



Nordic Gerontological Federation

GeroNord

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

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Words from the President

Dear colleagues,

The world is in flux! Climate change, political instability, and increasing inequalities are pressing challenges that affect society as a whole, but older adults are particularly vulnerable to their impacts. The consequences of these changes—such as extreme weather events, shifts in healthcare access, and the erosion of social safety nets—can disproportionately affect the older people, especially those with lower socioeconomic status or those living in marginalised communities. These challenges can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, making it harder for older people to maintain a good quality of life.

As researchers, it is our responsibility to understand and address the unique risks faced by older adults in these shifting circumstances. We must continue to study the effects of climate change, political conflicts, and social inequalities on the ageing population, considering not only those who are struggling but also those who are thriving. By doing so, we can help ensure that all older individuals have the opportunity to age well, regardless of where they live, their socioeconomic background, or their gender.

Our work must contribute to creating a more inclusive, resilient society, where older adults are empowered with the resources and support needed to navigate the complexities of an ever-changing world. It's also about creating a creative conversation between research, community and policy that helps us shape a future where health and equity are within reach for all. By working together, we can make sure that everyone has the chance to age well no matter their circumstances.

Best regards,



Carin Lennartsson

President of the Nordic Gerontological Federation



Welcome to the
28th Nordic Congress of
Gerontology
in Jyväskylä, Finland
JUNE 16-18, 2027

Organized by
Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences and
Gerontology Research Center, University of Jyväskylä
Societas Gerontologica Fennica
Finnish Geriatricians Society
The Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research

The 28th Nordic Congress of Gerontology in 2027

We look forward to welcoming you in Finland!

We invite you to the 28th Nordic Congress of Gerontology (NKG) to share your research results and ideas about aging. Participate in the multidisciplinary symposia, oral sessions and plenary lectures, meet with colleagues and enjoy the beautiful Finnish summer in the historical University of Jyväskylä Campus area.

The 28NKG will take place at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and organised by the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences and the Gerontology Research Center, University of Jyväskylä, Societas Gerontologica Fennica, Finnish Geriatricians Society, the Finnish Society for Growth and Ageing Research and the Nordic Gerontological Federation.

[Read more](#)



Susanne Iwarsson, Professor at the University of Lund, receives “Stora Gerontologipriset 2025” from the Swedish Gerontological Society

The prize is awarded every year to people who have made remarkable achievements within the field of ageing and older adults. In 2022, Susanne Iwarsson received the prestigious Sohlberg Prize from the Nordic Gerontological Federation.

In the announcement of the prize on social media, the Swedish Gerontological Society writes:

Professor Iwarsson is an outstanding researcher who for many years has contributed significantly to the development of gerontology and knowledge about the living situation of older adults as well as possibilities for being active and included. She is well known nationally as well as internationally, her research being characterized by pragmatism, interdisciplinarity and collaboration with the surrounding society.

[Read more](#)



Honouring Professor Emerita Sigurveig H. Sigurðardóttir

On January 17, 2025, an honorary seminar was held to celebrate Professor Emerita Sigurveig H. Sigurðardóttir, marking the conclusion of her formal tenure at the University of Iceland.

The Faculty of Social Work at the University of Iceland and the Icelandic Gerontology Association organised the event, bringing together colleagues, students, and professionals to recognise her significant contributions to gerontological social work.

Throughout her distinguished career, Professor Sigurveig has conducted extensive research in the field of ageing and social services. Her work has examined who cares for older people in Iceland, the needs of older people living at home, ageism, and its impact on older immigrants among countless other subjects.

She has studied reciprocity in relationships and support between grandparents and grandchildren, offering an Icelandic perspective on intergenerational support systems. Her extensive body of work has significantly influenced the field of gerontology, both in Iceland and internationally. Her research has informed policy, guided social work practice, and enhanced the understanding of the multifaceted experiences of older adults.

As she transitions into retirement, her legacy as a scholar, mentor, and advocate for older adults will continue to inspire and guide future generations in the field of ageing studies. We wish her the best of luck as she now (in her own words) puts all her knowledge to personal, practical use as a retiree, grandparent and an older Icelandic person.



