

LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH NETWORK ON AGEING LARNA NEWSLETTER

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BIENVENIDOS [George Leeson]

Welcome to the 7th Newsletter of LARNA, the Latin American Research Network on Ageing of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford.

First of all, I should like to thank all of our new members who have registered with us over the last few months. I hope you and our existing members find this Newsletter both interesting and useful.

In the Newsletter you will find a number of research articles and commentaries as well as reports from the LARNA conference held in Brazil in October 2016 and a conference held in Cuba at the University of Havana, where we hope to develop future collaboration as part of LARNA.

In the future, the Institute here in Oxford in collaboration with colleagues from the network and their universities will be arranging more training and capacity building workshops, which are aimed to raise awareness of the issues of ageing populations in the region. As these

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workshops are established, we shall advise our members and we hope you will be able to attend.

The Newsletter depends on input from the members of the network, and we welcome articles as well as news of events and publications, which you would like to share with the network, so do please send your contributions to me at george.leeson@ageing.ox.ac.uk.

One of the aims of the network is to develop cross-national research. Currently, we are developing research on the role of grandfathers in the modern family with LARNA partners in Mexico and Chile, as well as an AFRAN partner from South Africa and a partner from the University of Malaga in Spain. If you are interested in this field of research – or know of any existing research in this field in your country – please contact me.

LARNA miembros del grupo central:

- Profesora Rosa Kornfeld Matte (Chile) – SENAMA, Gobierno de Chile
- Profesora María Soledad Herrera (Chile) – Instituto de Sociología, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- Profesora Rita de Cássia da Silva Oliveira (Brasil) – Universidad Estatal de Ponta Grossa – UEPG
- Profesor Marcos Jardim (Brasil) – Universidad Federal de Río de Janeiro
- Profesora Veronica Montes de Oca (México) – Investigaciones Sociales. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Profesor Blanca López La Vera (Perú) – Facultad de Letras y Ciencias Humanas, UNEX Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
- Profesor Ricardo Iacub (Argentina) – Universidad de Buenos Aires

Latin America is ageing

Dr George W. Leeson
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The populations of Europe and North America aged through the 20th century and for these economies the future holds one of extremely low levels of fertility and radical life extension (Leeson 2014, 2014a). As we move into the 21st century, the populations of Latin America and the Caribbean, with their own history, culture and traditions, will begin to mirror this ageing, and countries are variously prepared or unprepared to take on the challenge (Brea 2003). For most of the 20th century, Latin America and the Caribbean had youthful populations, and it was not until the 1980s that the proportion of the population aged under 15 years dropped below 40 per cent. By 2010, less than 30 per cent of the population was aged under 15 years, while the proportion aged 65 years and over stood at around 7 per cent, having been at most 5 per cent for most of the century.

So, Latin America is ageing and the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing's Latin American Research Network (LARNA) arranges workshops with our partners in the region to discuss the implications of these major developments in the region. Most recently in 2016 when the workshop was hosted by the Institute of Social Research at the Universidad Mayor de San Andres in La Paz and attended by around 80 delegates.

Why is ageing so important? In fact, one could argue that ageing per se is not important, but what is important is the age structure of a population, as this impacts on more or less all social phenomena from child care and schooling to housing and transport; from hospital care to long-term care; from the workplace to community services. However, in the relatively early stages of this ageing transition in Bolivia – and elsewhere in Latin America – ageing is up against a whole host of issues that the government and civil society struggles to address. So for example, at the recent workshop there were passionate appeals for the empowerment of older people from Professors Veronica Montes de Oca and Ricardo Iacub from Mexico and Argentina respectively, appeals that were taken up by the numerous delegates from Bolivia. The role of the family in this transition was centre stage for many of the presentations and much of the debate, and a particularly piece of research on

the role of grandfathers in contemporary Mexican families was presented by Professor Alejandro Klein from the University of Guanajuato-Leon in Mexico.

