



Nordic Gerontological Federation

# GeroNord

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

Volume 24, no 1-2, 2015

---

**23NKG2016**  
23<sup>RD</sup> NORDIC CONGRESS OF  
**GERONTOLOGY**  
TAMPERE • FINLAND

On behalf of the Nordic Gerontological Federation we invite you to share with your colleagues the most recent findings, ideas and innovations about ageing. Our ageing society urgently needs scientific knowledge to enable longer lives to reach their full potential. Better ageing means a better society for all. The theme of the congress is therefore 'Good ageing – better society'.

The Nordic congresses traditionally emphasise multidisciplinary perspectives on ageing and the life course. 23 NKG is a meeting place for all researchers and professionals, whether they are in social sciences, health research, medicine, nursing, biology, humanities, services research or any other field of scientific enquiry. Our special aim is to create sessions at which experts from different disciplines can meet and learn from each other.

The congress will be held June 19-22, 2016 in Tampere, Finland. 23 NKG is also a place for meeting old and new friends, for enjoying the conference's social programme, Finnish nature and Tampere's many cultural attractions.

We look forward to meeting you in Tampere in June 2016!

**Visit our website: [www.23nkg.fi](http://www.23nkg.fi)**

Deadline for abstracts is February 27, 2016, End of early bird registration March 15, 2016

Scientific programme: [scientific.secretary@23nkg.fi](mailto:scientific.secretary@23nkg.fi)

---

---

---

## Colleagues and friends in the Nordic Gero Community,

We hope that you will find the information provided in GeroNord to be valuable for yourself, your colleagues, students etc. GeroNord is in fact the main source for communicating activities in the Nordic Gero community.

In this volume we have initiated to a new round in presenting ongoing research and other activities in the Nordic countries. As you can see, a lot of things is happening in each country which gives you an opportunity to share experiences, ongoing and planned activities with your Nordic colleagues. If you miss something please contact Anna Siverskog ([anna.siverskog@liu.se](mailto:anna.siverskog@liu.se)) and you will hopefully find that information in the next volume.

The major upcoming activity is of course the next Nordic Congress in Tampere June 2015, 23 NKG. The hope is that our bi-annual meetings will continue to be a major event for all of us. I'm convinced that the Tampere congress will be a successful congress after having received on-site information about planned scientific program and social activities. The interesting city of Tampere will most certainly be attractive in June. So, make sure you have marked your calendar and that you check the dates for upcoming deadlines and keep you informed through the home page, [www.23nkg.fi](http://www.23nkg.fi).

Another interesting meeting on the Nordic scene will take place in 2019 in Gothenburg. Through the support we were given by all Nordic countries and IAGG affiliated national organizations our bid from Sweden won over Malaga. A local team from Gothenburg, including myself, professor Ingmar Skoog, Drs. Susanne Gustafsson, Pia Gudmundsson, Helena Hörder, and Hanna Falk were able to convince the delegates that Gothenburg would be the best choice. The Swedish representative for SGS, Torbjörn Svensson introduced as the best choice. Given our experiences from 22nkg in Gothenburg and the congress site we are sure that we can arrange a congress that can exceed the one in Dublin with 1282 participants (with 1118 submitted abstracts, 607 posters, 184 platform presentations, 96 symposia, 30 keynotes, and a prime minister who officially opened the congress). These numbers are not far more than what we had at 22nkg in 2014.

I hope and have the intention that the Nordic Gerontological Federation and its member organizations will become even more visible, not only at the Nordic scene but also on the European. However, we all have to help out in making this to happen. The Nordic-Gero Community deserves it!

Summer greetings,

Boo Johansson,  
President of NGF

PS: Also, please help us to keep the NGF home page updated. Please contact [anna.siverskog@liu.se](mailto:anna.siverskog@liu.se)

**23NKG2016**  
23<sup>RD</sup> NORDIC CONGRESS OF  
**GERONTOLOGY**  
TAMPERE • FINLAND



## **Good Ageing – Better Society**

**The 23rd Nordic Congress of Gerontology (23 NKG) takes place  
Tampere, Finland, 19–22 June 2016.**

**[www.23nkg.fi](http://www.23nkg.fi)**

On behalf of the Nordic Gerontological Federation (Nordisk Gerontologisk Förening), we invite you to share with your colleagues the most recent findings, ideas and innovations about ageing. Our ageing society urgently needs scientific knowledge to enable longer lives to reach their full potential. Better ageing means a better society for all. The theme of the congress is therefore ‘Good ageing – better society’.

