

HOMeAGE

Advancing Research and Training on Ageing, Place and Home



HOMeAGE

*Advancing Research and Training on Ageing,
Place and Home*

5th Network-Wide Training Event

Meeting and Training Programme¹

Tuesday, 3rd February – Friday, 6th February 2025

Theme:

Impact and Engagement for Policy Development

Society and Ageing Research Lab (SARLab)

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Table of Contents

<i>About HOMeAGE</i>	1
<i>Ancillary Meetings</i>	2
<i>5th Network-Wide Training Event Programme</i>	4
Training Day 1 – February 4th	4
Training Day 2 (Public Day) – February 5th	6
Training Day 3 – February 6th	7
<i>Session Abstracts and Learning Outcomes</i>	8
Training Day 1	8
Training Day 2	9
Training Day 3	11
<i>About the Doctoral Researcher Forum</i>	13
<i>About the Project Support Teams</i>	13
<i>About the HOMeAGE Reference Group (HRG)</i>	13
<i>About the International Panel of Policy and Research Experts</i>	14
<i>Speakers, Chairs and Panellists</i>	14
Training Day 1	14
Training Day 2	17
Training Day 3	19

About HOMeAGE

HOMeAGE involves a nine-country collaboration between leading research units, major intergovernmental organisations, international civil society actors and governmental and non-governmental organisations.

HOMeAGE aims to institute an interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and international programme of doctoral training and research that drives the development of new leaders in excellence for the advancement of evidence-based innovation on ageing in place.

HOMeAGE, tackles three interrelated challenges by pursuing three strategic objectives through the work of 12 Doctoral Researchers (DRs) and their individual research projects.



Challenge 1- Needs and Systems:

HOMeAGE will identify flexible and sustainable housing, community-care and mobility systems and critically assess their capacity to support community living needs, across various cultural and structural conditions.



Challenge 2 – Home and Belonging:

HOMeAGE will identify innovative place-based pathways for engagement as a means to create new channels for building a sense of home and belonging amongst diverse older populations, in diverse places.



Challenge 3 – Rights and Voice:

HOMeAGE will identify integrative frameworks, that are responsive to the diversity of older people and their places, to drive relevant and rights-based policy development on ageing in place.

– HOMeAGE –

Ancillary Meetings

3rd February

Location: U-Residence, VUB Main Campus

Address: Pleinlaan 2, 1050, Etterbeek, Brussels (VUB Main Campus)

- 13:00 Steering and Supervisory Board Meetings (Green Room)
- 14:00 Special Issue planning (Green Room)
- 14:30 *Coffee break*
- 14:50 Research Working Group (WG) Meetings
- WG 1 – Need and Systems – (Red Room)
 - WG 2 – Home and Belonging – (Green Room)
 - WG 3 – Rights and Voice – (Black Room)
- 15:30 Implementation Working Group (WG) Meetings and Ancillary Meetings
- WG 5 – Training and Supervision - (Green Room)
 - WG 6 – Dissemination, Exploitation and Impact- (Green Room)
 - HOMeAGE Reference Group – (Black Room)
 - Doctoral Researcher (DR) Forum - (Red Room)
- 16:30 Project Support Team meetings (PST): *All Doctoral Researchers and supervisory teams*

16.30-17:00		
Doctoral Researchers	Project Support Teams	Room
Luise Stoisser	Kieran Walsh, Tine Buffel, Rodd Bond	Catering space
Fatemeh Hatami	Frank Oswald, Laura Christ, Ann Petermans	Lobby
Roua Shaban	Giovanni Lamura, Kaitlin Papp	Green Room
Petra Tamasova	An-Sofie Smetcoren, Soteris Avgoustis, Luc Lampaert	Red Room
Preetha Joseph	Liesbeth De Donder, Amanda Warren	Black Room

17:00-17:30		
Doctoral Researchers	Project Support Teams	
Jianmei Zhou	Frank Oswald, Laura Christ, Julia Wadoux	Black room
Pamela Suero	Giovanni Lamura, Soteris Avgoustis	Lobby
Philippa Winship	Kieran Walsh, Lucie Vidovičová, Kaitlin Papp	Green Room
Fatima Salomoni	Alex Peine, Rodd Bond	Red Room

