaken from an age studies perspective in collaboration with communities, also challenge narrow art-world definitions of research-creation as an aesthetic practice conducted by individual self-defined artists.

Kim Sawchuk

Panel #10

2. Dramaturgies of Assistance and Care: Collaborative Creation in *Raising the Curtain on the Lived Experience of Dementia*

Raising the Curtain (RTC) is a five-year partnership that uses community-based, arts-engaged, participatory research to explore the question: “In what ways does the collaborative involvement of older adults with lived experience of dementia in community-engaged arts foster engagement and social inclusion?” This paper focuses on the author’s postdoctoral research with RTC which involved interviews and focus groups with the project’s hired Artist Facilitators (AFs) for the purpose of describing the processes, strategies, and techniques of the project’s collaborative creation approach. Qualitative thematic analysis revealed emergent themes that described approaches used to enhance participation and counter stigmatizing stereotypes of dementia. Themes included: “presence (being in the moment),” “mutual learning and caring,” “rooted in relationships,” “collaborative approach” “democratizing creativity,” “amplifying participants voices,” “considerations of place/space,” and “offering alternatives to remembering.” Findings offer new perspectives on how collaborative creation can disrupt stigmatizing representations of age-related memory loss, and promote inclusion of persons with dementia.

Julia Henderson

3. Decolonizing Methodology in Aging Vitalities Research Creation: Partnership, Dissonance, Refusals and Renewals

This paper discusses the decolonizing processes pursued and the generative lessons learned around Indigenous and settler research relationships in the research creation project “Aging Vitalities.” Short multimedia documentaries were directed by Anishnaabekwewag e/Elders and older settler women with the support of diverse artist-facilitator-researchers from Re•Vision: The Centre for Art and Social Justice. Committed to enacting decolonizing (Eve Tuck (Unangaâ), and Wayne Yang) and cultivating relationships with Anishaabekwewag based in respect and reciprocity (Margaret Kovach, Sakewew p’sim iskwew) and relational accountability (Shawn Wilson, Opaskwayak Cree), the research carefully considered bringing older Anishnaabe and settler women together into a shared studio space for three days. Focussing on the stories created by Anishnaabekwewag, they illustrate 1) “Dissonance” with settler experiences of aging, especially those associated with white privilege, 2) “Anishnaabe Refusals” which were refusals of immediate settler access to Indigenous Knowledge such as Anishnaabe language represented in their stories and 3) through the research partnership, knowledge dissemination partnership has and continues to occur. Generative tensions arise within the partnership that travel and unsettle settler relationships to create possibilities for deeper understanding of the conditions needed for ongoing meaningful relationship and reconciliation in the context of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation.

Nadine Changfoot

Panel #10

4. “To write our agings”: *Murmurations*, heterogeneity and rough edges of aging

At the crossroads of feminist cultural studies and critical aging studies, my reflection proceeds from a research-creation project that invited three women to collaborate with me to “write our agings.” This sentence points to the performative character of writing (Butler 2005): the matter wasn’t to “write about our aging” but to perform our “agings” by writing. My co-authors and I each penned two texts following an in absentia correspondence. What brought us together was our relationship to our fathers, all of whom were diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or a related illness. These texts were gathered as a collection titled *Murmurations*. This paper discusses how our writing experiments (irreducible to the texts) illuminate the experiences of aging at odds with strictly chronological conceptions of aging. Exploring themes such as inheritances, mourning, and time, the world the research-creation process was an effective way to explore the heterogeneity and “rough edges of aging”, indicating how aging is informed by discourses, practices, and power relations, and partaking in multiple temporalities.

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CONTRIBUTORS

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Nadine Changfoot (nadinechangfoot@trentu.ca) is Associate Professor of Political Studies and Executive Member of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society at Trent University, located on the traditional territory of the Williams Treaties, and Senior Research Associate with Re•Vision: The Centre of Art and Social Justice at the University of Guelph. She engages in areas in between and connecting aging studies, disability studies, critical race, and queer studies with a decolonial lens.

Karine Bellerive (karine.bellerive@usherbrooke.ca) is a Postdoctoral Fellow with Université du Québec à Montréal. Following on the heels of her thesis, she is interested in the “intertwined agings” of a Quebec socio-political region (the Mauricie); the paper industry that has shaped its development; older women whose lives are linked to papermaking; and paper as a material and medium involving a heterogeneous set of practices and techniques. Karine is also lecturer at Université de Sherbrooke since 2008.

Panel #11

Narratives and Counter Narratives of Old Age and Gender

This panel communicates some of the research contained within the forthcoming supplementary issue 'Narratives of Old Age and Gender: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives' due to be published in the Journal of the British Academy. Collectively, the papers address narratives of ageing masculinity and femininity to suggest how cultural artefacts and personal narratives can be crucial for gerontological debates and histories, and, conversely, how studies of gender are enriched by attending to the category of age. It takes a broad historical perspective, with research spanning from the nineteenth century, a moment crucial to modern debates about ageing, to the present when these questions have a renewed charge.

Chair: Amy Culley

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Dr Amy Culley is Associate Professor in English at University of Lincoln, UK. Her research project 'On Growing Old: Women's Late Life Writing 1800-1850' was supported by a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship (2020). She is the author of *British Women's Life Writing, 1760-1840: Friendship, Community, and Collaboration* (Palgrave, 2014) and has co-edited and contributed to books and special issues on women's life writing and ageing studies.

PAPERS

1. Feeling Your Age: The Poetry of Emotions in Male Late Life

Gayatri Spivak argues that the socialised individual frequently has to navigate the distinction between 'speaking' and 'speaking as' or on behalf of a group. The latter 'involves a distancing from oneself' (Spivak, 1990). This paper reworks this distinction in analysing a series of poems by William Shakespeare, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, W. B. Yeats, Archibald MacLeish, Derek Walcott, and Billy Collins, that represent the experience of emotions in the late life of men. It explores the interventions that poetry has made in common Western narratives of ageing that fail to distinguish between how older men 'feel' and how they 'feel as' older men. Social norms often demand older men adopt 'a self-conscious distancing from subjective feelings' through the 'social performance of the respectable emotions of old age' (Hepworth, 1998). The paper will explore how this process intersects with the commonly accepted narrative of male reticence about emotions throughout the life course, and how affect in poetry draws attention to differences between 'energetic uplift and dampening' that form a counter narrative concerning 'human engagement and involvement in life' (Andrews and Grenier, 2019).

Jonathon Shears

Panel #11

2. 'How to grow old gracefully': advice, agency, and women's ageing

In 1799 in *Strictures on the Modern System of Female Education*, Hannah More noted that 'to learn how to grow old gracefully is perhaps one of the rarest and most valuable arts which can be taught to a woman', while *The Lady's Monthly Museum* ran an article in 1801 entitled 'How to Grow Old Gracefully'. There has been rewarding scholarly attention to the figure of the older woman who was scrutinised, criticised, and celebrated in periodicals and prescriptive literature at the end of the eighteenth century (Kittredge, 2002; Vickery, 2013; Looser, 2008). This paper will contribute new perspectives on gendered narratives of ageing by reading these sources in dialogue with little known personal writings by older women themselves (particularly journals and letters in both print and manuscript) to suggest how individuals engaged with these ideas and expressed alternative narratives of growing older in the period. Taking up the theme of intergenerational relationships and mentoring, so frequently foregrounded by the genre of advice literature and in periodicals, the paper will focus on these writers' reflections on their relationships with younger women and their cultural role as mentors or exemplars. The paper will end with brief reflections on our contemporary moment, to consider the continued legacy of the phrase 'growing old (dis)gracefully' in the memoirs of older women writers in the early twenty-first century.

Amy Culley

3. Gendered Old Age and Constructions of the Contemporary

Associated with the past, older people lack visibility in conceptions of the contemporary. With its (neo-) modernist emphasis on the innovative new, 'the contemporary' – as a descriptor of present culture – aligns, prejudicially, with youth. The contemporary as category or concept is frequently discussed in metaphorical terms that align it with early phases of the life course. Scholarship on contemporary aesthetics often emphasises how contemporary culture finds new ways of expressing (new) things, this newness inflected with a set of associations more aligned with youth than old age. Older people are maligned for hoarding resources, supporting conservative causes, and being prioritised in health and social policy on Covid-19 at the expense of younger people's interests. I am interested in how current articulations of the contemporary participate in the circumscription of older people's participation in their own time. I am equally looking to discover counter narratives of old age and the contemporary. In particular, I will evaluate narratives of gendered old age and the ways in which the figure of the ageing woman appears as a blockage in the flow of futurity. A sample of texts from twenty-first-century theatre, fiction, life writing, and film, such as Debbie Tucker Green's *Generations* (2005), Michael Haneke's *Amour* (2012), Deborah Levy's *The Cost of Living* (2018), and Season Butler's *Cygnets* (2019) will constitute the case studies for this paper.

