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Kinning, Moving, and Growing in Later Life
Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
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Greetings
Francesco Diodati, Simone Anna Felding, Swetlana Torno

A&A Debate: Debating the Role of Technology in Kinship and 'Desirable' Aging Futures
Debate organizers: Christine Verbruggen, KU Leuven & Jason Danely, Oxford Brookes University

Panel Abstract: In Future Kinship and the Study of Culture (1995), anthropologist Marilyn Strathern analyzes how, throughout modern European history, body and machine "have provided distinctive parallel metaphors for the study of culture" (423). At the start of the 21st century, Strathern argues, the relation between body and technology no longer allows for such a distinction. What is the impact of the techno-cultural relation between human creativity and artifice on how generations negotiate possible and desirable futures? What are the limits of hybridization for future kinship? Focusing particularly on the beginnings of life, Strathern concludes: "*Technological innovation invites us to think innovatively about how persons are born and the relatives to whom they are born. Yet instead of the potential, the creation of unique individuals and unplanned effects, the future seems increasingly trapped by present choice. It is as though creativity were trapped by artifice.*" (434). Discussions on the role of technology in shaping individual and collective aging futures are notably absent here. However, it is extremely relevant for contemporary scholars of anthropology and aging to consider. This panel invites 4 participants to debate this excerpt focusing on older people and their human and more-than-human kin, and to discuss the relation between creativity and artifice in the articulation of 'desirable' aging futures. The panelists should take a clear stance in favor of or against Strathern's arguments.

Navigating Mediated Kinship and Care while Ageing-in-Place
Jacob Sheahan, Research Fellow, Advanced Care Research Centre, University of Edinburgh

Abstract: In recognising the many ways in which care is configured and manifests, technology support in later life has become a common type of informal caregiving that remains misunderstood. While the rise of 'senior-friendly' technology has come with an ageing population, these often provide their own challenges to older people, seen to limit and infantilise them, making the ability to navigate general digital technology central to successful ageing. Instead, the work of supporting online activities and solving issues with devices can fall to family members and neighbours, and with the growth of digital healthcare applications, it has become a key aspect of informal caring. In examining the experiences of technology caregiving amongst older adults across Scotland, I discuss the findings from both individual (cultural probe study) and collective (group workshops) perspectives. Exploring the factors informing technology adoption in later life and reflecting on perspectives of receiving technology care, the presentation highlights the potential intergenerational and maintenance qualities that these emergent forms of informal care provide.

Technologized intimacies and hybrid kinship in framing care and later-life support

Sayendri Panchadhyayi, Research Fellow, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) - Calcutta, India, Visiting Faculty, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore, India

Abstract: In its complexity and intricacy, kinship encompasses relationalities, responsibilities, intimacies and connections. In the wake of late parenthood, reproductive ageing and the risk of infertility, fertility monitoring and fertility extension technologies (FMETs) are on the rise. Fertility decline and assisted reproductive technology (ART) are part of the emerging discourse of turning the degeneration principle and functional ageing on its head through technology. While the episteme of family and kinship permeate into the production of engineered artefacts, kinship is beyond the essentialization of heterosexist, procreational and biogenetic ontological premise and accommodates social and cultural changes that hold semantic and symbolic relevance. Reliance on technologies in building and fostering new network ties, and drafting new kinship narratives are tied to the past desires and imaginations of doing family, renewal of values, renovation and continuing legacy through posterity. The gradual obfuscation between the body-machine metaphor and kinning accelerated due to the artifice poses questions on the landscape of care and support in the backdrop of the larger debate of familiar, familial, filial, primary kin and fictive kin. The ideation and conceptualization of appropriate succour continue to draw on the ontological of the biogenetic-cultural cosmos of kinship despite neo-kinship studies enunciating kinship as a social and cultural construct.

Anthropological research in ageing futures

Miguel Gomez Hernandez, Emerging Technologies Research Lab, Monash University

Abstract: Scholarship intersecting futures and STS unfold how industries and nation-state players shape futures, yet Futures Anthropologists critique how STS can overlook the roles of people performing those futures. Futures are not speculations of what might happen, rather futures are intertwined with our present choices and perceptions. Also, futures should not only be analysed through classical anthropological methods or solely linked to the present and past. In ageing technology, anthropologists can collaborate with industry stakeholders and older people to research into –rather than about– futures to design better possibilities. In this piece, I argue in favour of Strathern's argument, and based on futures anthropology literature I suggest understanding ageing futures as experiential, nonlinear, atemporal, plural, socio-material, and contingent. My argument draws on visual-ethnographies with AgeTech industry professionals and older people imagining futures.

Digital kinship: the future calling…

Shivangi Patel, PhD candidate in the Sociology, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi)

Abstract: This paper, arguing in favor of the debate statement, examines the shifting contours and experiences of aging and care provision in the light of increased usage of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to maintain kinship relationships. The paper is contextualized within the framework of the intergenerational care circulation in transnational Indian families. On the one hand increased life longevity and decreasing fertility rates are resulting in a rising proportion of aging populations (Census of India 2011; LASI 2020). On the other hand, post liberalization and globalization of the Indian economy, transnational migration for work has seen a phenomenal rise (Ugargol et al., 2016; Visaria 2001). In a country where elderly care was largely embedded in the patriarchal joint family (Jadhav. et al., 2013), these developments are complicating family based care arrangements for elderly. Situated within this context, this paper illuminates the experiences of aging in absence of physical care for older persons living alone whose adult children have migrated transnationally. It illustrates the idea of 'co-presence' (Baldassar et al. 2016), powered by digital technologies (ICTs to be specific) in this new kind of kinship network which I call digital kinship.

Technology a co-actor in kinning and 'desirable' aging?

Gomathy K N, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Hyderaba

Abstract: Technology is often thought of as stifling creativity, and kinship. For instance, British anthropologist Marlilyn Strathern argues that technologically modified and mediated kinship limits creativity. However, perhaps this can be answered only by exploring what kinship and aging means for cultures across the world. Is kinship mere procreation, or is it a matter of being for each other, humans or non-humans? Is aging just a bio-social fag end of life or a meaningful co-existence? For instance, ethnographic studies show how older adults make more-than human kin for a healthy, happy aging. Further, technology, especially in the form of digital technology helps older adults make kin across borders, bond over shared pursuits and come up with creative solutions to socio-environmental crises of our times. Thus, contrary to what Strathern fears, technology can be a co-actor in designing desirable aging futures.

Christine Verbruggen is a social and cultural anthropologist with a background in contemporary history. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at KU Leuven, Belgium. Based on collaborative and experimental ethnography in a daycare center for persons with the diagnosis of dementia in Flanders (Belgium), her PhD research analyzes the intra-action between care-ability (care as possibility) and processes of dis/integration with dementia in and through this care assemblage. Her past and present ethnographic experience urges her to explore the political, ethical and epistemological consequences of affective scholarship and careful research. Putting the anthropological apparatus to work 'in the middle' – between giving and receiving, declining and emergent bodies, understanding and unknowingness – she aims to articulate an affirmative critique of now hegemonic personhood approaches to dementia and, concomitantly, more substantialist notions of 'inclusion' that remind of the right to opacity.

Jason Danely is Reader in Anthropology and Chair of the Healthy Ageing & Care Research Network at Oxford Brookes University. He has led several international networks for the anthropology of aging, including the Association for Anthropology, Gerontology, and the Life Course (AAGE), the EASA Age and Generations network (AGENET), and the IUAES Commission on Aging and the Life Course (IUAES). Jason is the author of Aging and Loss: Mourning and Maturity in Japan (2014), Fragile Resonance: Caring for Older Family Members in Japan and England (2022) and Unsettled Futures: Carceral Circuits and Old Age in Japan (forthcoming Sept 2024). He has also authored several articles and book chapters on various topics related to aging, ritual, dying and care, and has edited two collections, including Transitions and Transformations: Cultural Perspectives on Aging and the Life Course (2013) and Vulnerability and the Politics of Care: Transdisciplinary Dialogues (2021). Currently, he is co-editing the Routledge Handbook of Aging in Anthropology and Development Studies.

Panel 1A: Transnational aging trajectories

Moderator: Swetlana Torno, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

Golden Age is yet to come: life horizons of European South Asians between retirement and family care

Sara Bonfanti, PhD, Research Fellow - Dept. Political Sciences, University of Genoa (IT)

Short abstract: This paper proposal considers the alternative futures envisaged and eventually enacted by retiring South Asian migrants in Europe. Focusing on the experiences of Indian and Pakistani families settled in Italy since the late 80s, a fine-grained ethnography will account for the moral reasoning that rests behind choices and constraints in staying or returning, moving forward after one's adult children or even reuniting their elderly parents. Between the perils of intergenerational care and transnational habits, where and with whom is a good life meant and worth living for an aging minority that is as conspicuous in size as under investigated?

Long abstract: Merging with Sikh refugees in the 80's, Punjabi economic migrants from India and Pakistan reached northern Italy and found a quick insertion in the local low-skilled labor market, soon establishing the largest South Asian diaspora in continental Europe. As forty years went by, those pioneering young male laborers are now approaching retirement age. Their reunited households have since bore 2nd generations who

have also come of age and see to their parental expectations of decaying life. Accounting for the low take-up of social services by Asian elders, British scholars drew attention to the public discourses that construe such diasporas as "looking after their own" within a moral economy where care for the elderly takes place in the home. No similar debates have started in Italy for (more recently arrived) South Asians, yet national statistics reveal the swelling of a generation who grows old among different social provisions and cultural practices. This paper starts filling a gap in the literature, as it addresses the Punjabis settled in the county of Brescia: drawing on longitudinal ethnographic fieldwork and in-depth interviews, participant observation in private and communal spaces, the narratives of age and migration of these former labor migrants and their spouses are retrospective but also forestalling, quizzing the changing forms of effort and investment, gains and costs, that intergenerational family care demands over the life-course. From plans to return always postponed to lack of funding or physical distress, there is no 'one-size fits all' in the elusive golden age evoked by respondents.

Key-words: family care, translocal households, golden age(s), retiring Desis, southern Europe.

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Dr. Bonfanti is a social anthropologist, specialized in gender studies, with expertise on South Asian diasporas. From a background in cultural studies, she gained a PhD in Anthropology of Migrations for her multi-sited ethnography conducted between Italy and India in 2012-15, where she analyzed generational change among Punjabi transnational families. Keen on participatory methods and outputs, her research interests include kinship, religious pluralism and media cultures, approached through intersectionality and life stories. Former visiting fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen (DE), since 2017 she has collaborated within the comparative ERC HOMInG Project based at University of Trento (IT), exploring the home-migration nexus across European cities with a multiscale lens and mixed qualitative methods. Dr. Bonfanti has published widely in Italian and English, and her recent publications include Ethnographies of Home and Mobility, Routledge, 2021 and Chronicles of Global Migrants, Berghahn, 2023. She has also experimented with filmmaking, co-directing an ethnographic movie on minority houses of worship in times of pandemic. Currently, she is based at the University of Genoa, where she teaches political anthropology and collaborates with economic geographers in exploring the local spillovers of climate change on vulnerable/resilient communities and the territories they inhabit.

Pre-retirement migrants' home-making in Hungarian periphery: ageing and agency

Krisztina Németh & Monika Váradi, Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies (Hungarian Research Network), Budapest, Hungary

Abstract: Our research addresses pre-retirement migrants who relocate from Germany and other Western European countries to Hungary's peripheral villages. We examine foreign pre-retirement migrants' relationship towards their locality and community through qualitative fieldwork. In our presentation, we scrutinize the nexus of ageing, migration, home-making and agency through individual home-making processes. Drawing on semi-structured interviews conducted with pre-retirement migrants, we aim to bring closer the individual experience of ageing and motivations for migration through the home-making process.
Pre-retirement migrants' home-making has a material dimension: buying and renovating a house and making a home gives emotional and existential safety and a well-bounded personalised space. Home- making and the related decisions, physical and organisational activities interweave imaginaries and realities of home. These activities also challenge the conventional imaginaries about ageing and deepen one's agency since a tidy home and garden are materialized results of pre-retirement migrants' agency. Another dimension of home-making is more abstract and discursive. Narratives of home- making interpret one's place in the world and explain conditions and motivations for pre-retirement migration. Although the function of these narratives is to justify migration decisions, they reflect on the complexities of the migration decision that involves social and economic constraints in lifestyle migration. The interpretation of home-making processes reveals the complexities of ageing and migration and shows that home-making is not only a way to situate ourselves in the world, but can be a means for preserving control over one's life and the process of ageing.

