An annotated bibliography of transgenerational research on environmental relationships and ageing (2003—2015)

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Foreword

Scholars from social and cultural studies worldwide are interested in questions concerning intergenerational relationships and ageing. The ever-growing amount of aged population worldwide, the changing characters in societal and cultural considerations of ageing and the theoretically deepened roots of new epistemological paradigms function as a base layer for this investigative need.

This annotated bibliography is a compilation of recent studies (2003—2015) made in research worldwide concerning intergenerational relations and aging with specific emphasis on environmental relationships. The studies examined serve as a sample or a toolbox for a later State of The Art suggestions and this totality is not sealed, definitive entity but rather it is left open for further investigational additions and discussion.

We have divided this annotated bibliography into four sections, each with specific field of study. The sections are as follows: 1. Intergenerational relations & generational approaches on new media. 2. Global perspectives on ageing 3. Youth and digital age and 4. Human geographies, geographical gerontology and age. In these sections, the research literature – which contains articles, editions and books – is in alphabetical order.

We thank heartily the project Ageing, Communication, Technologies, which has provided financial support for the publication through funding, which has made it possible for MSocSci Sonja Pöllänen to concentrate on its compilation for several months.

January 8th, 2018, in Joensuu, Finland

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1. Intergenerational relations & generational approaches on new media

1) Biggs, Simon J. and Ariela Lowenstein. 2011. Generational Intelligence : A Critical Approach to Age Relations. London: Routledge.

The current book is a historical review of the concept of generation. More specifically, it analyses the socio-historical emergence of *time* and *human* and reflects on the generational aspects of age and family. The content of the book is as follows: The ancestors (from Homer); Mannheim and the Modern Concept of Generation, After Mannheim: Life course, Cohort, Generation; The epic generation of 1914-1918; The boomers; Ageing and the Generations of the future. The book treats the generation as a process and looks into its changing contexts. It treats the multiformity of generations and generation by establishing them in their historical specificity.

2) Biggs, Simon J. 2011. "Exploring Generational Intelligence as a Model for Examining the Process of Intergenerational Relationships." *Ageing & Society* 31 (7): 1107-1124.

This article has an experimental approach towards ageing. Firstly, it explores the settings that contemporary social theorists such as Kohli, Ricard, Chauvel, Moody et.al. Have stated on empathetic intelligence between generations (generational intelligence). The concept of life course, social history and family is also explored. The article asks: is it possible to put oneself in the position of someone from a different age. – And by what means? It later affirms that to fully make genuine intergenerational understanding emerge, one must consider generation as experienced holistic combination of dominions. (See more on page 1109) Two different traditions are put under a lens: the first involves the generational consciousness (based on Mannheim's oeuvre) and the second examines the sense of intergenerational solidarity. These two traditions are further looked into.

3) Dykstra, Pearl A. 2010. Intergenerational Family Relationships in Ageing Societies. New York: United Nations.

This issue attempts to enlarge the field of generational studies claiming that the earlier focus has been too much on the changing lives of the elderly: population ageing has its effect intergenerationally and not only the aged are involved, but also the young. This book circles around multiple generations and their various ties in between. Part I views the key premises. Part II views the multiple generations in key concepts and figures. Part III examines the interdependencies between young and older adults. Part IV focuses on gendered issues in intergenerational relationships. Part V examines the policy entanglements to these previous issues.

4) Fernandez-Ardevol, Mireia and Loredana Ivan. 2013. "Older People and Mobile Communication in Two European Contexts." *Revista Romana De Comunicare Si Relatii Publice* 15 (3): 83.

This paper contributes a better understanding on acceptance and use of mobile telephony and interpersonal communication among people in Catalonia (Spain) and Romania. Two different cultural settings offer a comparative perspective on the relationships that seniors have with mobile communication. The paper concludes as follows: 1) some participants feel social pressure to maintain their social relations via the mobile phone. 2) Mobile phones are used as portable, pedestrian devices, however few older seniors challenge the embedded idea of mobility by always maintaining their portable devices in the same place. 3) Arguments on the appropriation of mobile phone usage in public places are further discussed. 4) Gaps in using mobile devices are higher within the elderly group than between young elders. The final conclusion states that it is not the age, but life trajectories, professional activity and personal circumstances that shape the use of mobile communication within elder citizens.

5) Hammad, Suzanne, H. 2011. "Senses of Place in Flux: A Generational Approach." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 31 (9/10): 555-568.

