The Global Social Initiative on Ageing (GSIA)
Director: Norah C. Keating, PhD

The Global Social Initiative on Ageing (GSIA)
Report on Activities 2013

Cheong-Chun [Young at Heart] Choir, Korea

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Population ageing has become one of the most critical issues faced by all human societies globally. It is accompanied by immense social problems associated with deteriorating living conditions of older persons.

The need for and activities of the Global Social Initiative on Ageing (GSIA) have been discussed in the IAGG community to address issues in global population ageing since 2011. The GSIA was launched in response to the interest among social gerontologists to highlight regional and international issues in social, economic, cultural and humanist aspects of ageing.

Since its inception initiated by Professor Norah Keating (University of Alberta, Canada), the GSIA has made much progress in research and networking in three key areas of families, liveability and care of older persons that are of major concerns in the field of ageing worldwide.

The mission of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics is to promote the highest level of achievement in gerontological research and training worldwide. IAGG pursues the activity with a view of promoting the highest quality of life and well-being of all people as they experience ageing at individual and societal levels.

As the president of IAGG, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the continuous contribution the GSIA has made to achieve the missions of IAGG. The IAGG adopted already the GSIA as one of its core activities and hereinafter will support the GSIA activities to create a global network of social research in ageing and help contribute to our understanding of key global issues of ageing along with their effective solutions.

Heung Bong Cha, PhD
President, IAGG
Seoul, Korea
March 2014
Preface from GSIA Director

The Global Social Initiative on Ageing (GSIA) was launched in March 2011 in response to a need to highlight regional and international issues in social, cultural and humanist aspects of aging. The GSIA supports the IAGG mission of promoting the highest levels of research and training worldwide toward ensuring the well-being and high quality-of-life of older persons through the development and transformation of knowledge about families, liveability and care of older people across world regions.

The creation and application of social scientific knowledge, derived from scholarship around the world, is crucial to enabling human societies to find good solutions to address global issues in population ageing, ameliorate suffering and increase social inclusion of older persons. On behalf of the GSIA Council and social gerontologists in all world regions, I am pleased to present the GSIA report on activities for 2013.

GSIA Council 2013

| Heung Bong CHA, Korea | Judith PHILLIPS, UK |
| Gyoung Hae HAN, Korea | Merril SILVERSTEIN, USA |
| T. V. SEKHER, India | Alex KALACHE, Brazil |
| Isabella ABODERIN, Kenya | Ariela LOWENSTEIN, Israel |
| Toni ANTONUCCI, USA | Anita Liberalesso NERI, Brazil |
| Sebastiana KALULA, South Africa | Peng DU, China |
| Hal KENDIG, Australia | Sung-Jae CHOI, Korea |
| Sue YEANDLE, UK | Norah KEATING, Canada |

Mission

The Global Social Initiative on Ageing (GSIA) builds capacity and creates knowledge on international issues of population ageing.

Norah Keating, PhD
Director, GSIA
Edmonton, Canada
March 2014
The world looks to families as the key social group in which older people are embedded and supported. Yet national discourses are diverse, variously extolling the virtues of large, close knit families and signally alarm about reduced family capacity. Such beliefs drive national policy approaches which have a significant impact on the family lives of older persons. Families have been designated as a core GSIA theme because of the need to identify global trends and discourses in the realities of family strengths and obligations, towards creating optimal family environments for older persons.

In 2013 there were a number of key activities related to better understanding family strengths and obligations and the cultural contexts in which they are embedded. These highlighted activities are followed by details on presentations, publications and collaborations.

Families Key Activities

- The African Region of IAGG has been very active in promoting research and capacity building on families in Africa. In October 2013, North West University Intensive workshop on families at North West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa. An outcome of this GSIA expert workshop, which brought together key African and international scholars, was A Research Agenda on Families and Ageing in Africa. This document is an open resource for those interested in examining issues of families and ageing in Africa toward informing policy and practice, and advancing global debates in gerontology.
- The IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, in Seoul Korea provided a forum for presentations by leading scholars on families and aging. A keynote address by Professor Karen Roberto (USA) and a Presidential symposium on Family Roles and Obligations chaired by A. Lowenstein (Israel) and N. Keating (Canada) were featured.
- Suzan van der Pas (Netherlands), Theo van Tilburg (Netherlands) and Merril Silverstein (USA) edited a special section of Journal of Marriage and Family on Step Families in Later Life. Articles highlighted structural changes, complexity, relationships with children and intergenerational closeness.
Families Presentations


Han, G. (Korea) (Nov 2013). *Population aging, family change and wellbeing of the Korean elderly*. Invited keynote presentation at the Cross-cultural Conference on Aging Initiative, Connecticut USA.


