

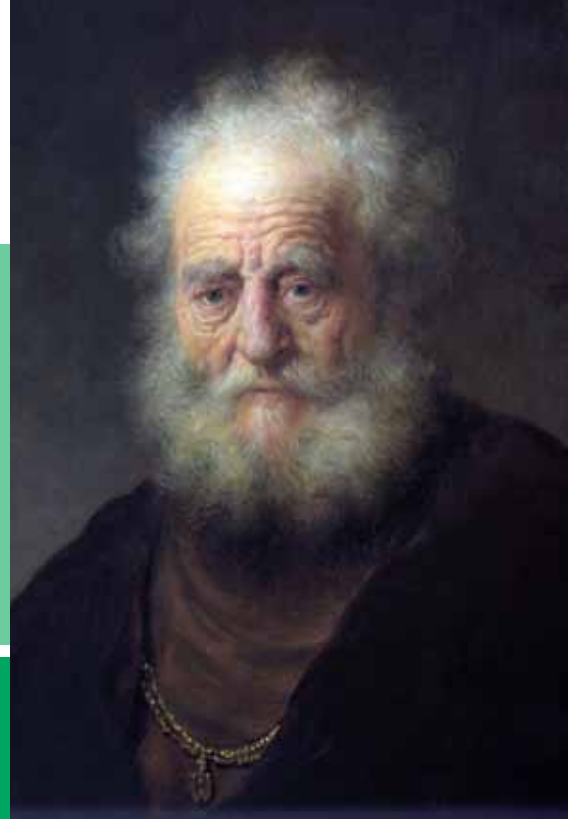
Gerontology and the Humanities – Perspectives for Historical Ageing Studies and Approaches to Gerontological Medievalistics

International conference
Rome, 4 – 6 November 2019

The progressive ageing of Western industrialized societies in particular has led to an ever intensifying consideration of old age both in the scientific community and the media. Ageing is a basic anthropological phenomenon whose characteristic is to be positioned between objective facticity and meaningful cultural construction. Therefore, it represents a complex and multifaceted research object which can be analysed from the angles of different disciplines. As old age can hardly be disconnected from the other ages and generational bonds, it appears relevant to examine it in this context as well. During the last decades, gerontology has been opening itself up to the humanities. Vice versa the humanities, and among them medieval studies, treat old age more and more intensively.

Nevertheless, disciplinary approaches and theories are still mostly separate from one another and inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives have only been developed unsystematically so far. Therefore, the conference pursues three broad aims: (1) to strengthen "old age" as an autonomous topic of research and "age" as an autonomous category of analysis, and (2) to discuss an interdisciplinary entanglement between medieval studies and gerontology which can be called "gerontological medievalistics". Furthermore, it will be possible to debate how this approach might be made fruitful for other periods of history. (3) to promote dialogue and exchange in order to explore the potential for possibilities of working together in inter- and transdisciplinary ways.

Fig.: Rembrandt, Bust of an Old Man with a Golden Chain, 1632
(© Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel, Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Foto: Arno Hensmanns).



Livre des bonnes mœurs, Old Age (La vieillesse), 1410
(© BnF, Manuscrits occidentaux, FRANCAIS 1023, f. 57v).

Conference venue

Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom
Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma
Via Aurelia Antica, 391
I-00165 Roma - www.dhi-roma.it

Organisation and contact

Christian A. Neumann (DHI Rome)
neumann@dhi-roma.it

Promoted by

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

In association with



Registration is required: <http://dhi-roma.it/tagungen.html>

Monday, 4 November 2019, 2.00 pm – 7.30 pm

2.00 pm Alexander Koller | Roma
Welcome

2.10 pm Christian A. Neumann | Roma
Introduction

I - Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives of Gerontology for the Humanities

Chair: Christian A. Neumann | Roma

2.30 pm Hans-Werner Wahl | Heidelberg
Understanding Aging from a Psychological Point of View: Gains and Losses Go Hand in Hand

3.15 pm Coffee Break

3.45 pm Paul Higgs | London
Cultural Gerontology

6.00 pm *Keynote Lecture*
Chair: Christian A. Neumann | Roma

Mary Harlow | Leicester
Growing Old in Rome

7.30 pm Reception

Tuesday, 5 November 2019, 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

II - Old Age in the Context of Intergenerational Relationships from the Angles of Different Disciplines

Chair: Kordula Wolf | Roma

9.00 am Hartwin Brandt | Bamberg
Generation Conflicts and the Crisis of the Late Roman Republic. Remarks on Sallust and Cicero

9.45 am Lidia Vitale | Roma
The Life Cycle: Age from the Perspective of Human Osteoarchaeology

10.30 am Coffee Break

10.45 am Monica Ferrari | Pavia
Feelings of the Stages of Life: the Education of Princes in the Modern Era as a Privileged Observation Point

11.30 am Luciana Repici | Torino
Aristotle's Philosophical Reflections on Old Age

12.15 pm Lunch

III - Old Age Seen from the Perspectives of Different Disciplines

Chair: Luisa Valente | Roma

1.15 pm Sonja Kerth | Bremen
Ein krücke was sîn stiure [A crutch supported him]. Literary Perspectives on Old Age and Disability in Medieval Courtly Romances ("Eneas", "Erec", "Iwein")

2.00 pm Daniel Schäfer | Köln
(Proto-) Geriatrics – a Subdiscipline of Late Medieval Medicine under the Banner of Humanism?

2.45 pm Coffee Break

3.00 pm Kathrin Liess | München
Perspectives on Old Age in the Old Testament

3.45 pm Andrea von Hülsen-Esch | Düsseldorf
Old Age and the Stages of Life in Medieval Art

7.00 pm Dinner for all Participants

Wednesday, 6 November 2019, 9.15 am – 2.00 pm

IV - Medievalist Views on Old Age

Chair: Sebastian Kolditz | Roma-Heidelberg

9.15 am Thijs Porck | Leiden
Old Age and Kingship in Anglo-Saxon England: "Beowulf" as a Mirror for Elderly Kings

10.00 am Coffee Break

10.30 am Daniela Santoro | Palermo
The Treatment of Old Age at Court: the Kings of Sicily from Roger II to Martin II (Century XII–XV)

11.15 am José Miguel Andrade Cernadas | Santiago de Compostela
Old Age and Generations in Monastic Communities

12.00 pm Lunch

1.00 pm Final Roundtable



Fig.: De Lisle Psalter, Wheel of the Ten Ages of Man, early 14th century (© The British Library Board, Arundel MS 83, f. 126v).