

Ageing Cultures, Ageing Concepts

21–23 January 2026

ifk Internationales Forschungszentrum
Kulturwissenschaften
ifk Arkade
Reichsratsstraße 17
1010 Vienna

ifk
Kunstuniversität Linz
University of Arts Linz

Conference Ageing Cultures, Ageing Concepts

Ageing relations are often understood at the intersection of other forms of othering: through the sociology of cohorts, through debates about ageism and ableism or as a specialty topic of those studying care. But what if we started noticing age as an inherent part of all relations? What new viewpoints might arise when we recognize that everything is always already ageing in time, while also understanding that this process is biological, culturally constructed, and relational? Suddenly, it is no longer just the person with wrinkles, but also a young activist, a depopulated village or a belief in a radiant future that might be said to »not have aged well.«

This conference brings to light the norms and relations that become critical when people, things and ideas come to be seen as aged. It asks scholars, activists, children and artists how ageing occurs in different cultural contexts, and how this complicates overall societal relations and their ideological conundrums. What can we learn from queer, feminist theory and disability studies? How can new concepts shift our view of ageing in relation to one another? How are such concepts themselves subverted by their advancing age? What changing figures and tropes of ageing do we find in literature, film and art? And finally: How can social theory be reconfigured without a middle-aged adult as its ideal actor?

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE A HYBRID EVENT.

To participate via Zoom, you have to register for the meeting with your name and e-mail address.

You can find the links on our website in the calendar entry for the event:
www.ifk.ac.at

Wednesday,
21 January
2026

ifk Arkade
and
ifk@Zoom

- 14:00 **Welcome and Introduction**
Julia Boog-Kaminski and Ivan Rajković
- 14:30 **Nanna Heidenreich**
»Until the moment it is upon us old age is something that only affects other people«. Reading Simone de Beauvoir (but not like Eribon)
- 15:30 **Coffee Break**
- 16:00 **Sofie Kronberger**
Reading Minds and Sensing Bodies.
Understanding Re-Configurations of Patienthood in
Digital Capitalism
- 17:00 **Simon(e) van Saarloos**
Assigned Age at Birth. Why Queers Should be Against Ageism
- 18:00 **Reception**
- 19:00 **Film Screening and Talk**
die amitié (100 minutes)
By Ute Holl and Peter Ott

Thursday,
22 January
2026

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- 10:00 **Slaven Crnić**
A Tomorrow Scrapped. Gender, Age and Postimperial Futurism
in August Cesarec's *Today's Russia*
- 11:00 **Johanna Hügel**
Aged and True Cultures Versus New and Degenerate Cultures.
Russia's Quest for Alliances in the Global South and
Postcolonial Theory
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 **Ivan Rajković**
Can the Dying Peasant Speak?
- 15:00 **Iza Kavedžija**
Engaged Aging. Longer Working Lives in Japan
- 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:30 **Jury Everhartz und Kristine Tornquist**
im Gespräch mit Thomas Macho
Über die Kammeroper *Abendsonne*
- 17:30 **Yōko Tawada**
Sendbo-o-te (Lesung und Gespräch)

Friday,
23 January
2026

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- 10:00 **Lena Ekelund**
World Saviours and Final Tender Moments.
New Narratives of Female Ageing
- 11:00 **Sophie Emilia Seidler**
»Das Matriarchat heißt Hannelore«. Generational Conflicts among
Mothers, Daughters, Feminists, and Anorexics
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 **Stefanie Diekmann**
This Is Not about Scarlett Johansson
- 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:30 **Gedanken von Kindern und Jugendlichen
zu Kulturen des Alterns**
Moderiert von Moritz Matschke, Anna Pech und Georg Pöchhacker
- 16:30 End

Concept: Julia Boog-Kaminski (Vienna), Ivan Rajković (Belgrad/Vienna)

Participants: Slaven Crnić (Rijeka), Stefanie Diekmann (Hildesheim), Lena Ekelund (Hamburg), Jury Everhartz (Vienna), Nanna Heidenreich (Vienna), Ute Holl (Basel), Johanna Hügel (Erfurt), Iza Kavedžija (Cambridge), Sofie Kronberger (Vienna), Moritz Matschke (Linz), Thomas Macho (Berlin), Anna Pech (Linz), Georg Pöchhacker (Vienna), Peter Ott (Hamburg), Simon(e) van Saarloos (Berkeley), Sophie Emilia Seidler (Vienna), Yōko Tawada (Berlin), Kristine Tornquist (Vienna)

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