17:30 *Welcome reception*

– HOMeAGE –

5th Network-Wide Training Event Programme

Training Day 1 – February 4th

(Location: EU Parliament & U-Residence, Address: Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels (VUB Main Campus))

- 07:15 **Arrival and registration at EU Parliament:**
Paul-Henri Spaak Building, Rue Wiertz/Wiertzstraat 60, 1047 Brussels
- 08:00 **Exchange HOMeAGE network and the Members of EU Parliament**
Chairs: Kieran Walsh and Liesbeth De Donder
Organiser: Julia Wadoux
- 8:00-8:20 Opening by Idoia Mendia and Michał Szczerba, Co-Chairs of the EP Intergenerational Forum, and by Gordan Bosanac
- 8:20-8:45 Contribution from the HOMeAGE research network to the EU policy agenda on ageing
- Why this matters by Professor Kieran Walsh, University of Galway
 - Emerging findings and messages by Luise Stoisser, Preetha Joseph and Pippa Winship
- 8:45- 9:00 What is on the agenda of the European Commission that matters for ageing in place by Dana-Carmen Bachmann, Head of Unit, Social Protection and Demography, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- 9:00-9:20 Q&A and discussion
- 9:20-9:25 Closing by Professor Kieran Walsh and MEP Idoia Mendia
- 10:00 ***Leave for VUB***
- 10:50 *Coffee break*
- 11:10 **Presentations of the doctoral researchers with short Q&A**
Chair: Alex Peine/Kieran Walsh
Each doctoral researcher will have 10 minutes, incl. presentation and Q&A
- 13:10 *Lunch*

- 14:30 **Discussion after the presentations of the doctoral researchers**
The doctoral researchers split in groups based on common concerns to have a detailed discussion about their work
- 16:00 **Grant writing: Post doc, Cost Action application, etc.**
Chair: Liesbeth De Donder
Speaker: Prof. Lara Pivodic (ERC Starting grantee, former MSCA DR), Prof. Sylvie Gadeyne (director BRISPO, jury member Flemish Fund for Scientific Research, commission Sociology), Dr. Elsie Premereur (VUB, Research & Grant officer)
- 17:30 **Closing of the day**
- 18:30 **Dinner @LE MESS (Bld. Louis Schmidt 1 – 1040 Etterbeek) – 10 min walk from U-Residence. More info: <https://lemess.be/en/>**

Training Day 2 (Public Day) – February 5th

(Location: Building I, Aula I.0.01, Address: Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels (VUB Main Campus))

[A second room, I 1.03, is also reserved the whole day for those who want some quiet time to work or take a break]

09:00 **Welcome and opening address**

Kieran Walsh (University of Galway, Ireland)

09:10 **Engaging with the UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons (POLICY IMPACT)**

Chair: Norah Keating

Speaker: *Claudia Mahler (UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons)*

10:30 *Coffee Break*

10:45 **Doing Gerontology in the Global South: Culture, Demography and the Making of Middle-Class Older Indians (SCIENTIFIC IMPACT)**

Chair: Giovanni Lamura

Speaker: *Tannistha Samanta (FLAME University, India and University of Maryland, U.S.)*

12:00 *Lunch Break*

13:00 **How can policymakers, in collaboration with researchers, lead the way out of the housing crisis? (POLICY IMPACT)**

Chair: Amanda Warren

Speaker: *Alice Pittini (Housing Europe)*

14:15 **Emancipatory approaches to ageing research: Reimagining knowledge production and policy development to build from the experience of older Black, Indigenous, and Immigrants from the Global South (SCIENTIFIC IMPACT)**

Chair: Kieran Walsh

Speaker: *Laurent Reyes (School of Social Welfare, Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, UC Berkeley, U.S.)*

15:45 **Closing & Reception**

16:00 **Impact through public engagement - Science communications workshop (PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT)**

(Closed session– only for DRs, room I 1.03)

Facilitator: *Toon Verlinden (The Floor is Yours)*

Training Day 3 – February 6th

(Location: Kenniscentrum Welzijn, Wonen, Zorg – Lakensestraat 76, 1000 Brussel)