The Nordic congresses traditionally emphasise multidisciplinary perspectives on ageing and the life course. 23 NKG is a meeting place for all researchers and professionals, whether they are in social sciences, health research, medicine, nursing, biology, humanities, services research or any other field of scientific enquiry.

The main track of the congress will include scientific sessions on all aspects of ageing. Our special aim is to create sessions at which experts from different core disciplines can meet and learn from each other.

23 NKG is also a place for meeting old and new friends, for enjoying the conference’s social programme and Tampere’s many cultural attractions.

All scientific sessions will be in English.

23 NKG will be held in Tampere, a lively university city that occupies a beautiful position between two major lakes. It is the perfect location to enjoy the light Midsummer nights. The congress venue will be Tampere Hall, located in the middle of Tampere, close to the University of Tampere’s main building and to many hotels.

The congress is arranged in collaboration with the Gerontology Research Centre (GEREC), Societas Gerontologica Fennica, the Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research, and Finnish Geriatricians.

## Call for symposia

The call for symposium proposals is **now open until September 30, 2015**. Proposals in English can be submitted by using the online form. The acceptance/non-acceptance notifications will be sent by email on 15 December 2015 at the latest.

The Scientific Committee welcomes symposia from all fields in ageing research. We particularly encourage cross-disciplinary research and sessions co-organized by research groups from different countries.

One session will consist of 3–5 speakers and a possible discussant.

The symposium should be submitted by the main organizer. The submission must include

1. The main abstract max 200 words including objectives, overview of the contents of the symposium and conclusion. Title and the name and affiliation of the organizer are not included in the word count.
2. The individual abstracts of every presentation in the symposium, including aims, methods, findings and conclusion should be max 150 words. Title, subtitles, names and affiliations are not included in the word count. All the individual abstracts should be submitted as one pdf file and uploaded as an attachment.
3. Symposia proposals will be considered only if there are at least 3 speakers.

NB: One person can submit max two symposium proposals.

**Further instruction about submitting a symposium can be found**

[http://23nkg.fi/call\\_for\\_abstracts.html](http://23nkg.fi/call_for_abstracts.html)

## Exhibition

The Nordic Congress of Gerontology cordially invites you to attend and sponsor and/or exhibit at the 23rd Nordic Congress of Gerontology, which will take place in Tampere June 19–22, 2016.

For further information, please contact:

**Tavicon Ltd.,  
TAVI Congress Bureau**  
Ms Pia Banerjee-Rikkonen, Project Manager  
P.O.Box 163, FI-33901 Tampere, Finland  
Tel. + 358 3 233 0470  
23nkg2016@tavicon.fi

## Pre-congress event

If you are interested in arranging a pre-congress event, please, contact  
Kirsi Lumme-Sandt [at] scientific.secretary@23nkg.fi

---

## **We look forward to meeting you in Tampere in June 2016!**

On behalf of the 23 NKG Organising Committee

**Marja Jylhä**

President

**Kirsi Lumme-Sandt**

Secretary General

Important dates:

- The deadline for symposium proposals *September 30, 2015*
- Notification of acceptance of symposium proposals *December 15, 2015*
- Abstract submission opens *October 1, 2015*
- The deadline for abstracts *January 16, 2016*
- Notification of acceptance of abstracts *February 27, 2016*

**Visit our www-site  
[www.23nkg.fi](http://www.23nkg.fi)**



## Nationella forskarskolan om åldrande och hälsa, SWEAH

Den nationella forskarskolan om åldrande och hälsa, SWEAH – Swedish National Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health – finansieras av Vetenskapsrådet och koordineras av Lunds universitet.

Forskar skolans uppdrag är att utveckla ett effektivt och kreativt samarbete inom utbildning på forskarnivå mellan svenska lärosäten och med relevanta internationella partners. Forskar skolans ska tillhandahålla kurser och andra lärandeaktiviteter för doktorander och postdoktorer inom forskning om åldrande och hälsa. Ett viktigt mål är att öka rekryteringsbasen för doktorander som kan utvecklas till forskare med hög kompetens för tvärvetenskaplig forskning om åldrande och hälsa.

Ett konsortium som består av Lunds universitet och 13 partners från olika lärosäten eller andra forskningsaktörer ingår i forskarskolan. Inom Lunds universitet medverkar 11 forskningsenheter. Forskar skolans koordinator är professor Susanne Iwarsson och biträdande koordinator är professor Gerd Ahlström, båda verksamma vid Institutionen för hälsovetenskaper, Lunds universitet.