In addition to ageing, the region is urbanising quite dramatically. In the mid-20th century, around 41 per cent of the region's population lived in urban settings, and by 2015 this had doubled, with 80 per cent now living in urban settings. The region's urban population is expected to comprise 86 per cent of total population by 2050 (United Nations 2014).

Not surprisingly then, the plight of older people in both the expanding cities of Bolivia and of those older people left behind in the rural areas was also a major theme of presentations from Bolivian scholars.

The next decades are predicted to witness a veritable explosion in the number and proportion of older people in the region (United Nations 2015). The oldest population of the region in 2050 is expected to be Cuba with around 40 per cent of its population aged 60 years and over, and so the next LARNA workshop is scheduled to take place in May in Cuba to engage with Cuban scholars and policy makers about the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population.

Now, is this development in the region necessarily a bad thing? Demographically, there is no reason why a particular age structure of a population should be good or bad. The causes for concern are linked more to the ability of societal infrastructures to accommodate changes in age structures, in this instance the transition from lots of young to lots of old people. However, there is likely to be a consensus that a world with few young people may not be a sustainable world, just as there is likely to be a consensus that continued and uncontrolled population growth is unsustainable. The balance may be the most preferable option – a balance of young and old in a stabilised population.

But do individual or even societal aspirations match this balance? Do individual aspirations to have few children and to live long, healthy lives collide with this idea of balance? Do societal aspirations to have a population with a balance collide with these apparent individual aspirations? Should we dissuade medical science from finding the cure for diseases of old age, thereby reducing our longevity and life

expectancy? Should we exempt couples with 3 or more children from paying income tax?

What is particularly pertinent in this debate is the extent – if at all – to which these demographic trends can be reversed if so desired. So, for example, what will it take to convince young people to form families and have more (than one or even two) children? In the past, children were a resource. They contributed to family welfare (by working) and surviving children provided for the security in old age of their parents. Today, one could argue that children are a drain on a family's resources, and survival is almost guaranteed.

Demographically, of course, children are important to provide new generations of workers and to maintain the population's continued existence. This has to be seen against a backdrop of increasing concern about population development and environmental change.

It is a complex equation. And the predicted demographics can prove to be extremely difficult to influence by acceptable means.

However, there is some comfort to be found in the demographics of Latin America. Countries of the region have a lengthy period of demographic opportunity in which the total demographic dependency is declining providing in theory a backdrop for economic expansion fired by a growing labour force. The demographic window remains open for another 20 years – the time to address ageing populations in Latin America is now.

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POPULATION AGEING IN BRAZIL: NOTES ON DEMOGRAPHY, GENDER, INCOME AND EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS IN THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO

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The demographic revolution is one of the most important changes Brazil has experienced in the last 100 years. Average life expectancy in Brazil was only 33.5 years in the early 20th century. According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), by 2009 it reached 73 years (76.5 for women and 69 for men). The proportion of elderly people increased from 9.1% in 1999 to 11.3% in 2009, with a current contingent of 22 million, thus surpassing the elderly population in European countries such as France, England and Italy according to U.N. estimates. Increasing life expectancy has been most impressive among individuals over 80 years of age. From 1997 to 2007, the population 60-69 years of age grew by 21.6%, while the over-80 group increased by a full 47.8%” (MINAYO, 2012, p. 209).

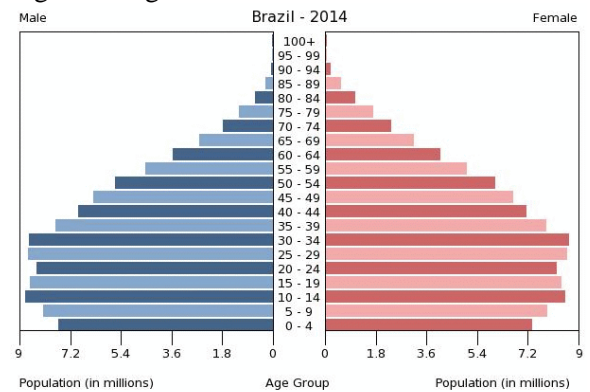
The process of population ageing in Brazil is mainly a result from the sudden change in the population age structure and indicators of longevity, which consequently result in a higher proportion of older people when compared to the rest of the population in other age groups. This is widely due to the continuous reduction of population fertility, making the younger age groups (younger generation) less relevant in quantitative terms (Figure 1).