Biggs, S. (Australia), *Intergenerational relations, ageing and risk to family identity: Examples from Australian social policy*.


Silverstein, M. (USA). *Cultural forces and aging families: A reappraisal*.

Neri, A. L. (Brazil) (Nov 2013). *Resiliência familiar e cuidado [Family resilience and caregiving]*. Presentation at the II Seminário “Envelhecimento e Saúde Pública “Repensando e reconstruindo as novas interfaces do cuidado”. Faculdade de Saúde Pública (USP), São Paulo, SP.


Families Publications

Berkman, L. (USA), Sekher, T.V., (India), Capistrant, B. (USA), and Zheng, Y. (USA) (2012). Social networks, family, and care giving among older adults in India. In J.P. Smith and M. Majmundar (Eds.)


van der Pas, S. (Netherlands), van Tilburg, T. G. (Netherlands), and Silverstein, M (USA) (Eds.) (2013). Special section on step-families in later life that included papers from Germany, the Netherlands, and the U.S.A. Journal of Marriage and Family, 75 (5).

Becker, O. A. (Germany), Salzburger, V. (Germany), Lois, N. (Germany), and Nauck, B. (Germany) (2013). What narrows the stepgap? Closeness between parents and adult (step) children in Germany (pp 1130–1148). DOI: 10.1111/jomf.12052


Section 2. GSIA knowledge creation: Liveability

Global shifts in world economies toward the individualization of risk have led to increased disparities within and across regions in living situations of older adults. Liveability concerns the influence of economic, social, cultural and community contexts in which older people live on their quality of life. For older persons, the near environment of housing and neighbourhood conditions have direct influence on their abilities to engage with others, live safe and comfortable lives and gain access to needed services and supports.

Liveability has been designated as a core GSIA theme because of the need to identify global trends in the social, economic, cultural and environmental contexts of older persons. Our goal is to identify key elements of economic, social, and cultural contexts in which older people live toward increasing their survival and citizenship.

In 2013 there were a number of key activities related to better understanding diverse living contexts of older people and their influence on quality of life. These highlighted activities are followed by details on presentations, publications and collaborations.

Liveability Key Activities

- The IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, in Seoul Korea provided a forum for presentations by leading scholars on aging and liveability. A keynote Presidential symposium, International Perspectives on Poverty and Liveability of Older Persons organized by Professor Judith Phillips, GSIA Council member and chaired by Professor Heung Bong Cha, IAGG President.
- Security of housing tenure of older adults. The Institute of Advanced Studies hosted an international forum, entitled Health Wealth and Hearth: Law, Policy and Social Perspectives on an Ageing Australia at The University of Western Australia, Perth. Members of the UWA Faculty of Law in conjunction with international colleagues are undertaking a program of research and policy development on housing law and its impact on older adults. Contact: Eileen Webb, eileen.webb@uwa.edu.au
- Activities related to Age-friendly communities are occurring in all world regions. The Gerontological Society of America featured a presidential symposium on age friendly communities with speakers from Ireland, Brazil and the United States. A consortium of researchers from all world regions has developed an international network on ageing and urbanisation. Contact: Chris Phillipson christopher.phillipson@manchester.ac.uk
- Claudine Provencher (UK), Norah Keating (Canada), Jeni Warburton (Australia) and Vera Roos (South Africa) co-edited a special issue on Ageing and Community in the Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology (vol. 24, no. 1, 2014). The special issue included papers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, UK, USA, Netherlands, and Germany; articles in the special issue are available for free download.
- Kieran Walsh (Ireland) and Jeni Warburton (Australia) coordinated a symposium on change, and the intersection of age and rurality at the 2013 British Society of Gerontology annual conference
in Oxford, as a part of the continued activities of the International Network on Rural Ageing, and the efforts of scholarly colleagues to explore issues of liveability for rural-dwelling older people across international rural settings.