Sedan forskarskolan start förra året har 25 doktorander anslutits. Ny utlysning om anslutning läggs ut i början på maj 2015 på forskarskolan hemsida. Utlysningen vänder sig till doktorander verksamma vid de lärosäten som ingår i konsortiet och som inom sina respektive avhandlingsarbeten arbetar med frågor om åldrande och hälsa. Anslutningen innebär bland annat att doktoranden får ta del av workshops och kurser samt får ett årligt driftbidrag på 20 000 kr/år.

### Samarbetspartners inom SWEAH

- Blekinge Tekniska Högskola
- Chalmers tekniska högskola
- Göteborgs universitet
- Högskolan Dalarna
- Högskolan i Gävle
- Högskolan i Jönköping
- Högskolan Kristianstad
- Karolinska Institutet
- Linköpings universitet
- Linnéuniversitetet
- Luleå tekniska universitet
- Lunds universitet
- Region Skåne
- Sveriges tekniska forskningsinstitut

Läs mer om SWEAH på hemsidan [www.med.lu.se/sweah](http://www.med.lu.se/sweah)



Foto: Kenneth Ruona

## What is going on within the gerontological research in the Nordic countries?

This is a question we asked ourselves when brainstorming ideas for this issue of GeroNord. The gerontological research is taking place by many different people, at different geographical sites, in different research contexts and fields – and with NGF being an umbrella organization for the Nordic gerontological societies; we wanted to present an overview of what is going on in these different contexts. We wondered; what is going on? What is researched? Which activities are happening? Where and how is the research taking place?

In the following pages you will get to know more about what is going on in CASE (Lunds Universitet, Sweden), Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Ageing and Health, Institute of Gerontology, Jönköping and about the Swedish contribution to the newly started COST Action IS 1402 on Ageism in Europe. This issue may work as a beginning of an answer to this question by some downstrokes in various different research contexts. It is far from being a complete overview of the Nordic fields, and we hope that you as members, research centers and milieus would want to help us answer this question in upcoming issues of GeroNord where we hope to continue shed light on the research taking place.

---

## Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments (CASE)

The research is thriving at the interdisciplinary Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments (CASE) at Lund University. The centre consists of five research groups as well as individual researchers. In all approximately 40 co-workers represent CASE and a wide range of disciplines.



One new project is Home4DEM. It engages the research group “Participation, Ageing and Everyday Life”, led by Assoc. Professor Agneta Malmgren Fänge. In this project, ICT-solutions for the independent living of people with dementia to support their caregivers will be investigated. ICT stands for Information and Communication Technologies. The project is part of an EU-initiative and will be conducted in Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

INNOVAGE is another project on EU-level involving ICT-solutions where CASE researchers take part. In the context of social innovations, an app designed to evaluate the accessibility and suitability of available housing on the European market is developed. The co-workers belong to the “Active and Healthy Ageing” research group, led by Professor Susanne Iwarsson. To define the specification of the app research circles engaging senior citizens and stakeholders were conducted in Germany, Italy, Latvia and Sweden. A prototype of the app will be launched in late 2015.

Another CASE research group at the Faculty of Medicine is “Rehabilitation Medicine”, led by Professor Jan Lexell. The Faculty of Engineering is represented by “Traffic Environment for Older People and People with Disability”, led by Senior Professor Agneta Ståhl. The Faculty of Social Sciences is represented by several individual researchers.

The interdisciplinary approach is vivid in several projects. For example in “Outdoor Mobility and Bus Travels – Enhanced Participation for People with Cognitive Impairments after Stroke”. Since 2007, more than 200 scientific papers, 10 PhD theses and several licentiate theses have been published along with numerous other publications and a lot of conference contributions.

Recent and coming doctoral theses show the width of the research:

- The Paradoxes of Consideration: Older People, their Family Members and Care Managers at Relocations to Residential Homes (Maria Söderberg, 2014)
- Outdoor Mobility, Place and Older People. Everyday Mobilities in Later Life in a Swedish Neighbourhood (Vanessa Stjernborg, 2014)
- Powered Mobility Device Use: Participation and Accessibility (Cecilia Pettersson, 2014)
- Relocation and Residential Reasoning in Very Old Age - Housing, Health and Everyday Life (Marianne Granbom, 2014)
- Assistive Devices in Everyday Life for Very Old People - Use, Non-Use and Opportunities for Use (Marianne Kylberg, 2014)
- Physical Activity in Persons with Late Effects of Polio (Cecilia Winberg, 2014)
- Powered Mobility Devices in a Nordic Context: Service Delivery, Effectiveness and Methodological Development (Terje Sund, 2015)
- Design of the Traffic Environment and its Importance for Older Pedestrians (Berglind Hallgrimsdottir, forthcoming)

The expertise at CASE is increasingly being sought after. The researchers are involved with writing various policy- and review-reports for the Swedish government, professional organizations, user organizations and societal stakeholders.