Krisztina Németh is a research fellow at the Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies (Hungarian Research Network) in Budapest, Hungary. She graduated at Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Social Science as a sociologist. She obtained a PhD degree here in 2016. She has been working at the Institute for Regional Studies since 2014; and has been participating in several research projects examining rural poverty, diverse livelihood strategies, transnational migration and its impacts on families and local communities. She finished a postdoctoral research project in 2021, which scrutinised the nexus between marginalisation and (im)mobility through family histories within the theoretical framework of the Bourdieusian concept of habitus. This research examined the spatial aspect of habitus and the interrelation of habitus and social and physical space. This theoretical node opened up for the empirical analysis of different home-making processes through the lens of habitus and spatial and social mobility. She has continued this topic in the ongoing research focusing on pre-retirement migration and its impact on localities in rural Hungary. In this project, entitled, she examines the home-making process of those pre-retirement migrants who come from Germany, the Netherlands and other Western European countries and settle down in peripheral villages in rural Hungary.

Monika Mária Váradi is a sociologist and senior research fellow at the Institute for Regional Studies, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies (Hungarian Research Network) in Budapest, Hungary. She participated in several international research projects in the field of border studies and transnational migration. Her research interest includes the theories of migration, patterns and socio-economic consequences of (im)mobility and migration with a spatial focus on rural areas in Hungary. She has been the principal investigator of an ongoing research project on international retirement migration (IRM) from Western European countries, especially from Germany to Hungarian peripheral villages. As Hungary has been a new target country of IRM within Europe, she focuses on the interpretation of the Hungarian case within the framework of current theories and approaches: lifestyle migration, geo-arbitrage, and the role of values and ideologies in migration.

The Migrant Ageing Conundrum: The Case of the Ukrainian Women in Venice

Lucrezia Alice Moschetta, University of Padua & Sabrina Marchetti, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Abstract: This paper delves into the intricate relationship between migration, aging, and care in the context of Italy, a nation grappling simultaneously with a rapidly aging population, a weak welfare system, and increasing

numbers of migrants residing in the country. It investigates the interplay between care, welfare, and migration from an intersectional perspective and focuses on the experience of migrant women working as caregivers in Italy as they grow old. In so doing, it aims to fill the gap in the Italian debate regarding the migration-care-aging nexus. We have adopted qualitative methods to explore the issue through in-depth interviews with 60+ migrant caregivers living in Padua, predominantly migrant women from Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania. Aging transnationally makes this life phase particularly challenging for them. They are far from their original kin and caring resources while occupied -quite paradoxically- with caring for aging Italian people in their private homes. The role of their diaspora network in giving them support will be crucial. The paper is based on the preliminary data from ongoing research carried out in the framework of the PNRR-funded project "Age-it: Ageing Well in an ageing society".

Lucrezia Alice Moschetta is a Ph.D. student in Social Sciences at the University of Padua. She has a BA degree in Languages, specializing in Russian and Spanish, followed by a Master's degree in Welfare and Public Policies, both conferred by Ca' Foscari University, Venice. In her master's thesis, she had the opportunity to delve into intricate themes related to care, gender, and migration, specifically looking at the experiences of Muslim women in Spain and their endeavors to attain social acceptance within a Western society. The focal point of her current doctoral research project lies at the intersection of aging, care, gender, and migration.

Sabrina Marchetti is an Associate Professor in Sociology at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. She mainly specializes in issues of gender, racism, labor, and migration, with a specific focus on the question of migrant domestic and care work. She is currently the coordinator of the Italian team for the Horizon Europe project "I-CLAIM: Improving the living conditions of irregularized migrant households in Europe" (2023-26) and leader of the task "Caring for the elderly: gender biases and intersectional analysis" in the framework of the PNRR funded project "Age-it: Ageing well in an ageing society". For her complete list of publications, visit https://www.unive.it/data/people/12774777

"Where can we go?" On migration, ageing, and immobility

Laura Ferrero, Università del Piemonte Orientale

Abstract: Ageing and Migration are two of the most important international socio-demographic trends, but only in the last decade the nexus between ageing and mobility became focus of researchers from different backgrounds. Despite the recognition of the growing diversity of ageing migrant populations, the idea of mobility is normally considered as a fundamental part of the experience of the whole category of "older migrants". Drawing on literature about transnational migration, and in particular about the nexus between mobility/immobility, in my presentation I will focus on the experiences of a small part of the category of the so called "ageing-in-place migrants". Some of them actually stay put in their destination country because they do not have a place where to go back anymore. Some of them, moreover, rely on resources (social, medical and economical) that are available only in their destination country and could not survive anywhere else.
Based on the first period of a fieldwork on health and vulnerability between migrants over-60 in Turin (Italy), I will discuss how immobility appears as a trait of marginality and uncertainty in lives that used to be mobile and how the later stage of life of migrants does not necessarily bring the choice between "staying or going back" for people that - without a place where to go back - are somehow "forced" to stay put.

Laura Ferrero obtained her Ph.D. in Anthropology at Turin University, Italy. She teaches Anthropology of the Middle East at Turin University and she currently is Post-Doc Researcher at Università del Piemonte Orientale (University of Eastern Piedmont). She is involved in the Age-it project and she is conducting a research on health, ageing and migration. She conducted researches in Italy, Egypt and Palestine. Her main research interests are migration studies, in particular access to house and health services for migrants, and gender and family in Arab-Muslim societies. She is author of Protagoniste in secondo piano. femminilità egiziane tra mobilità e immobilità (2018, Cisu) and co-edited Embodying borders. A Migrant's Right to Health, Universal Rights and Local Policies (2021, Berghahn Books).

Panel 1B: Images and cultural values of ageing well

Moderator: Francesco Diodati, the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan

The Lives of Qilao During COVID in New York City: Creating Community in a Chinatown Senior Center

Shuting Li, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, New York University

Abstract: After senior centers in New York City resumed their indoor activities in the summer of 2021, I started working with elders at a Chinatown senior center to produce a short documentary.
Drawn from ethnographic observations and in-depth interviews during the filming, I learned about their pandemic lives as elderly Chinese immigrants. This paper presents how elderly Chinese immigrants manage changes and challenges that COVID brings to their everyday lives. Instead of following the popular narrative of "high risk and vulnerable elders," their stories show diverse and resilient ways of adjusting to pandemic life. Moreover, the popular idea of "successful aging," expressed in the context of Chinese cultural values, plays a vital role in shaping individuals' perceptions and experiences of aging. The concern about their health, fears and anxieties intensified by the surge of anti-Asian incidents, and the model minority myth complicate what successful aging means to Chinese elders in the U.S. context. Elders at the center – many of whom have disabilities – barely mention disability. The last part of this paper discusses what the lack of discussion about aging and disability implies for elderly Chinese immigrants and what we can learn from these stories for the future aging population. While addressing their experiences of the pandemic under the shadow of exacerbated racism, xenophobia, and ageism, I also chronicle how the senior center becomes a welcome community space during this difficult time and how elders build this community with care and emotion.

Shuting Li is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology, pursuing a certificate in Culture and Media at New York University. Her research interests revolve around how elderly lives are being reimagined in relation to emerging technologies for caregiving and transformations in the family, with particular attention to the Chinese and Chinese diaspora communities around the world. She wants to bring together the study of aging, science and technology studies, and the study of family/kinship. Her doctoral project examines how care robots will shape elder care practices in the Chinese family by investigating the entanglement of robotic technology, the state, and elder care practices in the Chinese family in a transnational context. She is the director of the ethnographic documentary Chang Jiu Yuan/Year After Year (2022), which was selected for the 2023 19th Chinese American Film Festival.

"Aging well": Questioning healthy ageing in elderly people's experience

Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto, , Associate Professor in Sociology of Culture, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, Università di Torino, Rachel Demolis, HESAV, Lausanne, Mihaela Gotea, Transilvania University of Brasov & Diana Bodi, Transilvania University of Brasov

Abstract: Although successful aging has become a contemporary obsession, more and more literature has begun to criticize this notion because of its neoliberal emphasis on both the maintenance of productivity and the consumption of anti-ageing products and services, and because of its embedded heteronormative assumptions. In the paper we will explore which meanings and social practices older people (aged 55+) attach to the purposefully-vague trope "aging well", in order to detect lay discourses and vocabularies. The research project covers three countries (Italy, Romania and Switzerland), partners of the UNITA network. We adopt a qualitative approach, entailing in-depth semistructured interviews including visual techniques like photovoice (asking the interviewee to provide visual material as a starting point for narration) and photo- elicitation (being the researchers to select and provide visual material eliciting narratives). We opted for a theoretical sampling, selecting the participants on the basis of predefined features relevant to the topic (being physically active; using anti-ageing products; contrasting cognitive decline; maintaining social networks). In each country, we focused mainly on urban populations (Turin, Brasov, Lausanne), collecting 15 to 20 interviews.
The results show how in each country, local cultural norms regarding aging and gender provide a multifaceted picture of what "aging well" means and how it is lived. This explorative research project opens up the path for a

larger study on how older people make sense of cultural imperative and rhetoric in their ordinary embodied practices, and to what extent they comply with, negotiate or subvert normative assumptions on "aging well".

Raffaella Ferrero Camoletto is Associate Professor of Sociology of Cultural Processes at the Department of Cultures, Politics and Society of the University of Turin. She worked on two main topics: the body, gender and space in emerging urban sports, and critical perspectives on masculinity and (hetero)sexuality, with a specific focus on the social impact of Viagra. In recent years she conducted a research project on "ageless sexuality?" intersecting positive/active aging and the medicalization of sexuality and the experience of female sexuality in menopause. Among her most recent publications: Tough or tender sex? Italian GPs and older men's discourses on sexual ageing, Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia / a . LXII, n. 2, April-June 2021, pp. 315-340; Normal or normative? Italian medical experts' discourses on sexual aging in the Viagra era, in Rowland D.L, Jannini E. (ed.), Cultural differences and the practice of sexual medicine. A guide for health practitioners, Cham (Switzerland), Springer, 2019, pp. 221-233; (with C. Barrett and E. Wentzell), Questioning the 'viagratization' of (hetero)sexual aging , in Dawy Z., Santos A.C., Bertone C., Thoreson R, and Wiering S.E. (eds.), The Sage Handbook of Global Sexualities, Sage, vol. 2, 2020, pp.481-500.

Growing relations with and through time: Brexit-Covid19, affective registers, and intergenerational thinking
Professor Cathrine Degnen School of Geography, Politics, and Sociology, Newcastle University

Abstract: This paper asks what might we better understand about generations, temporalities, and sociocultural assumptions linking 'the young' with the future and 'the old' with the past by exploring everyday experiences of Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic in England? The twinned processes of Brexit and Covid-19 have made this the single most tumultuous period in post-war British history. Both the debates over Brexit and the pandemic have provoked deeply emotional responses linked to senses of belonging, not belonging, trust, connection, fear, hope, and division. They have also provoked sharply divisive accusations of blame, often articulated from different generational perspectives. In this paper, I am particularly interested in examining what my research interlocuters (during two periods of fieldwork between 2018-2020 and 2020-2021 over six field sites in England) in their late teens, twenties and early thirties had to say about 'the old', and what interlocuters in their sixties, seventies, and eighties had to say about 'the young', when reflecting on their everyday experiences of Brexit and of the covid-19 pandemic. What, I ask, can these two extraordinary and overlapping events help us better learn about intergenerational solidarity, intergenerational hostility, and the work of affect in how we imagine social relations through intergenerational time?

Cathrine Degnen is Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Newcastle University. Her research is focused on how people create meaning and make sense of their social worlds in contexts of social transformation. She has explored this central interest in two key empirical areas: older age and everyday life, and the anthropology of Britain. Within these two main fields, she has examined in closer details issues including personhood and the self; identity, belonging and social memory; temporality; and the creative affordances of place. Her first monograph, Ageing Selves and Everyday Life in the North of England: Years in the Making (MUP), was based on fieldwork in a former coal-mining village in South Yorkshire, and her second, Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Personhood and the Life Course (Palgrave), was an exploration of the ethnographic record on the category of the person. She has also enjoyed building a second recent body of work with Professor Katie Brittain (Newcastle) on everyday experiences of lives lived with dementia.

The Chief of the Lähiö: Urban Citizenship, Future-Making and Retirement in Helsinki, Finland
Stefan Millar, Helsinki University

Abstract: Since the late 1980s, African mobility to Finland emerged following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Finland's entry into European Union in 1995. Through resettlement quotas, study placements to migratory labour, the mobility of African migrants to Finland has many diverse life trajectories. For those early African pioneers in Finland, retirement and/or later life is a novel experience. Without an "elder" population of

fellow Africans living in Finland, these older migrants creatively reimagined, adopted, or adapted their understanding of later life or elderhood to their local context (Makoni & Stoeken 2002). Building upon six months of ethnographic fieldwork in Southern Finland, this paper follows the case of Samuel, a Sierra Leone national living in Finland for over 40 years. The paper explores how Samuel experiences retirement and makes plans for later life in a working-class district of Helsinki. Of major importance for Samuel during his retirement is to become a Finnish citizen and eventually run in the local municipal election. However, due to a series of bureaucratic challenges he has been unable to achieve the political agency he desires. In this paper, I explore how Samuel makes claims to different types of urban and national citizenship (Lazar 2013) through future-making practices (Kleist and Jansen 2016) with a variety of state actors and institutions. In doing so, I demonstrate how future-making offers an insight into the mundane and everyday practices of retirement with open-ended or experimental intent for (Feldman 2016) political belonging.

