



**COST Action CA 15122**

**Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion (ROSEnet) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Training School**

**Camerino, Italy - 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

## **Overview of participants**

### **Mentors:**

- Fokkema Tineke
- Otani Junko
- Vanhuysse Pieter
- Waldegrave Charles
- Walsh Kieran

### **Students:**

- Borges das Neves Rita
- Jurkevits Anastasiya
- Kawahara Sayaka
- Klimczuk Andrzej
- Lehto Vilhelmiina
- Mäcken Jana
- Merrick Hannah
- Ozdemir Ocakli Burcu
- Pan Tina Hounghui
- Parfenova Oksana
- Pavlidis George
- Rapolienė Gražina
- Schiau Ioana
- Stončikaitė Ieva
- Urbaniak Anna
- Valente Claudia
- Wu Jing

### **Local coordinators:**

- Giovanni Lamura
- Giulia Iale

# Mentors

**Tineke Fokkema**

**Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI),**

**Netherlands**

**E-mail:** [fokkema@nidi.nl](mailto:fokkema@nidi.nl)

**Biosketch:** Tineke Fokkema is senior researcher at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW) in The Hague and at the department of Public Administration and Sociology of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her research focuses on older adults, loneliness, intergenerational solidarity and exchange, and migration. Currently, she is involved in the ERC Research project 'Families in Context' led by Prof. dr P.A. Dykstra, focusing on the social implications of growing old in a migration context. Recent articles by her have appeared in Ageing and Society, Demographic Research, European Journal of Ageing, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Population, Space and Place, and The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences.

**Title of the presentation:** "Ageing, Migration and Social Exclusion: An International Overview"

**Abstract:** In the early post-war years, young labour migrants moved within or into Europe and have 'aged in place'. In addition, nowadays older adults are more 'on the move' than ever before. This mobility takes different forms, such as later-life migration to join adult migrant children abroad, travelling back and forth between the country of destination and origin, old-age return migration, and international retirement migration in search for attractive climate and leisure amenities. Lately, increasing attention has been paid to the impact of these movements on migrants' social wellbeing and how they cope with social deficits, if any. In her lecture, Tineke Fokkema will address and illustrate both topics, using examples from her own research. It draws on survey data as well as in-depth interviews among older migrants with different nationalities and migration histories, who live in different countries and are at various stages in their life course.



**Junko Otani**

**Osaka University**

**Japan**

**E-mail:** [@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp](mailto:@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp)

**Biosketch:** Junko Otani, DDS, MPH, MS, PhD, is Professor in the Graduate School of Human Sciences at Osaka University. She also serves Regional Director of East Asian Center for Academic Initiatives (Shanghai Office) of Osaka University. She obtained her DDS from Osaka University, her MPH in international health and MS in population science from Harvard University and her PhD in social policy and administration from the London School of Economics. She has worked for the World Bank as a health specialist and for the World Health Organization as a medical officer, based mainly in China. Her areas of specialization include international health and population, social development studies, area studies, and research methodology. She has looked at disaster-affected areas of Kobe in Japan, Sichuan in China and New Zealand. She was awarded Royal Society of New Zealand fellowship to conduct research in Christchurch at University of Canterbury in 2013 and Australian Academy of Science fellowship for School of Population and Global Health of University of Melbourne in 2015. She has been on the board of trustee of Japan Association for International Health since 2009, and the Japan-China Sociological Society since 2016 and President for its annual conference in 2017. She also served International Program Advisory Committee, International Federation on Ageing (IFA) 13th Global Conference on Ageing, “Disasters in Ageing World – Readiness, Resilience and Recovery”, Brisbane, Australia, June 2016. Her publication include the book, *Older People in Natural Disasters* (2010), Kyoto University Press & Trans Pacific Press: Australia.

**Title of the presentation:** "Older People and Natural Disasters"

**Abstract:** This presentation will introduce my research on older people following the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake in Kobe- Osaka, Japan, and will introduce more issues regarding older people from other major disasters in Japan including the 2011 East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster. I will also make some cross references to the 2008 and 2013 Sichuan Earthquakes in China and others to provide insights from international comparative approaches. The Kobe study is social science research on elderly people in urban areas who are poor and have no functioning family. It is a group that will be of increasing concern in the future in Japan and many other countries. My study population lost homes in the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake in Kobe, Japan, and were repeatedly relocated to various types of housing schemes in the following years. By looking at the highly age biased community of Kasetsu (temporary shelter housing: TSH) created after the Kobe Earthquake and the following stage of Fukkō Jutaku (public reconstruction housing: PRH), this research follows the processes of reconstruction for older people after the earthquake with special reference to housing and community work.



**Pieter Vanhuyse**

**Danish Centre for Welfare Studies**

**Denmark**

**E-mail:** [vanhuyse@sam.sdu.dk](mailto:vanhuyse@sam.sdu.dk)

**Biosketch:** Pieter Vanhuyse, PhD (LSE) is Professor of Comparative Welfare State Research at the Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, University of Southern Denmark. His research on the political sociology of intergenerational equity, aging, generations and public policies has been published in over 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Pieter has co-edited *Post-Communist Welfare Pathways* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) and *Ageing Populations in Post-Industrial Democracies* (Routledge, 2012). He has authored *Divide and Pacify: Strategic Social Policies and Political Protests in Post-Communist Democracies* (CEU Press, 2006), which was nominated for the American Sociological Association's Best Book Award for Political Sociology. Pieter has lectured at over 35 institutes of higher learning, has consulted at the Obama White House and various national ministries and has had a wide impact on policy communities in Europe and the Americas.