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Figure 1: Age structure in Brazil.



Source: Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook.

Moreover, the decline in the birth rate was strongly influenced by the recent entry of women into the labour market, which favoured new family dynamics through which women started to share public spaces and make decisions on issues such as pregnancy, sex and relationships. Thus, the conquest of women’s autonomy is a major influence in the process of the decline in birth rates, particularly in the West after the 1960s.

Another important issue is the increase in longevity in Brazil, at 73.6 years old according to official data released by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE - 2014). As reported by the IBGE, there was an increase in longevity (from around 50 years old in the 1970s to nearly 70 years old in 2014), accompanied by the decline in infant mortality rates and rise in life expectancy at birth (Table 1). In the table below, it can be observed how the indicators have undergone significant changes when compared to each other, noticeably by the regions; for example, the North and Northeast regions have shown much lower social indicators when compared to other regions in Brazil (Southeast, South and Centre-west). Considering this, principally by analysing the minimum social indicators (basic sanitation, income, clean water and electricity), there are clearly still inequalities concerning the differentiation of this data, as the richest regions of the country, which have more concentration of per capita income, are the ones with the best overall prospects when compared to poorer regions and, therefore, with lower rates of per capita income.

Table 1: Social Indicators in Brazil.

Major Region and Federation Units	Rate of infant mortality (live births and deaths) - %	Life expectancy at birth (years)			Probability of dying between 15 and 20 years old (deaths % people)			Probability of dying between 15 and 20 years old (deaths % people)			Life expectancy at 60 years of age (10 years)		
		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Brazil		76.1	71.8	78.8	21.4	32.7	8.7	146.4	184.4	86.4	71.9	20.2	22.4
North	18.6	71.8	68.5	75.8	31.6	48.7	13.8	183.6	234.1	127.8	26.2	18.8	21.7
Roraima	20.8	70.9	67.9	74.6	29.6	45.6	12.6	179.8	232.2	121.1	19.2	16.0	20.7
