North American Network in Aging Studies

Newsletter

August 2026

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About the Newsletter

Items are listed by due date (if applicable) and by category. We welcome updates relevant to the age studies world, including calls for papers, journal articles, recently published books, Twitter feeds, blogs, job postings, and others. We also invite brief (450 words or less) thought pieces on issues or ideas about aging and age studies. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the prior month. Please visit our website for more information or to submit an item for the newsletter. Thanks to all who contributed news items for this issue of the NANAS Newslette

Announcements

Countering Ageist Narratives

Members of the age studies community are encouraged to contribute to the growing body of responses challenging recent media narratives reviewing a book that says that the US is a "gerontocracy", portraying older adults as wealthy, selfish, and responsible for the economic struggles of younger generations.

Janine Vanderburg, tireless US anti-ageist, maintains a regularly updated spreadsheet documenting both the articles promoting these claims (List A) and published responses from age studies scholars and advocates (List B):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qzOGEk8K0JlKDW8V1B5SdAMJOtC5qt58zArQ-IyPFgk/edit?gid=2119016137#gid=2119016137

If you publish a response, you are invited to send the link to Janine Vanderburg at Janine@encoreroadmap.com so it can be added to the collection and help strengthen this shared effort to challenge ageism in public discourse.

ENAS Elections and Call for Candidates

The **European Network in Aging Studies (ENAS)** will hold its elections for a new Executive Board and Advisory Board on **September 17, 2026. ENAS members are encouraged to participate** in the election process and to consider standing as candidates for leadership and advisory positions, including a student representative role on the Advisory Board.

Members interested in running for office should submit a brief bio (up to 60 words) and a photo by **August 27, 2026** to eva-maria.trinkaus@aau.at. Additional information about the election process and available positions can be found through ENAS communications. Current ENAS membership is required both to vote and to stand for election.

Podcasts & Links

Work, Work, Work, and Then No Work

In this new essay for *Generations Now*, **Margaret Morganroth Gullette** examines how age discrimination in the labor market undermines economic security long before retirement.

Drawing on recent data and the concept of "middle ageism," she argues that structural age bias, shrinking retirement protections, and growing economic inequality leave millions of older adults financially vulnerable, while warning that AI-driven hiring practices may further reinforce ageism in the workplace.

https://generations.asaging.org/work-work-work-and-then-no-work/

Crawling the Spirit Canoe: From Initiation Rites to Aging Today

The Spirit Canoe: Age, Power, and the Loss of Reverence

In this essay, **Margaret Morganroth Gullette** reflects on a museum exhibit of Oceanic art to examine changing cultural attitudes toward old age and authority. Contrasting societies in which elders inspired fear and reverence with contemporary forms of ageism, she argues that the erosion of respect for older adults has profound political and social consequences, particularly as policies continue to undermine the well-being and dignity of aging populations.

https://djschemo.substack.com/p/crawling-the-spirit-canoe

Articles & Books

Adams, Alissa. (2026). **"Picturing the Resilient Self: William S. Elwell's Portrait of Dolley Madison and Older Women's Fame".** Age, Culture, Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 10. https://doi.org/10.7146/ageculturehumanities.v10i.161282

Bertola, L., Steffan, B., & Jalan, A. (2026). **Menopause in the French Workplace: Embodiment, Regulation, and Digital Resistance.** Gender, Work & Organization. https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.70224

Cai, J., Yu, L., Huang, H., Guo, Y., & Shi, F. (2026). **Self-worth systems in aging societies: a narrative review and conceptual framework from self-esteem to healthy longevity.** Frontiers in Psychology, 17, https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2026.1879051

Casado-Gual, N., & Shevchenko-Hotsuliak, I. (2026). **With a light of their own: Re-imagining ageing femininity in two contemporary dramatic monologues.** Journal of Women & Aging, 1-14. https://doi.org/10.1080/08952841.2026.2700784

Chrétien, J. (2026). **Beyond loneliness. Lesbian aging, care, and the politics of loneliness.** Journal of Women & Aging, 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1080/08952841.2026.2703632

de Pooter, G. L., Nazzaro, G., & De Graeve, K. (2026). **Heteronormativity revisited: Escape fantasies of two older heterosexual women in a Belgian nursing home.** Journal of Women & Aging, 1-14. https://doi.org/10.1080/08952841.2026.2703626

