

Speaker Biographies

Alan Walker
University of Sheffield



Dr Alan Walker is Professor of Social Policy and Social Gerontology at the University of Sheffield, UK. He has been researching and writing on aspects of ageing and social policy for over 30 years. He is currently Director of the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme (www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk/) funded by the AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC and MRC, and of two FP7 project, INNOVAGE - Social Innovations Promoting Active and Healthy Ageing (www.innovage.shef.ac.uk) and MOPACT - Mobilising the Potential of Active Ageing in Europe (www.mopact.shef.ac.uk). Previously he directed the European Research Area in Ageing (2002-2012 <http://www.shef.ac.uk/era-age/>) and FUTURAGE (www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk), which in 2011 created the Road Map for Ageing Research in Europe. Previously he directed the UK Growing Older Programme (www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/gop/index.htm) and the European Forum on Population Ageing (www.shef.ac.uk/ageingresearch). He also chaired the European Observatory on Ageing and Older People. He has published more than 20 books, 200 reports and 300 scientific papers. In 2007 he was given Lifetime Achievement Awards by both the Social Policy Association and the British Society of Gerontology. In 2011 he was the first IAGG European Region Medal for Advances in Gerontology and Geriatrics in the Social and Behavioural Sciences and became a Fellow of the British Academy. In 2014 he was appointed Commander of the British Empire, for services to Social Science.

Luule Sakkeus
Tallinn University, Estonia



Luule Sakkeus (Ph.D, Demography), the Senior Researcher and Director of the Estonian Institute for Population Studies, Tallinn University (EDI), has expertise in several of the demographic areas. Sakkeus is responsible for the scientific coordination of SHARE (Survey on Health, Retirement and Ageing in Europe) in Estonia. She is a member of the ANED (Academic Network of Experts on Disability) network on persons with

disabilities, on the committee for health surveys at DG Health, the Eurostat task force on migrants, and the EDSB (European Doctoral School on Demography) board, member of the advisory board of Population Europe. She has held several grants from the Estonian Science Foundation, the EU Public Health Program and Eurostat. Her recent research relates to family demography, immigrant population behaviour, health, and ageing.

Dorly Deeg
VuMC Amsterdam, Netherlands



Prof. Dr. Dorly J.H. Deeg is Professor of Epidemiology of Ageing at the VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and was the scientific director of the ongoing Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam for 24 years. By education a methodologist, she has worked mainly in the areas of public health and gerontology. Her over 500 publications address longevity, chronic conditions, functional limitations, mental health, personal competence, social support, and methodology of longitudinal research. Current interests include health care, time trends and cross-national comparison. Prof. Deeg is founding editor (with Prof.Dr. H.-W. Wahl) of the European Journal of Ageing, and past chair of the Netherlands Society of Gerontology.

Gerd Naegele
TUD, Germany



Gerd Naegele has been the principle investigator of more than 300 research projects, funded by regional and Federal Governments as well as national and international research foundations. His research interests include socio-political issues, especially on ageing, labour market, retirement and pension policies, long-term care policies, eldercare in the workplace, older migrants, income and poverty in old age, “silver market”, political participation and representation of older people, applied socio-gerontological analysis and research at German, European and international level, life course developments and life course policies, social innovations in ageing societies, international co-operation (currently MOPACT and AARP best employer award).

Gerd has been Director of the Institute of Gerontology at the TU/Technical University of Dortmund since 1992. His other positions include visiting professor at the Akdeniz University of Antalya/Turkey, Department of Social Gerontology (since 2008); Co-editor of Dortmund contributions to social social sciences” (publisher: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Wiesbaden).

Torbjorn Svensson
Lund University



Dr. Torbjörn Svensson is Associate Professor in Gerontology and Manager at the Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments, CASE, at Lund University, Sweden. He is together with Professor Susanne Iwarsson responsible for WP2 in the INNOVAGE project and were also involved in a leading position in the FUTURAGE project. He is study coordinator for the Swedish National Graduate School on Ageing and Health, SWEAH, and initiator of several cross country initiatives on higher education in gerontology.

Marja Vaarama
University of Eastern Finland, Finland (from 1 September)



MSc.(Soc. & Pol. Sc.) 1980; University of Helsinki; PhD (Social Policy and Social Economics) 1995, University of Lapland; Senior Researcher and Professor of Aging Research 1987-2005, National Institute for Welfare and Health, Finland; Adjunct Professor (Social Policy & Ageing) 1996- present, University of Turku; Adjunct Professor (Social Gerontology) 2002-2005, University of Lapland; Visiting Adjunct Professor 2002-2005, University of Bamberg, Germany; Professor of Social Gerontology and Social Work 2005-2009, University of Lapland. Coordinator of the Finnish National Ageing Forum 2003-2004, board member of the Finnish Gerontological Society 2004-present, member of the European Council of IAGG 2004-present, Member of the Executive Board of the University of Lapland 2010-2014 and vice-chair 2015-present, Chair of the General Assembly of the European Joint Programming Initiative “More years, better lives” 2011-2013 and Vice-Chair 2014-2015. Co-ordinator and scientific collaborator in national and European research projects, 1982-present. About 200 publications. Current position: Director, National Institute for Health and Welfare, 2009–end of August 2015.

Josef Hilbert
IAT, Germany



Josef Hilbert, PhD is the managing director of the Institute for Work and Technology of the Westphalian University, head of the research department Health Economy and Quality of life and honorary professor in health economics at the medical faculty of the Ruhr-University Bochum. He earned his diploma and his doctoral degree in sociology at the University of Bielefeld. Josef Hilbert had multiple research positions at the universities of Bielefeld, Paderborn, Bochum and the Berlin Social Science Center and has been involved as project manager in many research projects and programs on national and international level including one of the first ambient assisted living projects in Germany.