**Title of the presentation:** "What Age Groups Give Each Other: Pro-elderly welfare states within a child-oriented Europe".

**Abstract:** Some welfare states in Europe are more pro-elderly biased than others, which gives rise to worries about intergenerational justice in many countries. I discuss European variance on my EBISS – elderly bias in social spending) and IJI (Intergenerational Justice Index) indicators. But families are also important vehicles of intergenerational transfers – in addition to public policies. Working-age people are net contributors; children and older persons net beneficiaries. However, there is an asymmetry in socialization. Working-age people pay taxes and social security contributions to institutionalize care for older persons as a generation, but invest private resources to raise their own children, often with large social returns. This results in asymmetric statistical visibility. Elderly transfers are near-fully observed in National Accounts; those to children much less. Analysing ten European societies, we employ National Transfer Accounts to include public and private transfers and National Time Transfer Accounts to value unpaid household labour. All three channels combined, children actually receive more per capita resources (73 percent of prime-age labour income) than older persons (31 percent) in every country studied. Europe is a continent of pro-elderly welfare states and strongly child-oriented parents. Since children are also important future public goods, why has investment in them not been socialized more?



**Charles Waldegrave**

**Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit**

**New Zealand**

**E-mail:** [waldegrave.c@fc.org.nz](mailto:waldegrave.c@fc.org.nz)

**Biosketch:** Charles Waldegrave is a psychologist and social policy researcher. He leads the Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit in Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand. Charles is a joint leader of the New Zealand Poverty Measurement Project, the New Zealand Longitudinal Study of Ageing and the 'Social Isolation and Loneliness among Older Māori and Pacific People' project as part of the National Science Challenge. He and colleagues are also regularly contracted by most social Ministries of Government to carry out social and economic research and evaluation projects. They have provided the evidence base for housing, income and other social policy changes that have reduced poverty in NZ. He collaborates extensively with international research partners and publishes regularly in peer reviewed journals and accessible reports.

**Title of the presentation:** "Loneliness and Elder Abuse: Identifying pathways out of both states. Empirical findings from New Zealand"

**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to provide an evidence base for understanding the associations between loneliness and elder abuse, the populations most affected, the observed impacts and the pathways in and out of it. There have been no previous studies measuring the prevalence of elder abuse or its associations with loneliness in New Zealand. Elder abuse is a modifiable behaviour which can be reduced. Understanding its association with loneliness can offer pathways out of both states.

The New Zealand Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NZLSA) had a national random sample of over 3,000 older New Zealanders aged 50+ years, 48 percent of whom were 65 years and older. The Vulnerability to Abuse Screening Scale (VASS) was applied. Four sub-scales: vulnerability; dependence; dejection; and coercion, enabled the identification of different types of elder abuse. The responses were assessed for associations with gender, marital status, ethnicity and statistical associations with health and wellbeing measures, including the De Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale. The study demonstrated that elder abuse and loneliness are significantly correlated. Using regression analysis, all 4 VASS subscales showed significant associations with loneliness. The dejection subscale produced a highly significant result demonstrating the greater impact of psychological abuse on loneliness. Māori experienced significantly more abuse, as did women in 3 of the 4 sub-scales.

The results show how programmes that address loneliness and abuse together can provide pathways out of both states. Both vulnerabilities can provide pathways into the other. Likewise, pathways out can reduce both.



## **Kieran Walsh**

**Acting Director, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology; Director, Project Lifecourse, Institute for Lifecourse and Society**

**Ireland**

**E-mail: [kieran.walsh@nuigalway.ie](mailto:kieran.walsh@nuigalway.ie)**

**Biosketch:** Kieran Walsh is Acting Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, and Project Director of Project Lifecourse at the Institute for Lifecourse and Society at the National University of Ireland Galway. He is also Chair of COST Action CA15122 on 'Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion' (ROSEnet), which focuses on addressing critical gaps in research and policy to combat multidimensional exclusion amongst older people in ageing societies. Kieran has extensive experience in interdisciplinary social gerontology and life-course research. His research interest and expertise focus on: social exclusion in later life; place and life-course transitions and trajectories; the influence of structural forces and institutional life course; informal and formal infrastructures of care, and care relationships; and intersecting ageing and migration processes.

**Title of the presentation:** "Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion (ROSEnet): Critical gaps and global challenges"

**Abstract:** While older adults are disproportionately affected by multiple forms of exclusion, research and policy concentrate on those of working age, those with low-income, and children. The lack of consensus in Europe as to older adult experiences during the economic crisis has marginalised concerns for old-age disadvantage even further. The concept of social exclusion itself has considerable potential to explain and respond to disadvantage in later life globally. However, in the context of ageing populations the construct remains ambiguous, and questions about what, if anything, makes old-age exclusion unique as a form of disadvantage, and specific to ageing, still remain. Compounded by scientific knowledge gaps, reducing old-age social exclusion therefore represents a significant global challenge. With current efforts lacking direction and impact and with consequences for individuals, families and social systems, old-age exclusion also represents a substantial barrier to realising positive outcomes in global ageing and health. It is within this context that the ROSEnet (Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion in Europe) COST Action aims to overcome fragmentation and critical gaps in conceptual innovation on old-age exclusion across the life course. This paper will draw on the findings of a scoping review of the international literature to situate the focus of ROSEnet and to establish the current level of state-of-the-art scientific knowledge, and identify critical gaps in research and policy.

