



Nordic Gerontological Federation

# GeroNord

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

Volume 26, no 2, 2017

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**Lessons of a Lifetime - Oslo, Norway, May 2-4, 2018**

Registration and call for papers **is now open** for The 24th Nordic Congress of Gerontology (24 NKG) – taking place May 2-4, 2018 in Oslo, Norway. The congress venue is the Oslo Congress Centre – located in the heart of Oslo and close to the city’s many attractions and hotels.

NKG is a core meeting place for researchers and professionals from a broad range of disciplines engaged in ageing and geriatric medicine. Originally, NKG was a Nordic conference, but we now have participants from all over the world. In 2016, there were participants from 44 countries. Our program will cover the five main themes for the Nordic Gerontological Federation (NGF): Biological and Medical Sciences; Health Sciences; Behavioural and Social Sciences; Humanities and Arts; Social Research, Policy, and Practice.

24NKG has eight confirmed keynote speakers:

- **John Beard**, Director of Department of Ageing and Life Course World Health Organization; Preliminary title: A life course approach to healthy ageing.
- **Ursula Staudinger** Director Columbia Aging Center and Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University, New York, USA. Preliminary title: The potentials of aging and the plasticity of the aging process.
- **Camilla Stoltenberg**, Director General Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway. Preliminary title: Infections and antibiotic resistance in a life course perspective.
- **Mika Kivimäki**, Whitehall II Study Director and Professor of Social Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London, London, England. Preliminary title: Psychosocial work environment and healthy ageing.
- **Karen Andersen-Ranberg**, Professor of Geriatric Medicine, University of Southern Denmark and Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark. Preliminary title: Trends and developments in mortality, morbidity and disability in the light of ageing populations.
- **Sandra Torres**, Professor in Sociology and the Chair in Social Gerontology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden. Preliminary title: A migration lens on inquiries into ageing, old age and elderly care.
- **Maria Krogseth**, MD, PhD, Oslo Delirium Research Group, Department of Geriatric Medicine, Oslo University Hospital and the Old Age Psychiatry Research Network, Telemark Hospital Trust and Vestfold Hospital Trust, Oslo, Norway. Preliminary title: Delirium in elderly homdwelling patients receiving home nursing care.
- **Jon Kvist**, Professor Department of Social Sciences and Business, Institute of Society and Business, RUC Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark. Preliminary title: Ageing Nordic Welfare States: Recent Nordic social policy reforms in a life course perspective.

**The Nordic Gerontological Federation (NGF) invites for nominations of candidates for the most prestigious Nordic Prize in Gerontology, the Sohlberg prize.**

The Sohlberg prize of 10.000 euros is sponsored by the Päivikki and Sakari Sohlberg Foundation and will be awarded at the Opening Ceremony of the 24th Nordic Congress of Gerontology in Oslo.

The prize is relevant for all aging sciences and is awarded to a scientist active in a Nordic country who is a leader in gerontology with a major influence on the development of her/his field in aging research. To be considered, the candidate should have built a strong research group or initiated research of major importance for developments in gerontology. The nomination must include reasons for the nomination (described on a half to a full A4 page), in addition to a curriculum vitas and a publication list of the candidate. Self-applications are not accepted.

The prize will be awarded by a jury including the president and the two vice presidents of NGF and the two most recent prize-winners. The nomination should be sent electronically to the NGF president Professor Marja Jylhä by e-mail: Marja.Jylha@uta.fi **no later than December 15, 2017.**

**Key dates for the 24<sup>th</sup> NKG:**

- Call for papers opened **1. September 2017**
- Registration opened **1. September 2017**
- Deadline Symposium proposals: 15. November 2017
- Notification acceptance of Symposium proposals: 1. December 2017
- Deadline for abstracts Oral Presentations and Posters: 15. December 2017
- Notification acceptance of abstracts: 15. January 2018
- End of early bird registration: 1. February 2018
- Congress: 2-4. May 2018

For more information, please visit website [www.24nkg.no](http://www.24nkg.no).

Nils Holand  
President of The 24<sup>th</sup> NKG

## **Social Inequalities in Ageing (SIA-project)**

The Social Inequalities in Ageing - SIA project (PI, Professor Johan Fritzell) was one of five projects to get funded under the call for Nordic research projects on the inequitable distribution of health and welfare by NordForsk in 2015. The 5-year project is coordinated from Aging Research Center (ARC) in Stockholm and consists of both junior and senior researchers with a wide range of academic backgrounds, from all of the Nordic countries.