Social Inequalities in Ageing Network

The SIA Network continues with funding from the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte)

The SIA (Social Inequalities in Ageing)-network is a collaboration between leading ageing researchers in the Nordic countries and will intensely focus on the involvement of junior researchers, social aspects of ageing and inequalities. A prime aim is capacity building of social ageing research within Nordic countries.

“The new network grant enables us to continue with the capacity building and the strengthening of Nordic collaborations within social ageing research. Although a network grant, in terms of money, is smaller than typical research project I am convinced that we can have a great impact and continue our important mission. I am also especially glad that earlier junior researchers within our former large-scale SIA programme are still involved now being senior researchers”, says PI Johan Fritzell, quoted in the February newsletter for the network.

[Read more](#)

Recent PhD dissertations



Ageism in Danish society and workplaces - A cross-disciplinary, qualitative and quantitative investigation of the perceptions of ageing and being older, and of intergenerational perspectives

Anette Tybjerg-Jeppesen, atj@alderisme.dk

This PhD project from Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen, focuses on ageism in the Danish society and in workplaces and investigates ageism as a factor that can influence people's decision to prolong their working life and their retirement decisions. Throughout the project, three studies have been conducted.

Study I investigates how discourses on ageing and older adults are constructed in public discussions in Denmark on the social media platform Facebook. It illuminates prevalent discourses on ageing and older adults, and analyses the potential consequences of these discourses on general perceptions of the older segment of the population, specifically older workers.

Study II examines the association between intergenerational workplace climate and self-perceived ageing, work engagement and turnover intention. This study examines the hypothesis that a more positive intergenerational workplace climate is associated with better self-perceived ageing, higher levels of work engagement and lower levels of turnover intention. Study III investigates the prevalent understandings of the concept of "pensioner" among Danes, and how these understandings impact the last stage of people's working life and their decision to retire. Methods: In Study I, a computational-based, mixed-methods approach was applied to analyse discourses on ageing and older adults on Facebook in Denmark. Data were collected computationally from 68 different Facebook pages, and a qualitative discourse analysis was carried out on the data. Study II is a cross-sectional study based on data generated via an online survey. The sample is representative (in terms of age, gender, Danish geographical region and public/private sector) of the Danish working population (18–74 years) and includes responses from 1571 participants.

Study III is a qualitative, interview-based investigation based on data from participants who were approaching the end of their working life or who had already retired at the time of their interview.

Main conclusions: In Study I, several negative, victimising portrayals of older people were identified. In the communication, an 'othering' perspective was often used, and age was seldom clearly defined. The results of this study illuminate how stereotypical categorisations can be constructed via discourses on social media, and how this type of communication has the potential to shape perceptions of ageing and older people, specifically older workers. The results of Study II indicate that a positive intergenerational workplace climate is associated with better self perceived ageing, higher work engagement and lower levels of turnover intention, and that these 10 associations are similar for all the examined age groups. These findings indicate that programmes focused on enhancing intergenerational dynamics in work environments may be beneficial. The findings of Study III show that the decision to retire is influenced by people's perception of what it means to be a pensioner and the negative stereotypes associated with it. Stereotypes about pensioners and beliefs about ageing in general appear to impact how individuals view their ability to maintain their performance at work as they get older. Furthermore, such perceptions shape individuals' priorities and, thus, have an influence on retirement decisions. Moreover, the findings illuminate how prevalent stereotypes about retirees – as well as broader societal notions about ageing individuals – impact older people's willingness to openly discuss age-related subjects and retirement strategies in professional settings.

[Read the dissertation](#)



Place attachment and participation among older adults living in disadvantaged areas

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Background: Older adults typically prefer aging in place, highlighting the crucial role of their neighborhoods in facilitating participation as they age. In disadvantaged areas, sociodemographic changes such as urbanization, crime, and population turnover can affect their place attachment and participation in community, leading to insecurity and detachment. There is limited knowledge on how these changes can influence older adults' everyday lives.