# Students



**Rita Borges das Neves**

**University of Minho**

**Portugal**

**E-mail: [ritaborgesneves@gmail.com](mailto:ritaborgesneves@gmail.com)**

**Biosketch:** Rita Borges das Neves is a master in Sociology of Health and Society and a PhD student at the Centre for Research in the Social Sciences at the University of Minho, Portugal. She has been involved in several research projects that focus on sociological aspects of individual and demographic ageing, including the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement Portugal (SHARE) and was a research associate at the Institute of Psychiatry of King's College London, UK and a visiting student at Oxford Institute of Ageing, University of Oxford, UK. She is a member of the Gender and health impacts of policies extending working life in western countries Network -Genderewl and collaborates with the Centre of Women Studies in National University of Ireland, Galway. Rita is interested in social inequalities in health, productive activities, wellbeing and ageing, and sociology of health which she lectured at an undergraduate level. For her PhD she studies unemployment in late career as a social determinant of health and

**Title of the presentation:** "The effects of late career unemployment on mental health from a political economy of health perspective"

**Abstract:** Unemployment is one of the severest forms of economic and social exclusion and a social determinant of mental and physical health. The European Union (EU) endorses its member states to tackle unemployment by supporting job creation, mobility, flexibility and (re)training, but this strategy may be inappropriate to some of the most vulnerable groups in the labour force. Middle aged European women typically have fragmented professional careers, mostly in low paid, unskilled jobs and high risk of poor health and reintegration in the labour market may be particularly hard. In a context of extended working lives, labour market restructuring and demographic ageing it is important to look at the profiles of older unemployed women and determine the potential vectors of vulnerability under different institutional-organizational settings. Currently, I am conducting multiple correspondence analyses with SHARE longitudinal data that allow me to draw a profile of unemployed 50 years old women in different European countries in a tentative approach to a better understand the potential impacts of mobility, flexibility and (re)training initiatives under the European Employment Strategy.

## **Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

1. macro-level aspects of (labour market) exclusion among older workers and its consequences on mental health: can the mode of production and welfare policies that go with it be understood as the cause of the causes for exclusion and health inequalities?
2. gender and health as aspects of social exclusion – the need for a comprehensive conceptualization of exclusion, from a gendered lenses that contemplates also the health aspects.



**Anastasiya Jurkevits**

**Lithuanian Center for Social Research**

**Lithuania**

**E-mail:** [anastasiya.jurkevits@gmail.com](mailto:anastasiya.jurkevits@gmail.com)

**Biosketch:** Anastasiya Jurkevits is a second-year student at Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania. She majored in Philology at the Grodno State University named by Y.Kupala, Belarus, then studied history and cultural anthropology in European Humanities University, Lithuania. She received MA in Heritage Studies in EHU, Lithuania, and MA in Social Sciences in Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania. Throughout master program “Comparative Social Policies and Welfare” Mrs. Jurkevits attended Linz University, Austria, and Tampere University, Finland. She was honored by Leadership Award in 2016 (MRU, Lithuania), Diploma for the Best Defended MA in Lithuania in 2016 (Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers) as well as awarded the Most Outstanding Student of the Class 2010 and 2012 (EHU, Lithuania).

Jurkevits Anastasiya’s research interests include language and social interactions, sociology of age and ageing, social networks, political sociology.

At this moment she is involved in COST Action IS1402 (as MC Substitute) and Lithuanian Social Research Centre’s research project Single Life of Elderly People: Tendencies, Profiles and Challenges for Integration (2017-2018).

**Title of the presentation:** "Portrayal of older people in Belarusian media portal TUT.BY"

**Abstract:** Negative myths and stereotypes about older age and aging, usage of derogatory language causing ageism and exacerbate social exclusion. This research was aimed to find out what stereotypes about older people dominate the Belarusian media space and are broadcasted to the public? The concepts of “old age” and “elderly people” as well as stereotypes on age group “elderly” are analysed within Belarusian media discourse. In empirical terms, 1) the qualitative discourse analysis and 2) the quantitative content-analysis are conducted.



**Sayaka Kawahara**

**Osaka University**

**Japan**

**E-mail:** [sayawasa@hotmail.co.jp](mailto:sayawasa@hotmail.co.jp)

**Biosketch:** Sayaka Kawahara is a first-year master's student at the Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University. She is now pursuing her master's study in public health especially focusing on mental health for aging people. She studied German culture and European history at Heidelberg University in Germany for a year as an exchange student when she was in her bachelor's program. A participation in an extracurricular activity to talk about international health problems triggered her to learn about global health issue such as Non-communicable diseases and also she became more interested in them and the worldwide phenomenon of rapidly-aging population.

She also develops high interests in the relation between mental health problems and suicide and the community-based approach to prevent depression. The increasing number of elderly people who live totally alone until their death and who commit suicide from late their 60s in Japan are the issues that she thinks especially serious problems. In her research, she would like to compare the situation and the daily lives in nursing homes and hospitals in Japan with that in Germany for clarifying the common factors to be mentally happy. There is a theory that human interaction as social capital would be able to contribute to the improvement of the health status and she wants to apply it for senile depression.

**Title of the presentation:** "Depressive status/ depression and social support for aging people"

**Abstract:** An increased need exists to examine factors that prevent depression and depressive state in later life, however, there are not enough measures that focus on making mental status of elderly people better. If there are, they are mainly targeting each individual. This review focuses on the notion of "social support" and "social capital" with community-based approach in view. The survey would be conducted both patients and staff at nursing homes in Japan and Germany with three different methods. This survey would make it clear to understand how different the relationship between depressive status and social interaction of aging people in two countries and it may show the important factors to realize ideal social community or community-based approach to prevent mental diseases not depending particular culture and countries but generally can be accepted.



