



Research Network
on Ageing in Europe



Department of Sociology,
Umeå University



Swedish Gerontological Society

Ageing in the light of crises: Economic crisis, demographic change, and the search for meaning

Conference at Umeå University, Sweden, October 3-5, 2012

Call for papers

Ageing is often discussed in the context of crises, both at individual and at societal level. People might, for example, experience age-related physical decline or change in social role as crises. Public and academic discourses frame as 'crises' issues in volunteering, pension sustainability, or health care demand and supply in the context of aging societies. Discussion of economic crises and demographic change often portrays ageing as a struggle with dwindling resources. Even highlighting what are intended to be positive approaches, such as active or successful aging, has been criticized as a potential source of individual crises, namely for those who, for a variety of reasons, are not easily classified as "productive" or "active". But are these various linkages between aging and crises justified? Do they foster solutions or do they cause new crises?

This conference brings together scholars from across Europe to discuss developments in ageing and old age. Such developments could, **for example**, relate to:

- Older workers, retirement, and pensions
- Formal and informal care arrangements
- Active and productive aging
- Social inequalities and poverty in old age
- Effect of population ageing on generational solidarity and welfare states
- Effects of the economic crisis and of globalization on life-courses
- Images, attitudes, coping-strategies and ageing.

We welcome quantitative, qualitative and conceptual papers. Contributions from scholars in the early stages of their careers are very welcome.

You can **submit your abstract** of max. 200 words until June 15, 2012 via the conference homepage <http://eventus.trippus.se/crisis2012>.

The **conference fee** is 2500 SEK. Members of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe receive a reduced fee of 2000 SEK. The fee includes the conference material, the welcome reception, the conference dinner, two lunches and refreshments on all three days.

Keynote speakers are Sara Arber (Surrey University, UK), Stefan Svallfors (Umeå University, Sweden), Harald Kuenemund (University of Vechta, Germany), and Ricca Edmondson (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland).

For more information, visit the conference homepage or email Kathrin Komp: kathrin.komp@soc.umu.se.

Mid-term conference of the Research Network on Ageing in Europe - Organized in cooperation with the Department of Sociology at Umeå University, Sweden, and the Swedish Gerontological Society