This study suggests that generational perspectives are of great value in research for acquiring a holistic, meaningful understanding of the complexities and nuances of places under investigation. It further claims that there is a clear deficiency in the literature of the varying ways in which intergenerational research has taken account of the experiences that different generations have from their home and place. The current research was made in one divided Palestinian village. It gathered comparative information from the young and the elderly through walk-a-longs and semi-structured interviews. More specifically a multisensory, participant-driven and co-creative approach was performed. The village had been a place of conflict, e.g., the young Palestinian villagers were reflecting the spatial reconfiguration of their village. The changes in the geopolitical atmosphere of the village made the investigation very fructuous. The investigation gathered information from intergenerational narratives and analytically showed the contradictions and oppositions, but also the shared and parallel interpretations of the same lived place.

6) Kemps, Eva and Rachel Newson. 2006. "Comparison of Adult Age Differences in Verbal and Visuo-Spatial Memory: The Importance of 'Pure', Parallel and Validated Measures." *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology* 28 (3): 341.

This paper is one contributor to memory ageing research. It examines the age-related decrements in verbal and visuo-spatial memory. This is further studied via quantitative data of a broad elderly adult age range. The study shows great individual differences when processing speed, working memory, executive function and sensory function; all this confirms previous research that has mediated the above mentioned as age-related decrements with a few inconsistencies.

7) Kneidinger, Bernadette. 2014. "Intergenerational Contacts Online: An Exploratory Study of Cross-Generational Facebook “friendships”." *Studies in Communication Sciences* 14 (1): 12-19.

In this article, social network sites (SNSes) (focus on Facebook) are presented to be the new platforms for intergenerational communication. Intergenerational relationships are quite traditional and intensively studied research field. Namely, the field divides their focus into two main contexts: 1) the family 2) the young and the old in a society. This article aims to put these two contexts together by performing an online survey. Positive and negative relationships between SNS usage and family cohesion is examined. The research aims to be the first in the field to study intergenerational relationships and web-based online usage as a communication tool that keep different generations in touch. The results sums up the perceptional difference between different generations. Only 25% of the young perceive an intensification of the connections with older relatives, whereas the older users report improvement more frequently.

8) Loos, Eugène, Leslie Haddon, and Enid Mante-Meijer. cop. 2012. *Generational use of New Media*. Farnham: Ashgate.

The book is a collection of the latest intergenerational research made in the EU, USA and Hong Kong focusing the new media usage among different generations. It critically examines the assumed gap between younger media users and older non-users. Part I examines the young users of media starting from parental mediation of internet use as well as teenagers’ moralities, autonomy and control in media usage and Digital Natives Discourses of exclusion in an inclusive society. Part II of the book examines the older generation. It focuses on showing the ways in which new media can offer barrier-free information— where the inclusive society can be brought within reach. Part III contrasts young and old new media users and focuses on the intergenerational bridges that are built between them. First, it starts with examining the attitudes, motivations and appreciation for old and new media. Second it further analyses the relationship between age and internet skills. In the conclusion, the authors claim that generations are too often regarded as being homogeneous entities. Throughout the book, the main critique seems to be towards the assumption that younger people are all capable of using new media, whereas the older remain “non-liners”.

9) Puhakka, Riikka. 2015. "Spatial Practises and Preferences of Older and Younger People: Findings from the Finnish Studies." *Journal of Social Work Practice* 29 (1): 69-83.

The current article examines the urban segregation of age. It states that the multiple, generational differences in favoring some place (e.g., different generations have aesthetic preferences) can be a felicitous end result of cultural pluralism, but it may also result in social inclusion. These spatial preferences and differences are studied from the perspective of choices in leisure activities. The article concludes as follows: it may be unrealistic to consider mutual spatial spaces for individuals from different generations, since the preferable differences are quite clear, nevertheless, it is not impossible to create age-friendly spaces in society and in this way increase generational intelligence.

10) Quadrello, Tatiana, Helena Hurme, Johanna Menzinger, Peter Smith, Marika Veisson, S. Vidal, and Susanne Westerback. 2005. "Grandparents use of New Communication Technologies in a European Perspective." *Eur J Ageing* 2: 200-207. doi:10.1007/s10433-005-0004-y.