**Andrzej Klimczuk**

**Warsaw School of Economics**

**Poland**

**E-mail:** [klimczukandrzej@gmail.com](mailto:klimczukandrzej@gmail.com)

**Biosketch:** Andrzej Klimczuk is Independent Researcher and Social Policy Consultant at the Collegium of Socio-Economics at Warsaw School of Economics, Poland. His research focuses on gerontology, labor economics, public management, and social policy. His most recent publications include [Aging in the Social Space](#) (co-authored with Łukasz Tomczyk), *Economic Foundations for Creative Ageing Policy* (the two-volume set: [Vol I](#) and [Vol II](#)), and [Generations, Intergenerational Relationships, Generational Policy](#) (17 languages edition 2017; edited with K. Lüscher and M. Sanchez). Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AndrzejKlimczuk>

**Title of the presentation:** The Political Economy of Ageing in Relation to Technology on the Example of “Smart and Age-Friendly Cities and Communities”

**Abstract:** The basic idea behind this paper is that the technology is increasingly often seen as a positive answer to challenges related to population ageing. This process of dissemination and inclusion of technology into public policies on ageing may be already noticed with increasing focus of intergovernmental organizations and member states of the European Union on the concepts such as “e-health,” “gerontechnology,” the “silver economy,” “ambient assisted living,” and “welfare technology”. However, in practice, some of these solutions are only reduced to a process of building the “silver market” of goods and services that will be directed to the affluent older adults, e.g., anti-ageing medicine, luxury goods, and electronic gadgets of dubious usefulness. Moreover, gerontology still insufficiently draws attention to issues concerning the relationships between technology and ageing. There is a need to study issues related to at least three areas: (1) (un)equal design, (2) (un)equal marketing, and (3) (un)equal access to technology. To study these issues, it is possible to use ideas presented by the theory of the political economy of ageing. This theory includes a framework that may be particularly significant for the analysis of the dissemination and implementation of policy idea described under the notion of “smart and age-friendly cities and communities” (SAFCC). Attempts to introduce SAFCC combine eight dimensions of the World Health Organization’s framework for “age-friendly cities and communities” with usually described six areas of “smart cities”. These fields are: “smart economy”, “smart people”, “smart governance”, “smart mobility”, “smart environment”, and “smart living”. Having said that, it is interesting to study cases of “best” and “worst” implementations of SAFCC with underlining the role of older adults in all stages of the policy cycle, that is, planning, implementation, progress evaluation, and continual improvement.

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

- 1 What are the potential limitations of the “technological fix” in the field of ageing policy?
- 2 How to (easily?) build theories that will combine issues from various disciplines?



**Vilhelmiina Lehto**

**University of Tampere**

**Finland**

**E-mail:** [Lehto.L.Vilhelmiina@student.uta.fi](mailto:Lehto.L.Vilhelmiina@student.uta.fi)

**Biosketch:** I am a doctoral student from the University of Tampere, Finland. I'm working on my doctoral thesis in gerontology. In addition, I have work experience as a registered nurse and as a head nurse in a nursing home.

**Title of the presentation:** "Functioning and rehabilitation in long-term care: different perceptions between care staff and residents"

**Abstract:** I am going to present you my doctoral thesis that is focusing on how functioning and rehabilitation are understood in long-term care. I will show you some of the results about how long-term care nurses and older people understand functional abilities in different ways. I will also shed light on the future challenges of my research.

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

- Is it problematic if the functional abilities of older people (or rehabilitation) are understood in different ways between the older people and the people that care for them?
  - Can this lead to social exclusion in their care? What can be done?
- What are the ethical aspects in the tradition of functional evaluation?
  - Can the assessments lead to a simplified view of what functioning really is?



**Jana Mäcken**

**University of Cologne**

**Germany**

**E-mail:** [maecken@wiso.uni-koeln.de](mailto:maecken@wiso.uni-koeln.de)

**Biosketch:** Jana Mäcken graduated in sociology and empirical social research at the University of Cologne in 2016. Her current PhD project about the association between working conditions, health and the retirement age is funded by a scholarship of the German retirement scheme. Furthermore, she is involved as a researcher in the international extend project at the institute of gerontology at TU Dortmund.

**Title of the presentation:** "The Association between Working Conditions, Health and Retirement"

**Abstract:** Population aging is threatening the long-term sustainability of social security systems, and it is also associated with labor force shortage. Political reforms have been implemented to counteract this development, such as increasing the official retirement age and closing of early retirement options (Blekesaune and Solem 2005; Fisher, Chaffee, and Sonnega 2016). These developments are accompanied by recent warnings that the trend towards extending working lives might cause new social inequalities and it is questionable whether the new official retirement age of 67 years can be implemented in practice across all occupational groups. In Germany in 2012, the actual retirement age was 61.1 years on average, and thus remained far under the statutory age (Eurostat 2014). To tackle early retirement and support longer working careers a better understanding of the key risk factors contributing to early retirement is needed (Lahelma et al. 2012). Previous research has shown that the main reason for early retirement is poor health (van den Berg, Elders, and Burdorf 2010; Fisher et al. 2016; van Rijn et al. 2014). Health in turn is influenced by exposure to the job environment, in which the majority of people spends a comparatively high proportion of their lifetime. Furthermore, industrialization and globalization have led to constant changes of the European labor markets. The service sector increased and therefore physical demanding work dwindled down. An adverse psychosocial work environment in terms of work stress has become more important than physical or work setting exposures as the increasing prevalence of psychological disorders indicates (WHO 2017). Especially for older workers' work stress can be hazardous to health, because they differ from younger ones concerning their physical and mental resources (van den Berg et al., 2010). This study investigates the complex relationship between work stress, health and retirement by questioning whether work stress has a direct effect on retirement or if health is mediating this relationship. To answer this question, a longitudinal mediation analysis is conducted, applying structural equation modeling to data from the German subsample of SHARE and combined register data. The results will help to disentangle the complex relationship of work stress, health and retirement age, and thereby contribute to an improved understanding of the underlying reasons for early retirement.



