



International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics

The Global Social Initiative on Ageing



Founded 1950

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics

Mission: to foster capacity building and the creation and transfer of knowledge on global, cross-national and regional issues at the intersections of global trends and population ageing.



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GSIA Objectives

1. Make IAGG a leader in international ageing issues
2. Engage members of the IAGG
3. Build research capacity in social aspects of ageing



GSIA Strategic Planning Meeting March 28-31, 2011





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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Objectives

1. Make IAGG a leader in international ageing issues
 - Synthesize & advance the cross national and multidisciplinary evidence
 - Transfer new knowledge to key audiences
 - Use IAGG World Congress and Regional congresses to transfer knowledge



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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Objectives

2. Engage members of the IAGG

- State of knowledge publications
- Create IAGG structures
- Develop coordinating mechanisms



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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Objectives

3. Build research capacity in social aspects of ageing
 - Support and link students (ICGSO)
 - Foster exchanges for new & established scholars
 - Develop collaborative, cross-regional research programs
 - Offer seminars/short courses on GSIA themes
 - Build capacity to engage with the world outside of academia



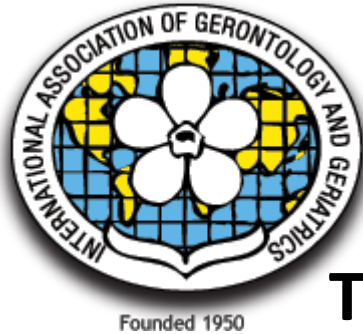
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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Key Assumptions

1. Multiple, dynamic and interactive contexts

Ageing takes place within multiple social contexts that are organized hierarchically from macro societal institutions to individual resources.

Social contexts are dynamic, changing and interacting over time, influencing ageing trajectories and outcomes.



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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Key Assumptions

2. Diversity and inequality

Long-term institutional and social arrangements have led to inequalities of gender, social class, race/ethnicity, and age.

Increasing individualization of risk has accompanied reduced/absent institutional commitment to older adults widening inequalities between older adults in developed and developing nations.



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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Key Assumptions

3. Methodological and theoretical pluralism

Knowledge creation is inclusive with respect to methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks.

Critical theorizing is essential.



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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Key Assumptions

4. Scope

Evidence-based knowledge must be communicated to, and built with, relevant stakeholders, including older people, policy-makers, and practitioners.



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- What are the top priorities in global social issues in ageing?
- How do they link to key global challenges?



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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Themes

1. Families

To identify and address global trends in discourses and realities of family strengths and obligations.

2. Liveability

To identify trends in access of older adults to material resources and the impact of these trends on their survival and citizenship.

3. Caregiving

To document amounts and types of care by and to older adults and the needs for support in these caring activities.



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GSIA Activities and Accomplishments

- July, 2010
 - GSIA concepts and themes presented at IAGG European Social Gerontology meeting, Swansea
- July-September, 2010
 - Draft GSIA document circulated to key informants for feedback



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GSIA Activities and Accomplishments

- September, 2010
 - Creation of the GSIA Strategic Planning Council
- October, 2011
 - Funding application for strategic planning to the World University Network
- January, 2011
 - Strategic planning application funded; financial support from WUN, IAGG, participating universities



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GSIA Activities and Accomplishments

- Jan 2011 IAGG Executive Meeting, Geneva
 - GSIA endorsed as a core element of IAGG
 - Appointment of Professor Norah Keating as GSIA Director
 - IAGG funding provided to develop a global list of social gerontologists



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GSIA Activities and Accomplishments

- March 2011 GSIA Strategic planning meeting, University of Alberta
 - 13 senior social scientists from all world regions
 - Planning re priorities, activities, timelines
 - Building GSIA global list of researchers



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GSIA Activities and Accomplishments

- April 2011 Upcoming activities
 - IAGG supported workshops
 - Caregiving/Frailty Athens
 - Human Rights, Families Capetown
 - Critical reviews on Families, Liveability, Care
 - European Journal on Aging



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GSIA Activities and Accomplishments

- April 2011
 - Research initiatives
 - Expanding routine national-level evidence generation on older persons in sub-Saharan Africa
 - Developing cross-national social indicators from existing data sets
 - World Congress 2013 Seoul
 - Plenary speakers in GSIA priority areas
 - Presidential symposia
 - Request for GSIA membership on IAGG Executive



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Internal audiences & partners

- Executive, council members, regional committees
- National Gerontological societies
- Social and behavioural scientists
- World Congresses, regional and national conferences
- Development of a central information hub for IAGG members
- Inventory of key people
- Global Ageing Research Network (GARS)

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Through WUN university programs-

linked with IAGG regional conference in Capetown

China Institutes (U of A, USC) , Australia priority re China



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External audiences & partners

- United Nations
- Business
- Help Age International and other NGOs (on families, care, liveability)
- WHO
- University institutes on aging and research centres
- World Demographic and Aging Forum
- International Sociology Association Research committee on sociology of aging
- OECD (on economics of aging, care and employment, retirement),
- EU
- Policy makers and politicians



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Key Outputs

- Research agenda publication.
- Review article on 3 GSIA themes
- GSIA workshops on families, liveability, caregiving
- Publications (web, social media, facebook, twitter) targeted to audience of the workshop
- Collaborative research efforts- global, regional, comparative
- Building on topic areas that we have set, on existing data sets, with people who have interest and ability to lead, and a few core people to contribute, focused efforts. Draw on existing data sets



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The GSIA Strategic Plan: Next Steps

- Become engaged in moving forward the GSIA agenda
- Contact
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 - IAGG secretariat seyne@cict.fr