CASE researchers are also regularly asked to take part in different seminars, and attend exhibitions to reach out with fresh research results to relevant decision-makers, professionals and users.

Involvement of users in research is an important part of the activities at CASE, and several research projects directly address the question of user involvement. The centre also has a Board of Users which members contribute with discussions on scientific topics, ideas for new research projects and feedback on ongoing research. The members act as ambassadors for CASE and spread the knowledge about the research generated by CASE through their networks. The Board of Users also arrange The CASE Day where recent research is presented and discussed. This event is popular both with the audience and media.

CASE is one of three national centres of excellence for research on ageing and older people in Sweden, funded by the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte - former FAS). A Graduate School is also integrated with the centre.

For more information - <http://www.med.lu.se/english/case>

---



## Research at the Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Ageing and Health

The Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Ageing and Health (Ageing and Health) conducts research on ageing, particularly in the fields of dementia, old age psychiatry,



**Aldring og helse**  
Nasjonal kompetansetjeneste

physical disability and intellectual disability. The aim is to improve knowledge of ageing and health among these groups, and to inform national decision makers and provide a basis for updated education. The research spans from registry-based epidemiological studies and clinical studies to randomized controlled trials. Quantitative and qualitative methods are applied. Ageing and health is deeply engaged in education and service development. It has a publishing house and leads several projects on education for health staff across professions and levels of education. This secures a short distance between research results and dissemination to the clinical field. At present, Ageing and health employs 11 PhD students, 11 Postdoc/Senior researchers and five professors.

National research collaboration is established with universities, university colleges and hospital establishments in all health regions. Furthermore, Ageing and Health has established international research collaboration with centres in the Nordic countries, the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Australia and Brazil.

### **Dementia**

Ageing and Health administrates the Norwegian Dementia Registry, which at present includes clinical data from 4000 persons referred to a memory clinic. A subsample of approx. 1500 persons have provided biological material. A similar registry on people admitted to old age psychiatry clinics is under way. A longitudinal study including patients referred to a dementia team in the municipality compares the disease course and resource use with patients referred to the specialist health service. Ageing and Health conducts a number of projects focusing on care for home-dwelling people with dementia. Effects and costs of day care programs are investigated in a quasi-experimental design. Longitudinal observational studies examine the quality of life and needs of people with young-onset dementia and access to timely formal care for persons with dementia. All these projects entail international collaboration and combines quantitative and qualitative methodology.

The prevalence and course of dementia, neuropsychiatric symptoms and drug use is the focus of several observational nursing homes studies. Interventions to treat and prevent neuropsychiatric symptoms is investigated in randomized controlled trials and qualitative designs. One project examines the concept of quality of life for people with severe dementia living in nursing homes.

### **Old age psychiatry**

A Norwegian multicentre study investigates the prognosis of depression in elderly patients admitted to psychiatric hospitals, combining clinical data, biological data and MRI-examination following a standardized protocol. Another project focusing on anxiety among elderly people has just been started. A national registry, similar to the Norwegian Dementia Registry, including patients admitted to old age psychiatry departments, is in the process of being established. Ageing and Health will lead this work.

### **Physical disability**

Ageing and health investigates how people with rare physical disabilities experience ageing in addition to doing research on different health and societal aspects of physical disability and ageing in the general population.

### **Intellectual disability**

During the last decades, people with intellectual disabilities increasingly survive the childhood years, and experiences adulthood and old age. It is common for people with intellectual disabilities that the aging processes starts at an earlier age compared to the general population. At Ageing and health we have different ongoing research projects related to intellectual disability and ageing such as work participation and retirement, dementia assessments in people with Down's syndrome and Fragile X syndrome, and hospital admissions in people with intellectual disabilities.