Siân Adiseshiah

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Dr Jonathon Shears is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at Keele University. He has research interests in themes of youth, ageing and poetic inheritance. In 2019 he guest edited a special issue of *Romanticism* titled 'Romanticism and Ageing' and has published essays on ageing in the poetry of Coleridge, Byron and Branwell Brontë. He is currently co-editing *The Oxford Handbook of Lord Byron*. (j.r.shears@keele.ac.uk)

Dr Siân Adiseshiah is Reader in English and Drama at Loughborough University. She is author of *Utopian Drama: In Search of Genre* (Methuen Bloomsbury, 2022, forthcoming), and several other books on contemporary theatre. She also has a forthcoming chapter 'Age as Crisis on the Twenty-First Century British Stage', in Clare Wallace et. al. (eds), *Crisis, Representation and Resilience* (Bloomsbury, 2022), and an article on utopia and ageing in G.B. Shaw's *Back to Methuselah* in *Age, Culture, Humanities*. (S.Adiseshiah@lboro.ac.uk)

Imagining Generations in the Post-Socialist Space (Part 1): Imagining Generations in Post-Socialist Literature and Cinema

Since the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern and Southeastern Europe in 1989–1990 and the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, images of “generations” recur in post-socialist public discourse as well as fiction and cinema. In general, the notion of “generation” can acquire two different meanings and is, thus, characterized by a “double semantics” (Weigel): it can be used in a familial sense which emphasizes continuity, reciprocity, and shared knowledge and values. However, it is also a means of speaking about conflict and change. The “younger” and “older generations,” then, come to represent the new versus the obsolete, they appear as agents of the future versus embodiments of a violent and traumatic past which must be overcome. It is this very, conflictual sense that prevails in post-socialist public discourse, while private narratives as well as contemporary fiction present a more nuanced picture of generational ambivalence. In any case, as Karl Mannheim argued in his seminal essay on “The Problem of Generations” (1928), “generations” are not simply given but socially constructed. The notion is used to mark identity and difference and to make appear as a quasi-natural form of belonging – as if acquired by one’s (year of) birth – what, in fact, is an imagined community.

In two thematically related panels, we will trace imaginings of “older” and “younger generations” and analyze how they refer to their respective post-socialist context. The first panel (chair: Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl) is devoted to literary and cultural representations, while the second panel (chair: Ľubica Voľanská) deals with notions of generation and intergenerationality as encountered in qualitative and quantitative research (biographical interviews, surveys, group interviews).

Chair: Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl

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Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl, PhD, is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Slavic Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. In her PhD thesis, she analyzed representations of women’s aging in Russian literature. She is the editor of *Aging in Slavic Literatures: Essays in Literary Gerontology* (Bielefeld, 2017). Among her recent publications is the multi-disciplinary essay collection *Foreign Countries of Old Age: East and Southeast European Perspectives on Aging* (Bielefeld, 2021), co-edited with Oana Hergenröther.

1. Diverging Generational Outlooks on Collective Trauma: Recent Examples from Romanian and Serbian Cinema

Southeastern Europe's rapidly changing demographic circumstances since 1989 have shaped a strong narrative about deep generational trenches. Moreover, a radical shift in the dominant narratives about age and aging (from a position of power, dignity, and respect to a combination of inconsideration, patronization, and blame-shedding) has contributed to a popular trope of pitting progressive and liberal youth against conservative and prejudiced old age. My presentation analyzes two films where these rifts surface in the face of collective historical trauma, when imagined stereotypes easily play into binary oppositions. *Illegitimate* (*Ilegitim*; 2016, Romania; dir. Adrian Sitaru) reworks extremely uncomfortable topics – both those potentially uncomfortable always and everywhere (in this case: abortion and incest) and those uncomfortable in a specific setting (abortion laws in communist Romania). The reworking of war trauma and non-acknowledged roles in it are the subject of *A Good Wife* (*Dobra žena*; 2016, Serbia; dir. Mirjana Karanović), where, however, the supposed generational differences are also challenged. In both films, divergent generational perspectives within one family illustrate the challenge for an entire society to encompass into the weaving of new collective imaginaries diverse opinions on how to face history and how to assume personal, familial, and national responsibility.

Oana Hergenröther

2. Reflecting Time, Narrating the Self: Aging in the Novel *May Your Mother Give Birth to You* by Vedrana Rudan

Humanities scholarship on dementia has long focused on the depiction of dementia in literature, film, and other genres. Recent research on neurodiversity includes humanistic scholarship on creativity within dementia. It is time for interdisciplinary humanities scholarship to focus on narratives of dementia that circulate within aging societies, are embedded in policy, and shape experiences of typical people living with dementia or providing dementia care. This paper argues for the normative importance of studying values-laden cultural narratives, recognizing competing or evolving narratives within a society, and demonstrating how to reframe flawed narratives beyond necessary attention to ageist and ableist language. It presents examples of approaches to social narrative analysis; describes tools and training that could be integrated into humanities scholarship on dementia and aging, and considers the potential role of social narrative analysis in articulating and launching policy ideas for aging societies.

Brigita Miloš, Sanja Špoljar-Vržina & Marija Geiger Zeman

Panel #12A

3. Imagining Generations in Recent Literature from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia

The Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, which started on February 24, has caused, within a few days and weeks, many thousands of deaths and immeasurable pain, separated families, destroyed their homes, forced millions of people to flee their country. This is a war that the Russian regime is waging in the name of the past: an imperial past that it aims to restore, by alleging that WWII must be prevented from repeating itself. While people of all ages are suffering in this war, and members of all generations are either speaking out clearly against or supporting the aggression, generational imaginaries inform the rhetoric of politicians as well as the reasoning of commentators – journalists, scholars, writers, and others. Members of the “older generation” are juxtaposed against the “young” in varying ways; most often, their interrelations are described in terms of transgenerational trauma, guilt, and shame, notably, in terms of a socialist legacy that weighs heavily, and that people did not manage to overcome in the post-socialist condition. In this paper, it will be analyzed how recurring generational imaginaries are evoked and challenged by post-Soviet fiction – with examples selected not only from contemporary Russian (Sergei Lebedev, Liudmila Ulitskaia) but also Ukrainian and Belarusian (Serhii Zhadan, Svetlana Aleksievich) literatures which used to remain at the periphery of scholarly attention and have only now, in light of recent events, moved to its center.

Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl

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Marija Geiger Zeman, PhD, is Senior Research Scientist in Sociology at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb, Croatia. She is the author of numerous papers and conference presentations focusing on gender and aging. Her empirical work is based on qualitative methodology. In 2010, Marija Geiger Zeman received the Annual Science Award by the Croatian Parliament in the field of social sciences.

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Oana Hergenröther, PhD, is a researcher at the University of Graz. Her academic interests include contemporary American literature and culture, aging studies, intermediality studies, as well as literature in plurilingual and minority contexts. She is the author of a monograph about Paul Auster's work (2019) and, recently, the co-editor (with Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl) of the essay collection *Foreign Countries of Old Age: East and Southeast European Perspectives on Aging* (Bielefeld, 2021).

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Panel #12A

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Sanja Špoljar Vržina, PhD, M.D., is Senior Scientific Advisor at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb, Croatia, and Full Professor of Anthropology. She was one of the co-founders of the Institute of Anthropological Research in Zagreb and research fellow of the MacArthur Foundation at the University of Oxford. In her work as a critical anthropologist, she aims at doing research that benefits the researched subjects.