- 8h45 *Arrival – take a coffee ☺*
- 9:00 **Welcome**
- 9:10 **Career development and “life after a PhD” participatory workshop**
Liesbeth De Donder (Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium)
- 10:45 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 **Presentation of the Kenniscentrum Welzijn, Wonen, Zorg**
Chair: An-Sofie Smetcoren
Speaker: Luc Lampaert (Kenniscentrum)
- 12:15 **Reflections and closing**
Reflections by the HOMeAGE Reference Group (HGR), and brief evaluation of training event with Liesbeth De Donder and Kieran Walsh
- 13:00 *Lunch @Kenniscentrum*
- 13:30 **Leave for visit to Housing project Passer (DRs only)**
Passerstraat, 1070 Anderlecht (on foot or by bus, depending on the weather).
The visit is scheduled to end by 15:30 at the latest.

Session Abstracts and Learning Outcomes

Training Day 1

1. HOMeAGE Doctoral Network at the European Parliament

Chair: Kieran Walsh

Co-ordinator: Julia Wadoux

This joint meeting between the European Parliament Intergenerational Forum and the HOMeAGE Doctoral Network brings together policymakers, researchers, and older people to foster a structured dialogue on ageing in place as a cornerstone of Europe's ageing societies. The event will present the network's rationale and early insights from its doctoral researchers, structured around the three interconnected challenges: needs and systems, home and belonging, and rights and voice. Against the backdrop of neighbourhood deprivation, housing insecurity, and insufficient long-term care and support services affecting many older people in Europe, the discussion will connect research evidence with key EU policy priorities, including intergenerational fairness, affordable housing, care and anti-poverty strategies, as well as global developments towards a UN Convention on the Rights of Older People. The exchange aims to strengthen mutual understanding and inform future policy and research collaboration.

Learning outcomes for Doctoral Researchers:

- Understand how interdisciplinary research on ageing in place can inform and influence EU and international policy processes.
- Develop skills to communicate research findings effectively to policymakers and engage in research-policy dialogue.

2. Presentations of Doctoral Researchers and Discussions

Chair – Alexander Peine and Kieran Walsh

Speakers – all DRs

Doctoral Researchers will present their progress (each 10') as well as their current key challenges. Based on common challenges, they will be split into three groups to get feedback and discuss their work with senior researchers, the IPPRE and HGR.

3. Grant Writing

Chair – Liesbeth De Donder, VUB

Speakers - Prof. Lara Pivodic, Prof. Sylvie Gadeyne, Dr. Elsie Empereur

The HOMeAGE MSCA Doctoral Training Network is currently in its final year. As a result, many of the doctoral researchers (DRs) are entering a transition phase in which they are

actively reflecting on their future career paths, both within and beyond academia. For those aiming to continue in research, the ability to write competitive grant proposals is a key skill. In response to an explicit request from the doctoral researchers, this session aims to provide practical insights into grant writing. The focus will be on individual research funding schemes typically targeted at the postdoctoral level, such as MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, FWO postdoctoral mandates, and ERC grants.

The objective of the session is threefold:

- to demystify the grant application and evaluation process;
- to share concrete strategies and best practices for developing strong and convincing research proposals;
- to offer early-career researchers insight into how proposals are assessed by evaluation committees.

The session brings together speakers with different but complementary expertise: professional grant writing support (Elsie), first-hand experience as a successful applicant (Lara), and insights from the perspective of a funding evaluation committee member (Sylvie).

Training Day 2

4. Engaging with the UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

Presenter – Claudia Mahler (UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons)

Claudia Mahler will present her mandate and work of the last six years, including the challenges and opportunities in developing and realising human rights for older persons, based on thematic reports, work at the United Nations and country visits. She will present practical approaches to strengthening the human rights of older people through research and advocacy. The presentation will provide an opportunity to discuss the work of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the next steps towards the development of a UN convention. In this context, she will share her views on the role of academics in supporting this endeavour.

After the session, participants will be able to:

- Explain key challenges, opportunities, and UN mechanisms related to the promotion of the human rights of older persons.
- Identify practical ways in which academic research and advocacy can contribute to strengthening the rights of older people and supporting the development of a UN convention.