Stefan Millar is a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care at Helsinki University. His interests included the state, migration, and the politics of late life among African migrants. His regional focus includes South Sudan, Kenya, Finland, and Canada. His current research explores African migrants use of elderhood and experiences of the state in Finland and Canada. Prior to working at Helsinki, Millar conducted his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Millar's PhD examined the role of the state in the context of Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. His PhD was awarded by Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

Panel 2A: Envisioning care across home and community
Moderator: Maria Louw, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Self-organization and civil initiatives among older adults in rural Hungary
Dóra Gábriel, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute for Regional Studies & Noémi Katona, Centre for Social Sciences, Institute for Sociology

Abstract: Rural environment is often portrayed as a place of strong community spirit, personal relationships, solidarity based on solid kinship ties, and traditional values. However, recently, the interpretation of community has been changing, and instead of common roots and traditions individual decisions come to the forefront. The relationship between the older population and the local communities with the focus of civil initiatives is a rarely discussed topic in the literature. In Hungary, civil society is weak in general, and in small villages municipalities hardly have the capacity or intention to organize older adults. In this paper, we show good practices, and discuss the ways and effects of self-organization among older people living in rural Hungary. We raise the following questions: 1) What kind of interactions can be identified between the older population and the local community; 2) How do self-organization and civil initiatives of older people affect the wellbeing, care needs, health and the sense of security of older and other community members in the village; 3) Based on their practices, how exclusive or inclusive are these local communities? The empirical research took place in Baranya County, Hungary between June – October 2023. Results show that civil initiatives among older people have powerful impact not only on them, but mutual exchanges and reciprocity with other villagers can be also detected. Besides, belonging to the local community might increase agency and the life conditions of older adults.

Dóra Gábriel holds a PhD degree in sociology at the University of Pécs, Hungary. She is a research fellow at the HUN-REN Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute for Regional Studies in Budapest, where she studies international retirement migration, social innovation in eldercare, and eldercare provision. She is a postdoctoral researcher in the research project Researching the transnational organization of senior care, labor and mobility in Central and Eastern Europe funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung at HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary. Dóra is a member of the EuroCare research network and the Karl Polanyi Research Center for Global Social Studies. She organizes scientific webinars and conferences at the Hungarian Sociological Association.

Noémi Katona earned her PhD in sociology at the Humboldt University in Berlin in 2020. Since 2017, she has been a junior research fellow at the HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences and since 2023 an assistant professor at the Corvinus University Budapest, Department of Sociology. She has been studying diverse topics related to gender and migration; i.a. care migration, the infrastructure of the senior care market, prostitution, human trafficking, sex cam industry. She is a member of the Working Group for Public Sociology 'Helyzet', the EuroCare research network and the Karl Polanyi Research Center for Global Social Studies.

Entangled and unsettled care: Ayah - intervened ageing and dying in contemporary India

Dr. Sayendri Panchadhyayi, Research Fellow, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) - Calcutta, India, Visiting Faculty, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore, India

Abstract: Transition in the demographic trends, longer lifespan of the oldest old and disruption in traditional, family-centred care is altering the landscape of care in India. To tackle this puzzle of care deficit and facilitate well-being of the older population, an alternative form of care arrangement and care management is on the rise — ayah-centred care. In contemporary India, the term is used for paid care workers hired for childcare and eldercare. They are inducted through ayah-care agencies as well as other informal routes. While home-based, family-centric, intergenerational care is deemed as time-tested and ideal for healthy ageing, ageing well and positive well, this emerging ayah-centred care promises to carve an alternate path. Often pitched against the trained nurses, ayahs are anointed as untrained, incompetent and unskilled for elder care. Contrarily through their experiential, grounded and "lay-knowledge", ayahs render deep insights on convalescent care, disability care, end-of-life care, dementia care and ambulatory care. Through an empathic approach, they articulate loneliness, dependency, mobility dysfunctions, loss of control, fractured intergenerational and interpersonal relations, disruption of selfhood at the cusp of bodily disintegration and loss of intimacy as causal forces for ambiguous ageing. Rooted in an understanding of well-being, sickness, and healing situated in their local, moral and cultural worlds, the insights of the ayahs are central for developing a new-age home-care model for the older people. Combining illness narratives and care narratives in conjunction with ethnographic field observations, it ideates and espouses an ayah-centred care (ACC) approach that gives primacy to the ayahs by placing them at the forefront of knowledge generation and is couched in the South Asian standpoint.

Sayendri Panchadhyayi holds an M.A. (Master of Arts), M. Phil (Master of Philosophy) and PhD in Sociology. She is a research fellow at IIM Calcutta working on "Healthcare Inequalities in India: Mapping actors, logics and care practices". As an interdisciplinary sociologist, her research dwells in the areas of medical anthropology, cultural gerontology, social geography, sociology of care, thanatopolitics and policy research. Her recent accomplishments include securing the award for best research paper at the Second Global South Students' Conference 2023, organized by George Mason University, USA, invitations to contribute to a special issue of Mortality (Taylor and Francis) and to a forthcoming Handbook on Social Justice in the Global South (2024) and delivering a guest talk, as part of the Ayah and Amah Seminar Series 2023, by London School of Economics-based research group. Her forthcoming research spotlight include participation (virtual) in a roundtable discussion on the topic of "Care in Crisis", organized by Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling and the Montreal History Group in November 2023, participation as a plenary speaker for the "Gender and Demography" conference, organized by Manipal Centre for Humanities (MCH), in February 2024 and guest talk (virtual) at the Global South Hub, Centre for Social Science Research, George Mason University, in March 2024. She has been selected as a visiting faculty to teach a self-designed course on 'Ageing, Lifecourse and Death Studies' has been selected to teach at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore.

Dementia care in the context of globalized ageing

Justine McGovern, PhD, LMSW, Chair, Health Promotion and Nutrition Sciences, Associate Professor, Social Work, Lehman College, City University of New York

Abstract: Adopting a gerontological social work standpoint, this presentation centers the voices and experiences of local dementia care professionals practicing in urban settings in England, Sweden and the United States that

are rapidly internationalizing in new ways. Case studies highlight processes of care that promote health equity throughout the life course and suggest ways to translate community-based practices to meet evolving needs of persons growing old far from their place of origin. Focusing on person-first care and community partnerships, themes identified in qualitative interviews underscore the need for new practices of de-colonized care that transcend places and prejudices. Interdisciplinary by nature, gerontological social work explores reciprocal dynamics of person and environment and seeks solutions to social and health problems within the interplay of individuals and systems from a non-hierarchical and emancipatory standpoint. Here, findings are anchored in international literature from social anthropology, social geography, nursing, applied dementia studies and social work. The presentation's goals are threefold. First, to identify successful community-based care practices improving the lives of under-served diverse older adults living with dementia in internationalizing urban environments. Second, to articulate how these practices can be translated and scaled to other comparable urban communities. Third, to stimulate international and interdisciplinary engagement and exchange to enhance health equity throughout the life course across borders and barriers.

Justine McGovern is the Chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Nutrition Sciences and an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work. She teaches across the social work generalist practice curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate level. Her funded research focuses on aging in the global context, with an emphasis on increasing health equity in the urban environment, diversifying the gerontology workforce and integrating arts-based methods into research and practice. Justine has published and presented internationally on living with dementia, LGBTQ aging, behavioral health and the life course, innovative research methods, high-impact pedagogies, gerontology practice, international and interdisciplinary collaboration, and more. She is a licensed social work practitioner, as well as a scholar. Her practice experience includes dementia care, community-based mental health, intergenerational programming, parental care consulting, and child welfare. She received her PhD and MSW from New York University's Silver School of Social Work, and her BA in American Studies from Yale University.

Carcerality's Kinships: Regenerative Alternatives to Japan's Aging Prisons

Jason Danely, Oxford Brookes University

Abstract: Japan has one of the oldest prison populations in the world. About 12% of those serving custodial sentences and almost one in five arrests each year are people over the age of 65. This paper argues that the rapid aging of the prison population in Japan has been the result of a penal/welfare nexus that relies on kinship ties and the presumption of unpaid care flowing through them. Estrangement from family is both a reason why older people are being incarcerated and also why they struggle with life after prison on their own. The figure of the older offender has come to represent both the individual's failure to 'age well' in the context of neoliberal post-welfare society, as well as the family's failure to fulfill their traditional obligation of care. Incarceration separates and invisibilizes these individuals, perpetuating ageist notions of a 'bad' old age, as well as the fantasy that ageing can be arrested. Drawing on five months of fieldwork in Tokyo, I describe how some community-based third-sector organizations supporting formerly incarcerated people are challenging the ageism of the criminal justice system by creating regenerative spaces for what Khan (2022) calls 'carcerality's kinships' to emerge. By integrating formerly incarcerated older people into new networks of fugitive kinship, these groups open new possibilities for old age otherwise.

Jason Danely is Reader in Anthropology and Chair of the Healthy Ageing & Care Research Network at Oxford Brookes University. He has led several international networks for the anthropology of aging, including the Association for Anthropology, Gerontology, and the Life Course (AAGE), the EASA Age and Generations network (AGENET), and the IUAES Commission on Aging and the Life Course (IUAES). Jason is the author of Aging and Loss: Mourning and Maturity in Japan (2014), Fragile Resonance: Caring for Older Family Members in Japan and England (2022) and Unsettled Futures: Carceral Circuits and Old Age in Japan (forthcoming Sept 2024). He has also authored several articles and book chapters on various topics related to aging, ritual, dying and care, and

has edited two collections, including Transitions and Transformations: Cultural Perspectives on Aging and the Life Course (2013) and Vulnerability and the Politics of Care: Transdisciplinary Dialogues (2021). Currently, he is co-editing the Routledge Handbook of Aging in Anthropology and Development Studies.

Panel 2B: Digital and more-than-human dimensions of ageing
Moderator: Simone Anna Felding, DZNE Witten & Witten/Herdecke University

Digital technology and ageing in place in post-pandemic Italy: Preliminary results of the fourth wave of the longitudinal study "ILQA_19"

Francesco Diodati, the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan

Abstract: Experts, gerontologists, and policy makers have often presented ICT as a tool to enhance active ageing and ageing in place among ageing populations. However, many scholars advocate for more qualitative and/or ethnographic research on the way older adults relate with ICT beyond simplicist vision of digital divide and 'technological anxiety'. This paper aims to show how in post-pandemic societies elderly people perceive and use ICT in relation to ideas on active ageing and aging in place. The paper is based on The Longitudinal Study on Older People's Quality of Life during the Covid-19 pandemic (ILQA-19). ILQA-19 is a qualitative study carried out remotely since 2020 on 40 older men and women living in the ten villages in northern Italy subject to the first lockdown in Europe. The main purposes of the project are twofold: firstly, to understand the social consequences of the pandemic on older adults' everyday life and how these consequences change over time; secondly, to explore the way elderly people embed ICT within social networks and socio-cultural context, focusing on how ICT can promote active ageing and wellbeing among older adults as well as reproducing social inequalities in post-pandemic societies. The paper will draw on the preliminary results of the fourth wave of qualitative remote interviews of ILQa-19, focused specifically on two research questions: how older adults perceive ICT in relation to ideas of active ageing and ageing in place? How is this perception influenced by living environment (non-urban settings) and generational relations?

Francesco Diodati is a social anthropologist and a post-doc researcher at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan. He has published several articles in English and Italian on the cultural and social dimension of ageing and elderly care in Italy, including the family caregivers' fatigue, the professionalization of informal paid care, and socio-medical services for ageing in place. More recently, he has been studying the social dimension of digitalization among ageing populations.

Multispecies kin making in later life: Insights from elderly middle-class organic home gardening practices in South Asia

Gomathy K. N, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Hyderaba

Abstract: Besides being the aging capital of India, the South Indian city of hiruvananthapuram faces issues of urban food safety and waste management. As media reported rising levels of pesticide residue in imported vegetables, the government supplied compost bins, grow bags with seeds of daily used vegetables to citizens to promote self-sufficiency and in-situ waste management. Using "relational ethnographic methodology" and based on in-depth interviews of 150 urban home gardeners in the city, this study found that, although the policy seeks to engage every citizen with a home of their own in gardening in the city, it is predominantly practiced by elderly urbaners. This paper first examines the meanings the elderly attach to this practice, and their perspectives on aging. Secondly, it shows how they create care spaces at home by kinning with their plants, thereby leading to multispecies kin-making. Lastly, it demonstrates how using technology such as Whatsapp and Facebook, some of these senior citizens who found themselves with excess garden produce have set up weekly organic markets, thereby creating kin networks beyond home while also meeting the demand for safe food among urban citizens. Thus, it tries to foreground how elderly middle-class home gardeners care for themselves, capitalize on the rising demand for safe food in the city, and create more-than-human kin networks.

