

13th Conference of the European Sociological Association

(Un)Making Europe:
Capitalism, Solidarities,
Subjectivities



ABSTRACT BOOK

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Subjectivities



European
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Association



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(Un)Måking Eürøpë: Cåpitålism, Sølidåritiës, Sùbjëctivitiës
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Eürøpë cån bë mådë ør ùnmådë, ånd this is èspëciålly trüë sincë thë 'Grëät Rëcëssiøn' øf 2008. Eürøpëån søciëty, ånd èvën thë vëry idëå øf Eürøpë, is ùndër thrëåt.

First, thë inhërënt cønråditiøn of **capitalism** årë øbviøusly strøngër thån wë thøught: Grëécë, whërë thë èmphåtic idëå øf “Eürøpë” øriginåtëd, hås èxpëriëncëd sëvërë åüstëritý mëåsürës; Eürøpë hås sëën å dëèpëning øf nèø-libërål pølitics, thrëåts tø whåt rëmåins øf thë wëlfårë ståtë ånd incråsing inëquålity. **Sëcond, solidåritiës** årë frågmëntëd in ånd bëtwëën søciëtiës åcrøss Eürøpë. Thë nèw wørld ècønømic crisis førmëd å cøntëxt før bæth thë cønstitütüøn ånd thë ùndërmining øf sølidåritiës. Øn thë ønë hånd, frøm thë Aråb Uprisings tø thë våriøus Öccüpy ånd Indignådøø møvëmënts – ånd thëir månifëståtiønø åt thë lëvël øf pøliticål pårtiës – wë håvë sëën rëbëlliønø by cütizëns dëmånding pøliticål chångë. Øn thë øthër hånd, rëfùgëës flëëing wårs håvë bëën dëniëd hümån ríghts ånd thëir livës håvë bëën thrëåtënéd by thë cløsurë øf børdërs ånd thë låck øf å cøørdinåtëd Eürøpëån stråtëgy. **Third, subjëctivitiës** årë førmëd thåt dø nøt ønly rësült in rësiståncë ånd prøtëst, büt ålsø in åpåthy, dëspåir, dëprëssiøn, ånd ånxiëty. Åuthøritåriånism, nåtiónålism, rácism, xënøphøbiå, ríght-wing èxtrëmism, spiråls øf víølëncë, ånd idëøløgicål fündåmëntålismø håvë prølifëratëd thrøughøüt thë wørld, inclüding in Eürøpë.

As å rësült, thë prømisë øf Eürøpë ånd thë gëøgråphicål, pøliticål, ånd søciål børdërs øf Eürøpë håvë bëën ùnmådë ånd this 'ùnmåking' pøssës å prøføünd chålëngë før søciøløgý ånd thë søciål sciëncës mørë gënrålly. It is in this cøntëxt thåt thë Eürøpëån Søciøløgicål Assøciåtiøn's 2017 Cønfërencë tåkës plåcë in Athëns åt thë èpicëtrë øf thë Eürøpëån crisis. Thë **undërlying quëstion** før thë cønfërencë is:

How and whèrë tø shøuld a søciøløgý thåt måtters èvolvë? How cån søciøløgý's analysës, thëoriës and mëtthøds, åcrøss thë whølë spëctrum øf ESA's 37 Rësrëarch Nëtworkø and våriøus cøuntriës, bë ådvåncëd in ørdër tø èxplåin and undërstand cåpitålism, solidåritiës and subjëctivitiës in thë procëssës øf thë making, unmaking and rëmaking øf Eürøpë?

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Using data from almost 57,000 respondents of the fifth wave of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), we explain self-ratings of health via linear regression models. Our model comprises a wide array of health-related variables which are grouped into five categories: BMI, performance tests, diagnoses of illnesses and pain, restrictions in daily life and mobility, and depression. We focus on the share of explained variance by variable group and compare these shares between males and females, three age-groups (50-64, 65-79, and 80-90), and across 15 countries.

Results indicate that our model explains self-ratings of health rather well ($R^2 = 0.46$) with illnesses and pain contributing the most to the appraisal (41%). Restrictions are the second most relevant factor (29%) followed by performance tests (16%). Depression (12%) and especially BMI (3%) are less relevant for health ratings. This ranking is consistent for both genders across almost all countries with only little variance overall. A comparison of age-groups across countries, however, indicates that the contribution of illnesses and BMI to health-ratings decreases over the life-course while the contribution of restrictions and performance tests to R^2 increases.

Coping with hearing and vision impairment in old age.

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Hearing and vision impairments are natural parts of ageing and therefore affect the lives of many elderly. Estimates are that 40-50% of the septogenarians and more than 90% of the octogenarians are affected by presbyacusi. The global burden of presbyopia tops one billion people worldwide. These impairments are also risk factors for functional decline, social exclusion, withdrawal, depression and accidents. The aim of this study was therefore to explore how elderly themselves experience or cope with (impaired) hearing and vision in everyday life. Data derive from in depth interview of 10 elderly home care patients with a mean age of 89 years old, about their hearing and vision in daily life. The findings show that this group of elderly have serious health challenges in general that are so challenging that they cannot attend to or prioritize their hearing and vision impairments. Their hearing and vision impairments have come gradually over many years and often without their having noticed it. They have changed their daily routines and practices in accordance with their impairments and for the most part they accept the impairments. They think this is a part of ageing and are not informed that it may be possible to optimize both hearing and vision. When asked whether they would accept help to improve their hearing and vision, they confirmed that it would be helpful. The conclusion is that the elderly need help and guidance to improve their hearing and vision impairments.