The research project concerns issues relating to the ageing population, what influences and enables healthy ageing, welfare systems in the Nordic countries and social inequality in ageing. It rests on two pillars, one concerning life-course influences, trends and trajectories in health and functioning, and the other concerning welfare state changes and inequality impacts of recent social reforms. The research teams have access to high quality data sources, both on national and regional level. The research teams also collect new data, order and create new infrastructures based on Nordic register data.

The SIA project is organized in four scientific work packages and one, which is responsible for cross-fertilization of research ideas and results across work packages and projects. So far the project has organized a kick-off conference, this conference was not only a way to present state-of-art research but also to initiate meetings and informal discussions within, and more important, between the members of the different work packages. More than 50 researchers attended. Since then all work packages have organized meetings involving researchers from several countries. These meetings have focused on different aspects of the research processes and in particular screened the possibilities to harmonize data to conduct comparative analyses. The first workshop for junior researchers was organized in May 2017. Thirteen doctoral students and postdocs from three Nordic countries participated. The SIA-project's also encourages researcher mobility. Both shorter and longer visits are possible and encouraged to increase collaborative studies both within WPs and across countries.

For more information, visit the SIA-webpage <http://sia-project.se/> or contact Johan Fritzell or Carin Lennartsson at the Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

## The effects of user participation in focus

New knowledge about research with - and about - user participation. That is the aim of UserAge: Understanding User Participation in Research on Ageing and Health. A six-year programme (2017-2022) conducted in a multidisciplinary environment with users and researchers from Kristianstad University, Linnaeus University, Lund University and University of Gothenburg. The project also includes international cooperation and is coordinated by Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments (CASE), Lund University.

“User participation is often highlighted as something valuable. However, there is very little knowledge about the effects of user participation in research. Within UserAge we will now be able to develop the knowledge of both the pros and cons of this kind of research”, **Susanne Iwarsson says**, Professor of Gerontology at Lund University.

### The ultimate goals are to:

- Maximize the impact of user participation
- Enhance the execution of high quality research
- Increase the knowledge about what difference user participation can make
- Evaluate the extent to which user participation makes an impact on practice and outcomes

“User representatives includes all parties that are interested in and - or - beneficiaries of the research”, Susanne Iwarsson clarifies.



Photo by Forte

She continues: “We will expand our earlier research with user participation to also include research about user participation. We will empirically and critically explore the realities behind the ideal of user participation.”

### Relevant research questions are:

- What are the meanings, challenges and opportunities of user participation?
- What are the attitudes to user participation among different groups of researchers and users?
- What are the needs and relevance, dilemmas and controversies of user participation in research on ageing and health services?
- What are the best ways to communicate and translate research findings to citizens, professionals and policy makers?

User Age consist of six integrated projects. Projects I-III are PhD student projects on different types of participation in partnership:

I. Making the voices of frail older heard

II. Research involving informal carers

III. Professionals and policy-makers with focus on preventive home visits to older people

Additional projects engaging senior and junior researchers, users and international experts are:

IV. Panel study to elicit awareness of, experiences of and attitudes to user participation in research

V. Cross-cutting meta project towards methodology, research impact and theory

VI. Model for knowledge translation

UserAge will also develop new forms of knowledge translation in collaboration with users and researchers. A user board collaborates to generate evidence-based knowledge as well as impact on practices and outcomes.

### **Project title**

UserAge: Understanding User Participation in Research on Ageing and Health

Principal Investigator

Susanne Iwarsson

### **Co-workers**

Francesco Barbabella, Anna-Karin Edberg, Synneve Dahlin Ivanoff, James Goodwin, Maria Haak, Elizabeth Hanson, Oskar Jonsson, Håkan Jönson, Giovanni Lamura, Qarin Lood, Lennart Magnusson, Pia Petersson, Steven Schmidt, Björn Slaug, Albert Westergren

### **Timeline**

2017.01.01–2022.12.31

### **Funding Sources**

Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte)

The Ribbingska Foundation

### **Contact**

Overall programme

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Project I: Participation in Partnership -  
Making the Voices of Frail Older Heard

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Project III: Participation in Partnership with  
Professionals and Policy-makers

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Project IV: Panel Study for User Participation  
in Research on Ageing and Health

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Project V: Cross-cutting Meta Project  
Towards Methodology, Research Impact and