Gilleard, C. (2026). **The relative happiness of older people: a social analysis of the 2024 world happiness study.** Journal of Global Ageing. https://doi.org/10.1332/29767202Y2026D000000053

Gilleard, C., & Higgs, P. (2026). **Post-human ageing: A critical commentary.** Journal of Aging Studies, 78, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2026.101444

Hasan, M. K., Hossain, M. S., & Pope, N. D. (2026). **Psychosocial challenges faced by older widows in Bangladesh: A qualitative study.** Journal of Women & Aging, 1-15. https://doi.org/10.1080/08952841.2026.2701465

Kumawat, S., & Garg, C. (2026). **Free Smartphones? But Still Finding It Difficult to Find Place for Phones in Their Lives: Understanding Digital Interactions of Older Widow Women in Rural India.** Mobile Media & Communication, https://doi.org/10.1177/20501579261465213

Laranjeira, C., Ramos, A., Reami, G., & Querido, A. (2026). **From the hospital to the community: reshaping the palliative care paradigm.** Frontiers in Public Health, 14, https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2026.1876918

Lovatt, M., Crichton, G., Wright, V., & French, J. E. (2026). **Changing the script: using forum theatre to reimagine the future in later life.** International Journal of Ageing and Later Life. https://doi.org/10.3384/ijal.1652-8670.6223

Luchitskaya, Svetlana. (2026). **Philip of Novara.** Age, Culture, Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 10. https://doi.org/10.7146/ageculturehumanities.v10i.147214

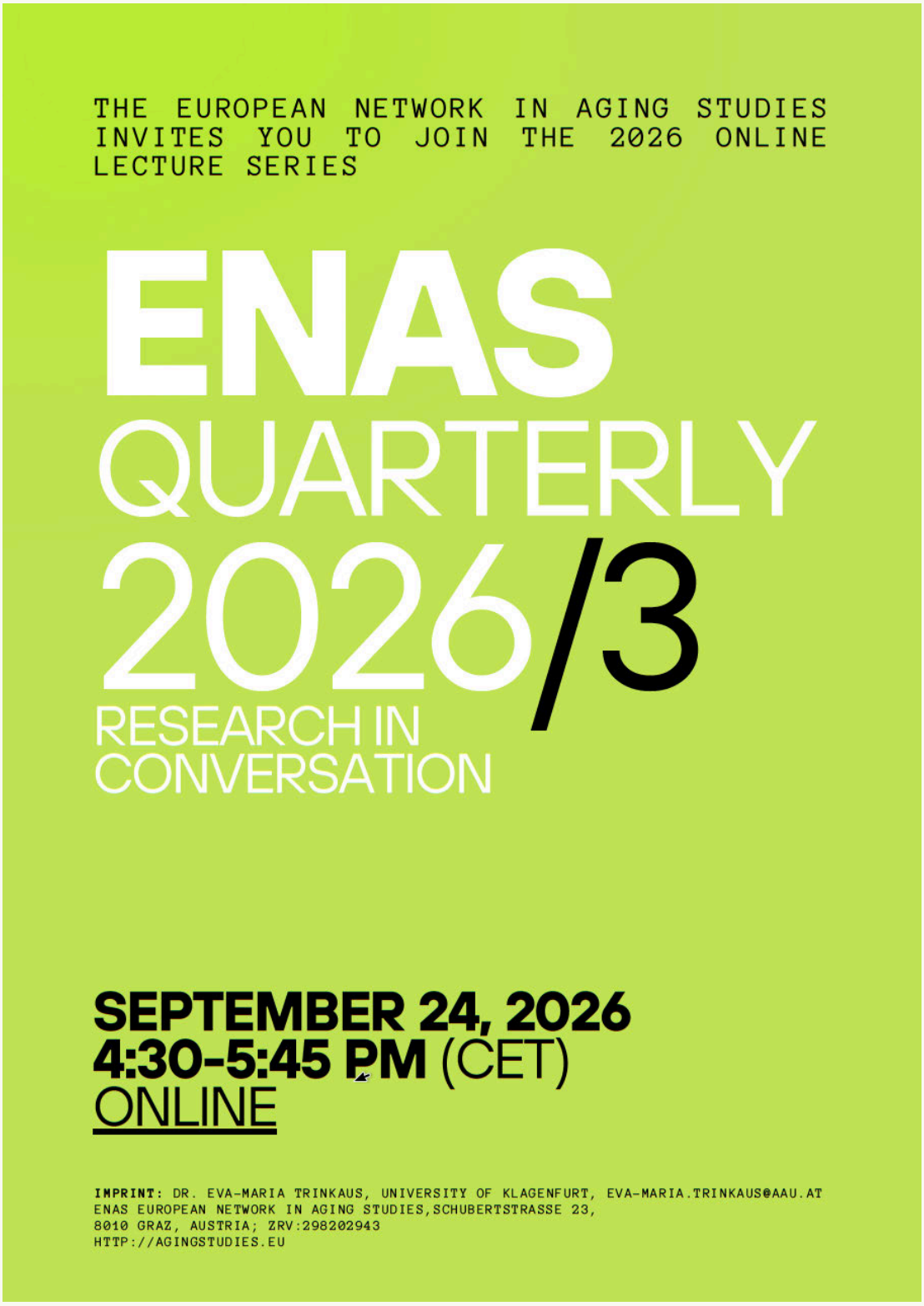
Reuter, A., Johansson, S., Joffer, J., & Gustavsson, C. (2026). **Experiences of Participating in Digital Society in Later Life: Insights from a Comparative Study on Older Adults with and Without Impairments.** Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research, 28(1). https://doi.org/10.16993/sjdr.1364