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Imagining Generations in the Post-Socialist Space (Part 2): Insights from Qualitative and Quantitative Research

Since the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern and Southeastern Europe in 1989–1990 and the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, images of “generations” recur in post-socialist public discourse as well as fiction and cinema. In general, the notion of “generation” can acquire two different meanings and is, thus, characterized by a “double semantics” (Weigel): it can be used in a familial sense which emphasizes continuity, reciprocity, and shared knowledge and values. However, it is also a means of speaking about conflict and change. The “younger” and “older generations,” then, come to represent the new versus the obsolete, they appear as agents of the future versus embodiments of a violent and traumatic past which must be overcome. It is this very, conflictual sense that prevails in post-socialist public discourse, while private narratives as well as contemporary fiction present a more nuanced picture of generational ambivalence. In any case, as Karl Mannheim argued in his seminal essay on “The Problem of Generations” (1928), “generations” are not simply given but socially constructed. The notion is used to mark identity and difference and to make appear as a quasi-natural form of belonging – as if acquired by one’s (year of) birth – what, in fact, is an imagined community.

In two thematically related panels, we will trace imaginings of “older” and “younger generations” and analyze how they refer to their respective post-socialist context. The first panel (chair: Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl) is devoted to literary and cultural representations, while the second panel (chair: Ľubica Voľanská) deals with notions of generation and intergenerationality as encountered in qualitative and quantitative research (biographical interviews, surveys, group interviews).

Chair: Ľubica Voľanská

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Ľubica Voľanská, PhD, is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. She studied Ethnology and History at Comenius University in Bratislava, the University of Regensburg, and Vienna University. She focuses on intergenerational relations, kinship and family, old age, (auto-) biographical research, historical anthropology, and ethnological/anthropological research of intangible cultural heritage.

1. Deconstructing Generations in Narratives of Family Care for People with Dementia

In the last decades, the number of older people suffering from dementia in Bulgaria (and South-eastern Europe in general) has increased significantly, and so has the possibility that one may encounter the disease within the family, given that models of informally “prescribed familiarism” of care are highly developed in the region. Thus, spouses, children, and grandchildren are faced with conditions that challenge their most intimate perceptions of and expectations towards their significant others, and trigger anxiety and depression in them. The cognitive problems and difficulties in meeting daily needs, characteristic of dementia, are interpreted as an untimely loss of the identity of the loved one, which undermines family ties and intergenerational solidarity. Hence, in many cases, the caregivers start infantilizing their loved ones, or feel “alienated” from them. It is not by coincidence that dementia is widely discussed as a “disease of the patient’s relatives.” What changes in the value frameworks regarding age and generation are behind the infantilizing way of treating people with dementia, and how are they narrativized? To what extent can the traumatic experience of the destabilization of generational bonds be understood as a family issue, or should it be seen as having roots in specific social conditions, and in a regional/local culture of care?

In search for the answers to these questions the paper will rely on ten biographical interviews and two group interviews with informal caregivers for people with dementia, conducted in 2017–2019 in Bulgaria. The main thesis is that although it is experienced in a traumatic way, the deconstruction of generation and generational bonds opens a space for disentangling family care for older people from paternalistic patterns and questioning social conventions.

Galina Goncharova

2. Who Is Helping and How? Intergenerational Networks During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Slovakia

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the latently prevalent social problems have become even more pronounced. In the public debates in Slovakia, the situation of older adults as one of the most vulnerable generational groups has often come to the fore, in connection with the disease itself and with older people’s social isolation. The paternalistic narrative has been applied to seniors on various levels. On the state level, narratives focused on institutional care for older people, which often relies on large-scale facilities representing a relic from the socialist period; on the right to use public space; and finally on the vaccination of the most vulnerable groups. At the family level, the paternalistic approach was reflected in communication and narratives about intergenerational help within the immediate and wider family, which rested mainly on the shoulders of women – mothers and daughters. This paper relies on online surveys conducted in spring 2020 and 2021, diary entries, and ethnographic interviews. The research findings suggest that narratives about intergenerational relationships and families create a unifying and simplistic image.

Panel #12B

However, narratives often differ from the actual social practice that is influenced by long-standing patterns of family structures and intergenerational relationships in Slovakia, which can be traced back to the socialist and even earlier periods.

Ľubica Voľanská & Soňa G. Lutherová

3. Family Stories and Intergenerational Relations

Why do we talk in families about the past? What is the function of family stories about the past and how are they related to family identities and family values? What is the role of different generations within the family in the process of creating and maintaining family memories? This presentation will seek to answer similar questions, drawing on 39 interviews held with three generations of thirteen families in the Czech Republic. I will argue that family stories are deeply connected with family relations. Families which like to meet together and talk create an opportunity for developing good intergenerational relationships. Conversely, unproblematic intergenerational relationships help to transmit family stories, family values, and identities to younger generations. Family stories about the past can thus contribute to family resilience, a feature of the family involving all family generations.

Radmila Švaříčková Slabáková

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Galina Goncharova has a PhD in Cultural Studies from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky” where she is currently Associate Professor at the Department of History and Theory of Culture. Her research interests are in the fields of cultural and social history; oral history; death studies; culture of care; age and culture. She has published on generational discourses, religious practices, and death and dying in modern and contemporary Bulgaria.

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Soňa G. Lutherová, PhD, is a social and visual anthropologist. As a research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, she focuses on individual/social identities, family, intergenerational relationships, memory, and material culture. She is interested in the application of innovative and reflexive methods in ethnographical research and has directed various visual anthropological documentaries.

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Radmila Švaříčková Slabáková is Associate Professor of History at Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic. Her research interests include memory studies, oral history, gender, and historiographical trends. She has published numerous monographs, book chapters and articles in, e.g., *Gendering Postsocialism: Old Legacies and New Hierarchies* (eds. Y. Gradska and I. A. Morell, Routledge, 2018) or the *Journal of Family History*, and is the editor of *Family Memory: Practices, Transmission and Uses in a Global Perspective* (Routledge, 2021).

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Panel #13

The Socio-Material Assemblages of Algorithmic Ageing

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning systems are changing the contexts of age and ageing in various ways. The last decade has seen an increase in the development and implementation of AI in systems that involve older adults, such as sensors and robotics in care, ambient assisted living technologies or voice recognition software (Queirós et al. 2017).

Researchers in the field of material gerontology have taken such developments as a starting point to theorize how socio-material phenomena around AI shape age and ageing - conceptualizing ageing no longer as a solely human experience, but as a socio-material phenomenon that is (un)made in assemblages of material and human elements, such as older adults, technologies, (big) data, AI systems and other materialities (Höppner & Urban, 2018).

This session aims at making these connections between AI and ageing visible through exploring the socio-material assemblages of humans and computer algorithms that co-constitute age and ageing, focussing on three aspects: 1) Discrimination and bias that emerge through AI systems that lay the basis for “AI ageism”, 2) Challenges and limits of meaningful and responsible innovation through AI, 3) the co-constitution of ageing and technology in the development of AI.

Chair: Vera Gallistl

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Dr. Vera Gallistl (Center for Gerontology, Karl Landsteiner Private University, Krems, Austria) is a sociologist and gerontologist at Karl Landsteiner Private University. In her work, she studies digital cultures of later life, focusing on older internet users and barriers towards internet use of older adults. In her current research project, she explores the potentials and challenges of artificial intelligence in elder care. She is co-editor of the special issue “Socio-Gerontechnology – The Digital Transformation of Later Life” (Frontiers in Sociology, 2022).

1. Ageism in AI: new forms of age discrimination and exclusion in the era of algorithms

Artificial intelligence (AI), despite its unequivocal power to change the world for better, has also proved to have a shadow side to it, where malicious use of AI systems produce outcomes which are harmful for individuals, social groups or whole communities. The scholarly research into the issues of algorithmic fairness and AI biases gained significant momentum after several seminal works depicting racism and sexism in AI had been brought to public attention. Yet, the existing academic scrutiny of AI biases and discrimination has failed to include the category of age as one of the most pivotal socio-demographic characteristics contributing to social and economic inequalities. This presentation aims to cast some light onto the way age bias and age discrimination operate within the AI systems by providing (1) a conceptual framework of “AI ageism” with 5 interrelated forms of exclusion, (2) empirical examples of these practices.

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2. A Western-Eastern exploration into responsible AI innovation in the homecare of people with dementia

In the HAAL project, an AI-based dashboard is being developed that should act as a support to caregivers by providing insight into the health and well-being of community-dwelling people with dementia and helping them to assess the care and support needs of their clients. As part of the project, we study innovators’ and users’ views and perspectives on the both the opportunities and risks of using such a platform. Also, we explore what decisions and actions can be taken in the design and deployment of the platform to achieve meaningful and responsible innovation. In particular, we compare between the views of Taiwanese, Italian and Dutch innovators and users, thereby exploring how to be sensitive to both the wider applicability and the local embedding of technology.