RN01 | Session 11a Inequality and Marginalisation

Social participations and life satisfaction: specific issues and inequalities

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This presentation explores the links between social participations and life satisfaction after retirement age. Today, many researchers emphasize the positive association between activities and health in the broad sense. These results contribute to the discourses promoting “active ageing”. This concept can be seen as the dominant contemporary representation of “ageing well” and puts great importance on the social participation of the elderly. Here we want to examine this question in the light of the diversity of the investments and the population’s heterogeneity. To this end, we adopt a large and multidimensional perspective on social participation. We will study simultaneously various activities: socially strongly valued forms of formal participation in the public space (volunteering, associative activities) but also more informal manifestations (“social leisure”), participation to religious sphere or modes of investment in the private sphere. More precisely, we will explore the links between these different aspects of the participation and a measure of life satisfaction. Beyond that, these results will be considered in the light of a broader system of resources and inequalities. These analyses – showing the relative importance and the issues attached to various forms of practices at retirement time – contribute to a critical perspective on “active ageing”. Empirically, we will use data from the survey “Vivre-Leben-Vivere: Old Age Democratization? Progresses and Inequalities in Switzerland”. This survey on the living and health conditions of people 65 and older was carried out in 2011/2012 in five Swiss regions.

Ageing and the city: urban resilience and sociospatial marginalisation of older people in East London

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Ageing is a heterogeneous process, key aspects of which are played out in the civic spaces of cities. In their everyday routines older people inhabit, traverse, observe, avoid and contest civic sites – streets, transport infrastructures, markets, community centres – assembling their own personal territories and networks. Readings of these assemblages offer insights into the existing spatial, temporal and social accessibility of civic spaces for older people. This research argues that age should be engaged in its urban and spatial dimensions and that older people need to be included in discussions of marginalisation

in cities. A questioning of age as a factor of marginality in urban studies opens up debates on spaces and practices of exclusion, isolation, loneliness and fear, as well as mobility and visibility, that link with ageing studies. While ageing studies address the complexities of ageing and point to the importance of urban environments, this research is yet to be properly connected to and critiqued within urban and architectural disciplines. These disciplines offer a unique contribution and challenge to ageing and urban debates through concrete empirical analyses of space that act to ground the abstract in descriptions of everyday physical places. Along with empirical ethnography and spatial mappings of the London Borough of Newham, this research reveals how ordinary urban spaces are transformed through their quotidian occupation into civic places. They then demonstrate how fundamental these places are to older people, especially when vulnerable, and how they impact their ability to resist their marginalisation and be a part of the city.

Loneliness among older people in Europe: a comparative approach

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Previous research suggests a link between cultural factors on a society level and loneliness indicating that older individuals in more individualistic societies generally report lower levels of loneliness. It is also, however, plausible that the link between cultural differences and loneliness is to some extent mediated by differences in welfare-institutional characteristics, such as the generosity and coverage of pension rights, the level of income inequality or the general standard of living. Based on previous research linking welfare-institutional characteristics (such as the degree of universalism) to various health and well-being outcomes, we can perhaps assume that welfare-institutional factors alongside society-level cultural factors (such as the degree of familialism) may also be associated with subjective experiences of loneliness on an individual level. Previous research on such cross-level associations however still remains scant. Therefore we explore loneliness among older Europeans from different welfare regimes by testing the association between loneliness in older people (60+) and various socio-demographic, social and health-related indicators on the one hand, while simultaneously controlling for various welfare-institutional and cultural characteristics on a context level on the other. We employ regression models to estimate these associations on the basis of the latest European Social Survey (ESS) Data from 2014. We argue that the associations between loneliness in older people and individual variables are embedded in larger cultural and welfare-institutional contexts. An investigation of these complex interactions and

connections is therefore warranted for a deeper understanding of the prevalence of older people's loneliness in a comparative setting

Socio-economic and health determinants of elder abuse

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The starting point of the project underlying this communication is the need to fill in the gap on elder abuse studies, focusing on the effects of the socio-economic crisis. The broad research hypothesis is the recent economic recession increases the risk for those that are already at structural risk and it brings additional strain translating into increased prevalence. The research project will start from the EPIPorto database. EPIPorto is a cohort of 2485 adult residents in Porto, Portugal. It will focus on the elderly participants from the initial cohort with the specific purpose of: reassessing their socio-economic conditions and testing if the decline or deterioration of those has had any impact on to the occurrence of aggressive and abusive behavior; analyzing general health indicators, their effects as determinants of vulnerability towards abuse; characterizing the neighborhoods where individuals live, according to their socio-economic status, in order to identify risk factors associated with these areas.

This communication intends to show the first results of the project and discuss if this is a cluster effect of accumulation of socio-economic disadvantages and health conditions that together increase the vulnerability of older people and the risk of abuse.

RN01 & RN13 | Session 09a JOINT SESSION: How do Increasing Childlessness and Limited Family Support Affect Older Adults?

Support networks of childless older people in Europe

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Research on the social networks of childless (older) people up to now produced quite ambivalent results – especially in comparison to parents and in older age. There are studies claiming that there is no real difference between childless people and parents in terms of wellbeing. Others found that social networks of parents and childless are similar and that the childless elderly receive as much support from their social network as parents do. Some, however, do find

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You can access and search the index of all presenters and session chairs through the online conference agenda in ConfTool. The direct link is the following:
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