von Hülsen-Esch, Andrea. (2026). **Diagrammatic Thinking and the Division of Life into Ages.** Age, Culture, Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 10. https://doi.org/10.7146/ageculturehumanities.v10i.147209

von Hülsen-Esch , A., & Cayrol-Bernardo , L. (2026). **Introduction: Investigating Life Cycles.** Age, Culture, Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 10. https://doi.org/10.7146/ageculturehumanities.v10i.169611

Yang, Q. (2026). **Silver-haired teachers going to the west: Retired female university teachers' spatial praxis and self-reconstruction in Western China.** Journal of Women & Aging, 1-16. https://doi.org/10.1080/08952841.2026.2701478

Events


THE EUROPEAN NETWORK IN AGING STUDIES INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE 2026 ONLINE LECTURE SERIES
ENAS
QUARTERLY
2026/3
RESEARCH IN CONVERSATION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
4:30-5:45 PM (CET)
ONLINE
IMPRINT: DR. EVA-MARIA TRINKAUS, UNIVERSITY OF KLAGENFURT, EVA-MARIA.TRINKAUS@AAU.AT
ENAS EUROPEAN NETWORK IN AGING STUDIES,SCHUBERTSTRASSE 23,
8010 GRAZ, AUSTRIA; ZRV:298202943
HTTP://AGINGSTUDIES.EU

AGED BY NARRATIVE

LEONIE UNKEL



Situating Age/ing and/in Place: Narrative Negotiations in Comics

Due to the interplay of their visual and verbal levels, comics offer a productive place for negotiating representations of marginalized groups (El Refaie 2012, Chute 2010). In my research I join questions around the representation of age/ing with theories from comics narratology. In the centre is the connection of age/ing and place. I argue that comics as a spatial medium offers a unique environment for situating ageing bodies with place. An analysis with a narratological lens highlights dynamic tensions between varied representations of age/ing and embodied reading practices, allowing for a constant (un)doing and cocreation of age/ing and place.

Leonie Unkel is a PhD candidate in a German Research Foundation-funded project at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany. Her research focuses on life writing, age/ing, narratology, and place in contemporary comic art.

KATIE JACQUES



Age and Autokinship: Aging the Kin Within from Dickens to RuPaul

Popular self-help discourse encourages fostering a relationship with the self that is not only intimate, but familial. Therapeutic models like "inner child work" and "self-parenting" require approaching the self as an internally multiple network of differently aged kin. Drawing on cultural theory and the history of philosophy, psychology, literary fiction, and life writing, this talk traces how the kin within are aged, i.e., ascribed age and perform age, through kin-like care toward the self. Moving between nineteenth-century and twenty-first century texts, from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to RuPaul's memoir *The House of Hidden Meanings*, this talk explores the centrality of age and aging in the modern cultural practice of "autokinship."