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Panel #13

3. Ageing in Algorithms – The Co-Constitution of Ageing and Technology in Artificial Intelligence

The last decade has seen an increase in the development of artificial intelligence (AI) for systems of care (Queirós et al. 2017). While reviews have identified major risks of AI in elder care, such as the depersonalization of care through algorithm-based standardization, or the discrimination of minority groups through bias (Rubeis 2020), relatively little is known about how AI technologies, as socio-technical systems in use, influence the everyday lives of older adults and change their experiences of ageing. This paper explores the co-constitution of ageing and technology (Peine & Neven, 2020) that takes place in the development, implementation, and use of AI in care settings. Using empirical data from a qualitative case study on fall detection software, the paper questions the material politics that are enacted through fall detection sensors, asks which images of ageing guide the development of AI technologies in care systems and how older care home residents perceive such technologies. Results illustrate how the often-negative imaginaries of ageing in technological development are inscribed into AI and the biases that emerge through this inscription. Imaginaries which emerge from a certain ignorance of the developers of care systems are reinforced by organizational and economic processes of development practices. This paper argues for the development of explainable and transparent AI for care settings, that takes the needs of care organizations, but also of older adults into account.

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Dirk Lukkien, MSc. is a senior researcher in data-driven care and artificial intelligence at Vilans, the Dutch expertise centre of long-term care, an external PhD candidate on responsible AI innovation at Utrecht University. In his research, Dirk studies how technologies and care practices driven by data and AI are taking shape, and how both innovators and users account for the social desirability, ethical acceptability and sustainability of these innovations.

Justyna Stypinska received her PhD from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow for a dissertation on age discrimination in the labour market. She is a leader of an international project MOMENT-Making of Mature Entrepreneurship in Germany and Poland, which studies the dynamic interrelations of time, place, agency and structure in the process of becoming self-employed in later life. Her research focuses primarily on ageism and age discrimination, age and gender inequalities in the life course perspective, as well as the relation between ageing, social innovation and social sustainability.

Panel #14

Collecting and presenting the stories of older people in narrative

The panel will explore the practice of researchers investigating the diversity of aging and social participation trajectories in two Latin American countries (Chile and Argentina). Using the life-course approach and exploring diverse geographic and social settings, they focus on listening to the stories of older people who are LGBTQI+, come from First Nations groups, have disabilities and/or have an international migration background. Based on their experiences in contexts where precariousness and discrimination are usually harsh, but also where older people resist adverse circumstances and develop survival and self-determination strategies, questions arise about the study of diversity in old age from a narrative perspective. For example, people's meandering journeys or the multidimensional identities in which they feel comfortable generate challenges for collecting and elucidating their narratives. Likewise, capturing the territorial and social anchoring of their stories is difficult without prolonged experience in the field. Thus, by applying qualitative research techniques and dealing with different groups with different trajectories and locations, we seek to problematize the ways in which they construct their old age and the meanings they attribute to it.

Chair: Emilie Raymond

Emilie Raymond is a full professor at the School of Social Work and Criminology at Laval University and is interested in representations and practices related to the participation and social inclusion of older people.

PAPERS

1. The time, location and territory of interviewing: Diversity as a practice for equity

As part of the *Vejez diversa* research project, we interviewed older people from the four above-mentioned groups in several regions of Chile, to explore their aging and social participation trajectories. Three methodological dimensions of the approach will be addressed. First, these interviews marked three recent periods that were significant for Chile (social crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, national elections), which required us to adjust the questions we asked and listen to the stories of the people we met, who were experiencing anxiety-provoking situations. Similarly, it became essential to situate each of the interviews in time and to take account of the sociopolitical and public health circumstances surrounding them. Second, the location chosen by several people to conduct the meetings (public market, community center, land occupancy, day center, park, etc.) rooted their narratives in their work, social, recreational or activist activities.

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Although they raised some issues regarding confidentiality, those locations allowed us to better grasp respondents' social participation practices. Third, the geographic and cultural territories occupied by each participant meant that interviews with seniors had to be complemented by others with people working in different community and government sectors, in order to better understand the characteristics of each area, and therefore nuances in the participants' narrative.

Emilie Raymond

2. LGBTQI+ identities, narratives and life trajectories

In recent years, Latin America has made progress in promoting rights for the LGBTQI+ community. However, not all countries have enacted these rights. Furthermore, many of these changes have been recent. For this reason, it is interesting to discover and reflect on the construction of LGBTQI+ people's old age in times when there were no such measures, the impact of discriminatory experiences on their lifestyles, the conditions and quality of life of elderly LGBTQI+ people, their memories and the meaning that they attribute to old age.

Fernando Rada Schultze

3. Constructing diverse narratives about aging: Reflections on fieldwork in northern and southern Chile

To better understand the diversity of aging experiences, we focused on groups of older people who are not visible and considered their territorial diversity. We present the results of our fieldwork experience in two regions of northern and southern Chile, where older people's stories were collected. Our goal was to reflect on how these stories interact with the fieldwork experience in the construction of narratives about aging. Using different qualitative techniques, such as in-depth interviews, discussion groups and ethnographic observation, we highlight the importance of paying attention to the diversity of voices that emerge, thus recognizing the space and context where these narratives occur. In this way, we seek to collect the embodied experience, the approach to life and everyday space, and outcomes of social interaction and intersubjective linkage.

M. Victoria Carrasco

4. Stories of oppression about LGBTQI+ seniors

In examining these interactions, the diversity of aging trajectories must be understood and documented from perspectives that recognize human development throughout the lifespan and value the effects of social change upon them (Hareven, 1978). This research recovers the narratives of older LGBTQI+ people who live in contexts of social inequality and discrimination based on gender and age.

[continues on next page]

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Their identities, lifestyles, belief systems, and other characteristics incorporate greater heterogeneity in old age, which has rarely been included in research samples and is particularly ignored in Latin America. We observed trajectories of older people who have had fewer opportunities or have more frequently experienced discrimination. Countries with high levels of inequality, such as Chile, need to generate more spaces for participation and social inclusion for all older people, making it more urgent to enhance the exercise of rights and the inclusion of these groups. Generating discussion and evidence along these lines will allow higher levels of involvement and social cohesion among people of all ages.

CONTRIBUTORS

Fernando Rada Schultze, PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Buenos Aires. He participates in Buenos Aires University research projects analyzing the life cycle, aging, quality, and life expectancy of so-called sexual minorities.

M. Victoria Carrasco (MSW) is a researcher in the field of aging and is interested in developing policies and practices to tackle inequalities in social participation as well as addressing issues of social inclusion and diversity of older adults.

Beatriz Rodríguez Gutiérrez is Social anthropologist. She is involved in social research in the field of ageing, especially in academic and cultural projects that address issues of gender, territories, longevity and diversity.

Sara Caro is a social worker and a doctoral candidate in psychology. She has participated in research on aging and territorial diversity, public policies and social programs for the older adults with a gender focus and she is currently developing her doctoral thesis on the civic engagement among older people in Chile.

Panel #15

Critical Reflections on Temporality, Spatiality, and Relationality in Age Studies

This interdisciplinary panel brings together scholars from philosophy, sociology, creative arts therapies, and leisure studies to explore the relevance of recent theoretical aspects of temporality, spatiality, embodiment, care, and relationality to aging research. The presenters draw upon cases of practical issues of self-reports on well-being, dementia and memory, intergenerational creative spaces, and third-space community-defined evidence to support their arguments, while collectively proposing that new directions in temporal and spatial research can offer more inclusive and age-friendly approaches to everyday dilemmas for older people.

Chair: Line Grenier

Line Grenier is Professor at the Département de communication of the Université de Montréal, where she teaches predominantly in the areas of research methodology, media theory, memory and media, and popular culture. Her work focuses on the intersections of music, memory and aging. She is co-editor of two books on this topic: *A Senior Moment. Cultural mediations of memory and ageing* (Transcript Press, 2021) with Fannie Valois-Nadeau, and *Troubling Inheritances. Music, Memory, Aging* (Bloomsbury, 2022, in press), with Sara Cohen and Ros Jennings.