**Hannah Merrick**

**Newcastle University**

**United Kingdom**

**E-mail:** [H.Merrick2@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:H.Merrick2@newcastle.ac.uk)

**Biosketch:** Hannah is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD student at Newcastle University in the UK, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESCR). Hannah previously studied undergraduate Psychology and completed a Masters in Psychological Research Methods. She has 7 years of experience working as a research assistant collecting data and carrying out quantitative data analysis. This included working on a 4-year longitudinal study investigating the transition from children's healthcare services to adult services for young people with long term health needs. Hannah's PhD project offers an opportunity to train in qualitative research methods and develop interdisciplinary research skills within the fields of gerontology and sociology, as well as building on her existing skills and knowledge in psychology.

**Title of the presentation:** "Exploring grandparenthood in the context of grandchild disability from a multi-generational perspective"

**Abstract:**

In Europe and elsewhere the majority of men and women aged over 50 are grandparents and play a vital role in providing grandchild care. Age, gender, health status, living arrangements, employment and welfare state policies are known to influence grandparental involvement. Available evidence indicates that grandparents can play a crucial role in the care of disabled grandchildren, their adult children and the entire family unit. However, the lived experience of grandparenting in this context has received scant attention in research, policy or practice. This PhD project aims to explore grandparenthood in the context of grandchild disability from a multi-generational perspective. The planned methodology for this project will be presented. Involving multiple generations in the context of disability is challenging, but will give voice to hitherto under-researched groups. We aim to explore life course influences, as well as life trajectories and explore what happens as grandparents, adults children and grandchildren age.

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

- 1) Influence of current policies, such as how extending working life policies can impact on families with disabled children.
- 2) How the quality of intergenerational relationships may help (or hinder) negotiations around family care for grandchildren and grandparents in the context of different welfare regimes.



**Burcu Ozdemir Ocakli**

**Ankara University**

**Turkey**

**E-mail:** [ozdemirburcu@gmail.com](mailto:ozdemirburcu@gmail.com)

**Biosketch:** I am a researcher at Ankara University, Department of Social Work, Turkey. I received my BA in Political Science and Public Administration from Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. I have a master's degree in Comparative Social Policy, and PhD in Sociology, both from the University of Oxford, UK. I am also working towards a second master's degree in Social Work at Ankara University, where I am working at the moment.

Since I was based at the Oxford Institute for Population Ageing during my PhD, my research interests involve demographic ageing, intergenerational relationships, gerontological social work and forensic gerontology. My master's thesis was on long-term care policies for older people in Europe and doctoral thesis was on intergenerational relationships in Turkey. Now I am working on a research project regarding older prisoners in Ankara, Turkey. I am also interested in migration studies and conducted research with Somalian asylum seekers and working on a research project regarding Syrian asylum seekers.

My current job involves doing research and assisting teaching in the department. I also provide consultancy to public bodies such as Ministry of Family and Social Policy in the field of social inclusion policies, and Ministry of Justice in the field of Juvenile Justice System. I also provide consultancy to non-governmental organizations.

**Title of the presentation:** "Incarcerated Older People and Social Exclusion: The Case of Ankara"

**Abstract:** The well-being of older people in detention is an under-researched area in Turkey. Addressing this gap, this research study focuses on the psycho-social needs of incarcerated older people detained in open prisons in Turkey. This study takes on a social exclusion perspective and different dimensions of social exclusion in a prison setting. For the methodology, semi-structured qualitative interviews are employed. Preliminary findings will be shared in this presentation.



**Tina Honghui Pan**

**Free University Brussels**

**Belgium**

**E-mail:** [Pan.Honghui@vub.be](mailto:Pan.Honghui@vub.be)

**Biosketch:** My research interest is older Chinese immigrant's social participation in Europe. I have experience of doing three ageing research projects so far. The first is to decrease Chinese elderly's social exclusion in the host country of Belgium through language workshops. The second is to study the influence of media literacy on older adults' social inclusion in terms of participation in the Flanders region of Belgium. The third is to look into how the Chinese culture of confucianism influence older immigrants' participation in society.

**Title of the presentation:** "Older People's Information Literacy and Social Participation"

**Abstract:** Chinese immigrants represent a small percentage of older adults here in Europe. The Ongoing project aims to look at the status of social participation of older Chinese immigrants in Europe, exploring their barriers and motivation to greater participation level in the host society. The qualitative research will involve three categories: profile (personal characteristics) of older immigrants, motivations to spend later life in host country, barrier to social participation, and include as many life stories as possible.