Aim: To explore the perceptions and experiences among older adults residing in urban and rural disadvantaged areas regarding neighborhood features and their potential impact on place attachment, participation, quality of life, and whether or not they want to move away from the area.

Methods: This thesis employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches. In Study I, cross-sectional multiple linear regression was employed to examine the relationship between person-place fit and quality of life. Study II used a multi method design, combining survey data with thematic analysis of interviews to explore factors influencing stay-or-move decisions. Study III used photo elicitation and thematic analysis to examine neighborhood perceptions. Study IV used a thematic analysis to explore how residents experience and respond to crime and disturbances in the neighborhood.

Results: Residents reported high quality of life and person-place fit despite challenges. Most residents preferred to stay and cope with the challenges through participation in new habits and activities. They downplayed problems and remain loyal to their areas, driven by place attachment and belonging. This attachment and loyalty facilitated participation at both individual and community levels, revealing a reciprocal relationship between them.

Conclusion: Highlighting the reciprocal relationship between place attachment and the participation of older adults in disadvantaged areas, policies and occupational therapist interventions should prioritize fostering and maintaining these emotional ties. By adopting a holistic approach, occupational therapists can help older adults enhance their place attachment and participation.

[Read more.](#)



Older adults in Norway

New report from Statistisk sentralbyrå examines demography and living conditions for older adults in Norway.

Through a collection of articles, the report “Seniorer i Norge 2024” focuses on economy, housing, health and social participation for people over the age of 55 years. This age group makes up for a third of the total population in Norway.

[Read more](#)

Recent PhD dissertations



Healthy Ageing in the Senior Village: A community initiative

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Background: Europe is experiencing a demographic shift with an increasing proportion of older people, significantly impacting individuals and society. This underscores the necessity of creating environments that support healthy ageing. In response, Esbjerg Municipality in collaboration with a local real estate company, has established a senior village. This initiative aims to provide citizens with opportunities to live a physically and mentally healthy life via easily accessible health services and social connections through co-production of activities and shared spaces. Research on older people’s participation in organizing age-friendly community initiatives is limited, with most studies focusing on the built environment. Additionally, few

studies have examined how relocation to age-friendly settings affects older people's health and well-being. Therefore, building on the senior village initiative and addressing gaps in existing literature, this PhD study will contribute to the growing body of knowledge on older people's participation in developing age-friendly communities and the impact of such environments on their health and well-being.

Aim and objectives: The overall aim of the PhD study is to explore how older people engage in and perceive an age-friendly community initiative and how moving to a senior village affects their health and well-being. The specific objectives are:

1. To identify and map co-creative and co-productive health-promotive activities with older people reported in the literature, to investigate how the co-creation and co-production of activities affect the health and well-being of older people, and to determine facilitators and barriers for co-creation and co-production activities (Study I).
2. To evaluate a co-production initiative between older people, a municipality, and a real estate company in a newly established senior village (Study II).
3. To investigate how older people's self-rated quality of life (QoL), feelings of loneliness, and social interactions have changed after moving to a newly established senior village (Study III).

Methods: The dissertation is based on a mixed methods approach based on three studies. In Study I, a scoping review following the Joanna Briggs Methodology was conducted to identify and map co-creative and co-productive health-promotive activities with older people, to investigate how co-creation and co-production of activities affected the health and well-being of older people, and to determine facilitators and barriers for co-creation and co-production. In Study II, the co-production initiative in the senior village between citizens, the municipality and the real estate company was evaluated by focus group interviews inspired by the user-oriented BIKVA model (Brugerinvolvering i KVAlitetsudvikling). In Study III, senior housing residents' QoL, feelings of loneliness and social interactions were investigated through the WHOQOL-BREF questionnaire and additional questions before and after moving to the senior village.