This article examines the different forms of social contact between different generations. The study was made in an intra-familiar context: between grandparents and grandchildren. Data was gathered from a questionnaire (408 grandparents), median age of 69 with an average of 3.9 grandchildren. Geographically, the study focus was on four countries: UK, Spain, Finland and Estonia. The communicational relationships are measured quantitatively in different layers, i.e., the amount of contacts and character of the media used (face-to-face, letters, phone and email.) The general structures among the four countries seem to be similar, giving the indication of extended use of new-media in intergenerational relationships.

11) Renaut, Sylvie, Jim Ogg, Segolene Petite, and Aline Chamahian. 2015. "Home Environments and Adaptations in the Context of Ageing." *Ageing & Society* 35 (6): 1278-1303.

The focus of the article is to examine how individuals construct their sense of place (home) and how the construction of ageing and growing old is linked into this discussion. Special focus is put on the rhetoric of adaptation: how the individual adapts and how the house adapts to the individual (via adapting or modifying home environment). This information is approached via in-depth interviews that are carried out in France. The paper has applicative aim: it aims to create a schemata that can inform social policies designed to promote policies that contribute to ageing well. Recent studies that focus on the home environments of older people are looked into.

12) Suopajärvi, Tiina. 2015. "Past Experiences, Current Practices and Future Design Ethnographic Study of Aging Adults' Everyday ICT Practices — and how it could Benefit Public Ubiquitous Computing Design." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*: 112-123.

This ethnographic, life history-based, study was took place in Oulu, Finland. The author's team interviewed ageing adults and was keen to understand their ICT usage. Further on, these habits were compiled into ICT- biographies. The author's anthropological perspective views ageing as a socio-cultural process which is not reduced to biological chronologies. Further interest is put on how ageing citizens' desires could be considered in future ICT or computing designs. Getting old - as a negative *voyage* and why that is – is further looked into. Theoretically, the article uses, e.g., Donna Haraway and Karen Barad's ontology: boundaries between human and non-human materialities are controversial; for example, computers can be seen as agents that affect life. In the discussion part, the results of the interviews are analysed in greater detail.

13) Tarran, Anna. 2010. "Constructing a Social Geography of Grandparenthood: A New Focus for Intergenerationality." *Area* 42 (2): 190-197.

The author explicates how grandparent identities are constructed and re-shaped in various social relations and interactive spaces. He points out that intergenerational geographies of age and grandparenting, particularly in geography, remains under-represented and under-researched. With a few presented exceptions, the author further offers ways forward for this kind of approach and explicates his own empirical study through an intergenerational and intersectional lens. Spatial proximity, body space, embodiment and intimacy in everyday lives are further analysed through the earlier mentioned empirical research.

2. Global perspectives on ageing

14) Binstock, Robert H. and Linda George. 2011. *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*. 7th ed. ed. London: Elsevier.

This *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences* is the 7th edition in the field. It includes 25 chapters on various topics, all centred on ageing in social sciences. It is a very good selection of articles that provide an excellent starter kit to the field.

15) Kunkel, Suzanne, J. Scott Brown, Frank J. Whittington, and Jasleen Chahal. 2014. *Global Aging : Comparative Perspectives on Aging and the Life Course*. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

This book offers a global view on the world's ageing societies and the investigations made so far specifically within the macro-perspective. Chapter 1 examines the ageing world with examples from China, Germany and Kenya. Ageing in the welfare state is discussed in its own chapter. Chapter 2 concentrates on revealing the types of investigation that has been done on global ageing, with a specific interest in comparative research. Chapter 3 puts the welfare state and ageing under the lens. Chapter 4 views the demographic perspectives on an ageing world. Chapters 5 and 6 examine the role of health issues and life expectancy. Chapter 7 examines the typologies of the long-term service. Chapter 8 focuses on work and retirement. Chapter 9 concentrates on family issues, care and services and the last chapter, Chapter 10, is about global ageing and leadership on ageing.

16) Sokolovsky, Jay. 2009. *The Cultural Context of Aging : Worldwide Perspectives*. 3rd ed. ed. Westport, Conn: Praeger.

This book bases the investigational importance of studying "aging" on the "global growing of aging population". The book is divided into six parts that deal with different themes and approaches towards ageing. Part I discusses the cultural contexts and the global vision on ageing. In Part II, the discussion is enhanced with intergenerational ties and the life course discussion. Part III views the globalisation of ageing. Part IV examines the ethnic ties. Part V focuses on elderscapes, families and communities. Part VI focuses on health and gerontological issues.