PAPERS

1. Demystifying the “Aging Paradox”: Critical Phenomenology, Temporality, and the Limits of Gerontology

This presentation will explore the relationship between experiences of aging embodiment and aging as a scientific object of gerontology study. It is organised into three parts. In part one, I challenge the gerontological framing device the “paradox of aging” and present three interrelated presumptions about aging and becoming older on which the paradox is framed. Often dubbed the “aging paradox,” research evidence has found that older adults self-report higher levels of wellbeing than younger adults despite their age-associated impairments and loss. Such studies are often used to argue against the commonplace intuition of becoming older as a far-off, distant horror and being an older person as a horrible experience. I argue that the “aging paradox” is badly posed. In part two, I discuss how the concept of the “aging paradox” may itself continue to perpetuate ageist beliefs about becoming older and older adults. Drawing on work in critical phenomenology, aging studies, and philosophy of temporality, I conclude by providing an account of aging embodiment as a non-normative trajectory, relational, situated, and concrete in nature and argue that embodiment and temporality may provide an entryway into dissolving and correcting this conceptual framing device.

Tristana-Martin Rubio, Duquesne University
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Panel #15

2. Time, Memory and Dementia: A Becoming/Un-becoming Approach

This presentation focuses on the relevance of critical philosophical ideas about memory and temporality for dementia research and practice. As dementia care has evolved through overlapping stages of biomedical, person-centred and relational models, questions have emerged about Euro-Western ideals of rational, continuous and individual personhood. These also call for more inclusive concepts of experiential time for people living with dementia. Various ideas have come forth about entangled, creative and plural temporalities of dementia, to which this presentation contributes a discussion of Henri Bergson, Gilles Deleuze and Elizabeth Grosz's notions of non-continuous temporalities, duration, and co-existing past and present memories, both real and virtual. In this tradition temporality is a process that undoes and makes, un-becomes and becomes, and animates complex pathways of memory throughout life that exceed recollection and consciousness. These pertain to all of us as we live in unstable worlds of forgetting and recalling, where memory collectively enfolds us in a universe of possibilities beyond our conscious perception. Conclusions consider how these ideas accord with posthumanist, Indigenous and critical dementia critiques of individualistic models of biographical coherence.

Stephen Katz, Trent University
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3. Community-University Research Partnerships for Designing the Future: The Creative Commons

Whether it is conversations about what matters, experimenting with materials together, co-authoring a play, or hosting a community art exhibit, informal, inclusive, and accessible spaces for gathering are necessary. This panelist will discuss networks of intergenerational public homes linking circles of care, fostering creative expressions, and exploring methods for adapting to environmental and social crises. This offering intends to consider linking small but numerous, social infrastructures that are flexible enough to handle our messy futures (pandemic, war, climate adjustments, food, and water insecurity, etc.) and safe enough to strengthen our internal reserves to connect across differences through public practice arts forming new relationships of mutual care. This talk will bring forward the power of third spaces for storytelling, art making, skill sharing and care for each other, as we strengthen our informed narratives through everyday arts and ignite the policy changes possible through this method of "community defined evidence."

Janis Timm-Bottos, Concordia University
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4. Intergenerational Engagement in a Child Care Centre: Critical Reflections on Relationality and Intentionality in Third Places

This presentation seeks to critically reflect and expand upon Oldenburg's notion of third places beyond idealized public places. Third places have been recognized as contexts to encourage citizen involvement and to facilitate a sense of belonging among community members.

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Yet these spaces can also be exclusionary and breed experiences of marginalization and exclusion. Similarly, intergenerational engagement is often widely and uncritically espoused as a solution to ageism and social exclusion of older people. Using a case study of an intergenerational program at a child care centre, we expand our theorizing about third places and intergenerational engagement and explore how leisure can be used to create spaces for community and intergenerational engagement. Specifically, we explore the importance of relationality and intentionality as key considerations in the facilitation of more inclusive third places.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tristana Martin-Rubio is a PhD(c) in Philosophy at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania specializing in 19th and 20th century European philosophy (especially phenomenology), feminist philosophy, and bioethics. She works at engAGE: Concordia's Centre for Research on Aging. Her research focuses on embodiment and temporality, especially as it relates to the phenomenon of aging and becoming older. Drawing on conceptual resources in critical phenomenology, social gerontology, and ethics, her dissertation explores the temporality of aging embodiment as a non-linear and non-deterministic unfolding and contends with the way power relations structure the experience of becoming older.

Stephen Katz is Professor (Emeritus) of Sociology at Trent University (Canada), founding member of the Trent Centre for Aging and Society, recipient of Trent's Distinguished Research Award, and author of several books and articles on ageing bodies, critical gerontology, sexuality, musical biography, cognitive impairment, design and health technologies.

Janis Timm-Bottos, PhD, ATR-BC, is a former physical therapist, a board-certified art therapist, and an Associate Professor in the Creative Arts Therapies, Faculty of Fine Arts at Concordia University in Montreal (Canada). Timm-Bottos is the founder and director of the Art Hives Network Initiative which links 229 art hives worldwide. She promotes arts-based social inclusion through the development of neighborhood and institutional third spaces of mutual care for all ages, along with specialized studios for groups requiring more support to regain their footing in society. Her research investigates public practice art therapies and the art hive as a therapeutic anchor for individuals, families, and communities. She currently serves as the PI for FRQ-S engAGE Living Lab Créatif, located in a local mall, and is serving as a co-director of Concordia's "Design, Arts, Culture and Community" of Next Generation Cities Institute.

Shannon Hebblethwaite is Professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at Concordia and Director of engAGE: Concordia's Centre for Research on Aging. Shannon's research centres on social inclusion and the role of leisure in well-being among individuals and in families. Through interdisciplinary research collaborations, her work has engaged marginalized communities, including older adults, grandparents, first-time mothers, and persons living with disabilities. She is Associate Editor of the Therapeutic Recreation Journal.

Panel #16

Narratives of digital care

The panel will create a multidisciplinary dialogue around four papers that approach digital care, and the narratives around it, from diverse methodological positions.

Chair: Barbara Ratzenböck

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Barbara Ratzenböck is a sociologist and Senior Scientist at the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz, Austria. Her research focuses on digitalization, gender, and generations. She currently serves as dataset coordinator of the Austrian survey of the ACT Cross-national Longitudinal Study: Older Audiences in the Digital Media Environment (<https://actproject.ca/act/longitudinal-study/>). [Center for Inter-American Studies, University of Graz]

Acknowledgments

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PAPERS

1. Aging and the Materialities of Digital Care Work

This paper reflects upon the materialities of digital care work faced by Montreal municipal community organizations, providing a variety of ‘services to seniors’ during the COVID-19 pandemic (Katz, 2020; Sawchuk & Lafontaine, 2022). It addresses the materialities of carework as a “heuristic device for making visible the mundane and often unnoticed aspects of material culture within health and social care contexts” (Buse, Martin and Nettleton, 2018). Social distancing measures during Covid-19 required organizations to address, quickly, age-related digital divides in their communities. An analysis of over 200 interviews conducted with community organizers, volunteers, and older adults, during and after the pandemic, reveals the mundane and often unnoticed material dimensions of doing digital care work, from addressing the absence of wifi in residences to acknowledging the affordances built into digital devices. I highlight, as well, the invisible innovations generated by workers in this sector during this time. I assert that greater acknowledgment of digital care work as a vital part of the future of social gerontology is needed in a world where digitally-mediated connections are increasingly positioned, not as a luxury, but as a necessity to maintain social connection, well-being, and citizen participation at all ages.

Kim Sawchuk (Concordia University, kim.sawchuk@concordia.ca)

Panel #16

2. Sandwiched caregivers amid the COVID pandemic. How did informal care and digital uses change for sandwiched caregivers after the start of the COVID pandemic?

Over the past decade, the number of people simultaneously providing care for children and parents, the so-called ‘sandwich generation,’ has grown (Friedman, Park and Wiemers 2015). Given the demographic trend, it is relevant to understand how older adults provide informal care to their peers as well as to other generations as it has consequences for policymakers and families. This research will explore trends of multiple caregiving before and after the COVID-19 pandemic started, examining how older adults allocate their time to support their peers (same generation), parents or parents-in-law (older generation) or children or grandchildren (younger generation). As social distance measures were applied in most European countries in the study, I expect to see a drastic reduction in these roles, in particular caregiving towards younger generations. Moreover, given the age-related digital divides, I expect a small increase in internet use during the pandemic, which has proven important for other age groups in the population during this period. A multivariate analysis will examine the changes in caregiving and the uses of the internet between 2015 and 2020. Data comes from waves 6 and 8 of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). Due to a low prevalence of caregiving for people aged 85 and more in our sample, we restricted our analyses to women and men aged 50-84. Analyzed countries are Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Sweden, Czech Republic and Poland.

