



# A Research Agenda for Ageing and Social Policy

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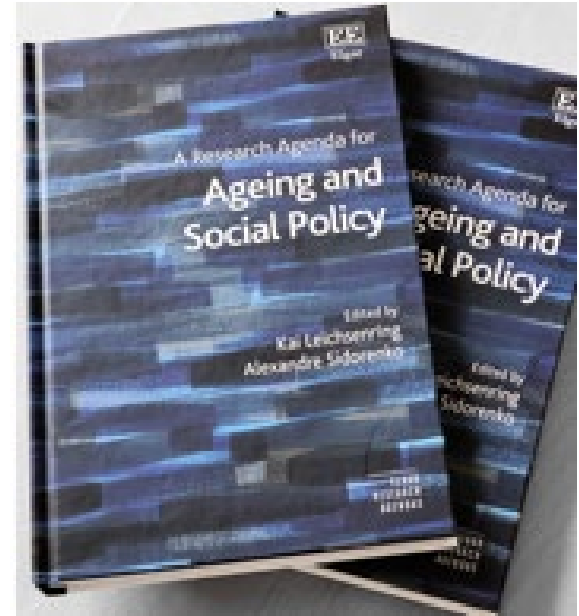
Geneva, 20 November 2024



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

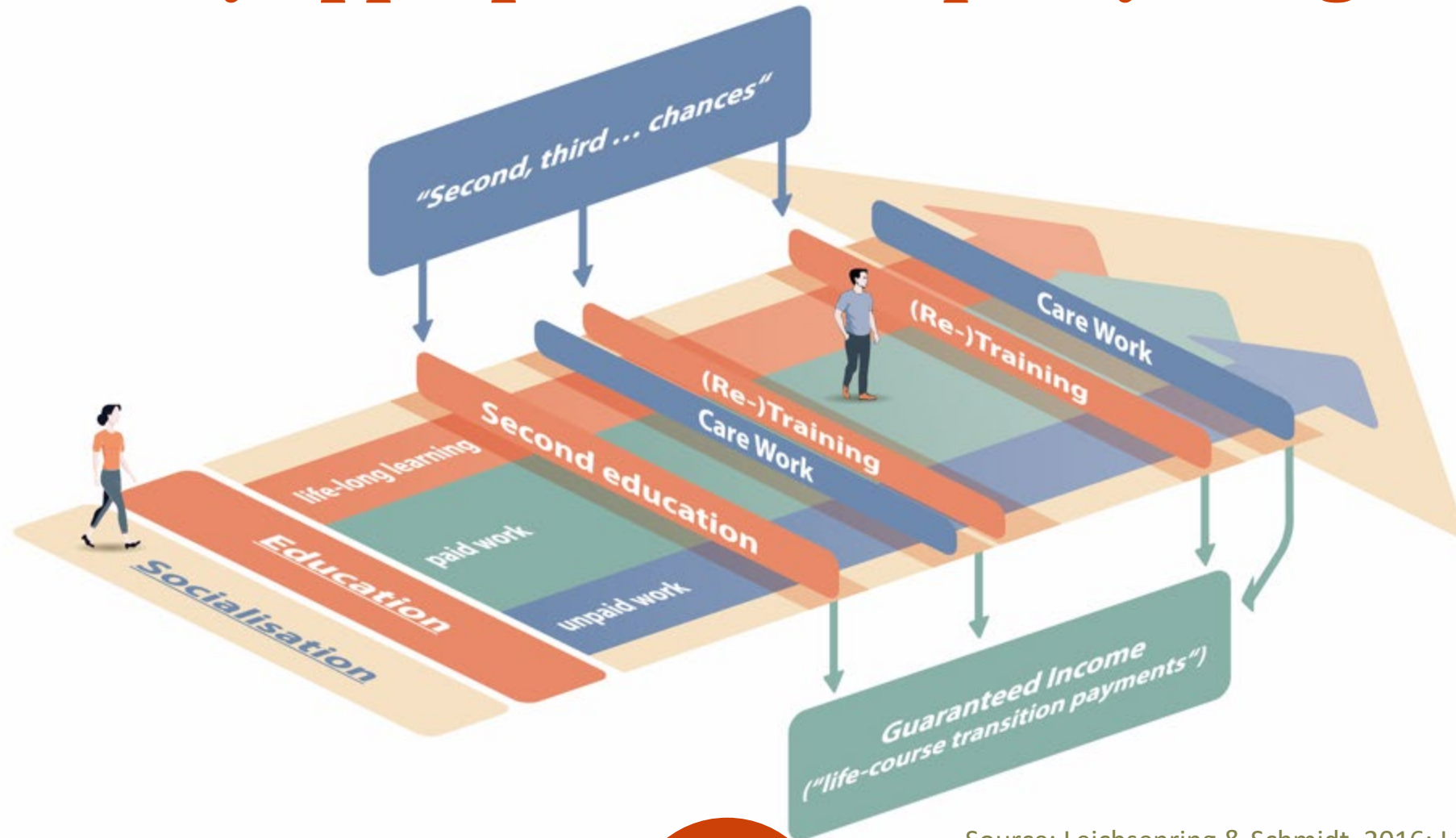
 **17<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Standing Working Group on Ageing**  
20-22 NOVEMBER 2024 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA

