



Nordic Gerontological Federation

# GeroNord

News on research, developmental work and education within the  
ageing area in the Nordic Countries

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The 25<sup>th</sup> NKG 3.-6.6.2020



**The 25<sup>th</sup> Nordic Congress of Gerontology, 3.-6.6.2020, Reykjavik, Iceland**

The peak event of the Nordic Gerontological Federation (NGF), the biannual Nordic Congress of Gerontology (NKG), is only half a year away. These already traditional congresses provide a great opportunity to share most recent finding, ideas and innovations with colleagues. NKGs emphasize multidisciplinary perspectives on ageing and are a meeting place for all researchers and professionals irrespective of the field of science. Ageing of the populations has repercussions at individual level but also at the level of society as a whole. The 25NKG welcomes all researchers and professionals from different disciplines to meet and discuss about the implications of ‘The Age of Ageing’. **Registration and call for abstracts is open!**

The program will feature esteemed keynote speakers with plenary lectures, symposia and individual oral and posters presentations covering a wide spectrum of topics at the cutting-edge of contemporary gerontology. The congress venue will be Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura, close to the bustling city centre of Reykjavik.

More information is available online <https://www.25nkg.is/>

Congress preparations and related news can also be followed at **Facebook** (25th Nordic Congress of Gerontology)

**Important dates for the 25NKG****1 October 2019 - Registration and call for abstracts opens****15 December 2019 - Deadline abstracts symposia**

15 January 2020 - Notification symposia

1 February 2020 - Deadline abstracts oral presentations and posters

25 February 2020 - Notification acceptance of abstracts

1 March 2020 - End of early bird registration

## Symposia proposals and Prize winners

There is still time to send in a symposia proposal and to suggest prize winners, **deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019**. NGF invites nominations of candidates for the most prestigious Nordic Prize in Gerontology, the Sohlberg prize, and for the promising researcher in gerontology or geriatric in Denmark. Please find the list of previous prize winner below and find more detailed instructions for nominations from the congress website <https://www.25nkg.is/>

NGF offers 13 grants for congress participation, two grants for each Nordic country and one for each of the three Baltic countries. Junior researchers from all respected countries are encouraged to apply for the grants. **Deadline 15th February**. Please spread the word and inform junior researcher of this opportunity.

### Sohlberg Prize winners

2018 Taina Rantanen (Finland)  
2016 Kaare Christensen (Denmark)  
2014 Timo Strandberg (Finland)  
2012 Kaisu Pitkälä (Finland)  
2010 Laura Fratiglioni (Sweden)  
2008 Yngve Gustafsson (Sweden)  
2006 Knut Engedal (Norway)  
2004 Stig Berg (Sweden)  
2002 Bengt Winblad (Sweden)  
2000 Reijo Tilvis (Finland)  
1998 Birgitta Odén (Sweden)  
1996 Eino Heikkinen (Finland)  
1994 Carl Geerhard Gottfries (Sweden)

### Promising researcher in gerontology

2018 Ólöf Guðný Geirsdóttir (Iceland)  
2016 Maria Lage Barca (Norway)  
2014 Sari Stenholm (Finland)

### Keynote speakers

Seven esteemed keynote speakers (Kristina Johnell, Miia Kivipelto, Finnbar C Martin, Jón Snædal, Kári Stefánsson, Hanne Tunland and Susan L. Whitney) for the 25<sup>th</sup> NKG were presented in the GeroNord newsletter vol 28 nro 2, 2019. One more keynote speaker has been confirmed and she is **Marjolein Visser**, professor of Healthy Aging!

Marjolein Visser is a nutritionist and epidemiologist and professor of Healthy Aging at the Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her research interests are nutritional and other lifestyle determinants of healthy aging. Important research areas are malnutrition, obesity, sarcopenia and depression. She is involved in (inter)national aging studies and lifestyle intervention studies. She is currently coordinator of the EU project PROMISS - prevention of malnutrition in senior subjects - and has recently successfully completed two other EU projects (MooDFOOD - prevention of depression through food; and the JPI Malnutrition in the Elderly Knowledge Hub MaNuEL). She is the chair of the standing Nutrition Committee of the Health Council of the Netherlands, which is responsible for e.g. developing the Dutch dietary guidelines and Dutch dietary reference values, and has authored over 300 peer-reviewed, scientific publications.





### Portraying Old Age and Ageing to Counteract Ageism

During the IAGG-ER Regional Congress, May 22-26, 2019 in Gothenburg, Sweden, 25 early career scholars from 12 countries were selected to participate in the master class 'Portraying Old Age and Ageing to Counteract Ageism' to better understand and address ageism and its influence on our lives and professional work. After lectures, seminars and individual guiding by some of the best scholars in the world on ageism and its impact, the participants spoke about their research and presented their reflections on ageism at the congress. *Nordic Gerontological Federation (NGF)* was one of the organizations who made it possible to arrange the Master Class.