**Oksana Parfenova**

**State Information and Methodological Center  
"Family"**

**Russia**

**E-mail: [nebel2@yandex.ru](mailto:nebel2@yandex.ru)**

**Biosketch:** Oksana A. Parfenova, 32 years old, PhD in Sociology (*kandidat nauk*). Oksana graduated from the European University at Saint Petersburg, department Political sciences and Sociology. She defended her PhD thesis in April 2017. The theme of her dissertation called as “Care for the Elderly in State Social Services”. The sphere of her research interests is including social care, care for the elderly, social exclusion. Now Oksana is a participant of the large-scale research project “Models of Interaction Between Society and the Elderly People: the Study Opportunities of Social Inclusion” on the base ITMO University (project headed by prof. Irina Grigor’eva). Also, Oksana is managing editor of “*Laboratorium. Russian Review of Social Research*” ([soclabo.org](http://soclabo.org)).

**Title of the presentation:** "Social Care for the Elderly in Modern Russia"

**Abstract:** In my presentation I’ll speak about state social services for the elderly in modern Russia. I’ll consider case study – “Center of Social Service for the Elderly” in one of districts at St. Petersburg. It’s typical state center for the elderly in Saint Petersburg and Russia in general. I will try to show how these centers are organized and answer the following questions: What are the results of the policy of social services for the organization of life of the elderly? How can social services actually change the lives of an elderly person? What's new, it brings in his life?

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

What role can the state play in organizing care for the elderly? Who else are agents of caring for the elderly? Is it a family, a church, neighbors, someone else? And what models of care can these agents offer?



**George Pavlidis**

**University of Sheffield**

**Greece**

**E-mail:** [gpavlidis@city.academic.gr](mailto:gpavlidis@city.academic.gr)

**Biosketch:** Mr Pavlidis is a graduate of the International Faculty of the University of Sheffield, City College. Prior to his studies, he was a professional basketball player for 13 years in Germany, Greece and Spain. In the past, he has been the president of the Hellenic Professional Basketball Players Association. Currently he is in the scientific committee of 50plus Hellas, a non-profit NGO that deals with issues of older individuals' interest. Mr Pavlidis has coordinated several seminar series, such as the Psychology for All and City Tx, undertaken in the premises of City College. He has been awarded with the Santander Mobility Award twice, the Sheffield Graduate Award, and has received other several scholarships and grants during his bachelor and doctoral studies. His is and was involved in several European Research Projects, namely the SILVER project, the Knowledge Volunteers, and the Active Senior Citizens for Europe. He is a member of the ReAch team, and currently he coordinates the 50+ Technology project, a series of computer classes for seniors.

**Title of the presentation:** "Positive Theoretical Framework of Cognitive Ageing in Neuropsychology"

**Abstract:** The current paradigm on cognitive ageing describes that greater social participation higher socioeconomic status as well as more physical activity have a positive effect on cognitive decline trajectories with ageing. In turn, favourable cognitive decline trajectories with ageing lead to better outcomes in terms of everyday functioning. Although this paradigm receives significant recognition in research and in policymaking, it has been insufficiently described, leading often to the erroneous assumption that the benefits of SP, SES, and PA are evident across the whole spectrum of cognitive ageing. This thesis explores and describes why this assumption is not well grounded in scientific evidence, and why it may not refer to the non-pathological (healthy) spectrum of cognitive ageing. This discussion points to an emerging need for a positive paradigm of cognitive ageing to shape normative arguments about older adults' cognitive and functional abilities, as well as preventive strategies for cognitive vitality and functional adequacy in older age.



**Gražina Rapolienė**

**Vilnius University, Lithuanian Social Research Centre**

**Lithuania**

**E-mail: [g.rapoliene@gmail.com](mailto:g.rapoliene@gmail.com)**

### **Biosketch:**

Since 06/2016

**Head**

**OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

Monitoring implementation of the strategic plan of University, analysis of staff and student's surveys, annual performance report, formation of newly established office (staff selection, instruction), assurance of strategic planning process

Since 03/2017 (12/2019)

**Research fellow**

**LITHUANIAN SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTRE, INSTITUTE OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND**

#### **DEMOGRAPHY**

Implementation of the project „Childlessness in Lithuania: socio-cultural changes and individual experiences in modern society“ (Research Council of Lithuania and LSRC 2017 02 21 contract No. S-MOD-17-3)

Since 02/2017 (12/2018)

**Research fellow**

**LITHUANIAN SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTRE, INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY**

Implementation of the project „Older people living alone: trends, profiles and challenges to intergenerational integration“ (RCL and LSRC 2016 12 16 contract No. GER-001/2017)

- ✓ 09/2007 – 02/2017 Teaching several subjects in sociology (Sociology (in LT and EN), Social theory, Classical sociological theories, Sociology of health and illness, Sociology of ageing)
- ✓ Doctoral dissertation “Is Old Age Stigma? Ageing Identity in Lithuania” awarded as the best dissertation in social sciences and humanities in Lithuania in 2012.
- ✓ National representative in the COST IS1402 activity „Ageism - a multi-national, interdisciplinary perspective“ Management Committee, EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020 (2014-2018).

**Title of the presentation: “Social Exclusion: Troubles of Definition & Identification”**

**Abstract:** What is social exclusion? How do we experience / study it? The complex definitions consisting of several elements do not provide sufficient tools to study the phenomenon. The elements of an index (questionnaire) from one society do not necessarily fit to another. People from different social background in the same society differently deal with the risks of exclusion, like being old and living alone – two characteristics of risk – bring various spectrum of living experiences, from being globally / locally connected to being forgotten and rejecting any new contacts.