## **Research in progress at the Institute for Gerontology (IFG) and the Aging, Living Conditions and Health research profile, School of Health, Jönköping University**

The work conducted at IFG and the "Aging, Living Conditions and Health" research profile, is best characterized by extensive collaboration, both with colleagues at different sections of the School of Health, and with other national and international universities and organizations. The goal of our research is to increase knowledge of the aging person and work towards practical application of these skills. The basic research that we operate, and are involved in, is often based on longitudinal studies that aim to investigate the factors influencing health and functional ability among the elderly in a lifetime perspective. Our research is also being conducted on various aspects of care for the elderly, and the elderly policy development. We have several ongoing major projects. In addition, we are involved in the building up of new collaborative structures, much of which takes place outside academia. This is now briefly described.

### **Health development in late life: Towards a functional care of older people with multiple illnesses and disabilities through understanding patterns of change and their causes**

This is a project that is conducted in collaboration with Karolinska Institutet. To understand the heterogeneity of transition phases of aging individuals, we envision an integrated research program that uses a lifespan approach to address a number of questions about how environment, lifestyle and genes act, in synergy, to produce individual patterns of outcomes. We focus in particular on early and midlife environments and biomarkers, how potential buffering effects may extend the number of healthy years, and aim at a full description of the individuals characterized by multiple impairments (biological, functional in a broad sense, and social deficits) and multimorbidity. The outcomes of our research program will help identify how future health care, preventive care, and health-promoting care for individuals with multiple impairments should best be organized. The research program includes three interacting, multidisciplinary themes: 1) Identifying the patterns of multiple impairments and multimorbidity and subsequently, the buffering effects of lifestyle and environmental factors on these longitudinal trajectories late in life. 2) Understanding the transition phase from healthy to multiple impairments and multimorbidity by studying genetics, epigenetics, and gene-environment interactions. 3) Assessing how health care for persons with multiple impairments, and interventions directed at those who are at an increased risk of multiple impairments, can prevent or slow down the development of impairments and, on the positive side, promote health.

### **Health Activity**

Municipal and county council prevention must be developed and efforts should be directed towards promoting health, safety and security. The goal is to enable older people to take personal responsibility for their health and living through an active life and participation in society. Research on older people's responsibility for their health shows that capabilities vary and that social support structures to individually adapt and promote health work are needed. We have over the past year been working to develop a health promotion program for older people in Gislaved inspired by the American method Lifestyle Redesign® (LR) with documented health benefits. A similar program has been developed in the UK, which has resulted in recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. In Sweden, the program has been applied in a medical centre in Jönköping and evaluated with good results. The next step is developing, and we are now testing the intended program in a larger study to find out if it can be applied and spread to several municipalities and counties. The current work is a collaboration between researchers and clinicians in Jönköping, Kalmar and Växjö. Our target this time is women over 65 with low socioeconomic status, as these persons are known to have a higher risk of illness than others in the same age groups. Eventually we hope to arrive at a permanent implementation of the program.

### **In-depth monitoring of municipalisation of home care**

Home health care is an important part of the care of the elderly, especially due to the "stay-in-place" policy. The Swedish government has clarified that they want to establish a unified municipal principal responsibility for the home health care. However, even though municipal responsibility for home health

care in Sweden is implemented in several counties, no complete follow up of the effects of this organizational change been performed. In Jönköping County Council and the thirteen included municipalities a broad baseline assessment was performed in 2012, prior to shift in responsibility from county council to the municipals. The baseline included a broad collection of information in the home health care, in order to carry out a thorough evaluation after the takeover. The shift in responsibility of the home health care from municipality to county council was performed in 2012/2013. In the year of 2014 the first follow up was performed using the same methods as at baseline, which makes it possible to compare the results. The baseline assessment and the in-depth follow-up involved data collection by three methods:

- 1) Extracts from registers
- 2) Surveys of staff working in the home health care (2012 N = 231; 2014 N = 285).
- 3) In depth-interviews with persons receiving home health care and home help/social services (2012 N = 31; 2014 N = 30).

The results from the follow-up will be analyzed during springtime 2015.

### **Everyday health in Sweden and Bangladesh**

In this project, which is based on collaboration between SNAC (Swedish National study on Ageing and Care) in Blekinge and PHA (Poverty and Health in Ageing) in Bangladesh, the associations of, e.g., pain, insomnia, financial status with everyday health among persons aged 60 years and older are examined. We investigate in particular how perceived life situation, described by the everyday health, vary depending on contextual factors in the involved countries.

