



Perceptions of Aging and Old Age: Thresholds and Life-Cycles

Conference: 28–29 March 2023

March 28th: Villino Stroganoff, Via Gregoriana 22, 00187 Rome and online
(Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/event/2092675>)

March 29th: The Norwegian Institute in Rome, Viale Trenta Aprile 33, 00153 Roma
(Zoom <https://uio.zoom.us/j/65576716260>)

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Perceptions of Aging and Old Age: Thresholds and Life-Cycles

Images of old age and aging determine how we handle demographic change. This conference will explore how the stages of the life cycle have been construed throughout history in order to consciously recognize the stereotypes that emanate from these age categories.

Reflections on aging in the arts, medical texts, historical sources and literature reveal concepts of age, societal expectations, and stereotypical notions which determine how individuals approach late life, but also how these cultural assumptions of age-appropriate behavior can be subverted, changed, and expanded. By looking at socio-biological thresholds and analyzing how fluctuating models of the stages of human life have circulated in different time periods, our goal is to assess recurring patterns and continuities, new forms of expression and changes as well as complexities that provide a framework through which cultural constructions of age(ing) may be analyzed and understood. Thus the conference seeks to enrich the ongoing discussion on age and aging with new perspectives.



March 28:
<https://vimeo.com/event/2092675>



March 29:
<https://uio.zoom.us/j/65576716260>

Scientific Organization:

Prof. Dr. Andrea von Hülsen-Esch (University of Duesseldorf, Germany)

Dr. Laura Cayrol-Bernardo (University of Bergen, Norway)



Perceptions of Aging and Old Age: Thresholds and Life-Cycles

Tuesday, 2023, March 28 - Bibliotheca Hertziana
Via Gregoriana, 28, 00187 Roma

09:15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome: **Tanja Michalsky**, BHMPI

Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, University of Duesseldorf

Laura Cayrol-Bernardo, University of Bergen

SECTION 1

Moderator: **Andrea von Hülsen-Esch**, University of Duesseldorf

INTERVENTIONS

Kristin B. Aavitsland, The Norwegian Institute in Rome

Life Turning on Death: The Life Cycle in Late Medieval and Early Modern Visual Rhetoric

Camille Brouzes, University of Rouen

The Ages of Man in Late Medieval French Poetry: a Self-Portrait Technique?

11:00 PAUSE

11:30 SECTION 2

Moderator: **Giovanna Pinna**, University of Molise

INTERVENTIONS

Svetlana Luchitskaia, Academy of Science, Moscow

'Li darriens tens et la fin de l'aage'. Philippe of Novara's Views on Age and Aging

Christian Neumann, German Historical Institute in Rome

Old Age and the English Kings: Thresholds, Transitions, and Turning Points (12–14th Centuries)

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 SECTION 3

Moderator: **Ulla Kriebner**, University of Graz

INTERVENTIONS

Laura Cayrol-Bernardo, University of Bergen

Understanding Sex Difference in Later Life: « Menopause » as a Threshold in Medieval Thought (12th-15th c.)

Daniel Schäfer, University of Cologne

Medical Invention of the Infertile Old Man? Reflections on the Early Modern Discussion of Male Old-Age Sterility and Impotence

15:30 PAUSE

16:00

Moderator: **Anita Wohlmann**, University of Southern Denmark

INTERVENTION

Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, University of Duesseldorf

Diagrammatic Thinking and The Division of Life into Ages



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Wednesday, 2023, March 29 – The Norwegian Institute in Rome
Viale Trenta Aprile 33, 00153 Roma

09:15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Kristin B. Aavitsland, The Norwegian Institute in Rome

SECTION 4

Moderator: Daniel Schäfer, University of Cologne

INTERVENTIONS

Jaco Zuiderduijn, University of Lund

The Three Myths of Old Age – and Why Historians Should Care

Giovanna Pinna, University of Molise

On Aging and Agency: Nussbaum vs. de Beauvoir

11:00 PAUSE

11:30 SECTION 5

Moderator: Laura Cayrol-Bernardo, University of Bergen

INTERVENTIONS

Margery Vibe Skagen, University of Bergen

Outsiders on the Threshold to Eternity: Representations of Old Age in 19th century French Poetry

María Soledad Marambio Castro, University of Bergen

The Hero's Bloody Journey: Female Characters in Menopause Narratives

13:00 LUNCH

14:30 SECTION 6

Moderator: Maria Soledad Marambio Castro, University of Bergen

INTERVENTIONS

Anita Wohlmann, University of Southern Denmark

Studying Old Age in Literary Texts: Critique and Postcritique

Ulla Kriebner, University of Graz

"I fear I am not in my perfect mind": Perceptions of Aging and Vulnerability in 21st Century Productions of Shakespeare's "King Lear"

16:00 PAUSE

16:30 CLOSURE

Andrea von Hülsen-Esch, University of Duesseldorf

Laura Cayrol-Bernardo, University of Bergen