5. Doing Gerontology in the Global South: Culture, Demography and the Making of Middle-Class Older Indians

Presenter – Tannistha Samanta (FLAME University, India and University of Maryland, U.S.)

The moral imagination of old age in South Asia is often articulated through the language of disease, debility, and dependence. In the context of rapidly expanding cohorts of persons aged

60 and above, a palpable demographic anxiety has emerged—one that tends to obscure the cultural shifts currently underway. In this talk, I will draw on data from survey-based empirical and phenomenological studies to show how moral-cultural scripts govern the paradoxical realities of growing old in middle-class India. Specifically, this talk will focus on the intersecting axes of class, sociality and consumption to argue how middle-class older Indians navigate changes, continuities, and precarities of ambivalent modernity. Overall, the talk is intended to generate critical discussions on the neoliberal promise of the ‘good (later) life’ while reflecting on the complexities and contradictions embedded in transitions.

Following this session, participants will be able to:

- Recognise how Global South perspectives challenge dominant gerontology and ageing narratives.
- Critically examine how sociodemographic change, cultural politics, and neoliberalism shape later life in India.
- Evaluate methodological and ethical approaches to researching ageing in rapidly changing societies.

6. How can policymakers, in collaboration with researchers, lead the way out of the housing crisis

Presenter – Alice Pittini (Research Director, Housing Europe)

Europe is facing a housing crisis that cuts across generations, territories, and policy levels. In this talk, Alice Pittini (Research Director, Housing Europe) explores how policymakers and researchers can work together to design effective, evidence-based responses to housing affordability, availability, and adequacy. The discussion will also address the complementary roles of academic research and policymaking, highlighting how research is currently used by Housing Europe and similar organisations. The session concludes with practical insights into how early-career academics, including doctoral researchers, can engage with policymakers and contribute to policy-relevant research.

By attending this talk, participants will be able to:

- Understand how academic research informs housing policy at local, national, and EU levels, including the opportunities and limitations of evidence-based policymaking.
- Identify concrete pathways for collaboration with policymakers, including how doctoral researchers can make their work more policy-relevant and engage with organisations such as Housing Europe.

7. Emancipatory approaches to ageing research: reimagining knowledge production and policy.

Presenter – Laurent Reyes (School of Social Welfare, Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, UC Berkeley, U.S.)

Gerontological research is fundamentally a political and relational activity that can reproduce dominant paradigms, bridge epistemic worlds, or generate new ways of conceiving ageing and society. Yet much of the empirical gerontological literature continues to reflect white Eurocentric perspectives. Foundational frameworks such as healthy and productive ageing are rooted in culturally Western ideals of “good ageing” and have been widely used to shape

policies and programmes for diverse older adults. This dominance constrains the field’s ability to reflect the heterogeneity of ageing experiences, renders invisible and stigmatises non-normative forms of ageing, and narrows the ontological imagination needed to reimagine collective futures of ageing. Drawing from decolonial perspectives, this presentation invites gerontologists to reconsider knowledge production and adopt humanising research practices grounded in Indigenous and participatory ethos. Such a shift repositions gerontologists as community members and storytellers accountable to the policies and programmes their research helps shape.

Following this session, participants will have an enhanced understanding of:

- Interrogate Eurocentric paradigms in gerontology and their impact on diverse ageing experiences.
- Learn about emancipatory and decolonial frameworks that challenge dominant approaches in ageing research.
- Reimagine gerontologists’ roles as accountable for shaping understandings and policy development on ageing.

8. Impact through public engagement

Presenter – Toon Verlinden, The Floor is Yours

This interactive workshop guides doctoral researchers through the essential steps of turning their research into compelling stories that reach the right audience. The session is structured in three connected parts that move from reflection to action. First, participants explore the *WHO*: clarifying who they want to reach, why this audience matters, and how different formats serve different purposes. Participants will learn what makes a story relevant and newsworthy, and how to align their message with audience needs. In the second part, *WHAT & WHERE*, the focus shifts to shaping a clear and engaging story. Participants work on structuring their message for various formats—such as podcasts, events, articles, video, or social media—and identifying suitable channels, media, and platforms to share their work. Finally, participants will *START*, and put their ideas into practice by taking concrete first steps in a chosen format, enabling them to continue confidently toward their communication goals after the workshop.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and define target audiences and select appropriate formats and channels for communicating their research.
- Develop a clear, engaging research story and take concrete first steps toward sharing it in practice.