**Ioana Schiau**

**National University of Political Studies and Public Administration**

**Romania**

**E-mail: [ioana.schiau@comunicare.ro](mailto:ioana.schiau@comunicare.ro)**

**Biosketch:** Ioana Schiau, PhD, is an associated teaching assistant at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Faculty of Communication and Public Relations in Bucharest, Romania. She completed her PhD studies in 2016, with a thesis that investigated the functions of humor in the interpersonal communication of older adults. Her research interests include: humor in interpersonal communication; the intersection of ageing and digital technologies; and public relations. She was a junior researcher in the project „AGE-TECH. The Relation between Technology and Age: Understanding Computer Anxiety for Older Adults” funded by the Romanian Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding. She is an affiliated student in the Ageing + Communication + Technologies (ACT) research network and a member of the International Society for Humor Studies.

**Title of the presentation:**

"Exploring how: 1) Older Adults Can Use Humor to Combat Social Loneliness and Isolation  
2) Younger Adults Can Participate to Challenge the Symbolic Exclusion of Older Adults from the Information Technology Era"

**Abstract:** The first part of the presentation deals with issues of social loneliness and social isolation experienced by older adults, and explores the role of humor as a factor that can reduce feelings of social isolation. Through a mixed-methods approach, my research found that the use of humor in communication can reduce the sense of social loneliness for Romanian older adults; the finding was replicated on a group of English older adults. The data also revealed potential gender differences that suggest older Romania men and women can benefit differently from the ability to use humor for reducing social loneliness. The second part of the presentation focuses on the “symbolic exclusion” of older adults from the information technology era. Using a non-normative and critical approach, based on the understanding that older individuals do not constitute a homogenous group in terms of ICT use and digital literacy, the second part of the presentation details the findings of several research projects that have dealt with computer anxiety and ICT-related stereotype threat for older adults.

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

- 1) The use of humor in the interpersonal communication of older adults: the use of humor for bonding, gender differences in humor production and appreciation, reduced social interactions and social loneliness for Romanian older adults;
- 2) The use of ICT by older adults: computer anxiety, stereotype threat, agency in ICT use, participatory action for intervention.



**Ieva Stončikaitė**

**University of Lleida**

**Spain**

**E-mail:** [iewukaz@yahoo.com](mailto:iewukaz@yahoo.com)

**Biosketch:** Ieva Stončikaitė is concluding her PhD thesis which main focus is on cultural and literary gerontology. She is a member of the research group Grup Dedal-Lit in collaboration with the SiforAGE Project and a member of the Academic Advisory Board of ENAS (the European Network in Ageing Studies). Ieva is also affiliated with the TCAS (Centre for Aging and Society, Trent U, Canada) and ACT (Aging, Communication, Technologies, Concordia U, Canada). Her current research interests include: cultural gerontology, senior tourism and leisure studies, and social innovation related to active and healthy ageing research. Ieva has also co-taught as assistant lecturer at the Department of English and Linguistics at the U of Lleida, Spain, and she is actively involved in the EU Erasmus Plus Programme.

**Title of the presentation:** "Cultural and literary gerontology - an alternative tool to better understand and fight old-age social exclusion"

**Abstract:** Important demographic changes pose new challenges for a society that is not prepared to meet the increasing needs of old people. The complexities of the experiences of growing older not only require to find better ways to deal with this emerging phenomenon, but also call for a reconsideration of what 'ageing' implies in contemporary times. In my presentation, I briefly address age-related social exclusion, present my current PhD research, and invite for the consideration and discussion of alternative ways to challenge negative notions associated with ageing and social exclusion by employing more humanistic perspectives towards these issues.

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

- Humanistic perspectives on ageing, old age, and social exclusion
- Hearing older people's own voices.



**Anna Urbaniak**

**Cracow University of Economics**

**Poland**

**E-mail:** [anna.pawlina@uek.krakow.pl](mailto:anna.pawlina@uek.krakow.pl)

**Biosketch:** Researcher specialized in population ageing, life-courses and urban sociology. Strong background in qualitative research methods. Well-developed analytical and organizational skills. Currently assistant professor at the Cracow University of Economics, Poland. Certified project manager and academic tutor. She has participated as an expert in local and international research projects in fields of social gerontology, sociology and public policy. She is an author and co-author of many publications in urban sociology, sociology of ageing and methodology of social research. She is a member of European Sociological Association and Polish Sociological Association (board member of Cracow's division).

Academic specialization: sociology of old age, sociology, methodology of social research, qualitative methods, analysis of public policies.

**Title of the presentation:** "Early stage retirees in urban environment. Spatial exclusion & ageism"

**Abstract:** I would use my previous research to describe activity patterns among young retirees in urban environment and use it as a starting point for analysing the perception of urban space. My goal is to look at possible experiences of age discrimination and exclusion in spatial dimension in urban environment. I plan to combine the changes of individual's identity with the changes of urban space and their interactions especially with regards to activation demands (Pavlova & Silbereisen, 2012).

What I would like to focus on:

Whereas there are many tools, reports and findings on ageism in public space defined in terms of technical aspects, the more symbolic aspects are lacking from current analyses. I'm mostly interested in the perception of the city as a place that is redefined by retirees. Particularly interesting for me are the aspects of individual urban space perception when individuals define it as "theirs" or "no longer theirs"? I suggest to use the term "spatial ageism" in order to describe this processes that are connected to the power relations in urban space and affects the retirees perception and definitions of urban space.

I would greatly appreciate a feedback on my research design as this is still project that is in the conceptualisation phase.