# A new paradigm for ageing in research and policymaking?



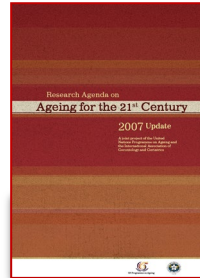
- Social policies are shaping our life-course and societal ageing
- Rising longevity and population pyramids turned upside-down – changing context for social policies ... and research!
- Reliable new rules are needed, and research can help create the evidence-base
- Celebrating longevity AND the welfare state by an integrated life-course perspective with appropriate institutional change
- Interdisciplinary research to contribute to sustainability, equality and intergenerational fairness

# An integrated life-course perspective on ageing supported by appropriate social policy designs





**Madrid  
International Plan  
of Action on Ageing**



**Research Agenda on Ageing**

**Major Research Priorities**

**Critical Research Areas**

**Priority direction I:**  
Older Persons and  
Development

**Priority 1.** Relationships of population ageing and socio-economic development

**Priority 2.** Current practices and options for maintaining material security in old age

**Priority 3.** Changing family structures, intergenerational transfer systems and emergent family and institutional dynamics

1. Social Participation and Integration

2. Economic Security

3. Macro-Societal Change and Development

4. Poverty

5. Social Security Systems

**Priority direction II:**  
Advancing health and well-being into old age

**Priority 4.** Determinants of healthy ageing

**Priority 5.** Basic biological mechanisms and age associated diseases

**Priority 6.** Quality of Life and Ageing in diverse cultural, socio-economic and environmental situations

6. Healthy Ageing

7. Biomedical

8. Physical & Mental Functioning

9. Quality of Life

**Priority direction III:**  
Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

**Priority 3.** Changing family structures, intergenerational transfer systems and emergent family and institutional dynamics

**Priority 6.** Quality of Life and Ageing in diverse cultural, socio-economic and environmental situations

10. Care Systems

11. Changing Structures & Functions of Families

# 15 Chapters

## INTRODUCTION

- 1 Why do we need a research agenda for ageing and social policy in the 21st century?  
*Kai Leichsenring and Alexandre Sidorenko*

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF AGEING AND SOCIAL POLICIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- 2 Population ageing and the demographic deficit: exploring the second demographic dividend  
*Sarah Harper and Yanan Zhang*
- 3 Healthy ageing policies from regional and global perspectives: challenges for social policies and research  
*Norah Keating, Virpi Timonen and Tine Buffel*



# 15 Chapters

## PRIORITIES FOR SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH IN THE CONTEXT OF POPULATION AND INDIVIDUAL AGEING