Training Day 3

9. Career Development and “life after a PhD” participatory workshop

Speaker - Liesbeth De Donder (Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium)

This participatory workshop on *Career Development and Life After a PhD* supports MSCA doctoral researchers in navigating their professional paths as they approach the final phase of their doctoral journey. The session introduces career opportunities within the EU ecosystem,



including roles in the European Commission, EU agencies, and EU-affiliated research organisations. Participants will review and refine their Career Development Plans, reflecting on evolving goals and competencies. The workshop also outlines academic career trajectories and postdoctoral funding pathways. Through interactive exercises and peer exchange, researchers will gain practical insights to strategically plan their next career steps within and beyond academia.

Following this session, participants will be able to

- Identify and compare key career pathways within the EU ecosystem and academia, including relevant roles, institutions, and postdoctoral funding opportunities.
- Critically reflect on and update their Career Development Plans by assessing their skills, competencies, and career goals to strategically plan their next professional steps beyond the PhD.

10. Kenniscentrum presentation and field visit to housing project Passer

Speaker: Luc Lampaert

Chair: An-Sofie Smetcoren

In this session, Kenniscentrum Welzijn, Wonen, Zorg (Knowledge Center Well-being, Housing, Care) will present their work. Kenniscentrum offers support, expertise, knowledge and inspiration to organisations, initiators and policymakers operating in the field of volunteering, welfare, housing and care so that they can proactively, effectively and visibly safeguard and promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable. Kenniscentrum WWZ primarily supports Dutch-speaking organisations in the care and well-being sector in Brussels, as well as their volunteers, employees, management and board members. They also collaborate with the government, citizens (both directly and indirectly) and organisations and actors from other communities in Brussels. After lunch, DRs are invited to join a visit to one of the housing projects co-organised with Kenniscentrum.

Following this session, participants will:

- Have enhanced an understanding of a Brussels-based organisation working at the intersection of policy, research, and practice;
- Get to know the experiences of older people living in co-created housing project.

About the Doctoral Researcher Forum

A Doctoral Researcher (DR) Forum will be established as a peer-support network and will provide a collegial space for knowledge exchange and methodological discussion. The Forum will comprise of all Doctoral Researchers. The Forum will convene once a quarter virtually (using Zoom/Blackboard collaborative classrooms) and in person once every 6-months during training events.

About the Project Support Teams

A Project Support Team (PST) will be established for each DR (12 PSTs in all), with the aim of ensuring a match between network-wide training and DR needs through entry and exit meetings at each training event. The PSTs will also ensure IRP alignment with HOMeAGE objectives, and will provide an additional research quality and student welfare check. PSTs will comprise two academic, one non-academic and one HRG (see below) member and will meet at least twice a year.

About the HOMeAGE Reference Group (HRG)

The HOMeAGE Reference Group (HRG) will provide insight on ‘on-the-ground’ advocacy issues and a critical ‘lived experience’ perspective within network-wide training and project supervision. As civil society actors, the HRG is not meant to be representative of older populations in Europe or internationally, but will assist in embedding critical ‘lived experience’ perspectives within HOMeAGE research and network-wide training. HRG members will sit on Project Support Teams, the Steering Board, and Network working groups.

Objectives:

1. To embed a ‘lived experience’ perspective within network-wide training and project supervision.
2. To provide insight and guidance on key topics related to ageing in place from a grass-roots perspective.
3. To facilitate the participation of older adult advocates and policy stakeholder experts in HOMeAGE activities and events.

HOMeAGE Reference Panel Members are:

- Laura Christ, Older Women’s Network, Netherlands
- Rodd Bond, Active Retirement Ireland, Ireland
- Vassilis Louziotis, 50+Hellas, Greece
- Soteris AVGOUSTIS, PASYDY, Cyprus
- Amanda T. Warren, FATEC/Catalonia, Spain
- Katalin Papp, Hungary

About the International Panel of Policy and Research Experts

The International Panel of Policy and Research Experts (IPPRE) will lead a peer-review process providing a critique of learning materials and the learning outcomes for network-wide training. Comprising of academic and non-academic experts, five panel members will support HOMeAGE to deliver gold-standard transferable training that fosters cross-sector innovation. It will comprise of: Patricia Conboy, formerly of HelpAge International; Norah Keating, Global Social Initiative on Ageing; Malcolm Cutchin, Pacific North West University; Vanessa Burholt, University of Auckland; Susanne Iwarsson, Lund University.