**Claudia Valente**

**Porto University**

**Portugal**

**E-mail:** [claudiavalenteto@gmail.com](mailto:claudiavalenteto@gmail.com)

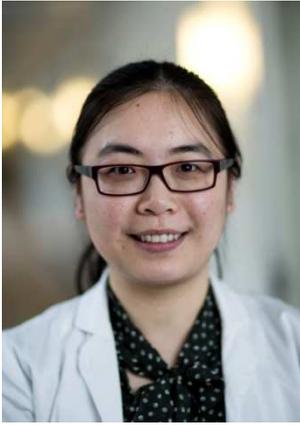
**Biosketch:** I'm an occupational therapist graduated at the University of São Paulo in 2007, Master in Community Health with a study about Depressive Sintoms and Occupational Holes (social holes) in Ancients, professor and research at Universidade Federal de São Carlos - São Paulo, Brazil. At moment I'm a doctoral student in the University of São Paulo and I'm doing an internship at Faculty of Psychology of Porto University. My doctoral subject is "Happiness, Pleasent Activities and Time Usage of Elders". In this study, I'm comparing a group of ancients in hemodialysis treatment with a healthy group of the same age and gender.

**Title of the presentation:** "Happiness, time usage and pleasant activities performance by elders: a comparative study"

**Abstract:** The experience of negative psychological functioning in elder persons with of chronic diseases has been studied. While literature mainly focusses on negative associated feelings, there is a lack of research that evaluates aspects such as subjective well-being or happiness, a construct that may be related to the perception of social support, time usage, and economic status. Chronic Kidney Disease is among the chronic diseases experienced by the elderly and can lead to hemodialysis (HD) treatment that, in turn, may impact these people's daily activities and routines. This PhD research objectives to characterize the level of subjective well-being, the way elder people use the time in their lives, the self-rated health status and the clinical and social aspects (income, family members, social support, etc) between elderly doing HD and elderly who do not do this treatment, furthermore besides to verify which characteristics could be a predictor of subjective well-being. At the moment, the data analysis is in progress, anyway, the previous results show that has no differences between groups related to subjective well- being, positive and negative affects, self-rated health status. Therefore, the data about the Time Usage could show if are differences in activities and social participation among groups.

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

1. In which way, the several chronic diseases could be a predictor of social exclusion in old age?
2. Who is responsible for the social exclusion in old age: the age and the several chronic diseases or the culture and economical status of society?



**Jing Wu**

**University of Gothenburg**

**Sweden**

**E-mail: [jing.wu@gu.se](mailto:jing.wu@gu.se)**

**Biosketch:** My name is Jing Wu and I have been working as Associate Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Work Science, the University of Gothenburg, Sweden since 2015. I obtained my PHD degree with the thesis "European Older Adults' Well-being and Suicide in the Societal and Family Context" in April 2014 from Tallinn University, Estonia. I got Master of Social Sciences in Social Work in Hong Kong in 2007 and BA in Social Work in Beijing, China in 2003. Currently I am involved in the interdisciplinary project "What We Are and What We Do - How Genetics and Living Conditions Impact on Dementia Among Older People" in the co-operation between the Department of Sociology and Work Science (University of Gothenburg) and the Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology (the Sahlgrenska Academy). The project focuses on the interplay of social and genetic factors in the development of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Meanwhile I am also engaged in different kinds of research issues and activities (including workshops, seminars and conferences) within the framework of AgeCap – Center for Ageing and Health, the University of Gothenburg. My main research interest as follows: -- Subjective and objective well-being of older people and welfare policy; -- social inclusion and social protection of older people; -- care provision for older people; -- active and healthy ageing; -- comparative ageing research, suicide/depression prevention, mental health promotion.

**Title of the presentation:** "Mental health and well-being of older people: Does social exclusion matter?"

**Abstract:**

I will give a brief introduction to my work continuum in relation to social exclusion in old age. First, I will summarise my past studies mainly on how social inclusion and relations affect the well-being of older people. Second, I will introduce my current work, one related to dementia study in terms of social networks, the other related to one master thesis I have been supervising on exclusion from social relations. Last but not least, I will present my research proposal with the topic of reducing loneliness and social isolation in the Swedish context.

**Issues to discuss at the Training School:**

Since recently I have been working on my research proposal, if possible, during the discussion I would like to obtain all kinds of precious opinions, ideas, comments, criticisms, advice, suggestions from dear trainers and fellow trainees.

# Local coordinators



**Giovanni Lamura**

**INRCA – National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing**

**Italy**

**E-mail:** [g.lamura@inrca.it](mailto:g.lamura@inrca.it)

**Biosketch:** Giovanni Lamura leads the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing at INRCA (Italy's National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing). He graduated in economics, achieved a PhD in "Life course and social policy" at the University of Bremen (Germany), and was visiting fellow at the University of Hamburg-Eppendorf (Germany) in 2006-2007 and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy & Research in Vienna (Austria) in 2010-2011. His research interests are focused on international research on family & long-term care; migrant care work; prevention of elder abuse; ICT-based support for informal carers; intergenerational solidarity; interdisciplinary research on ageing.



**Giulia Iale**

**University of Camerino**

**Italy**

**E-mail:** [giulia\\_iale@hotmail.it](mailto:giulia_iale@hotmail.it)

**Biosketch:** Giulia Iale is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at the University of Camerino, Italy. She is studying Social Sciences for International Cooperation and Non-Profit. She has been studying sociology, international human rights protection, social psychology.