



Network: Global Social Initiative on Ageing (IAGG-GSIA)

A research planning meeting in Finland

A research planning meeting on families in later life was held April 27-30 in Rovaniemi and Keropirtti in Northern Finland. The meeting was organized by Marjaana Seppänen, Professor of Gerontological Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lapland. It was funded by the University of Lapland. Invited participants were from the University of Lapland, Keele University, Brunel University, National University of Ireland, Galway and University of Alberta.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop a program of research on families living in northern areas. Two points of departure were developed.

1. The project is based on data from the GOAL study (Good Ageing in Lahti Region), a longitudinal Study on ageing and well-being. The study includes 3 cohorts of older adults. Four waves of data have been collected to date. Analyses are planned that will address questions of the structure, function and perceived quality of family life of study participants, set within historic contexts of war and family separation and later development of the welfare state. Contact: Professor Marjaana Seppänen marjaana.seppanen@ulapland.fi
2. The second project is a systematic review of literature on obligations to care, that will map the extent and diversity of obligations of family members and friends to provide care to older adults. Contact: Dr. Mo Ray m.g.ray@appsoc.keele.ac.uk



These projects are part of a larger initiative on families and ageing that comprises one of the three main themes of the GSIA.

Photo of members of the planning workshop: Miriam Bernard (UK), Shahnaj Begum, Hanna Bradter, Eeva Rossi, Mary Pat Sullivan (UK), Thomas Scharf (Ireland), Marjaana Seppänen (Finland), Mo Ray (UK), Norah Keating (Canada), Arja Kilpeläinen (Finland).

Article sent by Norah Keating, Director of IAGG-GSIA

The next IAGG-GSIA activities

South Korea: Upcoming activities on GSIA families at the World Congress on Gerontology and Geriatrics include a keynote address on families by Professor Karen Roberto (U.S.) entitled *Changes in Family Structure and Care of Older Persons*; and a presidential symposium on families chaired by Professor Ariela Lowenstein and Professor Norah Keating entitled *International Perspectives on Family Roles and Obligations*.

South Africa: Finally, an intensive workshop on families will be held at Northwest University in Potchefstroom, South Africa. Contact: Dr. Jacob Hoffman jacobus.hoffman@ageing.ox.ac.uk or Professor Vera Roos Vera.Roos@nwu.ac.za

Article sent by Norah Keating, Director of IAGG-GSIA