Speakers, Chairs and Panellists

Training Day 1



Kieran Walsh is Professor of Ageing & Public Policy in the Discipline of Economics, and Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG) at the University of Galway, Ireland. His research focuses on social exclusion in later life, life-course transitions and trajectories, and place, community belonging and a sense of home. Kieran is focused on translating research into real-world impact and integrating lived experience of those experiencing entrenched exclusion in the design of impactful research, services and teaching programmes. Kieran was the Chair of the former ROSEnet COST Action network on ‘Reducing old-age social exclusion’ (2016-2020), and is currently Scientific Coordinator of the Marie-Sklodowska Curie doctoral training network on ‘Advancing research and training on ageing, place and home’ - HOMeAGE.



Julia Wadoux leads policy work in the areas of public health, accessibility, including age-friendly environments, and new technologies at AGE Platform Europe. She is responsible for the Task Force on Age-Friendly Environments. Julia represents AGE in the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and is the liaison person for their work with the WHO - WHO Europe and the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Julia also supports the Secretary General on the implementation of work programmes including coordination with project team, and on statutory matters. Julia joined AGE in 2010 after having gained experience on social protection policy issues at European level. She holds a Master degree in political science.



Alexander Peine is Full Professor of Culture, Innovation and Communication at the Open Universiteit. His research links two pertinent societal developments (i) population ageing, including the challenges it allegedly poses for care and health systems, and (ii) technological change, including the push towards more interactive and 'smarter' technologies. In simple terms, Alex studies what population ageing means for the way we organise and direct technology and innovation, and, vice versa, how technology and innovation have come to shape how we age and how we imagine the future of health and care. In this research, he likes to combine the theories and methods of Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Social Gerontology or Age Studies. Alex is the founding chair of the Socio-gerontechnology Network and the Chair of the societal advisory board of the EU's Joint Programming Initiative "More Years, Better Lives" (JPI-MYBL). Before joining the Open University, Alex was an Associate Professor at Utrecht University, the laureate of a prestigious Max Weber post-doctoral fellowship at the European University Institute in Florence, and a Principal Investigator at Berlin University of Technology.



Liesbeth De Donder is Professor Adult Educational Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where she teaches the courses "Community Development and Participation", "Care, ethics and inclusion" and Master Thesis Seminar. Liesbeth is director of the Society and Ageing Research Lab, where she leads the research programme "Care and caring neighbourhoods". Liesbeth was coordinator of several national and European projects such as Wellbeing and Dignity of Older People (WeDO), Detection, Support and Care of Older people: Prevention and Empowerment (D-SCOPE), and the European Social Fund project on Culturally Sensitive Care Ambassadors. In Flanders, she has been pioneering research on Caring Neighbourhoods since 2014. She received the VUB Excellent PhD Supervision Award in 2021 and published more than 100 papers in leading peer-reviewed journals in the fields of gerontology, care, education and social work.



Idoia Mendia is a member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, and a politician from the Partido Socialista Obrero Español, Spain. She is co-chair of the European Parliament Intergenerational Forum, which focuses on key topics such as ageing, longevity, healthy ageing, the rights and social inclusion of older people, and solidarity between generations.



Michał Szczerba is member of the Group of the European People's Party in the European Parliament and a politician from the Platforma Obywatelska, Poland. He is co-chair of the European Parliament Intergenerational Forum, which focuses on key topics such as ageing, longevity, healthy ageing, the rights and social inclusion of older people, and solidarity between generations.



Gordan Bosanac is member of the Group of the Greens in the European Parliament and a politician of the party Možemo! in Croatia.

Dana-Carmen Bachmann is Head of the unit ‘Social Protection and Demography’ in the European Commission.