3. Youth and digital age

17) Filiciak, Miroslaw, Michal Danielewicz, Mateusz Halawa, Pawel Mazurek, and Agata Nowotny. 2013. "Introduction: Connected and Online, the Ethnography of a Digital World." In *Warsaw Studies in Culture and Society, Volume 3 : Youth and Media : New Media and Cultural Participation*, edited by Jacek Wasilewski, 27-36. Frankfurt Am Main: Peter Lang AG.

This introduction to *Warsaw studies in Culture and Society, Volume 3: Youth and Media: New Media and Cultural Participation* brings forward the young *togetherness* in the new, more digitalised world. In the introduction, two major claims are stated outright: First, the article claims that being with others has become more intense in a byte-based web than in atom-based physical space. Second, it introduces the new existential situation where time is not only changing its quality, but it is multiplying, enabling people to multitask and combine the past, present and future. This chapter introduces the book, which on the whole exhibits an ethnography made in three different cities to three different groups of young people who were born directly into the digital world. The researches renounce the traditional narrative-based ethnography due to its fantasy to create a cohesive whole from pointillistic (Baumans concept) cultural settings (youngsters using new media). Authors state that for the young digital natives, the web is searched together, which shows the emerging commonalities where youngsters seek to create a group rather than individualise themselves. They propound the new culturally digital settings comparatively as a collection of rearrangeable elements than continuous analogical narrative. They claim that the actions and submissions to the web are rather a creation of a huge database than a story told. The network with its connections and endless directions seems to have replaced the unilateral narration. To summarise, the book desires to show how the digital and networked media has enhanced the materials that we use to build our subjectivity; i.e., the technologies used to accomplish this; techniques of self are examined. This book then seeks the capabilities and limits of such technological increments among the young.

18) Loe, Meika. 2015. "The Digital Life History Project: Intergenerational Collaborative Research." *Gerontology & Geriatrics Education* 31 (1): 26-42.

This article is extracted from a larger sociological study where young students were “matched” with local community members (aged 55 and older). The idea was to create a short video - a short visual story about the course of ageing in a real-life context. This life history project had as its question: How do history, culture, and biography intersect across the life course? The students were trained in the *life history* methodologies and through meetings with their partner, they compiled a 3-5 minute digital life story. This process and learning experience taught the students the principles of ageism, different interview methods and how to link biography with history.

4. Human geographies, geographical gerontology and age

19) Andrews, J., Gavin. 2009. "Ageing and Health." *McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada*: 31-35.

In this article, the history of geographical studies of elderhood (its 30 year of roots) is lightly examined. The article writes through the disciplinary boundaries of the geographies of ageing (or geographical gerontology).The proper terminology when treating the old in research is also analysed, e.g, the concept of elderhood is rendered offensive. The article then explicates the emerging new critical perspectives in gerontology and human geography. It further claims that older people are no longer treated as objects of studies, but are rather engaged with ageing and the concept of embodiment (Andrews 2009, 31-35).

20) Andrews, J., Gavin, Joshua Evans, and L. Wiles. 2013. "Re-Spacing and Re-Placing Gerontology: Relationality and Affect." *Ageing and Society* 33 (8). doi:10.1017/SO144686X12000621.

Attention to human geography and *how space and place are re-produced relationally in the moment* is analysed in this paper. The paper asks: How *is the world known and rendered meaningful through the body's sensorial capacities prior to cognitive reflection?* (1351) The appearance of the Affect, from Deleuze (Spinoza) is further analysed. Affect is compressed as *vague and intense athmosphere* in the study of place and space. Through two case-studies with the aged, it experiments with how the affect could approach the gerontological studies. This paper softly contemplates the non-representational Affect studies on geographical gerontology and in social sciences in general. I stress the word "softly" because it does not attack the representational paradigm, in other words, it does not render the theoretically driven interpretative searches for meaning and significance useless. It asks to look further and to look deeper.

21) Antoninetti, Maurizio and Mario Garrett. 2012. "Body Capital and the Geography of Aging." *Area* 44 (3): 364-370.

