



The Association for
Education & Ageing

Promoting later life learning
through research, policy and practice



The Open University



The Association for Education and Ageing, in association with the multi-lateral European network “ForAge for later-life learning: building on European experience”, announce an

International Conference on Learning in Later Life: Theory, Policy and Practice

to be held at The Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom, 5th – 7th April, 2016

CONFERENCE FOCUS AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference is organised in association with the ForAge multi-lateral network which reached the end of its programme of Grundtvig-funded development in 2015 and passed on its main product – the European database on learning in later life (<http://www.foragenetwork.eu/en/>) - to the Association for Education and Ageing. The conference gives an opportunity to assess the importance of this development.

The Association for Education & Ageing (AEA) is holding this conference at the campus of the Open University. The Conference celebrates the completion of 30 years of AEA’s mission to promote the importance of learning in later life. The Conference also marks the completion of the ForAge network Project and explores the ongoing work which sustains its achievements.

However, the celebration of AEA’s achievement needs to be reflective and critical. Educational gerontology - the study of learning in later life - remains relatively marginal in

how later life is understood. We have to reflect on how the situation might change and be changed. Economic and financial crises have led to a re-focusing of European initiatives towards young people and youth employment and away from other sectors, including older people. We have to consider what can usefully be done about this.

AEA conferences have always had a reputation for bringing together, from across Europe and further afield, older people, practitioners, researchers, academics and policy-makers. They attract those with a general interest in ageing as well as those with a more particular interest in learning in later life. AEA events are also characterised by their friendly and inclusive atmosphere.

The Conference will address a range of critically important themes of theory, policy and practice in relation to learning in later life and relate these themes to the role of learning in ageing societies. The working language of the conference will be English. Plenary speakers will include leading thinkers on ageing and later life and there will be a range of paper and workshop sessions.

You are now invited to propose a paper for inclusion in one of the parallel sessions of the Conference.

Call for Papers:

Papers from all perspectives and disciplines are invited on, for example,

- Older adults' participation in learning
- The role of learning for health and well-being
- Older adults' learning and technology
- Issues and barriers to lifelong learning
- Learning needs of people at different ages and stages of life
- Opportunities for lifelong learning in different countries
- Inclusion and exclusion in older adults learning
- Older workers and intergenerational learning
- Opportunities for older adults to participate in further education, higher education and voluntary sectors
- Policy initiatives for older adults' participation in education and training
- The role of learning as a response to the demographic challenge of an ageing society
- Theories of learning in later life
- Comparative studies of learning in later life

Submission of papers

Participants wishing to present a paper (in English) are requested to submit an abstract (maximum 300 words including title) as soon as possible. The author's name, institution, address and email should be presented on a separate sheet, together with the title of the paper. All abstracts should be submitted by January 22nd 2016 (but preferably earlier) to e.koivunen@mmu.ac.uk. Acceptance, or otherwise, of abstracts by a Review Committee will be confirmed by December 18th for those submitted by December 1st and by February 10th

for those submitted up to January 22nd. Acceptance of abstracts will also be dependent on a booking for the conference having been made by at least one of the named authors of a paper.

Full papers may be submitted before, during or immediately after the conference. All full papers submitted will be published in a post-conference on-line publication by the Association for Education & Ageing. Some authors will be invited by the Editors of the *International Journal for Education and Ageing* to offer their papers for wider dissemination in the *Journal*.

Important dates 2016

January 22nd 2016	Final deadline for submission of abstracts for conference papers
--------------------------	--

January 22nd 2016	Final deadline for “early bird” registration for the conference
--------------------------	---

March 28th 2016	Final deadline for registration and payment of full conference fee
------------------------	--

April 5th-7th 2016	Date of the conference
--------------------------------------	------------------------

April 15th 2016	Last date for submission of full papers for post-conference publication
------------------------	---