**Liveability Presentations**


Hong, J., Han, G. & Kim, J. (Korea) (Jun 2013). *Negative life events and health: Gender differences in moderating effects of environmental mastery*. Paper presented to the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics World Congress, Seoul South Korea.


Phillips, D. (Hong Kong). *How important are AFC characteristics in an east Asian City? A critical analysis in Hong Kong.*

Plouffe, L. (Brazil). *From a good idea to a global phenomenon: New directions in age-friendly communities.*


Keating, N. & Eales, J. (Jul 2013,). *Friendly for whom? Rethinking age-friendly communities.* Invited keynote presentation to the John Richards Initiative, LaTrobe University, Albury Australia.


Neri, A. L. (Brazil) (Jun 2013). *Condições socioeconômicas, gênero e fragilidade influenciam a experiência de eventos de vida estressantes e as estratégias de enfrentamento em idosos? [Do socioeconomic, gender and fragility conditions influence the experience of stressful life events and coping strategies in the elderly?].* Closing address at III Congresso Internacional de


Hoffman, J. (South Africa) & Aboderin, I. (Kenya). Subjective well-being in old age in contexts of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa: What are the yardsticks?


Scharf, T. (Ireland) & Keating, N. (Canada) (Jun 2013). Beyond the city limits: exploring age-friendliness in non-urban settings. Presentation in the symposium, Making the case for Age-Friendly

Sekher, T. V. (India) (2013) organized two technical Sessions on population ageing in the 2013 Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP), the only professional association of Indian demographers.

Sekher, T. V. (India) (Dec 2013) organized a symposium on Ageing Scenario in India and seven technical papers were presented, focusing on socio-psychological dimensions of ageing in India. Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH), Chennai India.

Sekher, T. V. (India) (Dec 2013). *Population ageing scenario of India: Socio-economic dimensions and challenges*. Invited speaker to the Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH), Chennai India.

Walsh, K. (Ireland) and Warburton, J. (Australia) (Sep 2013), Organizers and Chairs, Symposium on *Times of change: Intersections of age and rurality across the lifecourse* at the 2013 British Gerontological Society conference, Oxford, UK.

Burholt, V. (Wales), Eales, J. and Keating, N. (Canada). *Rural place attachment: are older people’s socio-cultural and environmental connections in the UK and Canada mutually exclusive or interdependent?*

Milbourne, P. (Wales). *The difference that place makes: connecting the material, socio-cultural and more-than-human dimensions of older people’s lives in rural Britain.*


Warburton, J. and Winterton, R. (Australia). *Building social inclusion amongst culturally diverse seniors living in rural Australia.*


Webb, E. (Australia) (Feb 2013). Granny Flats and like family accommodation arrangements: Legal pitfalls for families and older adults in Canada and Australia. Presentation to the University of Western Australia, Institute of Advanced Studies Forum, Health, Wealth and Hearth: Law, Policy and Social Perspectives on an Ageing Australia, Perth Australia.


**Liveability Publications**


Liveability Grants

Population ageing and urbanisation: Developing age-friendly cities (2012-2013). Phillipson, C. (UK), White, S. (UK), Scharf, T. (Ireland), Verte, D. (Belgium), Kelley-Moore, J. (USA), McGarry, P. (UK), Phillips, D. (Hong Kong), Thomese, F. (Netherlands). A key aspect of the work of the network will be bringing together relevant international data resources to analyse their strengths and limitations for developing research applied to understanding issues facing older people in urban areas. These will include longitudinal studies in Amsterdam, Belgium, Ireland, the USA as well as the UK. There is also a strong commitment to draw together early career researchers working within the various groups across the network. A key objective will be to use the range of international partners to produce a major cross-national research proposal examining different approaches to building age-friendly cities. The study is funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), International Partnering and Networking. Contact: Chris Phillipson christopher.phillipson@manchester.ac.uk

The relationship between rural living and wellness: What services and supports do older people need? (2012-2015). Warburton, J., Winterton, R., Petersen, M., Bell, M., Hodgkin, S. (Australia), Keating, N. (Canada). The project examines the relationship between rural living and wellness to determine what services and supports older people need. In July 2013, Norah Keating and Jacquie Eales (Canada) attended a 1-week workshop at LaTrobe University in Australia to launch the Australian Research Council (2012-2015) funded project. Contact: Jeni Warburton J.Warburton@latrobe.edu.au