Acre	18.4	72.3	70.0	75.0	24.1	34.9	10.0	175.0	218.8	113.0	21.1	18.0	22.8
Amapá	19.4	71.4	68.2	75.0	32.7	49.0	15.7	189.6	236.1	128.0	20.1	16.6	21.7
Roraima	17.6	70.9	68.4	73.7	31.2	42.5	10.4	188.8	244.8	146.6	18.4	16.6	20.3
Para	17.7	71.7	68.1	73.8	32.5	42.5	10.9	186.9	241.5	136.2	20.2	18.7	21.8
Amapá	23.7	73.4	70.7	76.3	27.1	40.6	13.1	152.1	188.8	112.1	21.4	20.1	22.8
Tocantins	16.8	73.8	69.8	76.1	28.7	43.8	12.9	174.4	211.1	120.0	20.9	19.8	22.3
Northeast	18.4	72.5	68.4	76.7	30.1	46.5	11.4	180.2	243.9	115.3	20.8	19.0	22.5
Maranhão	23.5	70.0	68.3	74.0	34.1	50.1	16.5	220.7	279.0	167.1	20.0	18.1	22.0
Pernambuco	20.4	70.7	68.6	74.8	30.1	43.8	10.2	182.3	238.0	130.0	19.9	17.7	21.2
Ceará	19.8	73.4	69.3	77.4	28.1	40.9	9.9	166.2	231.4	104.3	21.2	19.6	22.6
Rio Grande do Norte	16.1	73.2	71.9	78.2	20.8	32.9	8.0	144.0	186.0	91.1	20.1	20.0	23.9
Pernambuco	18.0	72.6	68.7	76.5	30.2	46.5	10.8	178.2	245.4	111.3	20.8	19.4	22.1
Paraná	14.0	73.1	69.0	77.1	27.4	40.1	8.6	168.8	223.1	107.1	20.2	18.7	22.1
Alagoas	22.4	70.8	68.2	75.7	37.3	54.2	10.7	200.9	279.0	121.8	20.2	18.2	21.9
Sergipe	17.0	73.1	69.0	76.4	28.9	43.4	10.1	153.7	246.0	111.8	20.2	18.6	22.0
Bahia	18.9	73.0	68.6	77.6	30.8	46.1	10.1	177.2	241.7	109.0	21.4	19.3	23.3
Southeast	11.1	76.9	73.8	80.1	14.9	22.3	6.3	126.2	167.6	84.7	22.6	20.6	24.2
Minas Gerais	10.0	76.7	73.8	79.7	15.6	23.8	6.7	126.1	173.2	89.8	22.7	21.2	24.1
Espírito Santo	9.6	77.5	73.8	81.6	22.0	36.1	7.2	129.8	177.4	79.4	23.7	21.5	25.6
Rio de Janeiro	10.3	76.8	73.9	79.5	18.6	28.6	7.9	142.3	189.8	89.9	23.9	20.8	23.7
São Paulo	10.5	77.6	74.2	80.6	11.8	17.6	5.7	116.7	156.2	77.5	24.7	20.6	24.4
South	10.1	77.2	73.8	80.6	15.7	24.5	6.5	119.3	160.5	77.4	22.6	20.5	24.4
Paraná	10.1	76.5	73.1	79.9	19.3	31.0	7.1	126.4	173.4	78.8	22.2	20.5	23.7
Santa Catarina	9.8	78.4	75.1	81.9	12.1	19.1	5.8	106.0	139.7	70.8	23.9	21.0	25.4
Rio Grande do Sul	10.2	77.9	73.7	80.5	14.3	22.1	6.2	120.2	160.2	80.0	22.6	20.3	24.5
Midwest	10.2	76.7	73.4	79.2	22.8	35.8	8.9	149.8	193.8	95.6	21.8	19.9	23.9
Mato Grosso do Sul	14.9	75.0	71.6	76.7	21.0	32.4	9.0	142.7	189.5	93.7	21.7	19.9	23.6
Mato Grosso	17.7	73.7	70.9	77.4	23.6	37.4	9.5	156.6	203.4	101.7	21.1	19.7	22.6
Goiás	10.8	73.8	70.2	77.1	20.3	30.8	7.2	132.2	173.7	84.8	21.8	19.8	22.3
Distrito Federal	11.0	77.6	73.8	81.0	16.6	28.0	5.7	110.2	154.1	71.0	22.8	20.6	24.7

Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), 2014.

Concerning the fertility rate in terms of a global perspective, there was a significant change from the average 4.91 children per woman in the mid-1960s to 2.45 in the decade of 2010. According to data from the World Bank, in the period research was conducted (more than fifty years), the sharp decline in this data can be clearly seen. For countries with higher per capita income, the fertility rate fell from 2.99 children in 1960 to 1.75 in 2010. A decrease in this rate was also observed in low-income countries, from 6.46 to 4.08 in the same period.

Considering these indicators, it is clear that in developed countries, this decline began in the last decades of the nineteenth century, while in developing countries, the process started later at the end of the twentieth century. Some studies, such as those conducted by the IBGE, have shown that this fall, especially in developing countries, and in this case in Brazil, are occurring at an accelerated rate, unlike what was observed in developed countries such as Sweden and England. Between 1960 and 2010, fertility rates declined by approximately 70% (from 6.28 children to 1.90%) for developing countries, while in developed countries, this indicator took six decades (1870-1930) to reduce the rate by 50%.

Many factors may be listed to demonstrate the high decline in this fertility rate. In this study, in addition to the entry of women into the labour market and new family dynamics, it is worth reflecting on the introduction of the contraceptive pill in the 1960s as an important point. According to the Moroccan sociologist, Eva Illouz (2008), after the contraceptive pill was introduced and disseminated, the discourse on sexuality, especially concerning desire, went from a sphere focused exclusively on family dynamics to bodily

autonomy and search for pleasure. The search for sexual pleasure has been historically disconnected from the notion of family, which was focused on a stable union and procreative concepts associated with the ideals of reproduction. Women, therefore, found themselves in situations involving marriage and obligatory marital functions, ever increasingly associated to reproductive ideals. The sharp fall in birth rates also reflects the entry of women into the labour market, which, in addition to generating a new social situation for the country in economic terms, was also responsible for reorganizing the family nucleus. This was focused on the father figure considering relations with the economic capital, enabling more women's autonomy, especially regarding their body, pregnancy and sex issues.

From the 1960s, markedly by the introduction of the contraceptive pill, women could now seek pleasure without necessarily resorting to marriage. This previously seemed unthinkable, due to various constraints that concentrated the public and private sphere on the discourse of filiation and monogamy. However, in the same decade, the search for sexual pleasure emerged as an unprecedented demand in the middle and educated classes.

In sociological terms, it can be observed how social dynamics significantly interfered in the issues of the general population; not without major consequences, considering the introduction of the contraceptive pill and changes in the way of understanding the role of gender and work. Moreover, all economic, political and institutional order was gradually changed.

In a study coordinated by Professor Vivian Ramos Melhado and João Paulo Ferreira, with the support of the Federal University of São Carlos and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) in the State of São Paulo, a qualitative methodology was carried out using semi-structured interviews with a group of 500 elderly people who lived with their families and were attended by the Unified Health System (SUS) from 2013 to 2015 at a university hospital. It was observed that 72.4% of families depended economically on the pensions of the older members of the family. Furthermore, due to low levels of education and social vulnerability, the younger members of the family (the vast majority) did not enter the formal labour market, and this led to informally developing the elderly as the role of caregivers,

even considering their fragile state and need for care. Moreover, according to the socioeconomic questionnaire used (Brazilian Criteria adapted - ABEP), the older women (75.1% of the interviewees) were responsible for being the head of the family. The predominant income among the elderly people who were interviewed (60 and over), usually women, was a minimum wage - the relative value of the retirement salary. The fact that the vast majority of elderly people live on only a minimum wage is a very close reflection of retirement policies with individual contributions by domestic workers, housewives and former rural workers, especially in the interior of the State, having a history of working in sugarcane, orange, soy and coffee plantations.

If in the past Brazilian families structured themselves around the father figure, mainly as the breadwinner, today we can support a new hypothesis: the introduction of the contraceptive pill during the second half of the last century as a social-historical phenomenon and facilitator of new family arrangements, family composition and availability of resources.

The economic structure of families, as pointed out by Debert and Simões (2006), for example, is directly related to the new dynamics associated with ageing, especially the retirement process. Based on the data obtained from the study conducted in the state of São Paulo, the central position occupied by women can be observed, now as heads of the family, sustaining homes and other generations in situations where there is hardly any formal labour, income and education. It can also be observed that the low level of education and income among family members was directly proportional to the level of education of the breadwinner, i.e., the lower their education, the less education and income the other members of the family had.

Regarding the education of the elderly who were interviewed in the research, 48.9% said they were illiterate, 36.7% had not completed primary education, 9.8% had completed primary education and 4.6% had finished secondary school.

In accordance with the National Household Sample Survey (PNAD in Portuguese), illiteracy indicators measured in 2014 in Brazil showed that the elderly population (60 years and over) scored 23.1%. In contrast, the rate of illiteracy for young people and adolescents (15 to 19 yrs) was 0.9% in 2014. The data show various interpretations. Taking this into account, we

understand that as well as the traditional aspects considered by demographics, such as the decrease in fertility rates, birth rates and increase in longevity, this study points out a basic characteristic to think about the ageing process in the spectrum of a developing country, which is illiteracy. When we stratify and compare this indicator in the five regions of the country (north, northeast, southeast, south and centre-west), the data are even more radicalized, demonstrating that the elderly population who currently resides in the State of São Paulo, at N (500) of the research, presents indicators close to regions considered the most affected by a low level of education (north and northeast). In other words, the elderly people who participated in the study showed not only a high level of illiteracy, but also incredibly contrasting indicators with those of developed countries and even the same as the younger generation in Brazil itself.