Gomathy K N is an early career scholar. She recently submitted her thesis to the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Hyderabad, India; and is awaiting her viva-voce. Her doctoral research was in urban and environmental anthropology, particularly focussing on human-non-human relationships in built environments. Besides her research interests include socio-environmental movements in the anthropocene, indigenous rights, gender, and education.

Beyond the diagnosis label: Making sense of dementia in more-than-human moral worlds

Cristina Douglas, PhD candidate, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Abstract: Dementia is a more-than-clinical diagnosis label, associated with social stigma and figuring on local and global political agendas. In the UK, slightly over a quarter of population doesn't have any direct experience of dementia. This paper discusses how dementia as a nosological category is reworked relationally through human-animal encounters facilitated by Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) services in care homes. By visiting care homes, AAT volunteers, most of them with no previous experience of dementia, make sense of dementia not as a separate clinical category, but along a continuum of suffering that is socially and politically located. This suffering becomes reworked within a socio-political ontology, in which limited (human) care becomes morally capacious by including other-than-humans. By granting them agency, volunteers experiment with their dogs what it means to attune to others by 'playing it by ear as you go along'. The discussion focuses on how therapy-dogs become chief agents within a moral experimentation with suffering, contributing to the creation of more-than-human moral worlds. The paper is based on 15 months of ethnographic fieldwork in a Scottish care home, conversations with AAT volunteers, veterinarians, and canine trainers.

Cristina Douglas is a medical anthropologist with an interest in human and more-than-human ageing, dementia, end of life, and research ethics. She strongly advocates for an inclusionary ethical and legal framework of research with people living with advanced dementia, as well as creating an ethical research foundation that takes seriously other-than-humans as research participants in social sciences. She conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Scotland, Romania, and Turkey, on topics related to ageing, death and dying, anthropology of food, and the interplay of personal and collective memory, identity, and historical trauma in life narratives. Cristina holds a PhD in humanities (Summa cum laude) from the University of Bucharest, Romania, and currently is near completion of her second PhD in social anthropology at the University of Aberdeen, UK. She received the 1st place in the competition *Doctoral Researcher Awards UK* (2021) in the Management and Social Sciences section. Cristina's research was funded through the Elphinstone Scholarship (University of Aberdeen) and Parkes Foundation small grant.

Falling in the AgeTech industry visions of futures for older adults

Miguel Gomez Hernandez, Emerging Technologies Research Lab, Monash University

Abstract: My PhD research is centred on the role of technologies, older people, and industry in imagining futures for older adults. In this paper proposal, I focus on *falling* insofar as the industry imagines the future, the *fall* is centrally driving a large plethora of biomedical technologies expected to be discreetly embedded and connected in *the* future older person's home. The *fall* is understood by the industry as a measurable *risk* to avoid as we *move* through the social space of the home. Biomedical and engineering disciplines have extensively studied the *fall* of older people as a bodily *movement* that disrupts the life of an older person fostering frailty and disability. However, little is known about how the AgeTech industry actually develops technologies based upon unrealistic visions and understandings of the fall in the future lives of older people –which I explore in this paper. Through innovation narratives such as 'successful ageing', the AgeTech industry aims to prevent and alert the risk of a fall by means of monitoring and automated data-driven technologies in the home. Finally, I theoretically argue that the fall is a movement that goes beyond bodily conceptualisations, thus I understand the fall experientially related to control, risk, and trust in futures. I draw on STS and anthropological literature, in addition to fieldwork with AgeTech industry experts supported by comic strips depicting dominant futures –based on a review of AgeTech industry reports.

Miguel is a techno-anthropologist teaching and doing a PhD at the ETLab in Monash University. He focuses on how older adults and the AgeTech industry envision future smart-home technologies. He also teaches courses on health humanities, drug cultures, usability, and design thinking. Previously, Miguel researched and developed guidelines to design mobile apps and sensors for older people, primarily in the e-health domain. His academic background is an MSc in techno-anthropology at AAU, and a Dual BA in sociology and political science at UC3M with a 1-year exchange in JYU.

Re-kinning (grand)parenting through digital technology: thinking with the ways older Parisians and their younger relatives reconfigure care and relationality

Sophie Colas, KU Leuven, Belgium and the University of Lille, France

Abstract: This paper attends to the ways older Parisians and their younger relatives create rituals, connections, and compromises to be online together, thereby reshapes doing (grand)parenting. To do so, I draw upon 16 months of fieldwork conducted amongst 75+ years old living in Paris and its inner suburbs between 2020 and 2022. My interlocutors often encountered digital technology late in their life course, while their younger kin have grown up in a digital culture. They thus not share the same codes and habits as their younger kin when it comes to navigating the digital environment. Such differences create a space in which both my interlocutors and their kin must learn to "be online together". In this paper, I highlight the practices, such as rituals and compromises, that my interlocutors and their younger relatives co-create through digital technology, and how such practices, and their resulting frictions and comprises, reshape existing doing kinship, in particular the way (grand)parenting is (un)done. In doing so, I bring existing anthropological debates on digital technology and kinship into conversation with existing debates on digital technology and aging. While the former body of literature has focused on ways 'family-making', such as being together or caring, is produced through digital technologies (e.g Baldassar and all, 2016 ; Madianou, 2016 ; Ahlin, 2018, they have given limited attention to the practices older people and their younger relatives attune to one another and learn to be online. This paper focuses on these technological adjustments, mutual (in)comprehensions, and compromises.

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Sophie Colas is a PhD researcher in Social & Cultural Anthropology at the KU Leuven, Belgium and in Sociology at the University of Lille, France. My research examines how Parisians, above 75 years, who are amongst the least connected groups to the Internet, give meaning to and navigate the digitalization of French society, i.e. the ongoing digitalization of administrative and commercial services but also the increased presence of ICTs in interpersonal interactions and public spaces. My fieldwork contains of in-depth engagements with the social worlds of ten persons above 75, while at the same time I participated in ICTs workshop for older people, I conducted 37 interviews with persons above 75 and carried out a statistical survey using data from a French government survey. My research has four main lines of research. Firstly, I research how the media repertoires, and more specifically the digital repertoires, of Parisians born before 1945 was constructed and has developed

over the course of their lives. I do so by drawing upon life course and media repertoire theories (e.g Hasebrink & Popp, 2006). Secondly, I examine the challenges older Parisians encounter with ICTs and how these challenges, together with the range of emotions they trigger, contribute to the co-construction of their age. Following socio-material approaches of aging (Höppner & Urban, 2018). Age is here understood as a socio-material construct that emerges through the interactions with technology. Thirdly, I unpack how the growing digitalization of Parisian's society affects and (re)configures the material and symbolic access and circulation of persons above 75. I do this by particularly focusing on digitalized administrative and commercial procedures. Lastly, I explore the strategies and tactics older Parisians deploy to engage with technologies that often resist their use, for example as a way of doing family/grandparenting (Morgan, 2011) but also of maintaining grips ("*prises*" in French) on the world (Caradec, 2007).

Workshop: On (hidden) visuality of anthropology of ageing, care and the life course

Workshop organizers and moderators: Barbara Pieta, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Paolo Favero, University of Antwerp & Martina Laganá, Università del Piemonte Orientale

Abstract: Anthropologists have long been interested in documenting and exploring visually the manifold ways in which old age, ageing and care in later life, are imagined and practiced in different contexts around the world. More recently, an increased attention has been given to the local practices for imagining alternative futures of care relations across the life-course, with anthropologists experimenting with more-than-textual modes of representation in order to simultaneously move beyond the limits of language, to explore and visualise possible future worlds and also to reach out to non-academic audiences. Ironically, in such a scenario, where local imageries are foregrounded visually and where audiovisual methods are increasingly key to both research on, and dissemination of, stories of ageing and care, the meaning and role of images, vision and visualisations remains undertheorized. On one hand, this gap in theory is likely a result of the ambivalent status of images in anthropology (the anthropology of aging and care being no exception to this trend). On the other hand, it is a consequence of anthropologists' tendency to assume rather than explore what care means in the context of their own research practice (and visual anthropology is no exception to this either).
In this workshop we want to move beyond these sub-disciplinary divisions by interrogating the figure of anthropologist of ageing and care as an image-maker and visual scholar. Opening with a brief introduction on the importance and role of images, vision, visuality and the senses in anthropological research we will shift to devote attention to the context of ageing and care. We will offer a short overview of selected visual tools, techniques and methods which have so far shaped the production of anthropological knowledge about care and ageing. The participants will be offered tools to critically explore the hidden visuality present in their own research and the tacit assumptions they make while conducting research. This will provide a base for further experimentation with the role of vision in the researchers' individual projects, and especially on how the current approaches can be expanded, disrupted or transformed thanks to the emergent image-making technologies. No previous experience in visual methods is required – the only prerequisite is curiosity! Before the workshop we will circulate a short list of questions which we will want to discuss with the participants during the event.

The workshop is open to all the participants of the AgeNet Conference in Venice (and only to this group) but the number of participants is limited to 20. To register, please send an email to: pieta@eth.mpg.de and paolosh.favero@uantwerpen.be. Places will be allocated on first-come first- served basis.

Barbara Pieta is a PhD-candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany. During her time as AGENET convenor in 2020-2022, she has served as the coordinator of the inaugural edition of the Aging and Visual Anthropology Award (AVA) of 2021. In her doctoral dissertation, she explores the intermingling between care and vision basing on ethnographic fieldwork (with camera) in a town in Veneto, Northeastern Italy. She is a co-editor of the special issue of the Journal of Aging Studies on ethics of ethnographic dementia research as well as of the AnthroVision Journal's special edition "Towards Visual Anthropology of Care, Ageing and the Life-Course."

Paolo SH Favero is an image-making visual anthropologist with an interest for the meaning of images in human life. His most recent project focusses on dying, living and loving in New Delhi and beyond (Favero 2022). Professor in Visual Anthropology and Cultures at the University of Antwerp, and co-convenor of the EASA's Visual Anthropology Network, he is also specialised on emerging technologies, visual and sensory ethnography, arts-based methods and existential anthropology. Paolo is the author of four single-authored books: "Image-Making-India" (Routledge, 2020), "The Present Image"(Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), "Dentro e Oltre l'Immagine" (Meltemi 2017), "India Dreams" (Stockholm Univ. Press 2005).

Panel 3A: Kinship, generations and tensions

Moderator: Barbara Pieta, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

Navigating Care and Conflict: An Ethnographic Inquiry into Intergenerational and Gender Dynamics in Grandparenting Among Urban Migrants in Eastern China

Zhenwei Wang, Bielefeld University

Abstract: This ethnographic study, conducted in Hangzhou, China, during the years 2020 and 2021, delves into the intricate web of intergenerational and gender conflicts within the context of grandparenting. In a city marked by a significant influx of migrants seeking economic opportunities, the research focuses on the unique social phenomenon where grandparents relocate over long distances to assist their adult children in raising grandchildren. This paper highlights the tensions that emerge during this multi-generational living arrangement, primarily rooted in differing perspectives on childcare and authority. Childcare conflicts predominantly revolve around women, as childcare responsibilities are traditionally attributed to them. Grandmothers, who frequently relocate to take on childcare duties, often find themselves at odds with their daughters-in-law concerning the methods of child-rearing. Strikingly, these conflicts tend to overshadow the role of men in this familial dynamic. These disputes are emblematic of deeper intergenerational power struggles. Grandmothers, as primary caregivers, assert their right to make childcare decisions, drawing on their vast experience and hands-on involvement. Simultaneously, mothers, who may be more educated and equipped with scientific childcare knowledge, believe that they should have the final say. When conflicts arise, grandmothers feel disrespected and accuse their daughters-in-law of failing to uphold filial piety, while mothers experience a sense of disrespect and view their mother-in-laws as imposing and old-fashioned. This paper unpacks the complexities of these intergenerational and gender-based tensions, shedding light on the intricacies of grandparenting in an urban environment marked by migration and evolving familial roles.

Zhenwei Wang is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Sociology at Bielefeld University in Germany. My academic journey has been an engaging one, marked by research, collaboration, and an unrelenting pursuit of knowledge. Currently, I am privileged to co-edit a forthcoming book with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Dümling. Our book, "Being There, but How? On the Transformation of Presence in (Post-)Pandemic Times," explores the experiences of relationship making during and after the covid-19 pandemic. In this book, I've contributed a chapter entitled "Forced and Uncertain Co-Presence: Smart Cameras and Distant Homework Supervision in Eastern China", which is based on the findings from my thesis. In parallel, this paper, too, emerges from the rich tapestry of the thesis. My thesis revolves around a deep dive into the intricacies of gender and class dynamics within translocal families in China. I've explored the concept of distant kinning and family making within this context. My research illuminates the dynamic process of "doing family" and how it evolves within the backdrop of 21st-century China, marked by hypermobility and digital advancements. What sets my research apart is its focus on giving voice to those involved in migration, allowing them to express their own interpretations and experiences of translocal living. I conducted my 10-months fieldwork from 2020 to 2021 and am now in the final stages of shaping my thesis.

