

Research Workshop

Shaping Ageing Futures: Emerging Societal Challenges and Research Directions

(in-person event; English)

Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Venue: Department of Sociology and Social
Research, Aula Pagani (3rd floor)
Building U7, University of Milano-Bicocca, Via
Bicocca degli Arcimboldi 8, 20126 Milan



Shaping Ageing Futures: Emerging Societal Challenges and Research Directions

Across Europe and beyond, ageing societies are undergoing accelerated social transformation. Demographic change increasingly intersects with shifting family structures, labor market precarity, migration flows, evolving welfare arrangements, digitalization, climate change, and widening social inequalities. These transitions do not merely affect current older populations; they are reshaping the conditions under which future generations will age. Understanding ageing therefore requires moving beyond a sole focus on present challenges towards examining how social needs, risks, and opportunities may evolve in the years to come.

While ageing research has generated important insights into existing problems, there is a growing need to create space for more forward-looking scholarly dialogue. How can ageing research move beyond reactive responses towards future-oriented questions and solutions? Which emerging societal trends deserve greater collective attention? And how can interdisciplinary and international exchange help identify early signals of change and contribute to building a society for all ages?

To encourage such reflection and exchange, the Ageing Societies Research Group at the University of Milano-Bicocca is organizing an academic workshop that will bring together scholars working on ageing. The workshop will feature short presentations of ongoing research projects, followed by extended discussions aimed at identifying emerging research directions and fostering collaboration within the ageing research community. The emphasis is on intellectual exchange, collective reflection, and the exploration of future-oriented perspectives. This will be an in-person event, and we appreciate your understanding that online attendance will not be available.

Meeting organizers:

Professor Emanuela Sala, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca. Email: emanuela.sala@unimib.it

Dr Wenqian Xu, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Health Sciences, Lund University; Visiting Researcher, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca. Email: wenqian.xu@med.lu.se

Dr Ekaterina Kochergina, Research Fellow, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca. Email: ekaterina.kochergina@unimib.it

Workshop Agenda

10:00-10:10	Welcome and introductory remarks <i>Emanuela Sala, University of Milano-Bicocca</i>
10:10-10:25	Rethinking loneliness in ageing societies: From individual correlates to contextual and intersectional perspectives? <i>Daniele Zaccaria and Stefano Cereghetti, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland</i>
10:25-10:40	Accessibility to services in inner areas for an ageing population: Actions and interventions for the municipality of Premeno <i>Alessio De Pellegrin, Luca Borrè, Lucia Carbutti, and Stefania Bandini., University of Milano-Bicocca</i>
10:40-10:55	Effect of self-perception of aging, stress, and cognitive reserve on cognitive functioning in caregivers of patients with cognitive decline <i>Roberta Daini, Stefania La Rocca, Ezia Rizzi, Chiara Villa, and Romina Combi, University of Milano-Bicocca</i>
10:55-11:15	Session break
11:15-11:30	E-Gov for all: Overcoming inequalities in digital public service use in older age (E-INQ) <i>Emanuela Sala, University of Milano-Bicocca</i>
11:30-11:45	Ageing, Everyday life and DIgitalisation in the Post-Pandemic era (AgE-DiPP): a mixed method project <i>Elena Rolandi, Fondazione Golgi Cenci</i>
11:45-12:00	AI for Mindful Care and Aging (AMICA): Navigating vulnerability in the use and implementation of automated home care <i>Wenqian Xu, Lund University</i>
12:00-12:15	Beyond active aging: Micro-transitions and epistemic justice in longevity <i>Laura Formenti and Davide Cino, University of Milano-Bicocca</i>
12:15-12:30	Closing remarks & wrap-up