Its theme, Portraying Old Age and Ageing to Counteract Ageism, emphasized how knowledge created through gerontological and geriatric research can challenge age stereotypes, misconceptions and ageism. Its overall learning objective was to foster critical thinking about how ageing research in general and participants' own research in particular contribute to various portrayals of ageing and older adults. The Master Class course was for PhD students and early career scholars pursuing research careers in ageing. The intention of the masterclass was to raise junior scholars' awareness of ageism as a phenomenon no matter their disciplinary background or specific research orientations. Participation in the Master Class gave the possibility for junior scholars to discuss how their projects could be positioned and reflected upon when it comes to ageism. The 25 participants came from Brazil, Canada, Finland, Israel, Japan, Malawi, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Sweden and UK.

Ageism concerns the influence of the social, economic, cultural and environmental contexts in which older people live on quality of life of older persons and agency in shaping their contexts. The objectives of the Master Class on Portraying Old Age and Ageing to Counteract Ageism were:

1. To build capacity among early career scholars with particular reference to how ageing around the world is influenced by ageist attitudes and behaviours that exclude older people.
2. To support early career scholars in:
  - Critical thinking about their research questions and assumptions
  - Building their international professional networks
  - Planning the development of their own academic /research careers
3. To build a sustainable international scholarly network of scholars who collectively can deliver world-class research in response to the global challenges of population ageing.

The Master Class included a series of presentations by senior international scholars who were addressing contemporary issues related to the theme of Portraying Old Age and Ageing to Counteract Ageism. Participants had the opportunity to present and receive expert feedback on their own ideas about knowledge, policy and practice gaps related to the theme, and to benefit from one-on-one mentoring with one of the senior international scholars.

After completion of the Master Class, a survey was sent to all participants to evaluate the content. The course evaluation was answered by 16 of 25 course participants. All of the course participants completed the course, contributed with active participation in all parts and submitted the final examination. The evaluation consisted of 13 questions. In all questions except one, respondents were asked to reply on a scale of one to four; one being the lowest and four being the highest score. The overall picture that appears in the course evaluation is that the respondents are highly satisfied with the Master Class. All questions were scored as three or four in all cases (with a dominance on the 4), except for three questions where one respondent scored two. All of the respondents scored to a high extent that:

- the assignments before the Master Class were valuable for their learning
- they were satisfied with the time and effort put into the assignments
- there was a balance between small group discussions and lectures during the Master Class
- the Master Class facilitated interaction with course mates.

The three lectures included in the Master Class were rated as very good by 70-80% of the respondents.

The meetings with mentors were rated as very good by 90% of the respondents.

The informal get-together were highly appreciated by all of the respondents.

#### **Master Class Co-directors**

**Maria Haak**, Associate Professor, Swedish National Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health (SWEAH), Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments (CASE), Lund University, Sweden  
**Norah Keating**, Director, Global Social Issues on Ageing (GSIA), IAGG Professor of Rural Ageing, Centre for Innovative Ageing, Swansea University, UK. Co-director, Research on Aging, Policies and Practice (RAPP), University of Alberta, Canada. Extraordinary Professor, Optentia Research Focus Area, North-West University, SouthAfrica

#### **Master Class Administrator**

**Stina Elfverson**, Swedish National Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health (SWEAH), Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments (CASE), Lund University, Sweden

**Marketisation of care within the Nordic context: Private care provision for older people in Finland**

The 11th of October 2019, the dissertation “Marketisation of care within the Nordic context: Private care provision for older people in Finland” was defended by **Mathew Puthenparambil Jiby** for a PhD at the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

The economic setback of the early 1990s brought significant reforms in Finland, particularly the strengthening of marketisation in the care sector. Presently, it is estimated that the private sector produces a quarter of all health and social care services. Therefore, this study intends to add knowledge about the ongoing development of the Finnish welfare state, and to fill the research gap by examining the use of private social care services for older people, asking the following questions at two levels. (1) At the municipality level, to what extent do municipalities involve private providers in organising care services for older people, and what are the determining factors that are associated with the outsourcing of publicly funded care services? (2) At the individual level, to what extent do older people use private care services, and how do people who use private care services differ from people who use traditional public care services? (3) Also at the individual level, why do older people choose to use private care services in the context of a Nordic welfare state where there is a tradition of universal public care provision? And is this a free or a forced choice?

This study used secondary data from the Sotkanet Indicator Bank and Statistics Finland to examine the municipality-level research question. The data (recorded in 2015) covers all 311 municipalities in Finland for the period 2001–2015. The use of private care services was concentrated specifically in two services: home care services, and service housing with 24-hour assistance. To answer the individual-level research questions, this study used the two-wave longitudinal survey ‘Arki, apu ja palvelut’ conducted in 2010 and 2015 in the cities of Jyväskylä and Tampere. The data was collected from people aged over 74 years who were living at home or in service housing. This study used different methods such as multiple response frequency tests, cross-tabulations with chi-squared tests, bar diagrams and line diagrams, the multinomial logistic regression model, and the generalised estimating equations model to answer the research questions.