Reconfiguring kinship ties: Perspectives of older adults in India navigating late life repartnerships

Monika Singh, PhD candidate, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, India

Abstract: During the last few decades, there has been rapid growth in older adults (>45 years) and older persons (>60 years) population. While repartnership and old age are seen as a paradox, particularly in in conservative settings like India subject to persisting cultural and religious norms, recent quantitative and qualitative evidence suggests that a significant proportion of older adults' population are looking out for later-life romantic intimacies and partnerships in the form of dating and marriage (LASI, 2020). The dynamics of repartnerships are often dictated by the presence of significant others, mostly children, grandchildren, older parents, and other kin. These kin relations shape repartnerships in multiple ways, two prominent ones being by exercising control/resistance to repartnerships and by raising the debates around care-giving and receiving for others. Additionally, the conundrum around the issue of property and inheritance also complicates the dynamics of older adults' repartnered relationships (Cooney & Dune, 2001; Bildtgard & Oberg (2017). For India, where multigenerational living is still quite common (Desai & Barik, 2017) and the process of kinning and de-kinning in late life repartnership is deeply entangled within the question of care giving and receiving, property and inheritance. This paper based on ethnographic data of older adults' repartnership relationship dynamics narratives shows if and how aspects of care responsibility, inheritance of property and resistance from younger cohorts affect older adults' repartnerships while negotiating the process of kinning and de-kinning amidst late life repartnerships.

Monika Singh is a PhD candidate at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi. Her research interests include urban and media anthropology, digital ethnography, gender, and aging studies and her work draws from ethnographic and participatory research methods. Her current research focuses on older adults' romantic repartnerships and questions the complexities of these repartnerships amidst socio-cultural, technological, and economic dynamism.

More than Home: The collective practice around Finnish summer cottages as a critical element in kinning/de-kinning

Erika Takahashi, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Graduate School of Humanities, Chiba University & Outi Jolanki, Tampere University and the University of Jyväskylä

Abstract: In Finland, most permanently occupied dwellings are not passed down from generation to generation. Especially in urban/suburban areas, people change their homes frequently based on their living conditions. The consequent small-scale household dwelling unit and the nuclear family-based ownership formulate the carescape of the later life stage. On the other hand, there is a possibility of collective ownership and multigenerational inheritance in summer cottages. Property could be divided into smaller plots to build summer cottages for descendants, or the vacation house could be collectively owned and maintained. In this case, it is a wide range of relatives who could plan their way of spending summer/holidays together.
How does this communal practice associated with summer cottages impact the individualised family and ageing experience? The tie with the summer cottages could place older people in a network of relatives. But sometimes younger generations take over summer cottages and separate their holiday activities from older relatives. Then, what collective decisions and practices surrounding summer cottages determine kinning/de-kinning among family, relatives, and friends? This paper describes various ways summer cottages can be managed/taken care of that could create multi-generational relationships. The data is based on 12 interviews conducted in the archipelago region in 2021 with older adults about their memory and practice with their summer cottages and participative observation of the eldercare system since 2001. By analysing how small-scale families and exceedingly comprehensive relatives emerge while spending summers in waterfronts, the contemporary forms of kinship in Finland will be described.

Erika Takahashi is Professor at the Graduate School of Humanities, Chiba University, Japan. She has conducted her fieldwork in the Archipelago area of Finland since 2001. She received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from

University of Tokyo in 2011. Her research interests include the eldercare system, its privatisation, kin care, housing history, especially on free-time residences, and ageing.

Outi Jolanki is a research director and researcher at the Tampere University, Faculty of Social Sciences and at the University of Jyväskylä, Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Finland. Her research covers the disciplines of social gerontology, sociology of health and illness, care studies, care and housing policies. She has a longstanding interest towards the concept of agency and the possibility of the individual people to make choices and act upon ageing, health, place of living and care.

Is age "just a number"? Intimate Relationships Between Older European and Younger Ghanaian Men

Apostolos Andrikopoulos, Harvard University and University of Amsterdam

Abstract: With the rise of the internet and online dating, an increasing number of older European gay men are establishing intimate relationships with younger men from Africa. This paper, drawing from ongoing ethnographic fieldwork in Ghana, explores the dynamics of these relationships between European and Ghanaian men. Many of these European men are nearing or have reached retirement age. They relocate to Ghana in search of partners who are often considerably younger, with age differences ranging from just a few years to as much as sixty. In some instances, these European men have faced challenges finding compatible partners in Europe due to prevalent ageism within the gay communities. However, many are happily engaged in open relationships in Europe and are drawn to Ghana for romantic and sexual adventures. Almost invariably, these European men adopt a mentorship role in their relationships with younger Ghanaians, offering various forms of assistance. For the younger Ghanaian men, the allure of older European partners is rooted in the latter's ability to provide support, be it funding educational pursuits, aiding migration plans, or addressing personal and family needs. This potential for support often motivates them to forge these relationships. Yet, despite the initial expectations both European and Ghanaian men harbor when entering these relationships, the dynamics frequently lead to unanticipated outcomes, prompting them to confront unforeseen situations and challenging life decisions.

Apostolos Andrikopoulos is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Postdoctoral Fellow at both Harvard University and the University of Amsterdam. An anthropologist, he specializes in migration and kinship issues. His book, *Argonauts of West Africa: Unauthorized Migration and Kinship Dynamics in a Changing Europe* (University of Chicago Press, 2023), is a revised version of his dissertation, which garnered the IMISCOE's Maria Baganha Award for the best dissertation in migration studies. Apostolos has also (co)edited two special issues, one for the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* titled "Contesting Categories: Cross-Border Marriages from the Perspectives of the State, Spouses, and Researchers," and another for the journal *Ethnography* titled "Transnational Migration and Kinship Dynamics," and the edited collection "Cross-Border Marriages: State Categories, Research Agendas, and Family Practices" (Routledge, 2023). Additionally, he has curated a virtual issue on "Transnational Kinship" for the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*.

International Retirement Migrants in rural Liguria: an ongoing fieldwork

Silvia Stefani, DISFOR, Università di Genova, Francesca Lagomarsino, DISFOR, Università di Genova, Simone Castellani, University of Cadiz and CIES-Iscte

Abstract: Over the last decades, the number of people who move in older age to improve their life quality, usually from Nothern to Southern countries, has steadily increased. The phenomenon known as "international retirement migrations" (IRM), even if still of relatively small scale, deserves further attention from the research community. Indeed, it is related to core current global challenges such as population ageing, globalisation, individualism, and migration. Moreover, if in their beginning in the 70s IRM regarded exclusively affluent people, recent research underlines that it has become a strategy of middle-class people to solve economic problems related to the shrinking of retirement national systems and the privatization of health care. This proposal aims to discuss the first finding of an ongoing fieldwork research in the Liguria rural region, part of the international research project MIG-AGE on factors that enhance or hinder the wellbeing of ageing migrants. IRM

will be explored as a special example of the transformations of the ageing narrative, in a way that is more projected into a subjective future and at the same time imbued by colonial inheritance, if considered from a geopolitical framework. The fieldwork aims especially at exploring the transnational dimensions of care retirement migrants are engaged in. The relationship with the social health care system in the countries of origin and destination, and transformations in intergenerational and gendered care practices due to the migration in older age will be discussed. Moreover, the paper will examine any eventual changes in perceptions, narratives and practices of IRM concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and current climate change phenomenon, given that the Liguria region is a territory at risk for its geographical features.

Silvia Stefani is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Genoa and is currently working in the MIG-AGE research project on migration and ageing. She has run ethnographic research in Brazil and Cape Verde on urban inequalities, from an intersectional perspective. She published her findings in scientific articles and in the books: "Sujeito Omi. Antropologia delle maschilità a Capo Verde" and "Favelas e Asfalto. Disuguaglianze e lotte a Rio de Janeiro".

Francesca Lagomarsino is Associate Professor in Sociology at the Educational Studies Department of the University of Genoa. She cooperates with the Medì-Migration in Mediterranean area Study Center of Genoa. Her interests focus on transnational migration processes, with a specific attention to migrant family, youth with migrant background and inequalities in the educational system.

Simone Castellani is a "Maria Zambrano" postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Cadiz and associate researcher at CIES-Iscte carrying out the project Health Care in Mobility (HC-Mob), which focuses on the transnational health protection of Southern EU migrants in a re-nationalized Europe. His topics of research are related to the international migratory processes. Specifically, he has studied the Latino American migration flows toward Southern Europe, and the new Southern European labour migration flows toward Germany. His research has been published in journals as Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of Industrial Relation, International Migration, Comparative Migration Studies, among others.

Panel 3B: Unfolding time: loss and potentiality in aging worlds
Panel organizers and moderators: Natashe Lemos Dekker, University of Amsterdam & Ida Vandsøe Madsen, University of Copenhagen

Panel Abstract: Illness, changing family norms and re-organizations of care infrastructures around the globe unsettle past ways of relating and being in the world, and point to emerging horizons. This panel addresses the unsettling of temporalities in the context of aging: the temporal and social spaces between different but co-existing constellations of perceptions and possibilities where kinship and care are negotiated. We explore how emerging uncertainties (personal, relational and socio-cultural) are responded to over time, and how older adults and their caregivers relate to a changing world of care. Inspired by recent tendencies in psychological and phenomenological anthropology on dealing with loss, we explore life in the context of aging as not only linked to a lack but as a generative experience (Gammeltoft 2022; Glavind 2022; Throop 2022). How do people attempt to find new modes of settling into the future while facing the uncertainties of the present? How do they foreclose or open up the future as a site of potentiality? We seek to understand new aspects of temporality and relationality that become illuminated by studying the changing contexts for growing old.

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Refusing to foreclose the future: Narratives of loss, hope and potentiality in Ageing

Dr. Natashe Lemos Dekker, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Amsterdam

Abstract: The continuation of everyday life following a disruptive event at old age, such as an accident, stroke, or illness, is a major challenge for many older adults. Based on ethnographic fieldwork among older adults in Brazil, I explore in this paper how moments that cause a rupture in the everyday, when life halts and turns upside down, become points of reference from which my interlocutors reconfigure their lives and orientations to the future. I show that this often involves a process of letting go of specific aspects of life and making their worlds smaller. For example, many of my interlocutors no longer engage in specific (habitual) activities such as cooking, driving a car, or going outside unaccompanied, thus taking precautions out of fear of the event repeating itself. At the same time, they keep the future open by emphasizing the possibility to, once again, take up the activities they have suspended. These ruptures, then reverberate in everyday life as a loss of confidence in one's own abilities and sense of safety. They form, in other words, a confrontation with ageing, and specifically one's own vulnerability and changing capacities—a confrontation that also brings into view the potential nearness of the end of life. Yet, in analyzing how my interlocutors refuse to foreclose the future by narrating possibility and aspiration, I show how older adults may both embody and resist a scenario of frailty. In so doing, this paper offers a reflection on anxiety and hope at old age.

Imaginal Worldbuilding

Ida Vandsøe Madsen, PhD Fellow, University of Copenhagen (presenter), Prof. Nete Schwennesen, Professor, Roskilde University and Prof. Tine Gammeltoft, Professor, University of Copenhagen

In several places in the world, changes in care infrastructures have redistributed care tasks from state financed institutions to family caregivers. This is striking in a welfare state context building on ideals of "universal" care. With point of departure in fieldwork among relatives of people with dementia at Danish care homes, we present an ethnographic account of the consequences of the recent reformation of the care infrastructure. We argue that the relatives live with exhaustion via what we term imaginal worldbuilding: attempts to open up possibilities for better dementia care for their loved ones and a more bearable future for themselves which, though it rarely leads to lasting change, establishes a more bearable now than surrendering to exhaustion would. The concept thus adds to the anthropological understanding of how people navigate distressful situations by reaching beyond the unbearable now, even when their efforts to create change remain largely unrealized.

Passing On Intergenerational thriving and caring for life toward its end: Lessons from Kyrgyzstan

Dr Maria Louw, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

Intergenerational relations are increasingly seen as a key, not merely to individual and collective human thriving, but also to ecological well-being ((Gibbon and Lamoreux 2021; Ingold 2023). The experience of becoming older may often involve a heightened sense of the entanglement of lives across generations, as the question of what one passes on to future generations become increasingly pressing. In Kyrgyzstan, like in many other parts of the world, as people become older, they are expected to start preparing for their passing to the next world. Such preparations often involve devoting more time and attention to religious practice, but just as importantly they involve pondering the question of what should be passed on to future generations. With a point of departure in the reflections of older Kyrgyz people I will discuss the passing on of what is valued as an existential imperative and a fundamental care for being which has implications for thriving more generally.