In this article, the geography of ageing is promptly investigated through Husserl's concept of lifeworld and Bourdieu's habitus. Merleau-Ponty's thesis on phenomenology and bodies building spaces and spaces building bodies is discussed shortly through daily routines and bodily memory. When studying ageing and their daily routines, there are two factors to act upon: 1) Biological processes of ageing and individual and societal attitudes towards the elderly. 2) Local and global cultural and political forces (see Allen (2003) in Antoninetti and Garrett (2012)). Negative images of ageing are described as having an enduring vitality despite the numerous empirical studies and public health strategies of ageing well. Therefore, it is because of these unavoidable images that the elderly deny their connection to ageing and the aged. In the conclusion, the authors explore the spatial and temporal possibilities in city design, taking into account the more aged population.

22) Felsted, Katarina Friberg and Scott D. Wright. 2014. Toward Post Ageing : Technology in an Ageing Society. Healthy Ageing and Longevity ; 1; Springer eBooks.

The current book offers post-human and post-biological perspectives on ageing. It takes into account the various roles of technologies in transforming what we currently suppose is known as aged. The book starts with the philosophical questions about ageing and invites readers to see ageing as an artifact. Part I focuses on outlining the disciplinary and paradigmatic tensions in gerontology. Part II examines the technologies and typologies of the ageing society (critical) and Part III illustrates the promises and challenges that a post-ageing perspective might include.

23) Katz, Stephen. 2003. "Technology, Life Course and the Post- Industrial Landscape." *Gerontechnology* 2 (3): 255–259.

This paper evinces the blurred generational boundaries that once separated childhood, middle age and old age. It criticises the static and chronological 'pre-industrial deterministic identities' of the past and gives an opening to post-industrial life course studies with its blurring and loosening life-course identities. The author states that the increasing size of the ageing population in Western societies have reconfigured the typical life transitions into "time-fuzzy uni-age". Later in the paper, he criticises the neo-liberal marketing system and their creation of new retirement villages and communities as "problem-free and continuously active" places of isolation and the disguising of the ageing process itself.

24) Price, Kathryn and Anthea Tinker. 2014. "Creativity in Later Life." *Maturitas* 78: 281-286.

This article examines the role of creativity in elders' everyday lives. It states the benefits that arts and creative activities can have on the ageing processes. It also aims to demonstrate how intergenerational research projects encourage interaction with different generations and challenge preconceived attitudes. The article challenges the universalism of old age and ageing; *being old has changed*. (Price and Tinker 2014, 281-286)

25) Schwanen, Tim, Irene Hardill, and Susan Lucas. 2012. "Spatialities of Ageing: The Co-Construction and Co-Evolution of Old Age and Space." *Geoforum* 43 (6): 1291-1295.

Schwanen, Hardill and Lucas offer an excellent window into research dealing with human-geographical discussions on ageism. Authors base the importance of newer intergenerational geographical investigation on traditional ageism creating, e.g., sociospatial inequalities.

They distinguish five warrants that refer to such investigative need: 1) the sheer growth of elders 2) the difficulty of compartmentalising childhood, adulthood and old age in life stages; in other words, the blurring of life-course identities. 3) Neoliberal discourse on "active ageing", which seeks to enhance elders' participatory levels, has refracted the industrial era connotations of old age as passivity and dependency. 4) Ageism has created stereotypes and prejudices of the elderly, who, on

the contrary, seek to dissociate themselves from such connotations which frequently consider them "old purely on the basis of their year of birth". Authors lean and rely on the concept of "life course" being that it offers heterogeneity and fluidity for a researcher to move beyond the staged chronologies. Spatialities of ageing understood as complex of assemblages, the constant co-evolution of social categories and the entwined results as notion are competently analysed in the paper throughout various epistemologies.

26) Wiles, Janine. 2005. "Conceptualizing Place in the Care of Older People: The Contributions of Geographical Gerontology." *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 14: 100-108.

In this article, a broader field to geographical gerontology is opened. From the first lines onwards, the lecturer is drawn into the world of place and space: geographical gerontologists seek to understand the effects that a certain place has on an ageing person and the other way around - how ageing affects specific places. The article calls attention to the notion that not all gerontology is focused on the health issues of the elderly. Nevertheless, the article per se concentrates on these similar health issues and elders' wellbeing. The *space* and *place* are then examined theoretically and the author leans on the more contemporary understanding of the place "as a process". Power relations and their role are further discussed in this process.

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15. Kunkel, Suzanne, J. Scott Brown, Frank J. Whittington, and Jasleen Chahal. 2014. Global Aging : Comparative Perspectives on Aging and the Life Course. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

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