



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS

The Global Social Initiative on Ageing
Director: Norah C. Keating, PhD

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Population ageing is a key feature of the early 21st century. In all world regions, proportions of older adults are increasing rapidly. Yet often they are invisible in the face of other global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and economic and political migration that have dominated the international stage.

The Global Social Initiative on Ageing (GSIA) is a new activity of the International Association of Gerontology (IAGG). Its mission is to foster collaborative, trans-national approaches to the creation and transfer of knowledge at the intersections of global trends and population ageing. The GSIA will address critical challenges arising from these global trends including:

- The sustainability of older rural populations who face increased poverty and out-migration of young people arising from the impact of climate change.
- The ability of families to sustain intergenerational support in the face of poverty, pandemics, and changing family structures and beliefs.
- Global shifts in world economies toward the individualization of risk that have led to increasing income disparities, older adults who are left behind in migratory transitions, and widening north-south divides.
- The erosion or absence of social welfare provisions that have resulted in increasing social and economic costs of care.

A strategic planning meeting will be held at the University of Alberta, Department of Human Ecology on March 29-31, 2011. Its purpose is to launch the GSIA and to create an international research agenda and implementation plan. This invited meeting will bring together twelve world-renowned social scientists from sociology, social policy, social welfare, family studies, human ecology, political science, demography and human geography. Members of the GSIA Strategic Planning Council are known for their critical reflections on issues of ageing and their voices in setting international ageing agendas.

The Global Social Initiative on Ageing is a high-profile initiative with potential to influence the lives of millions of older adults around the world.

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Global Social Initiative on Ageing Strategic Planning Council

Norah **Keating** is Professor and Co-director, Research on Aging, Policies and Practice, University of Alberta. Chair of the North American Region of IAGG¹ and mentor to the ICGSO², she conducts national and trans-national research on social exclusion of older adults, family relationships and care.

Isabella **Aboderin** is Research Fellow, Oxford Institute of Ageing, and director, African Research on Ageing Network. Based in Nairobi, she is Regional Chair for Africa of the IAGG, and conducts research on globalization, migration and development in sub-Saharan Africa.

Heung Bong **Cha** is President-elect, IAGG. He is a former Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea; and Dean, Faculty of Social Welfare, Hallym University. He is known for his leadership in planning for social needs of ageing populations.

Peng **Du** is Director and Professor of the Gerontology Institute, Renmin University. He is Vice-President, China Gerontological Society; Chair, Asia/Oceania Region, IAGG; and board member, UN International Institute on Ageing and HelpAge International. He conducts research on demography of ageing in China.

Xiao Tian **Feng** is Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Nanjing University. He conducts research on the impact of China's one-child policy on intergenerational family relationships.

Monica **Ferreira** is President, International Longevity Centre-South Africa, Cape Town University. She is director, Age Consult Africa, and board member of the African Research on Ageing Network. She conducts research on development agendas, ageing policies and poverty among older adults in Africa.

Gyounghae **Han**, is Professor and Director, Translational Gerontology & Retirement Research Center, Seoul National University. She is past-President, Korea Association of Family Relations, and conducts research on family relationships and support in Asia.

Hal **Kendig** is Research Professor, University of Sydney and Chief Investigator, Centre of Research Excellence on Population Ageing. Dr. Kendig serves on the Editorial Boards of Ageing and Society and the Journal of Population Ageing and leads an international program of research on productive ageing.

Ariela **Lowenstein** is Professor and Head, Center for Research and Study of Aging, Faculty of Welfare, University of Haifa. She chairs an advisory committee to the Ministry of Senior Citizens, is board member of the International Federation on Aging and conducts research on global aging and families.

Judith **Phillips** is Professor of Gerontology and Social Work, Swansea University, She is co-director, Ageing Research and Development Network; past-president, British Society of Gerontology; and series editor for Ageing across the Lifecourse. She directs a program of research on employment and care.

Merril **Silverstein** is Professor of Gerontology and Sociology, University of Southern California and Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences. He is Principal Investigator, Longitudinal Study of Generations, and conducts research on international perspectives on aging families.

Sue **Yeandle** is Professor of Sociology and Co-Director, Centre of International Research on Care, Labour and Equalities, University of Leeds. She conducts policy research on support needed by carers of working age and has expertise in engaging post-graduate students in international programs of research.

¹ International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG)

² International Council of Gerontology Student Organizations (ICGSO)