Madelín Gómez-León (Open University of Catalonia / Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, mgomezle@uoc.edu)

3. Older Women, ICTs, and Everyday Life: The Double Logic of Care

In Austria, considerably fewer older women than men use the internet (Statistik Austria 2021). To counteract the risk of exclusion from digital society, researchers and policymakers are interested in older women’s ICT use: When, where, how, and why do ICTs matter? How does this connect to a lifetime of experiences with media technologies? To paint a multidimensional portrait of media use, my research examines how 12 Austrian women, aged 60-70, use ICTs in their everyday lives combining findings from life graph discussions, guided interviews, and walking interviews in small domestic spaces with supplementary statistical data from wave 1 (2016) of the ACT Cross-National Longitudinal Study. Although older women are a diverse group, the study identified multiple patterns of their evaluation and use of ICTs, most notably, how their engagement with new ICTs is informed by a double logic of care: either they use new ICTs to care for others (particularly their families), or, on the contrary, they are too busy caring for others to engage with ICTs. Contrary to common public misconceptions, older women are neither “technophobic” (Neves and Amaro 2012:2; Suopajarvi 2015:113), nor generally have a limited interest in ICTs (Sayago and Blat 2010:117). Rather, as this research indicates, older women are affected by the ascription of narrow social roles that limit the scope of their agency (Maierhofer 2003:40, 2007:113, 2012:99).”

Barbara Ratzenböck (University of Graz, barbara.ratzenboeck@uni-graz.at)

Panel #16

4. Who cares about discrimination in online banking services?

In Catalonia and Spain, the banking sector is under a restructuring process. Most banks prioritize online banking and ATM use, and penalize face-to-face interactions with clients. The trend started with the 2008 financial crisis and has accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The strategy discriminates against older people, the most affected by the digital divide, with at least 40% of the individuals aged 65 and over in Catalonia not using the internet regularly (own calculation based on Idescat, 2022). One definition of care is “to feel interest or concern” (Merriam-Webster dictionary). This paper revolves around this particular meaning and explores who cares about the older ones regarding the precarious banking service they are currently receiving. Mainly, those who care are the public sector and the older individuals themselves. I also speculate on the origin of such discrimination, which I understand is rooted in the design of online (banking) platforms. They were never designed to serve or attract older users as a common prejudice was in operation: the assumption that aged individuals are not interested in digital services or not capable of learning how to use them. However, the predominant public discourse blames those who lack digital skills but not those who designed a non-universal digital service.

Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol ((Open University of Catalonia / Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, mfernandezar@uoc.edu)

CONTRIBUTORS

Kim Sawchuk is Professor in Communication Studies, and Director of the ACT Lab (www.actproject.ca) at Concordia University, which is located on the Territory of the Traditional Kanien’kehá:ka Nation. Kim’s research explores multimethodological, intersectional and intersectoral approaches to age and aging. These days she is interested, primarily, in community-driven research on age and aging with media.

Madelín Gómez-León, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Communication Networks & Social Change Research Group (CNSC) at the IN3–Open University of Catalonia (UOC). My research aim is to study population ageing, to understand the economic participation of individuals at older ages and intergenerational exchanges of support. Currently, my research focuses on understanding how social networks (including digital spaces) influence health and wellbeing in later life.

Barbara Ratzenböck is a sociologist and Senior Scientist at the Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz, Austria. Her research focuses on digitalization, gender, and generations. She currently serves as dataset coordinator of the Austrian survey of the ACT Cross-national Longitudinal Study: Older Audiences in the Digital Media Environment (<https://actproject.ca/act/longitudinal-study/>).

Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Digital Communication at the Open University of Catalonia (Barcelona). She is interested in interdisciplinary approaches in the Social Sciences field and uses mobile communication as an entry point to analyze power relations. One of her research interests is the analysis of the intersection between digital (mobile) communication and the process of aging.

Panel #17

Resistant Nostalgia in Live Performance: Retro-Activating the Past and Reimagining the Present and Future for Older Subjects

Nostalgia traditionally has been thought of as “a painful yearning to return home” (Davis 1). In relation to stories about old(er) age, this has resulted in the idealization of youth and the frequent construction of older characters as longing for a romanticized past. In contrast, recent live performances involving older subjects have used resistant forms of nostalgia as a powerful tool to “retro-activate” the past in order to critique the present and empower the future; by doing so, they re-imagine narratives of aging and old age. Prompted by the conference theme, this panel examines narratives and counter narratives of aging in relation to the performance of nostalgia across three performances. In these pieces, nostalgia becomes more than simply a yearning for a past time or place: it is a revisiting and reimagining of selves across time. By looking at the pervasive desire to “go back” in time, we explore how nostalgia can become a way to destabilize negative forces embedded in the present and in linear chronologies of time, and a way to celebrate the nuances of aging subjectivity.

Chair: Benjamin Gillespie

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Benjamin Gillespie is a PhD Candidate (ABD) in Theatre & Performance at The Graduate Center, CUNY. He is Associate Editor of PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art and Lecturer in Theatre at NYU’s Tisch School of Drama and The New School. His articles and reviews have appeared in numerous journals including Theatre Journal, Modern Drama, Performance Research, and Theatre Research in Canada.

PAPERS

1. Back to the (Retro)Future in Performance Artist Jess Dobkin’s

Wetrospective

In April 2020, Jess Dobkin’s *Wetrospective* was set to open at the AGYU gallery in Toronto. However, due to the onset of the pandemic, the exhibition was postponed indefinitely until September 2021. The exhibition was meant to coincide with the artist’s 50th birthday and to imagine a non-linear approach to the re-presentation of Dobkin’s performance history by containing both the material and immaterial archival remains of her queer body of work over the past 25 years. It also emphasized the “fluid” nature of her performance and how its documentation remains slippery over time through resistant forms of nostalgic return to the past.

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Drawing upon interviews, exhibition ephemera, and Dobkin's performance archive, this paper maps the slippery nature of time for the aging queer artist by offering a comparative analysis of her delated retrospective alongside her decade-long interrogation of the nostalgia and the archive. This paper draws together both age and queer studies perspectives through the performance of the "retro," demonstrating how queer performance is a medium that gains increasing depth as the artist's body of work expands and itself ages.

Benjamin Gillespie, The Graduate Center, CUNY

2. Countering Ageism through Nostalgia in Martin Bellemare's *The Ballad of Georges Boivin*

According to scholar Deidre Heddon, "Nostalgia (like autobiography) is also a means of engendering a coherent and continuous identity as we remind ourselves in the present of who we were in the past" (95). She argues nostalgia can be thought of as "an active 'resistance' to the present, rather than simply romanticism of the past" (98). *The Ballad of Georges Boivin* by Martin Bellemare employs a resistant form of nostalgia to offer its old-aged characters performative age identities that demonstrate profound interrelational connection. By re-performing and re-embodiment the past in the present, the main character, Georges Boivin, evokes a glimpse of a changed future and resists old age stereotypes of being stuck in the past, overwhelmed by decline, and incapable of change. This paper also explores how the play's English language premiere at Western Gold Theatre in Fall 2021 used nostalgic visual imagery and music to help locate the characters in extended duration (Kotarba 93) and establish the character's personal and generational continuity across time. Finally, the one-person production casts two well-known older actors, thus drawing on audiences' own nostalgia about the actor's careers, layered with their current performances, to inspire reflections on age identity.

Julia Henderson, Concordia University (julia.henderson@ubc.ca)

3. "Before the Last Curtain Falls": Aging as Possibility for Liberation in *Gardenia*

Les ballet C de la B's dance piece *Gardenia* (2010), created by Belgian choreographer Alain Platel and theatre director Frank Van Laeck, was captured in the documentary film *Before the Last Curtain Falls* (2014) and was restaged once again in 2021 as *Gardenia - 10 years later*. *Gardenia* stages seven older amateur performers who are either transgender people or who had engaged in cross-dressing performances in their youth. Through effective use of (un)dressing and tableaux images, *Gardenia* allows the older transgender women and queer subjects to explore and express their unique relationships with their past, present, and the future. *Gardenia* offers a place where these older bodies present what I call "transverse nostalgia" and enables them to reconcile with their life memories and reimagine their present and future. While refusing a unity of a life-course and the dominant declining narrative of aging, the older trans and queer subjects embody what Anne Davis Basting called "bodies in depth" (1998).

