



International Commission on Occupational Health

Founded in 1906 as Permanent Commission

ICOH Scientific Committee Ageing and Work – 1st Announcement

International Interdisciplinary Conference

Work, age, health and employment - evidence from longitudinal studies

19 - 21 September 2016, University of Wuppertal, Germany

Working populations in modern societies are ageing; at the same time work participation rates of older workers as well as the average length of working life are increasing substantially throughout the European Union. Many national policies aim to further extend working lives by reducing early exit pathways and increasing statutory retirement age. Alongside this, institutions such as the OECD have echoed the call to postpone retirement age and create stronger incentives to remain in work until later in life.

These trends and future perspectives on extending working lives raise a number of key challenges for our research and how we adequately inform policy makers. A robust collection of evidence is required to explore whether and under which circumstances future generations of older workers will be able and willing to work longer – and as well as who will bear the costs, at both the individual and societal level, for these changes.

To get the best answers we need to make sure that we are asking the right questions: Which factors are contributing to early exit from employment? How important are conditions at earlier stages of the life course? Which are the typical exit paths that are taken? And how do social and occupational groups differ in this respect? How about men and women? What keeps older workers working for longer? And what are the consequences of extending working lives for work ability, work motivation, health and wellbeing of older people and for enterprises and societies?

The relationship between work and health remains one crucial issue for employment in later life. To understand this we need to address some key questions: How does paid (and unpaid) work affect the health of *older* workers? Which groups are specifically affected? What does poor health mean for work ability and motivation to continue working in later life? Which factors enable older workers with poor health to continue working?

In the past two decades many scientific disciplines and communities have been increasingly dealing with these questions. In 2014/15, an interdisciplinary group of 46 researchers from eleven countries has – within the [JPI MYBL](#) project “[Understanding employment participation of older workers” \(JPI UEP\)](#) – analysed the state of retirement research around work participation of older workers. In this project it became clear that research has achieved much in the field, but that this research is unevenly distributed between countries (“regional gap”) and that many specific topics in the field (e.g. older women, migrants) urgently need to be addressed (“thematic gap”). Above all, a “conceptual gap” was identified: the need for an interdisciplinary scientific *broad view* on the interplay of the multitude of determinants and on the process of retirement.



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OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE

These research challenges indicated above will be in the focus of this conference, as it shall

- focus on evidence from quantitative as well as qualitative **longitudinal research**,
- consider the multifaceted role of **work** as a core determinant of health, work ability and employment participation,
- **bridge different research communities** (e.g. occupational health, social epidemiology, economy, labour market research, psychology, sociology, gerontology, demography), and, not least
- discuss the potential for advancing **retirement research approaches**.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

1. "Work and retirement"
2. "Work, age and health"
3. "Life course approaches in retirement research"
4. "Measuring change in longitudinal research"
5. "Cross national assessments – opportunities and challenges"

TARGET AUDIENCE

The conference is aimed at researchers of all scientific disciplines involved in the thematic field of the conference. The conference should also attract professionals and policy makers in the field.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Conference Venue

University of Wuppertal
Gaußstraße 20
42119 Wuppertal, Germany

Time Schedule

Conference Date: 19 - 21 September 2016
Second announcement: February 2016
Abstract submission: 01 February to 17 April 2016
Registration: from 14 March 2016

Conference Fees

Registration:

Early registration/payment until July 1: 290 €
Late registration/payment: 340 €

Social dinner: 50 €

Accommodation: a courtesy block of reduced price lodging rooms (65 to 120 € per night) is planned to be available for September 18th – 21st at different hotels in Wuppertal.

More information on conference registration and accommodation:

www.wahe2016.uni-wuppertal.de

Partner Conference: The ICOH Scientific Committee *Aging and Work* is also inviting to the International Conference on Sustainable Employability, INCOSE, Brussels, 14 - 16 September 2016
<http://www.incose.eu>



INVITED SPEAKERS

Opening speeches

1. "Work and employment tomorrow"
 - a. [Dr. Ulrich Walwei](#), Institute for Employment Research, IAB, Nuremberg, Germany
"Old is beautiful – changes in the age composition of employment"
 - b. [Prof. Armin Windel](#), Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Berlin, Germany
"Work tomorrow"
2. [Prof. Kène Henkens](#), University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
"Ageing workers in an ageing society: Labour force transitions and work in late life"

Keynotes

3. [Prof. James Banks](#), Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, United Kingdom
"The role of financial factors for employment of older workers – evidence from the ELSA cohort"
4. [Prof. Ute Bültmann](#), University of Groningen, Faculty of Medical Sciences, the Netherlands
"The life course in quantitative research on work transitions"
5. [Prof. Lex Burdorf](#), Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
"The challenges of assessing change in quantitative research"
6. [Prof. R. A. Roe](#), Maastricht University, the Netherlands
"What happens vs what is - implications for change research"
7. [Prof. Sarah Vickerstaff](#), University of Kent, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, United Kingdom, "The life course in qualitative research on work and retirement"
8. [Prof. Hugo Westerlund](#), Stress Research Institute, University of Stockholm, Sweden
"Work, health and retirement"

Other (opening presentations of Special Sessions)

9. [Prof. Dirk Hofäcker](#), University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
"Globalisation and occupational life courses"
10. [Dr. Martin Hyde](#), University of Manchester, United Kingdom
"Cross-national epidemiological assessments – opportunities and challenges"
11. [Prof. Hendrik Jürges](#), University of Wuppertal, Germany
"Comparing work and retirement across borders – evidence from SHARE"
12. [Dr. Ingrid Mairhuber](#), FORBA, Vienna, Austria
"Gendered life course and retirement"
13. [Prof. Reiner Rugulies](#), National Research Centre for the Working Environment, Copenhagen, Denmark,
"Work and health – challenges for cohort studies"
14. [Prof. Simone Scherger](#), University of Bremen, Germany
"Working past retirement"
15. [Dr. Swenneke van den Heuvel](#), TNO, the Netherlands
"STREAM – evidence from a work and retirement cohort"



Wuppertal Suspension Railway - the oldest electric elevated railway



CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

[Department of Occupational Health Science](#), University of Wuppertal (head Hans Martin Hasselhorn)

[Institute for Employment Research](#), IAB, Nuremberg, Germany

[ICOH Scientific Committee Aging and Work](#) (head Clas-Håkan Nygård, Turku, Finland)

NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Please send your enquiries and register to receive the 2nd announcement by e-mail to:

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Info: www.wahe2016.uni-wuppertal.de