Katie Jacques is a doctoral candidate at the University of Kassel, where she is writing a cultural history of age from the U.S. American Civil War to the Civil Rights Era.

DR. FEMKE DE SUTTER



Ageing on Screen: Eight Decades of Belgian Film

This talk examines how ageing and later life are represented in Belgian fiction films from 1945 to 2022. It focuses on the representations themselves and on the discourses through which they are constructed. The Belgian context, with its linguistic and cultural divisions, allows for comparison and shows how depictions of older adults have evolved or remained stable over time. The talk analyses the implications of ageist tropes and narrative frameworks. It also highlights emerging alternatives that aim for more inclusive portrayals of later life, developed through collaborations with older adults and attention to their perspectives on on-screen representation.

Femke De Sutter is a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University (Belgium), studying how Belgian filmmakers shape on-screen representations of ageing and later life.

Zoom Link: https://classroom.aau.at/rooms/pme-yqi-l91-6wv/join



6 th and final meeting of the study group
Rejecting Futures: Practices of Resistance or Failure

Conference co-funded by the
Institute for Advanced Study Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg (HWK)
and the **Fritz Thyssen Foundation**

No future? The multiple practices of refusing tomorrow

14 – 16 September 2026

Invited speakers:
Catherine Alexander (Durham U)
Carl Cassegård (U Gothenburg)
Michael Hauskeller (U Liverpool)
Daniel Knight (U St Andrews)
Katy Overstreet (U Copenhagen)

Organizers:
Annette Leibing (Université de Montréal & HWK-fellow)
Mark Schweda (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg)

Venue:
Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg
Institue for Advanced Study
Lehmkuhlenbusch 4
27753 Delmenhorst
Tel: +49 4221 9160-100
www.hanse-ias.de

No future? The multiple practices of refusing tomorrow

Monday, 14 September 2026

10:00–10:30 Reception at the HWK

10:30-10:40 Welcome by Steffen Bandlow-Raffalski, Annette Leibing and Mark Schweda
10:40-11:40 Daniel Knight (U St Andrews) – Toxic presentism: Future creation in a polycrisis world
11:40-12:15 Virginie Tournay (SciencesPo Paris) - Rejecting futures - a matter of space-time? The many ways of making the State last

12:15–1:45 Lunch at the HWK, maybe quick walk in the forest

1:45–2:45 Carl Cassegård (U Gothenburg) – Shrinking futures and talking with the dead: the gaze from the past in environmental activism
2:45-3:15 Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte (UF Rio de Janeiro) - Monsters of marble: future as past in right-wing worldview

3:15-3:40 Coffee and cake (‘Kaffee und Kuchen’)

3:40-4:40 Katy Overstreet (U Copenhagen) - A pupating politics: the promise of edible insects and the future that just won’t hatch
4:40-5:00 Annette Leibing (U Montreal) – Some thoughts on edgework

5:00 Reception and then early dinner at 6:00 at the HWK

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

9:00-10:00 James Crossley (U Cambridge) – No (good) future and the apocalypse
10:00-11:00 Nolen Gertz (Twente U) – On nihilism

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:15 Michael Hauskeller (U Liverpool) - Does antinatalism reject the future?
12:15-12:45 Mark Schweda (U Oldenburg) - Aging, generativity and queer temporalities: Ethical speculations

12:45-2:00 Lunch at the HWK

2:00-2:30 Ulla Kriebernegg (U Graz) - Rejecting futurelessness: The aged woman as a practice of resistance - Care, cyclical time, and the third and fourth age in Carrington, Le Guin, and Tokarczuk

2:30-3:00 Isaac Yuen (Berlin) – Absence as presence: Narratives in the now and now and now

3:00-3:15 Coffee

Excursion to Hude (guided visit to a romantic monastery ruin and small museum, followed by a typical German restaurant)

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

9:30-10:30 Catherine Alexander (Durham U) - On obsolescence

10:30-11:00 Matthew Wolf-Meyer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) – The end.