Korean baby boomers panel study (2010-2014). The Korean baby boomer panel study is Korea’s first large scale longitudinal study of Korean baby boomers born between 1955 and 1963. In the first phase (2010), 4,668 baby boomers residing in urban areas were surveyed, and results were published in the report Korean baby boomers in transition. In the second phase, 3,275 participants from phase 1 were surveyed again about their family and intergenerational relations, employment and retirement, lifestyle, life events and transitions, health and financial status. – The companion study, Forgotten generation is a representative cross-sectional study of 1,407 people born between 1948-1954. Results were published as a source book and a report titled ”Forgotten Generation at the Crossroads” (Gyounghae Han and others, 2013). Both studies are funded by MetLife Korea Foundation. Contact Gyounghae Han ghhan1970@naver.com

Research teams from Keele University in Staffordshire, UK and the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, have been engaged in a partnership linking their research projects on older people’s participation in theatre (2010-2014). The Ages and Stages research team funded by the New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) Programme, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council is led by Prof. Miriam Bernard. The research focused on the role that Stoke-on-Trent’s New Vic Theatre has played in the lives of people living and working in the Potteries during the last forty years. Theatre as a Pathway to Healthy Aging funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research is a collaborative project between the GeriActors and Friends, an intergenerational theatre company in Edmonton, AB and researchers at the University of Alberta and Trent University. The research focuses on the health and social benefits of participating in
performer-created intergenerational theatre and the process of including older adults in community-based research. Contacts: Janet Fast (Canada) jfast@ualberta.ca and Miriam Bernard (UK) m.bernard@keele.ac.uk

Measuring exclusion in a cross-border and lifecourse context. Funded by the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (2013-2014), Ward, P., Walsh, K., Scharf, T. (Ireland). With a view to assisting policy development, and drawing on Irish and Northern Irish data-sets (e.g. TILDA; Understanding Society), researchers at The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology – National University of Ireland Galway sought to operationalise and measure old-age social exclusion across the life course on the island of Ireland. Contact: Kieran Walsh (Ireland) – kieran.walsh@nuigalway.ie.
Population ageing and the increasing numbers of people requiring support because of chronic illness or disability has resulted in great concern about the caring capacity of families and formal institutions. While in advanced age older persons often require care, many are themselves the main carers in families affected by pandemics, employment migration and family challenges such as substance abuse, mental illness. Our goal is to identify regional challenges in care to older adults and by older adults towards focusing on needs of older persons and strengthening family and formal support systems.

In 2013 there were a number of key activities related to care obligations and to knowledge creation about older adults and care. These highlighted activities are followed by details on presentations, publications and collaborations.

Care Key Activities

- **Rio Declaration: Developing a Culture of Care.** To advance the debate on a global culture of care, two connected international forums were held in Brazil in October 2013, under the leadership of the International Longevity Centre – Brazil (ILC-BR), presided by Alexandre Kalache, and in partnership with the World Demographic Association (WDA) and Bradesco Seguros, a major Brazilian financial corporation. Participating experts included representatives from other centres in the ILC Global Alliance (Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, France, and South Africa, UN agencies, international and national NGOs and academic institutions). The outcome, approved unanimously, is the Rio Declaration “Beyond Prevention and Treatment: Developing a Culture of Care in response to the Longevity Revolution”. It highlights the need for inclusive, person-focused care firmly grounded in human rights and a fresh perspective on gendered dimensions of care. Policy targets on care in the UN Post 2015 Development agenda are recommended.

- The IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, in Seoul Korea in June 2013 provided a forum for presentations by leading scholars on aging and care. Two symposia on care provide examples of the research agendas in all world regions: Global approaches to policy supporting work and care in late middle age organized by Sue Yeandle (UK) & Janet Fast (Canada), and Family diversity in caregiving organized by Janet Fast (Canada).

- **Older workers and caregiving.** Researchers from Europe, North American and Asia-Oceana have developed an international program of research on older workers who also are engaged in care. The overall objective of the international collaboration is to establish and sustain an international knowledge base on the inter-related factors of work, caregiving, health, and well-being for older workers and recent retirees. Contact: Sue Yeandle (UK) S.M.Yeandle@leeds.ac.uk
Care Presentations


deJong Gierveld, J. (Netherlands). The paradox of combining independence and long-term care arrangements in the context of LAT partner relationships of older adults.