Anarchic Temporality, Care and Everyday Creativity

Dr Rasmus Dyring, Associate Professor, Aarhus University (presenter) and Prof. Lone Grøn, Professor MSO, VIVE - The Danish Center for Social Science Research

Life with dementia is often characterized by a syncopated experience of time. The living present might become increasingly fragmented, interlaced by events, sentiments, and people of the past. This syncopated time stands in stark contrast to the continuities of the deep time of a family home and the instrumental logics of the

institutional time of a care facility. Perhaps the syncopated time even appears disruptive of these settled temporalities. In this paper, we trace the emergence of potentiality in the entanglements and apertures of institutional time, deep time and the syncopations of time that dementia introduces. We present two ethnographic vignettes. In the first, we follow a blue thingy at a dementia unit and explore how the very practices of care become responsive to the unexpected and unforeseeable twists and turns of life at the unit. In this sense, the care practices themselves come to show case a certain anarchic quality. In the second, we explore how deer, in the garden, on the computer screen or on the living room wall of a haunted family home invite senses of belonging in both deep and present family time. In both cases, we point to a certain anarchic quality of time as a potentiating factor that requires an openness in the way people who live with dementia, relatives, and caregivers respond in these situations. This ultimately leads to a point about the everyday creativity of care in life with dementia.

Our Beautiful Ending: Towards an ecology of care in the face of uncertain futures
Dr Anna Corwin, Associate Professor, California Institute of Integral Studies, CIIS

Since 1965, the number of American Catholic nuns has fallen from 180,000 to a mere 41,357 in 2020, marking a 77% decrease over the past fifty-five years (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate). As the number of women joining convents declines, the corresponding median age of sisters in most convents has risen sharply. Many older sisters are now living with what can be seen as dual terminal conditions – those of their individual bodies and of the convent itself. Contemporary media has consistently portrayed the nuns' demographic decline through the lens of moral failure, equating "success" with growth and demographic decline and death with moral failure. Discourse in the convent, however, reveals alternative moral frameworks. Drawing on ethnographic data gathered over the past fifteen years, the paper explores the tension between these contemporary discourses and the sisters' own accounts about their futures. The ethnographic data reveal a myriad of social and institutional practices emphasizing acceptance of death and decline, as recordings of the nuns' discussions illuminate how the nuns actively refuse to be valued through the metrics of demographics or labor. Drawing inspiration from Jonathan Lear (2006) and Marquis Bey (2022) among others, the paper highlights the interactional achievement of hope in the face of extinction, suggesting that hope is a relational skill cultivated in community over time.

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Minding the future: articulating possible bordered futures and their dwelling in fear of dementia.
Shvat Eilat, PhD Candidate, Tel Aviv University

What kinds of future subjectivities are imagined by individuals and their loved ones when the suspicion of dementia emerges and becomes present? How is subjectivity constituted within temporal schemas of the present while keeping an "open eye on the future"? Drawing from an ethnography of persons who fear the possibility of a nearing future with memory loss, I wish to investigate these questions. Moments of forgetfulness could be frightful not only because they might have an audience or testify to something that has misshapen, lost, and might never return. It could also place within the present a sense of a future that is already emerging on the horizon. This sense of horizon approaching might be accumulative. Nevertheless, it is discussed by my interlocutors in different ways. In their depictions of their state of affairs, there is not one definite moment that represents the arrival of the future. Rather, the experience of fear is being negotiated upon an interface where dwelling in prognosticated futures happens alongside acknowledging its distance from the present. This paper wishes to join in the conversation over the lived experience of time upon the life course, specifically in aging. Paying attention to meaning-making around possible futures (Bryant& Knight, 2019; Lemos Dekker, 2020; Sakellariou et al., 2021) and how they emerge as negotiable objects of the present moment can paint a more holistic picture of the situated affective relation between the present and future.

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Dr Natashe Lemos Dekker is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam. Her work focuses on death and dying, end-of-life care, loss, and aging, and dynamics of time and future-making. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Amsterdam, in which she studied time and value at the end of life with dementia in the Netherlands. Her work has been published in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* and *Death Studies*, among others. She was a visiting scholar at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and the Université de Montréal and was a board member of the Medical Anthropology Europe Network (2017-2023). Currently, she is the PI of the Dutch Research Council funded project '*Grief Politics: COVID-19-related loss and collective action in Brazil.*'

Ida Vandsøe Madsen is a PhD fellow at the Department of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen and has recently visited the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) as a visiting graduate researcher. She is specialized in medical, psychological and phenomenological anthropology, and is especially interested in temporal aspects of human experience. She has previously worked with disabilities, rare illness and trauma, and published in *Anthropology of Consciousness*. She is now working on a project on relatives of people with dementia in Danish care homes focusing on various modes of presence and absence of family members, the Danish welfare state and the ethnographer under the working title "Being There" in the double sense of being present (somewhere) and being there for someone (care).

Panel 4A: Growing Old with Animals: Ethnographic Explorations of Human-Animal Relations in Elder Care

Panel organizers: Tanja Ahlin (moderator), University of Amsterdam, Nete Schwennesen, Roskilde University, Daniel Lopez Gomez, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Carla Besora Barti, Ghent University & Simone Anna Felding, DZNE Witten & Witten/Herdecke University

Panel Abstract: What is the place of animals in the lives of older adults and specifically in elder care? The discussion on how people relate to animals is increasingly prominent in anthropology. Donna Haraway (2003) has famously explored the importance of the relationship between dogs and people with the notion of 'significant otherness.' Marianne De Laet (2021) responded to Haraway's provocation to 'think with' other species by analyzing the connection between people, dogs and the leash. Still, human-animal relationships in the context of elder care have yet to be more profoundly explored. Whether at home or within care institutions, animals may appear in many different forms, as live animals, domesticated, wild or farm; as pet robots; or as imaginary actors in theatrical performances. In this panel, we discuss how these various types of animals enter care relationships, especially for people with dementia in elder care institutions as well as how these animals open up for different ways of kinning between human and nonhuman actors in the context of eldercare. We ask questions such as: how do various animals participate in care practices, how do carers and residents interact with and react to them, which relations evolve between these animals and humans as well as between different kinds of animals, and how do they influence the wellbeing of older people?

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Ambivalent Animals: What to think of robot pets in elder care institutions

Tanja Ahlin, University of Amsterdam & Anna Mann, University of Zurich

Abstract: In the past decade, national and international agencies have invested significant amounts of funding into developing innovative technologies in all spheres of life. Among them, social robots have been proposed as one way to tackle the societal problem of the global shift towards an aging society in the context of limited human and financial resources for health care. At the same time, digital technologies are notoriously challenging to implement within (health)care due to adoption resistance from health-care staff for reasons related to(in)humanity, workload intensification, and ethical concerns. In this paper, we explore resistance to social robots through the case study of a seal-shaped Paro robot that was introduced into a dialysis unit and used fondly by an older female patient – until the day when it suddenly ended in a cupboard. Based on this ethnographic case from a hospital in Austria, we show that rejection is not exclusively dependent on healthcare staff. Rather, what we call an "arbitrary care collective" could significantly impact what could have been a successful social robot implementation in health care.

Growing old(er) with animals: A multispecies approach to aging studies

Daniel Lopez Gomez, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya & Nete Schwennesen, Roskilde University

Abstract: Age studies' post-human and material turn can change the gaze on animals and foster a multispecies approach to ageing and old age. Still, without multispecies ethnographic accounts of how aging in humans and other non-human beings intersect, these turns risk leading to essentialist, all-encompassing, non-situated and politically neutralised ideas of aging and old age. This contribution draws on a modest ethnography of how dogs and their companion humans age together in two dog-friendly communities for older people in Denmark and Spain. Based on the analysis of their adaptations and emerging care needs, we make two suggestions: In the first place, age studies should not only pay more attention to other-than-human aging beings or their involvement in human aging but more particularly to care practices and relations between humans and animals as they age. This reveals how aging matters differently across species, that is the biopolitics of aging that elderly care imply. In the second place, multispecies studies should pay more attention to aging, a seldom explored topic, to consider human longevity in relation to other-than-human living longevities and aging temporalities.

Playing cat in the nursing home: pleasure, care work and the relational possibilities of more-than-human intimacy

Carla Besora Barti, Ghent University

Abstract: Studies of pleasure and play in elder care often take a functional approach, viewing them as useful tools that facilitate carers' tasks and direct care towards maintaining residents' personhood. In this presentation I examine play in the care context as a pleasurable activity in itself, focussing on the relational opportunities it provides for carers and residents rather than the goals it achieves. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Belgian residential elder care, this presentation tells the story of Céline, a carer who disguises herself as a cat to engage with residents with advanced dementia. With this unconventional approach, she overcomes language and physical barriers to create meaningful connections with residents with dementia who can no longer speak or move. In cat play, alternative forms of relating become possible, boundaries are sensed and drawn, and different 'selves' can be affirmed and accepted. For the human-cat, verbal eloquence and recognition are not prerequisites for interaction, attention and engagement—and people can be met where they are, on their own terms. By viewing cat play as an affirmation of 'other' ways of being, I bring Céline's narrative into dialogue with critical dementia scholarship that questions the ideals of personhood reproduced in dementia care. The pleasure of play appears in this story as a guide towards forms of caring and relating that accept and affirm other ways of being human.

Playfulness and disruptions: pet robots and other animals in a Danish nursing home for people with dementia

Simone Anna Felding, German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Witten & Witten/Herdecke University

Abstract: Playfulness is an understudied phenomenon in the anthropology of aging and dementia. At the same time, technologies such as pet robots are designed around ideas of playing in the nursing home. Based on an ethnographic fieldwork in a Danish nursing home, I explore how pet robots for people with dementia can become embedded in an everyday life marked by calm as well as disruptions. The nursing home provided a regulated and institutional context where a striving for calm was an important part of the care philosophy. Simultaneously, everyday life was marked by constant disruptions making it challenging to maintain activities. I argue that playful interactions in the nursing home have the potential for being rebellious in an everyday life that is otherwise focussed on fitting in and keeping calm. Playfulness allows people with dementia to express their individuality and have fun in a way that flattens hierarchies and lets them be active instigators of joyful interactions. We argue that playfulness can provide a conceptual lens to understand residents with dementia as equal partners in interactions. Playfulness and fun can be viewed as a way of coping with institutional life and provide opportunities for residents to be active instigators and not only recipients of care and activities.

Tanja Ahlin is an anthropologist and Science and Technology Studies scholar with a PhD from the University of Amsterdam. She also has a Master's degree in Health and Society in South Asia from Heidelberg University (Germany), a Bachelors of Anthropology from Athabasca University (Canada) and a Bachelors of Translation (English, French, Slovenian) from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). She is a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer at the Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research. Her book Calling Family: Digital Technologies and the Making of Transnational Care Collectives (Rutgers University Press, 2023) explores how digital technologies shape family care at a distance when living in the same place is not the most feasible option. Currently, Tanja is developing a new research project Animal cares on social robots and animals in eldercare in the Netherlands

Nete Schwennesen is a professor and head of Health & Society Research Group at Roskilde University, department of Humans and Technology, Denmark. Her research centers on critical aspects of care in later life and works at the intersection between STS, age studies and medical anthropology. Nete was a Mari Curie fellow at the Science and Technology Studies Unit, York University, UK and is currently interested in how materiality and more-than-human agencies (technologies, data, companion animals) are implicated in the reconfiguration of care and later life. She has published widely on the intersection between imaginaries of care, epistemologies of care, practical care work and everyday lives, based on ethnographic fieldwork.

Daniel Lopez Gomez (UOC) is a Professor of Social Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology and Education and co-director of the CareNet research group at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3). Daniel works at the intersection of Science and Technology Studies and Aging Studies. His main area of research is the emergence of care infrastructures in a context of demographic transition and "care crisis", particularly the development and consequences of the digitalisation of care (telecare, telemedicine, social media) as well as of new environments, living arrangements and long-term care facilities for the so-called 'aging society'. More recently, he's developing an interest in topics such as disasters and aging, which comprise the impact of disasters on older people as well as the imaginaries and practices of disaster preparedness in aging; more-than-human aging, particularly life-course transitions and care with companion animals; and aging infrastructures and maintenance, repair and discard practices.

Carla Besora Barti is a doctoral researcher at Ghent University and the University of Amsterdam. Within the LiLI project, she applies a visual anthropology approach to study notions of erotic wisdom and aesthetics of ageing. She has a background in the visual arts and has been actively engaged in the cultural sector for more than ten years. She holds a MA in Visual Arts from LUCA Ghent (2017) and a interuniversity MA in Gender and Diversity (2021) organized by the five Dutch speaking Belgian universities. In her thesis, she focused on contemporary adoptions of the figure of the witch among women and gender nonconforming people. She is particularly interested in exploring the intertwinements of the poetic and the political in the realms of gender, sexuality, religion/spirituality and visual culture.