Preetha Joseph is a doctoral researcher (HOMeAGE) at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, University of Galway, Ireland. She is currently researching the impact of neighbourhood/community changes on the quality of life of community dwelling older adults, and the mediating role of sense of belonging.



Philippa Winship is a doctoral researcher exploring how urban change and regeneration policies disrupt ageing in place for diverse groups and how participatory processes might counter this disruption. Her research uses a combination of ethnographic and participatory methods inspired by her background in Human Geography, Environmental Gerontology and Urban Studies. Her PhD research is conducted in collaboration with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and will contribute towards the Marie-Sklodowska Curie Doctoral HOMeAGE Network.



Luise Stoisser is a doctoral researcher in the HOMeAGE project, whose research bridges urban geography and ageing studies. They are particularly interested in the interconnections between ageing people and places, with a focus on minoritised groups and housing. Luise’s doctorate focuses on the lived experiences of diverse older adults in sheltered and co-housing developments for lower- and middle-income groups, employing participatory photography as a core methodology.

Additionally, they examine how these housing initiatives are integrated into broader city governance structures related to care and housing.



Lara Pivodic is Professor of Ageing and the End of Life at the End-of-Life Care Research Group of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) & Ghent University, and co-chair of the group’s Ageing & Palliative Care research programme. Situated at the intersection of medical and social sciences, Lara’s work covers a wide range of topics related to ageing, the end of life, and death, including epidemiological studies, policy analyses, intervention development and clinical trials. Most of her research uses mixed-methods, combining quantitative and qualitative methods to study older people’s health- and well-being trajectories towards the end of life and develop interventions to support them and their families as they navigate serious

illness and dying. She is the Principal Investigator of the European Research Council (ERC)-funded

project TRAJECT (2023-2028), which seeks to re-shape our current understanding of older people's end-of-life trajectories, combining structured measures and individual narratives.



Sylvie Gadeyne is an associate professor at the Department of Sociology of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She holds a PhD in Social Sciences (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, 2005), a MAnaMa in Demography (Université Catholique de Louvain, 1998), and a master's degree in Sociology (Ghent University, 1992). Since 1995, she has been involved as a demographic research associate in several projects. Over the years, her research has focused on socio-economic inequalities in health and mortality in Belgium and Europe. She has participated in several national and international projects on mortality inequalities in Europe and has been/is a promoter of multiple projects in the fields of social epidemiology, cancer epidemiology, and environmental epidemiology, from a sociological perspective. She has also engaged in research on migration patterns and their consequences in Belgium, as well as on the stalling fertility decline in sub-Saharan Africa.



Elsie Premereur is an experienced postdoctoral researcher with a background in cognitive neuroscience. She is skilled in data collection and analysis, research communication, and scientific writing. She has organized scientific workshops, meetings, and training schools. She has experience in (inter)national collaborations, project management, and research department management. She is currently a Research and Grant Officer, responsible for research infrastructure support, including funding opportunities, grant writing support, and core facility policy.

Training Day 2



Claudia Mahler was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council in May 2020 as an independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. Since 2010, she has been a senior researcher in the field of economic, social and cultural rights at the German Institute for Human Rights and is currently team leader for older persons' human rights at the Institute. Over the past twenty years, she has also lectured on human rights law at various academic institutions in Germany and Austria.



Tannistha Samanta is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at FLAME University, Pune, India. Her research lies at the intersection of family studies, medical sociology, and ageing, with a particular focus on South Asia. Within this line of inquiry, she has examined questions related to intergenerational relationships, social capital, media representations, older adult sexualities, and theory development in social gerontology. In another strand of her research, she adopts a critical feminist lens to examine how the reproductive life course is entangled in the techno-material politics of cryopreservation and datafied cultures. She is currently an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Aging Studies* and serves on the editorial boards of *The Sociological Review* and *Social Theory & Health*. Originally from Kolkata

(formerly Calcutta), Tannistha received her graduate degrees (Master's and PhD) from the Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park.