Panel #17

This paper argues that *Gardenia* portrays the older queer subjects' complex relationships with their youth and contests the dominant narrative that contrasts the youthful past as the time of hope with the old age as the time of loss.

Heunjung Lee, University of Alberta (heunjung@ualberta.ca)

CONTRIBUTORS

Julia Henderson is a Postdoctoral Fellow with Concordia University's Ageing+Communication Technologies Lab and McGill University. Her research involves collaborative creation with people with lived experience of dementia. She is Vice Chair of NANAS. Her work is published in *Theatre Research in Canada*, *Canadian Theatre Review*, *RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, and *ACH*.

Heunjung Lee is a PhD Candidate (ABD) in Performance Studies and a lecturer in the Department of Drama at the University of Alberta. Crossing Performance Studies, Age Studies, and Disability Studies, her research focuses on the cultural scripts of the aged bodies and minds. Her doctoral dissertation, *Performing (Ab)normal: Reframing Ageing and Dementia*, reframes living with dementia as a new way of being and living.

Valerie Barnes Lipscomb is Professor of English at the University of South Florida. Current projects include co-editing the *Palgrave Handbook of Literature and Aging*; Palgrave Macmillan also published her monograph, *Performing Age in Modern Drama*, and a co-edited collection, *Staging Age*. Her articles appear in such journals as *Modern Drama* and the *Journal of Aging Studies*. She also has been co-editor of *ACH*.

Panel #18

Aging as Emasculations? Narratives and Counter-Narratives in Contemporary Fiction

Our proposed panel “Aging as Emasculations? Narratives and Counter-Narratives in Contemporary Fiction” examines aging masculinities in fiction from Serbia, Spain, the United States and Canada in a range of work by male authors. Josep Armengol argues for the complexity of male experiences of aging in American fiction; Claudia Alonso-Reverte focuses on aging and the trope of the *héroe cansado* in novelist Perez-Reverte’s *Los perros duros no bailan*; Oana Hergenröther considers Serbian cultural experiences and the resistance to aging stereotypes in the anthology *Old Age*; and Suzanne Bailey examines rural aging in the coastal lives depicted in Alistair MacLeod’s stories of Cape Breton, in Nova Scotia.

Chair: José María Armengol Carrera

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José María Armengol Carrera is Professor of English and Gender Studies Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha in Spain. He is the author of *Aging Masculinities in Contemporary U.S. Fiction* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021) and principal investigator, Southern Europe, for the EU project “Gendering Age: Representations of Masculinities in Contemporary European Literatures and Cinemas” (MASCAGE).

PAPERS

1. Aging and/as Feminization? Aging Masculinities in Contemporary U.S. Fiction

In “Aging and/as Feminization? Aging Masculinities in Contemporary U.S. Fiction,” Josep Armengol argues that while most gendered approaches to aging have focused on women, which has contributed to the cultural invisibility of older men, to focus on men’s aging experiences as men challenges the inverse correlation between masculinity and aging. His paper draws on selected contemporary U.S. male-authored fictional works, which question the widely-held assumption that aging is a lesser concern for men, or that men and women’s aging experiences may be simply defined as opposed. The literary corpus includes male authors from different backgrounds so as to illustrate how (self-)representations of aging men vary according not only to gender (Philip Roth, John Updike) but also class (Richard Ford), race (Ernest Gaines), and sexual orientation (Edmund White). The paper thus challenges the conventional equation of men’s aging processes with (sexual) decline, exemplifying their plurality as well as irreducible contradictions.

Josep Armengol

Panel #18

2. Aging Dogs and Weary Heroes in Arturo Pérez-Reverte's *Los perros duros no bailan*

In “Aging Dogs and Weary Heroes in Arturo Pérez-Reverte’s *Los perros duros no bailan*,” Claudia Alonso-Recarte explores aging masculinities through the so-called *héroe cansado* (“weary hero”) in Pérez-Reverte’s 2018 novel, a narrative that experiments with animal exempla and allegory. Notwithstanding its undeniable anthropomorphic excesses, the novel’s approach to the theme of aging masculinity takes the shape of a seasoned fighting dog that descends into the inferno of the pits to rescue and retrieve his long-time friend. These actions raise issues pertaining to the fluidity of gender identity once the subject is past his physical prime. Through the trope of the *héroe cansado*, Pérez-Reverte examines not only masculine weariness forged by violence and conflict, but also the weariness that comes with the cyclical nature of (Spanish) history and its irreparable tendency towards warfare, a context in which Negro’s genetic imprint (his mixed breeding) is homeopathically instrumentalized to empower the older body.

Claudia Alonso-Recarte

3. All the other books are about life’: Aging Masculinities in Albahari and Tešin’s “Old Age”

Oana Hergenröther focuses on Serbian writing in “All the other books are about life’: Aging Masculinities in Albahari and Tešin’s “Old Age.” Contemporary Serbian literature is a prolific source for studying the constructions of age and aging, considering not only the share of the 65+ population (over 20%; Eurostat 2020), but also the specific consequences on this age cohort of the events in the past 30 years: the wars and war traumas of the 1990s, forced migrations, poverty, sanctions and destruction. The anthology *Old Age* remains the only publication to date to deal with old age and the aging process. Aged and aging characters are portrayed against the background of real historical, social and economic experiences, and they often do take center stage and do not play stereotypical, flat or marginal roles. Moreover, the dominant patriarchal narratives about male experiences and aging masculinity are tackled in these texts by revis(it)ing common tropes such as the physicality of aging and narratives about virility and emasculation in the context of war.

Oana Hergenröther

4. Refiguring Aging in the Short Fiction of Alastair MacLeod

Suzanne Bailey examines rural masculinities in “Refiguring Aging in the Short Fiction of Alastair MacLeod.” In his short stories that have been compared to the work of Chekhov, Alastair MacLeod documents the lives of coastal Cape Bretoners, the descendants of Scottish immigrants who fled the Highland Clearances and settled in Canada. While critics have discussed MacLeod’s presentation of masculinities in the context of male labor in a fishing and coal mining economy (Charman, Kruk), MacLeod’s older characters have not been considered through the lens of masculinity and aging studies.

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Bailey's paper focuses on MacLeod's collected stories, published as *Island* (2000); in particular on "Vision" (1986), an intergenerational story in which two boys visit their austere grandparents, and "Clearances" (1999), in which an aging father must contemplate losing his family property after the death of a son. Her analysis emphasizes the rural component in the lives of these characters and argues that the stories re-figure aging through a connection to traditional Gaelic storytelling.

Suzanne Bailey

CONTRIBUTORS

Oana Hergenrother, PhD, is a researcher at the University of Graz. Her academic interests include contemporary American literature and culture, aging studies, intermediality studies, as well as literature in plurilingual and minority contexts. She is the author of a monograph on Paul Auster's work (2019) and, recently, the co-editor (with Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl) of the essay collection *Foreign Countries of Old Age: East and Southeast European Perspectives on Aging* ([transcript], 2021).

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Claudia Alonso-Recarte is Associate Professor in English at the University of Valencia, Spain. Her research revolves around the field of (Critical) Animal Studies, with a particular focus on representations of animals in film and literature, and intersections with gender constructs. She is the director of the recently created research group CULIVIAN ("Culturas literarias y visuales del animal") at the UV and is a member of the research group "Estudios de Género en el ámbito de los países de habla inglesa" at the Complutense University. She is also a member of the European Research Project "Analyzing social constructions of ageing masculinities and their cultural representations in contemporary European literatures and cinemas - MASCAGE."

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Suzanne Bailey is Professor of English Literature at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. She is the author of *Cognitive Style and Perceptual Difference in Browning's Poetry* and senior editor of P.K. Page's *Brazilian Journal*. She is principal investigator on two current SSHRC projects: "Lines: Atelier 17, the Art of the Print, and Canadian Modernism" and "'Wanderers in a Distant Country': Preserving and Adapting Britishness in the Writing of Catharine Parr Traill and Susanna Moodie." She has also served as past chair of NANAS.