### **Older persons with severe mental illness – a doubly marginalized group and a challenge for future welfare organisations**

This project focuses older people with severe mental illness (SMI), i.e. people 65 years and older who have experienced SMI for many years, in many cases for decades. The group of older people with SMI, here SMI-O, does not include dementia or mental illness with an onset after retirement. SMI-O is nationally and internationally a "forgotten", often neglected group with special needs. It is a group that is marginalized twice, by being old and having SMI. SMI-O is a challenge for welfare systems worldwide since the group is expected to increase as part of an aging population. However, the knowledge about SMI-O is scarce. The group SMI-O is particularly interesting to follow due to fundamental changes in psychiatric care after the 1995 Psychiatric reform. Currently, the group partly consists of older people who have been residents in mental hospitals for years, and partly of "new" older people with SMI, who have mainly received care from open psychiatric care and municipal social services. The project aims to develop knowledge about the target group's living conditions and needs of health and social care over two decades, and how the organization of care, support and service has changed in light of the Psychiatric reform. The project expects to increase the knowledge of today's conditions of care, support and services for older people with SMI for different age cohorts, and to indicate future needs for care, support and service of the target group.

### **Alternative indicators of age and ageing**

This project is about finding more effective conceptual and operational definitions of developmental time. To test various theories of aging, researchers need a measure of the aging process that does not rely on years since birth. The intention is not just to attempt a standardization of a biological age index, but also to examine discrepancies in associations between biological age and chronological age across societal contexts and sex. Data for the project have been collected in three population-based projects, Betula in Sweden, the Swedish Adoption/Twin Study of Aging that provides longitudinal twin data, and Poverty and Health in Ageing (PHA) in Bangladesh. A main purpose is to compare, cross-nationally, two indicators of age, chronological and biological age, in relation to cognitive functioning and health, and also to examine relative differences in sex. A second main purpose is to examine specifically intra-individual differences between chronological and biological age and to examine, in particular, how such differences develop across time and as a function of genetic and environmental influences.

## **Height, childhood environment and cognitive development in adulthood and old age**

This project explores – via differences in height among monozygotic twins raised apart – the impact of family environment for cognitive capacity and development in adulthood and old age. The overall aim of this project is to analyse the influence of childhood environmental conditions, operating at a family level, on cognitive capacity and decline in old age. This is done by studying a unique data subset of the Swedish Twin Register (STR), the Swedish Adoption/Twin Study of Aging (SATSA) consisting of more than 2000 di- and monozygotic twins, half of which were raised apart in separate families. The project is expected to, in several ways, add to our knowledge about the influence of early life conditions on cognitive and other functional abilities.

## **Gerotechnology**

Gerotechnology is an interdisciplinary field that aims "to provide improved services for older people through the use of technology and by building a theoretical and methodological framework for understanding the aging phenomenon". The two main technologies in gerotechnology is supporting technology (AT, assistive technologies) and information and communication technology (ICT, Information and Communication Technologies). AT covers aids that compensate for different disabilities in relation to vision, hearing, difficulty walking, etc., and various types of computer-based tools designed to facilitate and extend the elderly independence, encouraging older people's mental capacity, and enable the maintenance of social networks. A concrete example of our ongoing projects in this area is the hackathon currently carried out with Vinnova financing. A hackathon enables open innovation through physical meeting or appointment on-line and involves problem solving in several steps including: learning; diagnosis; priority; generation, ranking and further development of ideas; prototyping, experimentation and feedback.

## **Ongoing efforts to establish new collaborative structures**

At the Institute of Gerontology and the "Aging Living Conditions and Health" research profile (which spans several departments at the School of Health), we are involved in the building up of several new collaborative networks. (a) During the past year, a fruitful collaboration with the geriatric unit at Ryhov, the county hospital in Jönköping. During our first year of collaboration, we have arranged a symposia to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Older Persons, and arranged, with financing from the the National Board of Health and Welfare, a specialist course in Gerontology for geriatricians as part of their specialist training programme. (b) At the School of Health we are participating in the preparation of a Horizon 2020 application in common with all departments at the school. (c) We are currently also building a collaborative structure with the universities, municipalities, counties and provinces in Linköping, Kalmar, Växjö and Jönköping. Our long term goal is the establishment of a common think tank financed by the European Union Regional funds. (d) in collaboration with Jönköping International Business School and the School of Engineering we are now in the process of applying to become a knowledge foundation environment with support from The Knowledge Foundation.