Fast, J. (Canada) & Waye, A. (Canada) Care arrangements and outcomes for sandwich generation caregivers in Canada.


Lapierre, T. (USA) & Keating, N. (Canada). I get by with a little help from my friends and neighbors: Non-kin as informal carers of older adults.


Blieszner, R. & Roberto, K. (USA). Perspectives on formal services from rural Appalachian older adults and their informal caregivers.


Jacobs, M., & Broese van Groenou, M. (Netherlands). Contact and cooperation between formal and informal caregivers in older adults’ mixed care networks.


Lero, D. (Jun 2012). Adult and elder care in the western world: Advancing workplace initiatives in the U.S., Canada, the UK and Europe. Symposium at Work and Family Researchers Network Conference, New York NY. Moderator N. Spinks (Canada) and panelists: J. Fast (Canada), K. Matos (USA), S. Yeandle (UK), A. Ludwenik (Ireland) and R. Anderson (Ireland).


Rio Declaration (2013). Beyond Prevention and Treatment: Developing a Culture of Care in response to the Longevity Revolution


Yeandle, S. (UK) & Fast, J. (Canada) (Jun 2013). *Global approaches to policy supporting work and care in late middle age.* Symposium presentation to the International Association on Gerontology and Geriatrics World Congress, Seoul Korea.


Pei, X. (China). *Caring in the face of a rapidly changing society: Policy impact of demographic and economic shifts in Asia.*


**Care Publications**


Yeandle, S. (UK), Kröger, T. (Finland) et al. The emergence of policy supporting working carers: Developments in six countries.

Jolanki, O. (Finland), Szebehely, M. (Sweden) & Kauppinen, K. (Finland) Family rediscovered? Working carers of older people in Finland and Sweden.


Leinonen, A. (Finland) & Sand, A-B. (Sweden). Reconciling partner-care and paid work in Finland and Sweden: Challenges and coping strategies.


Liu, M.C. (Taiwan) & Osawa, M. (Japan). Partner-care in the East Asian system: Combining paid work and caring in Taiwan and Japan.

Yeandle, S. (UK) & Kröger, T. (Finland). Reconciling work and care for older parents, disabled children and partners: Convergent or separate paths in three welfare systems?


Care Grants

Older workers and caregiving: Statistical evidence from the UK, Australia and Canada (2011-2014) (Asia-Oceania, Europe and North America) S. Yeandle (UK), H. Kendig, K. O’Loughlin (Australia), J. Fast, N. Keating (Canada), J. Nazroo (UK) & J. Noone (Australia). Funded by the Worldwide Universities Networks (WUN) and affiliated institutions (Universities of Leeds, Sydney and Alberta), the overall objective of the international collaboration is to establish and sustain an international knowledge base on the inter-related factors of work, caregiving, health, and well-being for older workers and recent retirees. Contact: Sue Yeandle S.M.Yeandle@leeds.ac.uk.

Caring at work (2012-2013). T. Kröger (Finland); S. Yeandle (UK); K. Rummery (Scotland), J. Fast (Canada); J. Phillips (UK). Funded by the Welsh Government, Knowledge Exchange Project, 'Care in Business'. This project looks at what internal and external infrastructure of care support do organisations and businesses require or need to facilitate high employment rates and optimise performance among working age populations? Contact: Judith Phillips judith.e.phillips@swansea.ac.uk

Estimating the costs and benefits of workplace supports for family caregivers (2013-2014). J. Fast, N. Keating, D. Lero (Canada), E. O’Shea (Ireland) and R. DeMarco (Canada). Funded by University of Alberta, Killam Cornerstone Grant, the purpose of the project is to develop estimates of costs and benefits to employers of a range of workplace policies and practices that can facilitate employees' ability to be effective caregivers to ill or disabled family members while also maintaining their productivity in the workplace. Contact: Janet Fast janet.fast@ualberta.ca
Working collaboratively across regions provides platforms for researchers to understand similarities and differences in experiences of ageing in different social and economic contexts. In this section we present a selection of international collaborations and data platforms that will enhance knowledge of GSIA themes.