Alice Pittini is Research Director at Housing Europe, the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social Housing. With over 15 years of professional experience in social and affordable housing, Alice is leading Housing Europe Observatory and she's in charge of providing strategic advice to Housing Europe policy work and devising studies including the bi-annual report 'the State of Housing in the European Union'. In addition, she's involved in several EU-funded projects – especially around innovative models for renovation of social housing – and monitoring impact of EU policies and funding programmes. She previously worked at OECD as Economist/Policy Analyst setting up a database on affordable housing.



Laurent Reyes is an assistant professor at the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare and Director of Critical Gerontology at the Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services. Her research examines how systemic oppression, culture, and historical legacies shape civic participation and access to social and health services among marginalised older adults. Central to her scholarship is a commitment to theoretical and methodological innovation that is person-centered and community-engaged, particularly with those historically excluded from knowledge production. She approaches research as a tool for epistemic justice that amplifies community agency in shaping knowledge and collective narratives. Her research program addresses disparities in civic life, social and health services, and research, while re-imagining democratic, welfare, and knowledge systems beyond inclusion-based approaches.



Toon Verlinden is an expert in science communication and the founder of The Floor is Yours. He has trained tens of thousands of researchers and professionals in clear presenting. Toon knows every corner of scicomm: he is co-organiser of Nerdland Festival (the largest science festival in the Benelux), created a science podcast that won a Belgian Podcast Award, wrote about science for magazines, gave a TEDx talk, worked at VRT NWS, regularly performs science shows in theatres, and is the author of seven non-fiction books.



Norah Keating holds academic appointments at University of Alberta, Canada; Stirling University, UK; and North-West University, South Africa and is director of the IAGG Global Social Issues on Ageing. Her research interests are in families and ageing and in the physical and social contexts that can include or exclude older persons. She has longstanding relationships with the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization and has recently written a research agenda to frame the action items on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2022). She is advisor to research programmes on social aspects of ageing in Indonesia, UK, Netherlands and South Africa.



Giovanni Lamura leads the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing at IRCCS INRCA (Italy's National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing). He graduated in economics, achieved a PhD in Life course and social policy (University of Bremen, Germany), and was visiting fellow at the University of Hamburg-Eppendorf (Germany) and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy & Research (Austria). His interests focus on international research on family and long-term care; migrant care work; interdisciplinary research on ageing. He has led several European projects on long-term care issues, including the use of new technologies to support care delivery and reduce the burden of family carers.



Amanda T. Warren -FATEC – Federation of Seniors Associations of Catalunya, volunteer, Barcelona, Spain - At FATEC for 3 years, she participated in projects to reducing the digital divide and those involving international collaboration. She is also a volunteer at Amics de la Gent Gran (Friends of the Elderly) where we work to reduce loneliness in older people via personal companionship and activities. Professionally, she is a project manager in Urban Mobility and has two decades of experience in Germany and Spain in marketing communication. Furloughed from the Volkswagen Group during the Covid-19 pandemic she started Vidalii which offers remote tech help to older adults to resolve any challenge requested. Recently, she has invested in VERMUT, an app which has created a space for people with years of life experience to make new friends and enjoy endless activities they can also offer themselves. In a next career step, she hopes to do project management in the senior sector, perhaps around urban mobility.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amandatwarren/>

<https://www.vermutapp.com/es/barcelona>

Training Day 3



Luc Lampaert is co-initiator and supervisor of collective residential care projects in Brussels. He stays up to date on collective projects in Brussels and knows where the limitations and opportunities lie. You can contact him for information and inspiration, and he will be happy to support your organisation or target audience on request.



An-Sofie Smetcoren is a lecturer and postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Educational Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Her main research interests focus on how urban environments affect the daily lives of their older residents (e.g. with a specific focus on housing and the public space) and how processes of social inclusion and exclusion take place in communities. In addition, she has a particular interest in the experiences of and giving voice to older people in vulnerable situations through the use of creative and participatory research approaches. As senior researcher within the Society & Ageing Research Lab, she leads the research line "Housing and living environment". Currently she is a VUB promotor for the interuniversity Strategic Basic Research (FWO-SBO) project HOUSE 'Innovating housing for older adults and subjective wellbeing'. In the past, she coordinated the research of several national and European projects such as Care & Living in Community (CALICO), RenoLab-C, Entour-Age Noord, etc. As a researcher she worked on several projects on (co)housing and caring neighbourhoods.