Simone Anna Felding is a PhD candidate at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Witten and Witten/Herdecke University specializing in health, technology and dementia. She is a social anthropologist carrying out research into the use of pet robots for people with dementia in nursing homes as part of the Marie-Curie ITN programme DISTINCT. Besides working at DZNE Witten, she is also collaborating with the Karolinska Institute, Alzheimer Europe and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen. She is one of the co-convenors of the AGENET network.

Panel 4B: Ageing and Mobility in Africa and in the African Diasporas

Panel organizers and moderators: Alessandro Gusman, Università di Torino & Marco Gardini, University of Pavia

*Panel Abstract***:** This panel brings together contributions exploring life experiences and narratives of (im)mobility that affect (or have affected) the everyday life of elderly people living in Africa or belonging to the African diasporas in Europe. By interlacing anthropological debates on aging with mobility studies and Africanist perspectives on the social construction of elderhood, these contributions will address the reshaping of intergenerational and care relations in diasporic contexts, the planning (or not) of new forms of mobility, and how elderhood and aging are differently reshaped along the axis of gender, class and belonging.

Older Persons, Intergenerational Relationships and Support in Uganda

Valérie Golaz, Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques & Claire Médard, IRD, URMIS

Abstract: Demographic data shows minimal ageing in countries like Uganda, where fertility decline is relatively recent. However, in the past two decades, within Uganda as a whole, the central region of Buganda has been the theatre of intense intra family land conflicts, often resulting in the eviction of older relatives. In 2016, four years after the death of her husband, Jane, almost 60 years old, was chased from her home, a place where she had resided for 28 years, by her "son", or rather her step son. This is a brutal story of intrafamily land eviction that we came across, having known and visited Jane regularly since 2010. Jane's story helps grasp female strategies to maintain or build their own access to land over three generations. It highlights regularities and shifts: her own mother, chased by her father's brother, was forced to settle on a new plot; Jane used this land as a refuge twice in her life, first with the agreement of her mother then at the invitation of her brother; currently, following the death of this brother, Jane is fighting against a greedy nephew to keep her right to this plot in the best interest of herself, her last-born son who is cultivating it, and her other descendants. In all its complexity as well as its singularity, it points at elements that are key for the understanding of the resilience of older women locally, highlighting the contrasted roles played by close relatives in a changing socio-economic context.

Intergenerational Perspectives on future(s): some thoughts on aging and resettlement among Congolese refugees in Kampala

Elisa Armando, Università di Torino & Alessandro Gusman, Università di Torino

Abstract: According to UNHCR, more than 24.000 Congolese refugees and asylum seekers were living in Kampala in November 2023. Over the years, the number of Congolese urban refugees in Uganda has been growing, with many experiencing what UNHCR names a "protracted refugee situation," referring to refugees who have experienced a minimum of 5 years in exile. Developing on the case study of Congolese in Kampala, this research aims to contribute to the understanding of the challenges of aging for urban refugees in the Global South. Specifically, it sheds insight into an often-overlooked social category, hence, elderly urban refugees, and how they navigate aging in the refuge context, their aspirations for the future, and the issue of death in a place that was initially conceived as a "transit country". This study is based on a long-term ethnography conducted since 2013 with Congolese in Kampala. Specifically, it is built upon interviews conducted in 2023 with 11 couples, whose mean age is 55 years old for men and 52 for women. They arrived in Uganda prior to 2015 and live in Kampala with their children, aged between 8 and 34. Their narratives share that their original intention was to only remain in Uganda temporarily, aspiring to be resettled in the Global North. However, the process has proven to be complex and slow, provoking a change in their expectations towards the future. As time passes,

they cultivate no more aspirations of resettlement for themselves. Rather, they continue to desire it for their offspring, as their primary objective is to offer them educational opportunities in the Global North. Oftentimes, their late age and the long periods spent in Kampala are listed among the main reasons for this mutation in perspective. Similarly, as the resettlement option fades, urban Congolese refugees are confronted with the possibility that they might never return to Congo nor be relocated, and remain to die in a foreign country. This impacts their expectations of elderhood, modifies their social geographies, and raises concerns regarding the burial location of their bodies. Our research apprises the needs and hardships urban Congolese refugees experience and offers new insight into their trajectories and their approach to death. Overall, the findings contribute to the representation of elderly refugees in the Global South, and emphasize the need to tackle the struggles they face concerning relocation and future aspirations.

The Egyptian Communities in Milan: Gendered Ideas of Aging, Homemaking and Care at the Time of SARS-CoV-2

Marta Scaglioni, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Abstract: The Egyptian communities in Milan are among the oldest and largest migrant communities in Italy, their history dating back to the 1970s. Their presence is overwhelmingly concentrated in Lombardy and in its capital city, Milan. Their core characteristics are a marked entrepreneurial inclination and female low employment rate. Within the diaspora, great differences can be identified among its members according to the period of immigration: those who have arrived after the 1990s are characterized by higher percentages of illegality, due to changed legal conditions for residing in the country. Nowadays, given their long-standing presence on the Italian soil, many migrants have aged in Italy and are now elderly subjects, and their living conditions differ greatly depending on the institutional situation, on the migratory trajectory, and on the gender. Following in-depth ethnographic research, this presentation explores the Egyptian communities' representations and understandings of getting older in Italy, examining also Egyptian women's practices and roles as driving forces underlying the social reproduction of families. The fieldwork has been carried out during the protracted lockdowns which followed the COVID-19 pandemic, and has thus unravelled how the situation has put at risk elderly subjects, and at the same time has increased the domestic care burden on women, often the only providers of assistance to elderly and disabled individuals. This presentation corroborates the hypothesis that accelerated social and historical transformations make socio-economic, gendered, and generational inequalities more explicit.

"Now that I'm retired, I can go on Holiday to Ghana" Aging, Social Protection and Reinterpretation of Mobility among the Elderly of the Italo-Ghanaian Diaspora

Serena Scarabello, Università di Pavia

Abstract: Based on research conducted in 2022-2023 in Northern Italy, this contribution aims to explore aging processes in the context of the Ghanaian diaspora, adopting a gender perspective and focusing on how the meaning and use of networks and social ties, built during one's migratory experience, may change, weaken, or strengthen with advancing age. The aging of the first generation of migrants, who arrived in Italy between the 80s and 90s, modifies the request for reciprocity and care both between generations and between coevals, at local and transnational levels. On the subjective dimension, the transition to old age brings with it doubts, questions, and concerns about where, how, and with whom to spend the last years of one's life. As the literature shows, choices and trajectories may vary based on gender, personal health conditions, ideas of well-being, models of success, and social and economic capital. Considering it important to explore and highlight the plurality of economic, social, and political conditions in which people from African diasporas currently age in Italy, in this contribution I present three life histories of women aged between 60 and 70, who arrived more than 30 years ago in Italy. Their biographical paths are diversified both in terms of migratory strategies (one emigrated alone, the others arrived through family reunification with the husbands), and in terms of the type of ties and social networks that these women sought, used, or created in an attempt to avoid social isolation in the

first part of their experience in Italy. After having shown how they have oriented their social life in different directions, that is, towards religious groups, political associations, or simply friendships, I will shed light on their evolving positioning within these networks, showing how these ties have intensified, or not, as women advanced in age. This will allow us to observe their interpretation of "good aging" and to underline how these ideas are the result of a continuous balance between status, models, and notions of old age widespread in the contexts of origin, and the conditions and social resources through which migration took shape in a specific national context.

Alessandro Gusman (Ph.D. in Social Anthropology) is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Turin. His research focuses on the presence of Pentecostalism in Uganda, on Congolese churches in Kampala, and on ageing and end-of-life care, mainly in the Italian context. He is the Director of the Italian Ethnological Mission in Equatorial Africa, and of the research center CPS-Africa. He is the author of the books Pentecostistes en Ouganda. Sida, moralité et conflit générationnel (2018) and Antropologia dell'olfatto (Anthropology of Smell, 2004), and coeditor of Strings Attached: AIDS and the Rise of Transnational Connections in Africa (2014, coedited with Nadine Beckmann and Catrine Shroff) and Urban Africa (2017, coedited with Cecilia Pennacini).

Marco Gardini is Associate Professor at the University of Pavia and Principal Investigator of the project Prin Pnrr "Transnational Aging between Italy and Africa: Anthropological Perspectives" (TAIA). He has conducted ethnographic research in Togo (2006-2011), Madagascar (2013- present) and Italy (2018-present). His research interests include aging and migration, African slavery and post-slavery, stigma and forms of labour exploitation, land conflicts and banditry. He is the author of La Terra Contesa. Conflitti fondiari e lavoro agricolo in Togo (Edizioni Mimesis, 2017) and Anzianità e Invecchiamento in Africa e nella Diaspora. Prospettive Antropologiche (Carocci Editore, 2023).

Panel 5A: Narrating and Transmitting the Loss. Age and memory practices in forced migrations
Panel organizers: Bruno Lefort, Univeristy of Oulu & Piera Rossetto, Ca' Foscari University, Venice
Moderator: Swetlana Torno, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

Panel Abstract: The aim of the panel is to explore intergenerational transmission of difficult pasts in the context of forced migrations. In particular, we examine the role ageing and gender play in shaping narratives as well as silences within diasporic families. Building on diverse methodological approaches (from ethnography to literary anthropology) we examine narratives, and their multiple declensions, in the process of placemaking and as later coping strategies grappling with intergenerational concerns generated by forced displacement and the traumas attached to it. Zooming in on these strategies, we envision them through the lens of the everyday actions that people undertake to enhance their existence.

Understanding experiences of intergenerational memory practices as ruins: existential mobility, narratives, and placemaking among Lebanese diasporas in Montreal
Bruno Lefort, University of Oulu

Abstract: The contribution explores the questions of transgenerational memory practices among people of Lebanese descent living in Montreal, Canada. It puts forward the notion of ruins as a lens to theorise the transmission of traumatic memories within diasporic families. Ruins, Dylan Trigg (2012) argues, constitute traces of voided experiences, the persistent presence of an unresolved past that deeply affects intergenerational relationships. Ruination is a form of preservation of the past, but through decay, opening a paradoxical relation between absence and presence Indeed, as older generations find themselves confronted to the "impossibility of bearing witness" (Agambem 1999) of their traumatic past, their silence transforms family narratives into dotted storylines, filled with gaps, forcing the new generations to make sense of these voids. The ways through which the people I met related to the ruins of Lebanon's troubled past in their own existence were part of what Annika Lems (2018) defined as a process of placemaking, that is, people's active efforts to compose a sense of homeliness and rootedness in the locations where they lived. Throughout our encounters, they used a variety of narrative tactics to restore the essential connection between memory, place, and their unfolding existence. The

resulting intergenerational negotiations ultimately shed light on existential interrogations shared beyond diasporic and migrant populations alone, questioning the ambivalent power–at the same time destructive and creative–that difficult memories, lost places, and ghostly figures exercise in our lives.

'Memory work' as 'care work'? Writing the Mizrahi father

Piera Rossetto, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Abstract: The paper applies gender and ageing to examine recollections by first- and 1.5/2nd-generation Jewish migrants in the context of migrations from North Africa and the Middle East across the Mediterranean (1950s-1970s). The paper investigates how those who were children at the time of migration and are now well into the ageing process engage with difficult migration memories along gendered lines. How ageing and gender—notably the performance of masculinity—have shaped the process of identification of these Jews over time? In this context, it is interesting to observe that often 1.5/2 nd -generation Jewish migrant men play the role of keepers of the 'community' heritage and history. To what extent narratives - including literary ones- by migrants' children can be considered as a 'later coping strategy' for handling their parents' traumas during the (forced) migration process? Fisher and Tronto (1990) define care as 'a species activity that includes everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our "world" so that we can live in it as well as possible'. Could memory practices and narratives ultimately represent a possible declension of 'care work' vis-à-vis the ageing fathers?

Ageing and dying in exile: Narratives of Displaced People in Colombia

Luis Eduardo Perez Murcia, Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and The University of Manchester

Abstract: This paper looks at whether and how the process of ageing in exile is accompanied by the fear of dying and being buried away from one's home. The loss of home and the struggle to remake it emerged as common features in the narratives of the internally displaced people I initially interviewed in Colombia in 2014. At that time, however, only those participants aged 60 and over showed distress for dying and being buried away from home. Follow up interviews between 2017 and 2023, however, revealed that along with those in later life, some young adults, especially those willing to return to their places of origin and those living with terminal illnesses, showed significant concern for dying and being buried away from the places they left years or even decades ago but they still consider home. Members of indigenous and black communities were particularly distressed for not being able to close what they call a circular way of life. This means to live, age, die and be buried in a place where the rituals and ceremonies they spiritually and existentially need to transcend to the afterlife can be celebrated. The paper ends by discussing the significance of ageing and dying in conditions of displacement for better understanding the roles of ageing and dying in everyday home-making practices and attitudes towards return. This paper is part of a broader project looking at the temporal and spatial interplay between conflict, displacement and home.