Theory

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Project VI: Model for Knowledge Translation  
(KT)

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Story and interview by Erik Skogh, Communications Officer, CASE

## Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care (CoE AgeCare)

Since the mid-1990s the Academy of Finland has funded a programme of Centres of Excellence that it describes as 'flagships of Finnish research' that are close to or at the very cutting edge of science in their fields, carving out new avenues for research, developing creative research environments and training new talented researchers. In June 2017, out of 179 applications, the Academy chose 12 new Centres of Excellence that will be funded for 2018–2025. In earlier calls, the funding period of CoEs had been six years but this time it was lengthened to eight years in order to promote long-term planning and risk-taking in research. For the first time, the appointed CoEs include a unit that will focus its research on ageing.

The Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care (CoE AgeCare) is a collaboration between three Finnish universities. The Universities of Jyväskylä, Tampere and Helsinki will work closely together for eight years studying the transformation of ageing and care of older people using new conceptual and interdisciplinary perspectives, conjoining the analysis of diversification of everyday life to that of ongoing profound societal and policy change. In particular, the CoE will analyse the implications of current processes of transnationalisation and digitalisation for ageing and care. CoE AgeCare combines scholarship from social policy, sociology and gerontology, analysing older people's care needs, agency and equality as well as the changing character of care work in the context of the ongoing societal trends of the ageing society.



CoE AgeCare is led by Professor **Teppo Kröger** from the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of Jyväskylä. The vice leader is Dr. Sirpa Wrede, Department of Social Research, University of Helsinki. The CoE consists of four research groups. One focuses on care policy and is led by Kröger. Another group analyses the connections between migration, ageing and care and is led by Wrede. A third group is placed in the Gerontology Research Center (GEREC), University of Tampere, and is led jointly by Professor Marja Jylhä (President of the NGF) and Dr. Outi Jolanki. This group focuses its research on agency, health and well-being of older people. Finally, the fourth research group is based in

the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of Jyväskylä, focusing on the manifold impacts of new technologies on ageing and care, being led by Dr. Sakari Taipale.

CoE AgeCare will be conducted in close co-operation with a broad international network of scholars and research institutes from different parts of the world. The CoE also functions as an international platform for researcher training of early career researchers and during its eight-year period it will organise several international seminars, conferences and winter/summer schools that are open to all. CoE AgeCare will open a full web site in January 2018 but its temporary site is available [here](#).

## Why does Martti vanish?

The 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, the dissertation *Good human life in assisted living for older people: What the residents are able to do and be*, was defended by **Jari Pirhonen** for a PhD at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Gerontology Research Center at the University of Tampere, Finland.

Why does Martti sometimes seem to vanish when he moves into an assisted living facility? Where and why does he vanish? Jari Pirhonen found these questions when studying constituents of good life in assisted living for older people.

At the same time when older people move into assisted living facilities, their self-image is often challenged by various other things such as age-based changes regarding their functional abilities. Adding the routines and roles inside the facility, Martti, a former engineer who used to love motorcycling and hiking, is in danger of becoming merely an inmate or even a patient in an institution.

According to this research, residents' personalities do not vanish intentionally, but because of inconsideration. Although person-centeredness and individuality are acknowledged as cornerstones of good care, they are misunderstood as concepts in assisted living surroundings. When a person's functional abilities and means of self-expression are diminishing, responsibility for supporting his/her personhood transfers to other people around him/her. Regarding the most vulnerable people, emphasizing person-centeredness and individuality may even result in abandonment-like situations. Therefore, we need a consensus on constituents of good human life as well as a view on how the most vulnerable may reach it.



One plausible starting-point to deliberate good human life is the Aristotelian perception that one should be able to fulfil oneself. Life is good when a person may strive for her goals employing her own competences and capabilities. According to this study, residents' good life may be supported by paying attention to their autonomy and agency as well as their recognition as persons and affiliation in assisted living surroundings. We need to understand the relational nature of residents' autonomy. We also need to see how residents' agency gets more and more subtle and contains features of being in addition to doing. Recognizing personhood of the most vulnerable becomes a task for the community, and residents' social relationships need to be validated both inside the facility and outside it.

Based on an empirical study, the doctoral thesis outlines a recognition-oriented care philosophy, which keeps Martti visible as a person while residing in assisted living surroundings.