---



## **COST Action IS 1402 “Ageism - a multi-national, interdisciplinary perspective”**

The National Institute for the Study of Ageing and Later Life at Linköping University are in charge of the Swedish contribution to the newly started COST Action IS 1402 on Ageism in Europe. This European initiative was set off in autumn 2014 and Sweden joined on November 20, 2014. Annika Taghizadeh Larsson (Linköping University), Andreas Motel-Klingebiel (Linköping University), Clary Krekula (Karlstad University) and Fredrik Snellman (Umeå University) were nominated as Swedish delegates.

Ageism is a highly prevalent phenomenon in most societies, but it hinders older people from realizing their full capacities and prevents society from taking advantage of inevitable and ongoing structural changes. Discussing the issue of ageism properly will improve effectiveness and efficiency of intervention towards Swedish competitiveness and sustainability under the conditions of global exchange and competition. This COST Action will support the development of the Swedish society in a changing world by bringing the topic of ageism into the spotlight and serve as a catalyst for research, societal debates, innovation and policy development. It will foster collaborations and the sharing of knowledge at the local, regional, national, and EU level. Swedish social and ageing policies serve as a trendsetter and modernizer within the framework of European policies. To maintain this forerunning European role it is essential to take action and participate in activities to target discrimination due to age or age group in a similar way as it was previously done in the fields of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and disability. This task is more essential than ever in meeting the challenges of an ageing Europe and ageing European societies.

### *Contact:*

Annika Taghizadeh Larsson  
(Management Committee member)  
Senior Lecturer in Ageing and Later  
Life  
Linköping University  
National Institute for the Study of  
Ageing and Later Life (NISAL)  
601 47 Norrköping  
email: annika.t.larsson@liu.se

Andreas Motel-Klingebiel  
(Management Committee member)  
Professor in Ageing and Later Life  
Linköping University  
National Institute for the Study of  
Ageing and Later Life (NISAL)  
601 47 Norrköping  
email: andreas.motel-  
klingebiel@liu.se

Clary Krekula  
(Management Committee substitute)  
Associate Professor in Sociology  
Karlstad University  
651 88 Karlstad  
email: clary.krekula@kau.se

Fredrik Snellman  
(Management Committee substitute)  
Senior Lecturer  
Umeå University  
901 87 Umeå  
email: fredrik.snellman@umu.se

13th of February 2015, the dissertation *Participation (also) in old age. Ageing and participation among people with intellectual disabilities living in group homes* was defended by Ida Kåhlin for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Ageing and Later Life at Linköping University. The Swedish title of the dissertation is *Delaktig (även) på äldre dar. Åldrande och delaktighet bland personer med intellektuell funktionsnedsättning som bor i gruppbostad*.

Participation of people in all ages is one of the main goals in Swedish disability policy. Despite this, ageing and becoming old with intellectual disability has been given very little attention in policy documents and guidelines regarding support and service provided for this group.

This thesis aims to explore ageing and participation among older people with intellectual disabilities who live in a group homes in accordance to the Swedish Disability Act. The focus has been on the group of people who were born before or around 1960. This group belongs to a generation that share unique experiences. They have lived a long life with disability, and they have experienced first-hand the development of the Swedish disability policy that started in the 1960s and resulted in today's disability policy. These experiences carried through life course are likely to influence this group's opportunities to participate as they age and reach later life. The thesis has a multiple methodological approach. Participant observations were executed and combined with individual semi-structured interviews with older people with intellectual disabilities as well as group home staff.

The results of this thesis show that there is a discrepancy between how older people with intellectual disabilities experience ageing and later life and how these in turn are described by the staff. The thesis also reveals how aging and becoming old is not given particular attention to in everyday discussions in the group home, and that aging is understood mainly as a physical phenomenon. The results show that the formal organizational culture of the group home is weak in relation to ageing and becoming old with intellectual disability. This is because the staff perceives a lack of preparation, discussion and working methods on how to support participation among older residents. The results also show, however, that the residents' age does play an important role for the staff's perceptions and attitudes regarding participation of the older residents. The concept of participation is described and operationalized as a social contextual doing, and as an aspiration to create a sense of coherence or experience of meaning and security at home. Finally, this thesis underlines that the life course unique to persons growing old with intellectual disabilities may influence the opportunities for and the experience of participation in the group home.

*Keywords: old people, ageing, intellectual disability, participation, group home.*

Department of Social and Welfare Studies  
NISAL (National Institute for the Study of Ageing and  
Later Life)  
Linköping University, SE-601 74 Norrköping, Sweden  
ISBN 978-91-7519-152-2 ISSN 0282-9800





## Horizons for Comparative and Integrative Research on Ageing and Health

---

### Welcome to Stockholm October 7-8, 2015

The programme of this conference is based on the idea that we can gain new knowledge from research applying comparative and integrative perspectives on ageing and health. The ambition is to nurture a broad scientific discussion on ageing and health between senior and junior researchers from various disciplines and different countries across Europe.