Home-making, memory and intergenerational transmittion of ideas about dwelling

Lubica Volanska, Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Abstract: My paper focuses on the current images of dwelling in the past based on a case study of inhabitants of one specific apartment building in Bratislava called Avion that was built in 1933. I'm interested in the ways their homes were and are created (Douglas, 1991; Soja, 1996) and how the ideas are communicated by the oldest generation of dwellers and transmitted to their children and grandchildren, creating a community identity of former and present inhabitants of the house (Benda-Beckmann, 2006). This identity is nowadays used to support community-based ways of caring for housing (Gieryn, 2000).
In 2020-2023, I have been collecting over 40 in-depth interviews with several residents of the Avion house in Bratislava in different generations - especially in the generation born in the 1930s and 1940s. This research might be a rescue research, given that the informants are slowly passing away. Through interviewing various generations of my former neighbours, I explore how the representations influence the ideas of my interview partners concerning their dwellings nowadays. What role plays the gentrification of the area (Torres, 2020), and

how is it connected with the concept of ageing in place? How does the next generation deal with the experiences of their ancestors, how do they integrate this experiences into their own identities and how their choices about their dwelling might be influenced?

Bruno Lefort is Academy of Finland research fellow at the department of Cultural Anthropology, University of Oulu (Finland). His work draws on ethnographic and collaborative approaches to examine the questions of belonging and coexistence, with a particular attention to the interplay between life-trajectories, collective memories, and local environments. After completing a postdoc at the Université de Montréal (Canada, 2016-2017), Bruno Lefort was awarded an Academy of Finland postdoctoral fellowship (2017-2020) at Tampere University, where he worked until 2023. He currently runs the projects *Homeward: exploring co-creation practices towards integration* (Kone Foundation, 2022-2026) and *Rethinking co-existence from the margins* (Academy of Finland, 2023-2027). His recent publications include articles in journals such as *Political Geography*, *American Ethnologist*, and *Ethnography.*

Piera Rossetto is Assistant Professor of Modern Hebrew Language and Literature at the Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy). Between 2018 and 2022, Piera was Hertha Firnberg fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz. In 2022, she was awarded the Rita Levi Montalcini fellowship for young researchers by the Italian Ministry for University and Research. She currently runs the research project "Gender, Ageing and Migration: Memory and Jewish Masculinities from North Africa and the Middle East." She is the author of *Juifs de Libye. Constellations de mémoires* (2023).

Luis Eduardo Pérez Murcia holds a PhD in Development Studies from the Global Development Institute at the University of Manchester and is currently a research fellow at the "Ageing in a Time of Mobility" Research Group, Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. Prior to joining the Max Planck Institute, Luis Eduardo convened and taught master courses on Migration and Development and Critical Issues in Urban Inequality at GDI, where he also supervised master students. Between 2018 and 2021 Luis Eduardo held a post-doc position at the Home-Migration Nexus Project, University of Trento, where he conducted ethnographic research with transnational Ecuadorian and Peruvian migrants in Spain and the UK. His research interests include home and homemaking, conflict-induced displacement, migration and mobilities, ageing and narrative research. Luis Eduardo is the co-author and co-editor of 'Finding Home in Europe: Chronicles of Global Migrants'. His research has been published in academic journals including Migration Studies, Journal of Refugees Studies, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, and Global Networks

Mgr. Ľubica Volanská, PhD. is a senior researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. She studied ethnology and history at the Comenius University in Bratislava, the University of Regensburg and Vienna University. Her main topics of interest cover (auto)biographical research, historical anthropology, family, old age and ageing and intangible cultural heritage. She focuses mainly on the connection between the "big" history and the lives of individuals in the context of the social structures they are a part of. She has been dealing with creating texts of various kinds and the role of individual actors in this creation in the research of autobiographical writing, also in connection with the functioning of human memory, for several years (Voľanská, 2016). An important topic of her research is also the relationship between researchers and their partners in research: Ľ. Voľanská dealt, for example, with the influence of the addressee of autobiographical texts on their character and subsequently on the possibilities of their analysis (Vrzgulová – Voľanská - Salner, 2017). Her last book (co-authored with K. Haberlandová, 2021) deals with (hi)story of the *Avion* apartment building in Bratislava in the second half of the 20th century. Many aspects analysed through the (auto)biographies of the house´s residents are universal to the history of the whole region. In different variations or shades, they took place in other Slovak cities, too.

Panel 5B: Reimagining Care in Later Life: Relationships, Environments, and Practices

Panel organizers: Shivangi Patel, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) & Nichole Fernández, University of Edinburgh

Moderator: Sara Bonfanti, PhD, Research Fellow - Dept. Political Sciences, University of Genoa (IT)

Panel Abstract: As we navigate the complex interplay of contemporary health challenges in later life, this panel seeks to unravel the multifaceted dimensions of care and explore how care is being reimagined in people's daily lives and relationships, negotiating with traditional notions of caregiving and receiving. Drawing on the concept of 'care ecologies' (Bowlby et al., 2019) and focusing on the spatial and temporal intersections of care, we explore some of the multiple 'carescapes' that shape understandings and experiences of later life including: media narratives of care and ageing; relational perspectives on care shifts and transitions; the physical environments that enable care; care crisis within transnational families, and technological enhancements to informal care networks. Through this exploration, and drawing on the conference's thematic framework of "Kinning, Moving, and Growing," we will examine how care is being extended to new spaces and environments, fostering the potential for supporting diverse care relationships beyond the family and into wider caring and compassionate communities, creating alternative care environments and integrating new technologies into caregiving.

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'What's New? Changing patterns of Care practices in Transnational Indian Families regarding Older Adults'
Shivangi Patel, PhD candidate in the Sociology, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi)

Abstract: The proposed paper examines the shifting contours of care provisions for urban Indian older persons residing alone or with spouses. India is currently witnessing a massive shift in demographic and developmental processes. On the one hand increased life longevity and decreasing fertility rates are resulting in a rising proportion of aging populations (Census of India 2011; LASI 2020). On the other hand, post liberalization and globalization of the Indian economy, transnational migration for work in the service and information technology sector in particular, has seen a phenomenal rise (Ugargol et al., 2016; Visaria 2001). In a country where elderly care was embedded in the patriarchal joint family (Jadhav. et al., 2013), these developments are complicating family-based care arrangements for elderly. Situated within this context, this paper illuminates the rising market along with the changing patterns of care providing and receiving mechanisms, in absence of physical care for older persons living alone whose adult children have migrated transnationally. Further, the paper argues that despite the demographic and developmental transformations, the Indian state's stance on elderly care has largely been that of upholding the family-household unit as the main care-providing institution, thus evading questions of state-sponsored geriatric care facilities, old age pensions and health services. To fill this vacuum, several market-driven mechanisms of elderly care have sprung up in India promising to offer 'family like care' or 'home based care'. However, access to these remains complicated and differentiated by class, gender, spatial locations etc.

Perceived health and relationship dynamics in later life
Srishti Tripathi, Doctoral Fellow in Anthropology, University of Delhi

Abstract: India is undergoing unprecedented demographic transition resulting in dramatic increase in the population of older adults in both absolute and relative terms. This shift poses numerous and complex health, social and economic challenges. Relationships play a central role in shaping an individual's well-being across the life course but family relationships may become even more important to health and well-being as individuals age. As one age, caregiving needs increase and social ties in other domains become less central in their lives. Within familial relationships, marital status tends to become more salient with advancing age. This paper aims to study the role of marital status as source of social support for perceived health status. Perceived health status

or self-rated health reflects an individual's overall perception of their health. Though a subjective question, it is considered a good predictor of healthcare utilization and mortality among the elderly. This paper is based on a cross sectional study conducted by collecting data from community dwelling older adults in Lucknow, a city in state of Uttar Pradesh, India. This study suggests that marital status exert great influence on the health status in later life.

Images of Care: Reframing media narratives of care in later life

Nichole Fernández, Research Fellow, Advanced Care Research Centre, University of Edinburgh

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic generated an increase of media attention on care and older adults – topics that were previously marginal. Using this moment as a framing event, the 'Images of Care' research aims to understand how care and later life is represented in the news media and imagined by older adults in their daily lives. This research conducted a content analysis of over 1,000 images from UK mainstream news media alongside co-analysis workshops with older adults and a participant photography project. Our findings reveal a tendency in media to conflate negative stereotypes of ageing with care, perpetuating ageist tropes. Conversely, older adults in workshops displayed nuanced perspectives towards what constitutes ageist representations arguing for the importance of context, the need to prioritise experiences of older adults, and expressing feelings of exclusion from media narratives. This research gains not only a better understanding of the stereotypes of aging and care reproduced through media representations, but it also offers evidence of the impact of ageist media in the construction or rejection of news as truthful or reliable.

Environments that enable care and flourishing: exploring the 'personal projects' of older adults in Scotland, UK'

Caroline Pearce, Research Fellow, OPENspace Research Centre, Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh

Abstract: Supportive outdoor environments can enable people to remain healthy and active in older age, improving quality of life. Yet older adults continue to face difficulties accessing physical environments. This paper presents data from a longitudinal study of older people (aged 50+) living in Scotland, UK and explores how physical environments support people to undertake the 'personal projects' that make life easy and enjoyable. Personal projects are the self-generated and purpose-oriented activities an individual is doing or planning to do, and range from day-to-day but important everyday routines to ambitious, long-term endeavours. Drawing on data from 45 participants, we describe the types of personal projects participants reported as important and what aspects of the environment were associated with project enjoyment and positive outcome. Projects that involved social engagement with other people and their local community were valued highly. We examine the significance of these findings in the context of policies and frameworks concerning 'age-friendly communities' to address the role of the physical environment in not only supporting people to achieve the necessary tasks of daily living adequately, but also in supporting people and communities to flourish in later life.

Technology caregiving: collectively re-imagining informal networks of care

Jacob Sheahan, Research Fellow, Advanced Care Research Centre, University of Edinburgh

Abstract: In recognising the many ways in which care is configured and manifests, technology support in later life has become a common type of informal caregiving that remains misunderstood. While the rise of 'senior-friendly' technology has come with an ageing population, these often provide their own challenges to older people, seen to limit and infantilise them, making the ability to navigate general digital technology central to successful ageing. Instead, the work of supporting online activities and solving issues with devices can fall to family members and neighbours, and with the growth of digital healthcare applications, it has become a key aspect of informal caring. In examining the experiences of technology caregiving amongst older adults across Scotland, I discuss the findings from both individual (cultural probe study) and collective (group workshops) perspectives. Exploring the factors informing technology adoption in later life and reflecting on perspectives of receiving technology care, the presentation highlights the potential intergenerational and maintenance qualities that these emergent forms of informal care provide.

Shivangi Patel is a PhD candidate in the Sociology department of the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, India. She has completed her post-graduation and M.Phil. in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Delhi School of Economics respectively. She is currently working on aging and care circulation in the context of Indian transnational migration. She has been working dedicatedly in the field of 'Ageing and Elderly Care' by being a part of Indian Sociological Association and the special interest group of British Society of Gerontology (BSG) Global South. She has presented papers in the 17th EASA conference, Age Care Graz 2023 and recently in 19th IUAES World Anthropology Congress. With this, she also claims herself an artist who likes to dance and paint in free time.

Srishti Tripathi is doctoral fellow in the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi. She has been awarded a senior research fellowship by the University grants commission, India. Ageing and determinants of health among community dwelling older adults is the prime focus of her research work.

Dr. Nichole Fernández is a Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh Advanced Care Research Centre (ACRC) working on the Images of Care project. With a background in visual sociology and media studies, Nichole is researching how care later in life is visually represented and constructed. Her experience in creative and visual methodologies has covered topics in digital sociology, mental health, migration, geography, nationalism, and environment. Prior to working for the ACRC, Nichole was a Lecturer in Sociology at UCSD and an assistant professor at Hiram. Her PhD was conducted at the University of Edinburgh in sociology researching representations of nation and place.

Dr. Caroline Pearce is a Research Fellow for Personal Projects within the Advanced Care Research Centre (ACRC) at the University of Edinburgh. With a background in sociology, Caroline's research has focused on using qualitative and mixed methods to understand people's experiences of health conditions and evaluate health care practices, with a particular focus on bereavement and end of life care. Previously, Caroline was a Research Associate at the University of Cambridge from 2019-2021 and King's College London from 2017-2019. She completed her PhD on recovery following bereavement at The Open University in 2016. Her research interests include recovery following illness and bereavement, primary and community care in later life and knowledge production in healthcare.

Dr. Jacob Sheahan is a Research Fellow for Informal Networks of Care and based at the Institute for Design Informatics at the University of Edinburgh. With a background in industrial and interaction design and conducting participatory design research, Jacob's work focuses on socially complex contexts from ageing to health to safety. Having studied at RMIT University, Melbourne, Jacob is well-versed in interdisciplinary and collaborative projects that partner with local communities and organisations to develop socio-technical designs and innovations.