

UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ
UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ
Center for Interdisciplinary Research
on Aging and Care (CIRAC)



INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM

Age and
Care
Research
Group
Graz



Aging, Care and Migration



Forschungsnetzwerk
Heterogenität und Kohäsion

October 19th, 2021
2.30 – 5.30 pm CET (workshop)
6.00 – 7.30 pm CET (keynote)



Welcome

Assoc.-Prof. Dr. Ulla Kribernegg

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care (Director)

Age and Care Research Group Graz (Chair)

Anna Kainradl & Katharina Zwanzger

(Conference Chairs)

**Workshop with Prof. Dr. Sandra Torres,
Uppsala University**

"Managing everyday life as a research-focused academic"

Keynote by Prof. Dr. Sandra Torres

"Caring democracy: the role that theoretically-astute understandings
of ethnicity and race must play"

October 20th, 2021
2.30 – 5.30 pm CET

PhD Student Presentations

Panel 1

Michael Oshindoro, Inesa Shevchenko Hotsuliak

Panel 2

Simona Adinolfi, Eva-Maria Trinkaus, Divya Sussana Patil

Panel 3

Steffi Kim, Iuna Dones, Smarika KC



Caring Arts: Subversive Arts of the #ENDSARS Protests

I think 'care' into the artistic articulation of politics. I am interested in the multi-sited appearances of images (as photographs, animations, gifs) during the protests. I historicize the images that appeared and attempt to identify continuity in how the artist as citizen enacts care through their crafts. I find that the proliferating images during the #ENDSARS protests created a discursive plane for the reassessment of care and solidarity. Through a process I am calling "translational art," different artists came to use art as "symbol of hope" at the most dire moment of the protest. A major theoretical implication of the Nigerian instance of the visual articulation of care is that critically considering the use of art in relation to social justice movements promotes an apprehension of "countervisuality" (Mirzoeff 2011).

Michael Oshindoro
University of Wisconsin-
Madison, USA



Inesa Shevchenko
Hotsuliak

University of Lleida, Spain



**Theatrical Representations of Ageing Migrants in
Stephen Karam's *The Humans***

Ever since May Sarton ingeniously referred to old age as “a foreign country” (1973), and ageing and feminist scholars have recognized the common gendered “othering” of those who move to it, various literary genres, and drama in particular, have proved to be an optimal site to reflect and question ambiguous sociocultural attitudes towards both, later life and the individuals who ‘migrate’ towards it. As part of a research that analyses contemporary theatrical representations of ageing and their intersection with gender, this paper aims to exemplify the ways older women are portrayed in theatre through one particular case study. It also highlights that greater cultural prominence of ageing women in the arts does not necessarily lead to the subversion of the main cultural discourses on old age, namely, the decline narrative and ageism; but it may challenge and help transform them.

"A flag on the moon!" – Undermining the othering process in Jhumpa Lahiri's "The Third and Final Continent"

Postcolonial and aging studies have often merged for their focus on the othering process of both the postcolonial and aged subject. Both are mostly seen as “subaltern” members of society and often relegated to its peripheries in terms of political and social consciousness. Lately, fiction has managed to foreground fresh and diverse perspectives on the matter, such as in Lahiri's short story, where an unnamed narrator tells his experience of arrival in the US through the relationship he develops with his old landlady, Mrs Croft. Through this meaningful and complex relationship, he will overcome his sense of displacement in the new country. Through a narratological analysis of the plot development, I will show how this short story subverts the othering process of both characters: their reciprocal roles of “carer” and “chaperon” take them out of the peripheral positions they occupy.

Simona Adinolfi
Ghent University, Belgium



Eva-Maria Trinkaus
University of Graz, Austria



Lore Segal's Literary Foodscapes of Migration: Representations of Friendship as 'Extended Family' in the Life Course Narrative

This contribution will investigate how and in what ways foods can be 'utilized' in order to create fictional spaces in literary texts that become metaphorical representations of a certain portion of a person's life course narrative. The example given in this presentation will be Lore Segal's short story collection *Shakespeare's Kitchen*, with a particular emphasis on her two stories "An Abundance of Cousins" and "An Absence of Cousins." These stories represent a certain period of Segal's life, narrated as a fictional text, but relate to her own experience in finding people she can relate to in an unfamiliar environment as a migrant and exile.

"Beggars are not choosers, we should go in what we get" : Availability of transportation to access healthcare for older adults in Bengaluru, India

This study was conducted to understand the transportation difficulty faced by older adults to access health care services in Bengaluru, India. Telephonic in-depth interviews with 60 older adults showed that access to health care for older adults was influenced by transportation barriers such as availability of transportation services, ability to afford alternate modes of transport, traffic congestions, road & pavement infrastructure, behavior of transport personnel and other road users. Barriers related to older adults were physical limitations, cognitive health problems, usability issues, geographical location and prior negative experiences during commute. Such barriers forced older adults to make choices about healthcare visit, which affected their physical and mental well-being. Additionally, Covid-19 added to already existing transport inequalities.

Divya Sussana Patil
Manipal Academy of Higher
Education, India



Steffi Kim

University of Minnesota, USA



Rural to Urban Migration of Alaska Native Elders in the Context of Successful Aging

Despite most Alaska Native Elders voicing a preference to age in place they are often forced or chose to migrate from their remote natal villages to Anchorage, an urban community. The cultural differences as well as the change in setting impact the Elder's concept of what it means to be a well aging Elder. In rural tight-knit communities, Elders are revered leaders and teachers to prepare the next generation for life and share their knowledge of culture and traditions. In Anchorage, to establish a sense of community is a challenge for many Elders. The bidirectional role of being an Elder that shares their wisdom and also receives support and engagement from the younger generation may present as a challenge as many urban gatherings are less intergenerational in nature, therefore indirectly influencing an Elder's self-identification of having reached "Eldership."

Older migrants' life satisfaction: What role does migration play?

The paper focuses on older migrants' life satisfaction. We inquire what lies behind older migrants' life satisfaction, and what role the satisfaction with the migration decision plays in general life satisfaction. The paper draws on 56 in-depth interviews with older Italians and Germans in Switzerland. Research participants were generally satisfied with their migration decision. Sources of life satisfaction were family, social relations, professional career, and financial stability. The same themes emerged when speaking of the satisfaction with the migration decision and life satisfaction, showing that migration is a means to achieving life goals. Yet, respondents did not explicitly refer to migration when reflecting on their life satisfaction.

Iuna Dones

University of Geneva,
Switzerland



Smarika KC

University of Helsinki, Finland



Migrant Ageing Women's Position within Finnish Social Work

I am in the initial stage of my research where I have just started my data collection so I do not have my findings yet but I would like to present my research plan and my methods. I am doing narratives (life story) with 20 immigrant older women from Non-European background who live in the Helsinki Metropolitan area with a Residence Permit. The plan to carry out a thematic analysis of the collected data.

Academic Program Committee

Dr. Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl, Anna-Christina Kainradl MA, Mara Kaiser MA,
Prof. Dr. Helen Kohlen, Prof. Dr. Ulla Kribernegg, Prof. Dr. Annette Sprung,
Prof. Dr. Klaus Wegleitner, Katharina Zwanzger MA



Concept & Organization

The Second Interdisciplinary Doctoral Symposium on Aging and Care is organized by the **Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care** and the Research Network **Heterogeneity and Cohesion** with its clusters **Aging, Demography & Care** and **Migration**.

Contact: cirac@uni-graz.at



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