The conference will include plenary keynote presentations by internationally renowned experts in various fields of ageing and health as well as invited parallel thematic sessions, workshops and round-table discussions.

The conference also includes a **post conference workshop for PhD students October 9**, arranged by the Swedish National Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health (SWEAH).

Read more and register at the conference homepage:  
[www.delegia.com/ageingandhealth](http://www.delegia.com/ageingandhealth)



**National Konference om Aldring og Samfund**

Dansk Gerontologisk Selskab er til november vært for 2. Nationale Konference om Aldring og Samfund: "Hvordan skaber vi *sammen* fremtidens velfærd til syge og svækkede ældre?". Efter sidste års vellykkede konference om rehabilitering udvider vi i år fokus til også at omfatte andre tendenser i den fornyelse, der i disse år præger udviklingen af velfærd til ældre, der har brug for andres hjælp. Vi skal se på samskabelse, brugerinddragelse og andre eksempler på, at nye aktører, herunder ældre selv, inviteres til at deltage i løsning af velfærdsopgaver.

Som sidste år kan man deltage på forskellige måder; som almindelig konferencedeltager, eller man kan selv bidrage med præsentation eller symposium.

Se det foreløbige program og registrer på selskabets hjemmeside: [www.gerodan.dk](http://www.gerodan.dk)

På konferencen uddeler vi for 2. gang Kirsten Avlund Prisen. Prisen uddeles i samarbejde med Dansk Selskab for Geriatri og er gjort mulig via en donation fra Ældre Sagen og Kirsten Avlunds familie.

Nordiske gæster er velkomne.

Venlig hilsen bestyrelsen for DGS

**Ageing Families, Changing Families: An International Conference**

3-6 June 2015, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

<http://asi.syr.edu/event/agingfamilies2015/>

**GSA Annual Scientific Meeting 2015**

Gerontological Society of America

18-22 November, 2015, Orlando, FL, USA

**Share your activities!**

GeroNord, and the website for NGF, are resources for the members within the member organization of NGF, aiming to work as a platform for news in the gerontological area. This is however based on the members to share news, activities and events. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to send information to us about new PhD's, upcoming seminars, conferences, books, courses, education and other activities within your member organizations. We would like you to use these resources as ways to spread information to the many persons working within the gerontological field that are reached by this newsletter.

The website is currently containing basic information about NGF but can also be used as a resource for spreading information about your activities. We would like your ideas and thoughts about what you wish to see on the website, and if you submit material for GeroNord, we are happy to share this on the website too if you wish.

Anna Siverskog, Secretary of NGF



## **The board of Nordic Gerontological Federation:**

Chair: Boo Johansson

1. vice chair: Marja Jylhä

2. vice chair: Finn Rønholt

Secretary and treasurer: Anna Siverskog

Representatives from the member organisations:

### **Denmark:**

Danish Gerontological Society (Dansk Gerontologisk Selskab): Tine Rostgaard

Danish Society for Geriatrics (Dansk Selskab for Geriatri): Finn Rønholt

### **Finland:**

Finnish Gerontological Society (Societas Gerontologica Fennica r.f.): Otto Lindberg

Finnish Geriatrics (Suomen Geriatri-Finlands Geriater): Matti Viitanen

Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research (Föreningen för forskning i uppväxt och åldrande): Ilkka Pietilä

### **Iceland:**

the Icelandic Gerontological Society (Societas Gerontologica Islandica): Liney Ulfarsdottir

Icelandic Geriatric Society (Icelandic Geriatrics Society): Sigurbjörn Björnsson

### **Norway:**

Norwegian Society for Aging research (Norsk selskap for aldersforskning): Kari Kristiansen

Norwegian Geriatric Association (Norsk geriatriisk forening): Nils Holland

### **Sweden:**

Swedish Gerontological Society (Sveriges Gerontologiska Sällskap): Torbjörn Svensson

Swedish Geriatric Society (Svensk Geriatriisk Förening): Anne Ekdahl

## **Editorial staff of GeroNord**

Boo Johansson (boo.johansson@psy.gu.se)

Anna Siverskog (anna.siverskog@liu.se)

**Enjoy the spring!**