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Link to the doctoral thesis: <http://tampub.uta.fi/handle/10024/101042>

## 2 Marie Curie PhD research positions in Tampere University, Finland

Tampere University, FINLAND seeks two early stage researchers (ESR) for a **3-year fully funded Ph.D. program to carry out research in the field of ageism in the work force**. The funding is secured by the prestigious program EUROAGEISM, funded under Horizon 2020, MSCA-Innovative training network as international, multidisciplinary, inter-sectorial training program.

EuroAgeism is a consortium of high profile universities, research institutions and an NGO having expertise in a variety of professional areas located in Israel, Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland, the Netherlands, Scotland, Finland and Sweden.

We invite applications for 3-year (36 months) PhD fellowships to start between 1st February 2018 and 1st May 2018 to work in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The candidates will benefit not only from leadership by expert research supervisors, but also from secondments in academia, policy and health organizations, training and transferable-skills courses and active participation in workshops and conferences in at least three of the host countries over the period of their fellowship. Trainees will be offered a competitive salary\* (apx. 3110 Euro per month) plus mobility allowance (apx. 600 Euro per month) and family allowance (apx. 500 Euro per month, if applicable) in line with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Horizon 2020 requirements for Early Stage Researchers.

For further information on requirements, timelines, and on how to apply, please contact Pirjo Nikander, Pirjo.Nikander@uta.fi, Johanna.Ruusuvuori, Johanna.Ruusuvuori@uta.fi or Kirsi Lumme-Sandt, Kirsi.Lumme-Sandt@uta.fi.



Picture by [www.Dreamstime.com](http://www.Dreamstime.com)

**10th European Public Health Conference: 'Sustaining resilient and healthy communities', Stockholm, 1 - 4 November 2017.**

More information online <https://ephconference.eu/>

**Aging & Society: Seventh Interdisciplinary Conference held 3-4 November 2017 at the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, USA.**

Founded in 2011, Aging & Society: An Interdisciplinary Conference provides an international forum for the discussion of the processes of aging; the accompanying individual, family, community, national, and international impacts; and the social and cultural ramifications of aging on societies.

For more information regarding the conference, please visit <http://agingandsociety.com/2017-conference>

**ISA Conference, Toronto, Canada, 15-21 July 2018**

At the next conference of the International Sociological Association in Toronto, Canada, we are organizing a session on the work and entrepreneurship in later life at next years. You are warmly invited to submit your abstracts to this session via

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Session9622.html>

The abstracts should be max 300 words long and the **deadline is September 30, 2017.**

**GSA Annual Scientific Meeting 14-18 November 2018 Boston**

The call for abstracts will open December 15, 2017.

[www.geron.org/meetings-events/gsa-2018-annual-scientific-meeting](http://www.geron.org/meetings-events/gsa-2018-annual-scientific-meeting)

**25th NKG in Iceland 3-6 June 2020**

## The Scientific Committee of NGF

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NGF's Scientific Committee consists of members from each country representing five different research fields:

- Biological and Medical Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Behavioural and Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Social Research, Policy, and Practice

The task of the Scientific Committee includes reviewing submitted congress abstracts, contributing to the GeroNord newsletter and providing advice to the Board of NGF.

### The Scientific Committee 2017 and 2018

#### Denmark

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University of Southern Denmark  
Kræn Blume Jensen  
The Danish National Centre for Social Research  
Pia Nimann Kannegaard  
Bispebjerg Hospital, Department of Geriatric Medicine  
Bjarke Oxlund  
University of Copenhagen  
Christine Swane  
EGV Foundation

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University of Turku /  
University of Tampere  
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Akerhus university college of Applied  
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Stefan Fors  
Karolinska Institutet and Stockholm  
University  
Andreas Motel-Klingebiel  
Linköping University  
Joy Torgé  
Jönköping University

**Executive committee**

Marja Jylhä: Chair

Nils Holand: 1. vice chair

Boo Johansson: 2. vice chair

Kirsi Lumme-Sandt: Secretary General of the 23NKG

**Representatives from the member organisations**

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

**Finland:** Finnish Gerontological Society (Societas Gerontologica Fennica r.f.): Otto Lindberg  
Finnish Geriatrics (Suomen Geriatriit-Finlands Geriaterer): Eija Lönnroos  
Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research (Föreningen för forskning i uppväxt och åldrande):  
Minna Ylilahti

**Iceland:** the Icelandic Gerontological Society (Societas Gerontologica Islandica): Sigurbjörg  
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