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Panel #19

Narratives of Dementia: Care, Performance, Masculinity

Chairs: Sarah Falcus & Raquel Medina

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Sarah Falcus is a Reader in Contemporary Literature at the University of Huddersfield (UK). Her research centres on ageing and illness in contemporary literature and culture. She is the co-director of the Dementia and Cultural Narrative Network.

Raquel Medina is Visiting Research Fellow at Aston University (UK). Her research focuses on ageing and dementia in contemporary film and literature. She is the co-director of the Dementia and Cultural Narrative Network.

PAPERS

1. Radical Empathy through Films about Dementia

Naomi Kawase's 2007 *The Mourning Forest* is about a narrative of interdependent care between the film's two main characters, Shigeki and Machiko. Machiko, whose son died tragically in an accident prior to the film's present-day, is a younger woman who works as a carer in a retirement home, whereas Shigeki, whose wife passed away 33 years ago, is an older man who lives with dementia. The crux of the film sees Shigeki insistently wandering through the forest to visit his wife's grave, and with Machiko following him. Throughout the journey not much is said, nor much personal trauma is shared, but at the end of the film, the two characters appear to forge a kind of connection with each other that is grounded on respecting and acknowledging the other's world-view through that of difference.

Coming from a temporal viewpoint, this paper is interested in the ways such a connection that is rooted in differences might be forged. Drawing from Matthew Ratcliffe, I argue that *The Mourning Forest* offers the possibility for a more nuanced form of empathetic engagement between multiple individuals by articulating a kind of radical empathy that celebrates differences rather than sameness, where to empathise is to come to realise how another person understands the world differently. In doing so, I suggest that films about dementia encourage a theory of empathy that is not rooted in the individual subject but is instead focused on the relationships that are forged in the world that people share.

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Panel #19

2. *The Bucket List* and *The Calendar Projects*: On the value of viewing care practices through the tools of theatre, the lens of performance and an expansive understanding of narrative

In this presentation, I mobilise the “gaze” of theatre and performance to reframe two innovative Australian residential aged care home practices, *The Bucket List* and *The Calendar Projects*, as “narra-theatrical” (a term I have coined to describe individual and communal story worlds acknowledged by the “spectators” viewing and interacting with the “performers” of these worlds). I argue that both through the effects of these practices and my reframing of them as “narra-theatrical”, care meets possibility (the latter activated through the lenses of theatre and performance) and older people living in care facilities, with and without memory loss, cannot then be seen as deficit nor be sidelined by Gullette’s “decline narrative.” By partaking in these practices, residents are enabled to step out of their expected “roles” into new ones and in the process, constricting narratives which connect them only to their past identities, or, paradoxically, which see them as powerless to live into those past identities if they so choose, might be changed. Viewing these care practices through the tools of theatre, performance and narrative, older people living in care facilities can be seen as productive contributors rather than just recipients of care, “takers” or burdens. The role plays and narrative improvisations of the *The Bucket List* and *The Calendar Projects* open possibilities for many of the residents to live in new and dynamic ways and to be appreciated by the “spectators” of these performances of possibility.

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3. Of Bees, Boobies and Frank Sinatra: Masculinity and Alzheimer’s in Contemporary European Film Comedies

Located at the intersection of Ageing Studies and Masculinity Studies, this article explores how masculinity, Alzheimer’s and later life are intersectionality conceived of and thought together in a representative selection of main-stream and non-mainstream European film comedies. In the face of the (often tragic) portrayal of dementia on screen, we argue that through humour and laughter the genre of comedy can offer the possibility of valorisation and inclusion of the repressed, of the marginalised, i.e., of the male Alzheimer’s patient. Therefore, we examine the relational and intersectional inclusions and exclusions of male ageing and dementia on the cinema screen and inquire how Alzheimer’s interacts with different concepts of masculinity, how it is functionalised, whether the films analysed open up new and different realms of performative sexual identities or whether traditional stereotypes of masculinity and Alzheimer’s are validated, and if so, why this is the case.

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MaoHui Deng is Lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Manchester. His research is interested in the ways in which films about dementia and aging can further and/or complicate our understanding of time in cinema, gerontology and the wider society. He has published chapters in *The Routledge Companion to European Cinema*, *Contemporary Narratives of Ageing, Illness, Care* (Routledge), and *The Politics of Dementia* (De Gruyter). His first monograph, *Ageing, Dementia and Time in Film: Temporal Performances*, will be published by Edinburgh University Press in January 2023.

Dr Janet Gibson is the Program Manager, Communication, at UTS College, University of Technology, Sydney, where she lectures on the relationship between citizenship and dementia. Her recent scholarship includes a chapter in *Contemporary Narratives of Ageing, Illness, Care* edited by Sarah Falcus and Katsura Sako (Routledge 2022) and her book, *Dementia, Narrative and Performance: Staging Reality, Reimagining Identities* (Palgrave Macmillan 2020).

Stefan Horlacher is Chair of English Literature at Dresden University of Technology. He is the author of *Conceptions of Masculinity in the Works of Thomas Hardy and D.H. Lawrence* (2006, in German). His latest publications comprise *Configuring Masculinity in Theory and Literary Practice* (2015), *Männlichkeit. Ein interdisziplinäres Handbuch* (2016); *Transgender and Intersex: Theoretical, Practical, and Artistic Perspectives* (2016); *Contemporary Masculinities in the UK and the US: Between Bodies and Systems* (2017), and *Comparative Masculinity Studies and the Question of Narrative* (special issue IASL (2018)).

Franziska Röber is a PhD student and research assistant at Dresden University of Technology and received her Master of Education in English studies, colours and interior design in 2017. She is currently working on her PhD project titled “Still Creating a Fuss: Negotiating Age and Sexuality In British Sitcoms (1990 – present)”.

Plenary panel

Book Launch and Review of Four New Works in Age Studies

To celebrate the publication of four important new monographs in age studies, the proposed panel, hosted by Professor Marlene Goldman, will bring leading scholars in the field to review the following books:

- *Critical Humanities and Ageing: Forging Interdisciplinary Dialogues*, ed. by Marlene Goldman, Kate de Medeiros, and Thomas Cole. London and New York: Routledge, forthcoming Sept. 2022
- *Ageing and the Media: International Perspectives (Ageing in a Global Context)*, ed. by Virpi Yläne, London, Policy Press, forthcoming October 25, 2022
- *Palgrave Handbook of Literature and Aging*, ed. by Valerie Barnes Lipscomb and Aagje Swinnen. Palgrave/McMillan, forthcoming 2023
- *Literature and Ageing. Essays and Studies*, by Elizabeth Barry and Margery Vibe Skagen D.S. Brewer, 2020, 218 p. ISBN 978-1-84384-571-3

In preparation for the panel discussion, a representative from each of the four editorial teams will read another editorial teams' book. During the panel, each reviewer will outline the book's scope, aims, and discuss its innovative contributions to age studies in conversation with the book's editors.

Chair: Marlene Goldman

<http://marlenegoldman.ca>

Dr. Marlene Goldman is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto who specializes in Canadian literature, age studies, and medical humanities. She recently completed a book entitled *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer's in Canadian Literature* on the intersection between narrative and pathological modes of forgetting associated with trauma, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease (McGill-Queen's Press, 2017). She is currently writing a book entitled *Performing Shame: Simulating Stigmatized Minds and Bodies* (forthcoming Routledge 2023). In addition to her scholarly works, she has written, directed, and produced a short film about dementia entitled "Piano Lessons" based on Alice Munro's short story "In Sight of the Lake" from her collection *Dear Life* (2004). Her film *Torching the Dusties*, about aging and inter-generational warfare from Margaret Atwood's recent collection *Stone Mattress* (2014), premiered at the Fright Festival in London, U.K. She recently completed her third film, *Mani Pedi*, based on the story by the same name by Souvankham Thammavongsa. *Mani Pedi* premiered at the Toronto Short Film Festival (March 2022), and will be appearing at the LA Women's Short Film Festival (April 2022). She is the author of *Paths of Desire* (University of Toronto Press, 1997), *Rewriting Apocalypse* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2005), and *(Dis)Possession* (McGill-Queen's Press 2011).

For more information about Dr. Goldman's research, film making, and publications, please see her website: <http://marlenegoldman.ca>

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