- 4 Ageism and public policies: research on age discrimination at the societal level  
*Clemens Tesch-Römer and Liat Ayalon*
- 5 The future of active ageing and related needs for research  
*Oxana Sinyavskaya*
- 6 Shifts in social policies for old age: towards a life course approach of active ageing?  
*Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen and Marvin Formosa*
- 7 Labour market research for an ageing workforce in times of digitalisation  
*Anette Scoppetta, Laura Naegele and Maria Varlamova*
- 8 Digitalisation and population ageing: social policy dimensions of the digital divide  
*Alexander Peine, Anne Meissner and Anna Wanka*



# 15 Chapters

- 8 Digitalisation and population ageing: social policy dimensions of the digital divide and innovation  
*Alexander Peine, Anne Meissner and Anna Wanka*
- 9 Social relations and the family  
*Toni C. Antonucci, Jasmine A. Manalel, Robin C. Fenley and Martha C. Bial*
- 10 Rising longevity and health care systems: the need for a new approach in social and health policies and research  
*Peter Lloyd-Sherlock and Poliana Fialho de Carvalho*
- 11 Longer lives with long-term care needs: research needed to tackle the care gap  
*Giovanni Lamura and Henk Nies*
- 12 Towards the caring or the uncaring state? A social policy perspective on long-term care trends  
*Teppo Kröger*



# 15 Chapters

## PART IV PERSPECTIVES FROM INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

- 13 Social policy research on ageing needed from the perspective of intergovernmental organisations

*Nikolai Botev, Julia Ferre and Claudia Mahler*

- 14 Social policy research on the ageing workforce from the perspective of employees and employers

*Krzysztof Hagemejer, Frank Hoffer and Michał Polakowski*

## CONCLUSIONS

- 15 Towards a research agenda for ageing and social policy in the 21st century

*Kai Leichsenring and Alexandre Sidorenko*





## An agenda for social policy-related research on ageing



<b>Area 1:</b> <b>Population ageing and social welfare policies – the life-course perspective</b>	<b>Area 2:</b> <b>Combating ageism</b>	<b>Area 3:</b> <b>Strengthening the rights of older persons to reduce poverty and inequalities</b>	<b>Area 4:</b> <b>Establishing new types of working and learning in digitalized societies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ transformation of social security institutions</li> <li>▪ development of human capital over the life-course</li> <li>▪ strategies for active ageing over the life-course</li> <li>▪ growing demographic diversity and the situation of older persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ roots of age discrimination</li> <li>▪ ‘age-friendliness’</li> <li>▪ impacts of public policies to combat ageism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ accumulated inequalities over the life-course</li> <li>▪ impact of (labour) migration on life chances and/or accumulated inequalities</li> <li>▪ Diversities</li> <li>▪ approaches to guaranteeing equal rights</li> <li>▪ development of culturally responsive social policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⑩ digital divide; digitalized labour markets</li> <li>⑩ social policies and reforms to respond to the digital transformation</li> <li>⑩ design of digital learning for workers at all ages</li> </ul>



## An agenda for social policy-related research on ageing

<p><b>Area 5: Transforming health, social and long-term care systems</b></p>	<p><b>Area 6: Enhancing social solidarity and inter-generational equity</b></p>	<p><b>Area 7: Designing age-friendly environments and communities</b></p>	<p><b>Area 8: Strengthening international policy action on ageing by involving all relevant stakeholders</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• healthy ageing</li> <li>• ‘age-friendly’ health systems and better integrated care</li> <li>• needs for long-term care under conditions of rising longevity</li> <li>• integrated long-term care systems</li> <li>• Formal-informal divide in long-term care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social norms in intergenerational relations</li> <li>• Intergenerational fairness</li> <li>• intergenerational cleavages</li> <li>• contributions of older persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• co-creation of near-environments and community</li> <li>• characteristics of age-friendly communities</li> <li>• age-friendly communities under conditions of rapid urbanization, migration and climate change</li> <li>• co-design of built environments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information for development and implementation of international social policies on ageing</li> <li>• evidence from comparative social policy research for international strategies on ageing</li> <li>• role of social partners and non-governmental organisations in social policy development and implementation</li> </ul>

## Purchasing information

For orders:

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