**Longitudinal Ageing Study in India** (LASI). Sekher, T.V. (India). The LASI is a joint effort of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Harvard School of Public Health and Rand Corporation. Funded by the Government of India, National Institute of Ageing (NIH) and UNFPA, three workshops were held in 2013 in Boston, Michigan and Mumbai to finalize the survey instruments and sampling design. The LASI survey instruments were harmonized with other longitudinal ageing studies for international comparison. This is a comprehensive study of economic, social and physical conditions of older persons in India with a plan to continue the survey for the next 25 years. As a Co-Principal Investigator of this study, TV Sekher specifically looks at the family, social network, social support and care giving, and the cultural and community dimensions of India’s elderly population. The first wave survey of nationally representative sample of 50,000 households will be done in 2014. Contact: T. V. Sekher tvsekher@gmail.com

**Estudo Longitudinal de Saúde do Idoso – ELSI Brasil – Coordenadora do módulo de variáveis psicossociais** [Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging – BLSA – as coordinator of the psychosocial variables module]. This large project involving Brazilian adults 50+ is being developed under the coordination of Dr. Maria Fernanda Lima-Costa, with support of the Brazilian National Department of Health, the Brazilian Council of Research and international agencies. It integrates a consortium of longitudinal projects on aging and health, integrated by HRS, ELSA, TILDA, SHARE and others. Now, it is trying to integrate research groups from the BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, as well as other countries in the southern hemisphere. Data collection will begin in 2015. Currently we are piloting the research protocol in five Brazilian regions to control cultural issues. A.L.Neri is the coordinator of the psychosocial variables module. Contact: Anita Neri anitalbn@uol.com.br For overall survey information contact: Maria Fernanda Lima-Costa lima-costa@cprr.fiocruz.br

**Families in later life in northern countries.** M. Seppänen (Finland), hosted a three-day invited workshop in northern Finland with M. Bernard (UK), N. Keating (Canada), A. Kilpeläinen (Lapland), M. Ray (UK), T. Scharf (Ireland), and M.P. Sullivan (UK) to develop a program of research about families in later life in northern countries. Arja Kilpeläinen (University of Lapland, Finland) visited researchers at the University of Alberta (Canada) to discuss age-friendly rural communities and explore joint international research collaborations among Artic countries (Finland, Canada, and Alaska). Contact: Arja Kilpeläinen arja.kilpelainen@ulapland.fi

**Population ageing and socio-economic sustainability (PASES).** Xiaomei Pei, Hao Luo (China), Norah Keating, Janet Fast, Jennifer Hsu and Lars Hallstrom (Canada). PASES is a China-Canada research program addressing urgent questions about the implications of population aging for economic and social sustainability in the context of diverse experiences of population aging. Its mission is to transform the state of knowledge about key challenges of changing families, income security in a changing economy, and changing roles of governments and the emergence of civil society. Contact: Xiaomei Pei peixm@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn
Ageing in India and UK. T.V. Sekher (India) hosted two British delegations to explore possible collaborations with Indian researchers to examine various aspects of ageing in India and U.K. One of the UK delegations was led by Professor Alan Walker of University of Sheffield. Contact: T.V. Sekher tvsekher@gmail.com

The International Network on Rural Ageing (INRA) has been continuing its work in 2013 on fostering international and interdisciplinary collaboration and building research capacity for the study of rural ageing. This has included conference presentations and symposia (e.g. 2013 British Gerontological Society Conference), peer-review publications (e.g. Burholt and Scharf 2014; Walsh et al. 2014), visiting rural fellowships (involving Prof. Graham Rowles - USA; Prof. Mark Skinner – Canada; Prof. Jeni Warburton - Australia) at the INRA host institution (Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, National University of Ireland Galway), and collaborative writing (with G. Rowles; M. Skinner; J. Warburton). Contact: Kieran Walsh Kieran.walsh@nuigalway.ie

The International Working Group on Social Exclusion (IWGSE) has enjoyed significant growth in 2013, recruiting colleagues from additional disciplines (e.g. economics; public health) and additional nations (e.g. southern and eastern Europe) to enhance research capacity and to pursue cross-national comparative research on old-age social exclusion. Activities have included the development and submission of European funding applications (e.g. COST Action; NORFACE); conference presentations and symposia (e.g. 2013 IAGG world congress), publications (e.g. Walsh et al. 2014; Ward et al. 2014), and collaborative writing (e.g. between K. Walsh, T. Scharf – Ireland, and N. Keating– Canada). Contact: Thomas Scharf Thomas.scharf@nuigalway.ie