Social care services for older people in Finland have clearly been affected by marketisation. The share of outsourced public home care visits has tripled in the last 15 years. A similar outcome was also evident in service housing, as well as in regard to the service voucher. The total number of municipalities involved in outsourcing has also increased. An increase in care needs (i.e., demand for care) among the ageing population in a municipality is one of the main influencing factors behind outsourcing, particularly for service housing. The other factor is the size of the municipality (i.e., bigger municipalities are likelier to outsource their in-house services to private providers). At the individual level, one third of respondents utilised private care services, and these users had significantly higher incomes and educations as well as better health than those using public services alone. Older people chose private services mostly because of ease of use, and because they required additional services that were unavailable through the municipality. Although the majority of users used private care out of free choice, a substantial number of users used private services out of forced choice.

Overall the findings show that private care provision is no longer a marginal phenomenon in Finland. There has been a steep and steady growth in the use of private provision for older people at the municipality level (i.e., through outsourcing) as well as among older people, which signifies that private provision has become a major source of support in the Finnish welfare state. In short, it is apparent that social care services for older people in Finland have been clearly affected by the marketisation of care.

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Link to the doctoral thesis: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-951-39-7846-4>





### **Midterm conference**

**European Sociological Association's Research Network on Ageing in Europe (RN01)**

**26th to 28th August 2020, Jyvaskyla, Finland**

<https://www.jyu.fi/en/congress/ageing-europe>

Research on ageing is a multidisciplinary field, full of both theoretical richness and possibilities for practical application. But what are we studying when we set out to focus on 'ageing'? Ageing never occurs in a vacuum but is framed and influenced by social context i.e. structures, cultural norms and values, and places and spaces. At the same time, ageing people participate in the reframing and renewal of this context. The conference aims to explore the dynamics of ageing at micro, meso and macro levels of society (or societies) and within the interactive processes between these levels.

At the micro level of lived experience, the conference will focus on individual agency, interpersonal relationships, emotions, embodied experience and existential questions posed by ageing. At the meso level – the mid-range of social organization – some of the most engaging areas of inquiry include ageing in place (home, community, institution, workplace, virtual spaces), and practices of care in different cultural contexts. At the macro level - regarding national and global phenomena and influences - some of the most resonant demands for scientific discussion are: old-age and care policies; migration and increased mobility of younger and older people; digitalisation and increased role of technology in societies and socioeconomic differences in health and access to care.

The organizers welcome individual and team contributions from the sociology of ageing, social gerontology, and related academic fields, as well as submissions for thematic session proposals. We invite papers and sessions that discuss issues within (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Cultural values, norms and images of ageing and self-identity
- Existential and spiritual questions in ageing and personal growth
- Digitalisation and technology – virtual life and virtual care in ageing
- Ageing in place, living environment and new housing options of older people
- Mobility, multilocal and transnational ageing
- Ageing in context:
  - Places, spaces and cultures of ageing

**LIST CONTINUE NEXT PAGE**

- Work in older age and retirement transitions
- Migration, migrant care workers
- Global, national and local policies and practices of care
- Ageing and structural change (e.g. European integration and disintegration) at national and international levels
- Development of lifecourse inequalities
- Theoretical and methodological issues of studying ageing in context

We invite proposals for individual papers, as well as thematic sessions consisting of 3 to 5 papers connected by a unifying theme. The abstract submission will be opened in the beginning of December 2019 on the conference website. **The deadline for both individual papers and thematic session submissions is 31st January 2020.** Please note that one researcher cannot submit more than two abstracts for presentation. Authors will be notified about the acceptance of their papers/sessions in the beginning of March 2020.

The event is organized jointly by the Research Network on Ageing in Europe and the Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care (CoE AgeCare). A jointly organized PhD workshop will also be delivered, in the same location, from 24th to 26th August. (Further details on this workshop will be available shortly.)

We look forward to meeting you in Jyvaskyla!

Outi Jolanki,

Jenni Spannari

and the whole conference team

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<https://www.jyu.fi/en/congress/ageing-europe>



**Executive committee**

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Steinunn Þórðardóttir: 1. Vice president

Marja Jylhä: 2. Vice president

Marijke Veenstra: Secretary General of the 24NKG

**Representatives from the member organizations**

**Denmark:** Danish Gerontological Society (Dansk Gerontologisk Selskab): Jette Thuesen

Danish Society for Geriatrics (Dansk Selskab for Geriatri): Pia Nimann Kannegaard

**Finland:** Societas Gerontologica Fennica: Mikaela von Bonsdorff

Finnish Geriatricians (Suomen Geriatriit ry - Finlands Geriatriker rf): Eija Lönnroos

Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research (Kasvun ja vanhenemisen tutkijat ry - Föreningen för forskning i uppväxt och åldrande): Elisa Tiilikainen

**Iceland:** The Icelandic Gerontological Society (Öldrunarfræðafélag Islands): Sírý Sif

Sigurlaugardóttir & Sigrún Huld Þorgrímsdóttir

The Icelandic Geriatrics Society (Félag Íslenskra Öldrunarlækna): Steinunn Þórðardóttir

**Norway:** Norwegian Society for Aging research (Norsk selskap for aldersforskning): Marijke Veenstra

Norwegian Geriatrics Association (Norsk geriatriisk förening): Nils Holand

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