Results: Study I showed that co-creation and co-production of health-promoting activities with older people remains an underexplored area of research. The activities reported in the literature were broad in scope, with few papers establishing a causal association between participation in co-creation or co-production of activities and health and wellbeing, while most papers in the scoping review identified influential factors for co-creation and co-production. In Study II, six themes emerged from evaluating the co-production initiative, highlighting influential factors at the organizational level, physical facilities, and other aspects affecting co-production. Findings showed that older residents were satisfied with the shared activities and their engagement in the co-production process. However, the process was negatively impacted by a lack of frontline staff involvement, communication issues, and the organization of physical facilities for creating inclusive communities. In Study III, transferring to the senior village improved older people's QoL and reduced loneliness. However, results on social

participation were mixed. The WHOQOL-BREF questionnaire indicated a decline in social relations, while additional data showed increased social connections with neighbours, local residents, and acquaintances, as well as greater participation in activities and events.

Conclusion: This PhD study concludes that while creating an age-friendly senior village supporting healthy ageing is complex, it is achievable. The research highlights the sparse literature on co-creation and co-production of activities with older people, indicating an emerging field. The real-world findings of this study however demonstrate that a healthy ageing environment can be established through collaborative efforts, empowering older residents and enhancing their satisfaction. Challenges such as balancing diverse interests and the impact of organizational structure and physical environment on the co-production process must be considered in future initiatives. Notably, relocating to the senior village not only improved older people's QoL and reduced loneliness but also increased their social connections and participation in activities, underscoring the potential benefits of such environments for healthy ageing.

[Read more](#)



Age-friendly winter communities: sharing Nordic experiences

In January, the Nordic Welfare Centre, in collaboration with Centre for an age-friendly Norway and Fabric+, hosted a webinar exploring the theme Age-friendly winter cities and communities – sharing Nordic experiences.

Winter can be a challenging season for older adults, as ice and snow make it harder to get around, access public spaces, and engage in outdoor activities. This means an increased risk of both physical inactivity as well as social isolation, highlighting the importance of age-friendly solutions making cities and communities safe and accessible for all ages, no matter the weather.

[Read more](#)

Other news from the Nordic countries

- **Sweden:** [The government allocates 7 mio SEK to strengthen the possibilities for an active outdoor life for older adults](#)
 - **Norway:** [Suicide among older men are an increasing challenge](#)
 - **Greenland:** [Plan for the sector for older adults until 2028 focuses on health, care, technology, housing, and inclusion of citizens](#)
 - **Denmark:** [Listen to the Denmark's Radio podcast about the terms "ageism" and "agecult"](#)
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Calendar 2025

- **20-22 March, Helsinki, Finland,** [Older Persons and Crises: Rights and Challenges](#), Erik Castrén Institute (Faculty of Law) together with the Leo Mechelin Foundation and HelpAge International
- **13-15 May, Gothenburg, Sweden,** [14th Nordic Public Health Conference](#), Public Health Agency of Sweden
- **14-16 May, Tampere University, Finland,** [36th REVES Conference](#)
- **25-27 June, Helsinki, Finland,** [7th Transforming Care Conference](#), Social and Human Rights in Care, University of Helsinki
- **24-26 September, Reykjavik, Iceland,** [EuGMS 21st New landscapes in geriatric medicine](#), European Geriatric Medicine Society
- **22-24 October, Norrköping, Sweden,** [Aging and Social: Fifteenth Interdisciplinary Conference: Aging, Intergenerational Solidarity and the Polycrisis](#), Linköping University
- **25-26 November 2025, Copenhagen, Denmark,** [Ageing is Living: Building Age-friendly Communities in the Nordic-Baltic Region](#), Nordic Welfare Centre, WHO Regional Office Europe and the Centre for an Age-friendly Norway

2026

- **5-9 July, Amsterdam, The Netherlands,** [23rd IAGG world congress of gerontology and geriatrics](#), Ageing well in a globalized world.

2027

- **16-18 June, University of Jyväskylä, Finland,** [28th Nordic Congress of Gerontology](#)

**Would you like to announce an upcoming event in the GeroNord calendar?
Please send an email to contact@ngf-geronord.se**

The Executive committee and NGF representatives

Executive committee

President: Carin Lennartsson, Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

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2. Vice president: Jette Thuesen, Danish Gerontological Society, Denmark

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Finland

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