Working carers. Ariela Lowenstein is developing a research proposal with colleagues from Germany, Italy and Israel on working carers. Contact: Ariela Lowenstein ariela@research.haifa.ac.il

Healthy life expectancies across Asia-Oceania. Hal Kendig (Australia) is beginning a cross-national comparative research program on healthy life expectancies in Asia including China, India, Australia, Korea, and Japan initially, and with more countries planned. The effort is partly capacity building as our collaborators bring together excellent emerging researchers from within their countries as well as international experts including Yasu Saito in Japan. Contact: Hal Kendig hal.kendig@anu.edu.au

GSIA Impact on policy and practice

The following are examples of how research on families, liveability and care has made a difference in the lives of older adults through changes in policy, programs and practice.

Anita Liberalesso Neri (Brazil) coordinated two educational programs for the community of Campinas with the participation of graduate students of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, State University of Campinas. Contact: anitalbn@uol.com.br

1. March to December 2013 (9 sessions): VIII Gerontologia em Debate, programa anual endereçado a profissionais de nível médio que trabalham na atenção em saúde e na proteção social a idosos em Campinas [VIII Gerontology in debate, annual program addressed to middle level professionals that work in health care and social protection to old people in Campinas, São Paulo State].
2. March to December (9 sessions): II Gerontologia em Ação, programa anual endereçado a idosos em Campinas [II Gerontology in Action, annual program addressed elderly people in Campinas, São Paulo State].

Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC): Janet Fast (Canada) consulted with CHRC and its key stakeholders to provide extant evidence on caregiving and employment as background to case law evolving around employers’ duty to accommodate family care responsibilities. Canadian research has been a key element informing the initial development of the Commission’s position on this issue from a human rights perspective. Contact: Janet Fast ifast@ualberta.ca

Alberta Employment Standards Compassionate Care Leave Amendment Act, 2012-2014. Janet Fast (Canada) consulted with Alberta MLA Matt Jeneroux on Private members’ Bill 203, Compassionate Care Leave. The Bill received Royal Assent May 2013 and came into force February 1, 2014. Canadian research provided the evidence and key messages that the MLA needed that helped win the support of the Alberta Legislature and the business community. Contact: Janet Fast ifast@ualberta.ca

Employment and Social Development Canada, 2013. Janet Fast, Donna Lero and Nora Spinks (Canada) synthesized and integrated research findings to prepare a series of webinars for the Canadian federal government. Episode 1: An introduction to the caregiving & work research collaboration; Episode 2: An introduction to caregiving in Canada; Episode 3: An introduction to caregiving and employment; Episode 4: Workplace policies, programs & practices; manager experiences. Contact Nora Spinks NSpinks@vanierinstitute.ca

Yeandle, S. (UK) participated in a radio interview on national Australia’s ABC radio ‘Life Matters’ programme. She was interviewed about carers’ health and wellbeing and the support carers need to combine caring with paid work. Contact: Sue Yeandle s.m.yeandle@leeds.ac.uk

Yeandle, S. (UK) gave a guest lecture for the Department of Families, Housing, Communities & Indigenous Affairs, Commonwealth Government, Canberra, Australia. Titled ‘The policy and employment context for carers of working age in the UK: legislation, policies and services’, she also presented at a Government Round Table event at the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, South Australia. Contact: Sue Yeandle s.m.yeandle@leeds.ac.uk

Biggs, S. (Australia) & Du, P. (China) appeared on China’s CCTV news program World Insight 07/07/2013 about China’s new morality law obliging adult children to visit their elderly family members more often. http://english.cntv.cn/program/worldinsight/20130708/100747.shtml (starts 43:57 to 55:09). Contact: Simon Biggs biggss@unimelb.edu.au and Du Peng dupeng415@yahoo.com.cn

Advancing the GSIA

Knowledge of GSIA activities is growing through the efforts of scholars who are talking with others about its potential to address social issues related to population ageing.


Keating, N. (Canada) met in Feb 2013 with members of the New Zealand Association on Gerontology executive to discuss GSIA research priorities in the Asia/Oceania region.