11:00-11:20 Coffee break

11:20–12:30 Final discussion: what we learned, what is next

12:30 – Light lunch at the HWK

We thank the Fritz Thyssen Foundation for partially funding this conference



Calls for Papers

North American Network of Aging Studies (NANAS) sponsored roundtable at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Submissions are invited for a NANAS sponsored roundtable on "New Approaches to the History of Age, Embodiment and (Dis)ability" for the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Gender, and Sexuality to be held in Minneapolis, MN, June 10-13, 2027. This panel will appear as part of a conference track on the theme of "Disability, Embodiment, and the Life Course" and will be guaranteed acceptance in the conference.

The goal of this roundtable is to present varied perspectives on the historical intersections of gender, age, and (dis)ability in various times and places, and to highlight the generative potential of applying theories and methods from age studies to historical research. Participants from all disciplines and career stages, as well as artists, activists, and independent scholars are encouraged to apply. Members of NANAS are particularly welcome.

If you are interested in participating, please email your name, contact information, and a 200-word abstract outlining your potential contribution to **Corinne Field** (cf6d@virginia.edu). The deadline for proposals is **September 1, 2026.**

AGECULTUREHUMANITIES
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Podcasting Age

Guest editor: Sally Chivers, Trent University

This special issue of *Age, Culture, Humanities* responds to the increased cultural, political, and pedagogical power of podcasting. Podcasts play a significant role in disseminating information, creating culture, and offering entertainment. For this special issue, we invite contributions that examine or illustrate how audio podcasting and related sound work represent and produce age.

It makes sense that podcasting should be rife with older voices and solidly anti-ageist. Feminist podcast studies have theorized podcasting as relational, care-oriented and politically situated, foregrounding marginalized voices, embodied knowledge, and alternative modes of scholarly communication. Despite recent attention from for-profit producers, podcasting remains a form of participatory media with enormous potential to amplify older voices and age studies research. And indeed, Julia Louis Dreyfuss's *Wiser than Me* was named Apple's podcast of the year in 2023 and subsequently won Webby and Amby awards. Prominent age studies scholars and activists appear on mainstream and niche podcasts to share their findings and spread the anti-ageist word. Age Culture Humanities readers are likely familiar with scholarly podcast

examples such as Kristi Allain's radio documentary *Fire on the Ice*, Kathrin Cortes-Miller's *Disrupting Death*, Sally Chivers's *Wrinkle Radio*, Roya Liu's *Witnessing Aging*, and the Penn Memory Center's *The Age of Aging*.

Despite these promising examples, podcasting remains a notably youthful medium, rife with explicit and implicit gendered ageism. Older women's absence from mainstream media, documented by the Geena Davis Institute, continues into the podcast space. *Women who Podcast Magazine* describes how "ageism … finds a way to sneak into the sound booth." The dominance of "tech-savvy, younger (mostly male)" voices pushes older women into stereotyped genres of podcast, if they pick up the mic at all. As a consequence, podcast audiences largely miss out on the significant lived experience and knowledge older women have to offer.

This special issue considers podcasting not simply as content, but as a sound medium that values collaboration, accessibility, affect, slow scholarship, and public-facing knowledge production. We welcome considerations of how these aspects of audio podcasting and related sound work resonate with age studies commitments to challenge ageism, amplify older voices, and reshape whose knowledge counts, including how it circulates.

We welcome submissions (written, audio, and hybrid) that treat podcasts and related sound work as an object of analysis, a site of cultural production, and / or a methodological approach that enhances how aging is researched, narrated, and heard.

Potential Topics and approaches include:

- Listening as a critical practice
- Podcasting as a form of care work and community-making
- The age politics of noise and silence
- Representations of aging, later life, midlife, or the life course in podcasts
- Older adults as podcasters, producers, guests, and audiences
- Podcasting as method in age studies
- Sonic ethnography
- Deep listening as intergenerational practice
- Intergenerational storytelling through sound
- Platform cultures and ageism in podcasting spheres
- Podcasting as age-aware information activism
- Podcasting as pedagogical tool in age studies

Submission guidelines: We welcome audio submissions as well as submissions that include audio supplements: podcast excerpts, original sonic reflections, subject to the journal's technical requirements. The audio must convey or enhance the critical and cultural analysis.

Deadline for Abstracts (250-300 words): September 15, 2026.
Full Manuscripts due: January 15, 2027
Submit your abstract to sallychivers@trentu.ca