The contrast between "young Brazil" and "old Brazil" is marked historically by the fact that the country has lived under a democracy for approximately 30 years (1985: first civilian government; 1988: Federal Constitution). People who were born and raised under democratic regimes with focused social policies aimed at income distribution, having access to education and economic development, have much higher social indicators than those who lived through periods of dictatorships.

Recent demographic research, such as the IBGE and the National Institute of Ageing, have attempted (in many aspects) to rapidly shorten the bases of the age pyramid in developing countries, however what has been highlighted in these studies is still the low fertility rates. According to Debert and Simões (2006), the economic structure around retirement has had an impact on the new conceptions of families in Brazil, especially among those with high unemployment and low levels of education. Due to the low level of professionalization and education, many families in Brazil survive on older family members' pensions. It is common to observe situations where retirement is the primary means of survival.

According to the demographer, Ana Amelia Camarano, over the last 60 years, the number of people considered elderly in the country has increased nine fold, from 1.7 million in 1940 to 14.5 million in 2000. It is estimated that by 2020, this number will more than double, reaching 30.9

million people over 60 years (CAMARANO, 2004, p. 25).

Accordingly, to this author, there are two historical processes that mark this demographic change in the country: (1) the high fertility rate in the past, observed from 1940 to 1960, compared to the current fertility rate; (2) the reduction in the mortality rate in the elderly.

On the one hand, the decline in fertility has changed the age distribution of the Brazilian population, causing the elderly population to become an ever increasingly significant component in the total population, resulting in ageing at the base. On the other hand, the reduction in mortality brought as a consequence the increase in time lived by the elderly, i.e., it enlarged the top of the pyramid, causing ageing (CAMARANO; KANSO; LEITÃO AND MELO, 2004, p. 26).

Considering this, Illouz considers a third historical inflection already mentioned that is sensitive to this fact: the release of the contraceptive pill in the 1960s, ensuring greater autonomy of women concerning marriage and compulsory marriage functions. In addition, a gender perspective also marks ageing in Brazil with a phenomenon called "feminization of ageing" in the specialized literature (DEBERT, 2004; CAMARANO, 2004). Considering the elderly population in Brazil, it can be observed that 55% are women. The sex ratio of the elderly population, divided by age groups is even more radical in terms of gender, thus it can be said that: "the proportion of the female contingent is more significant as older for the segment, a fact explained by differential mortality by sex. This leads to the conclusion that "the world of the very old is a world of women."

"The proportion of the female contingent is more significant the older the segment is, and this is explained by differential mortality by sex. This leads to the conclusion that 'the world of the elderly is a world of women'" (CAMARANO, 2004, p. 29).

It is worth noting that even though population ageing is not a universally female phenomenon, according to Lloyd-Sherlock (2002), it has a significant gender component, at least in quantitative terms. Namely, for example, the fact that older women are more likely to become widows and economically disadvantaged compared to men. Many of the older women, contemporaneously in Brazil, did not earn a

salary (were not registered) during adulthood. On the other hand, these women maintained functions linked to a more domestic economy, more than men, participating in women organizations and doing temporary work, etc. (CAMARANO, 2004, p. 29). According to Debert (2004), in old age there is a gradual shift from the nuclear family, that before focused on the father figure as the family breadwinner. However, nowadays women who are the main providers, sustaining their families with their pensions, represent the head of the family. Men, on the other hand, have more difficulties adapting to old age because this period marks their exit from the labour market (GOLDANI, 1999; SIMÕES, 2004).

These data are illustrative and important to understand realities and different contexts compared to other countries, mainly in developed countries, who were educated earlier. Social portraits of Brazil are multiple and equally problematic when considering some divisions such as gender, income and education. Given the above and even to understand it better, we present some questions and future challenges that outline the contemporary Brazilian scenario:

What are the prospects of population ageing for the following years when considering discussions on gender and family settings? Do families in rural places, especially elderly women as family leaders and income providers, represent unprecedented data? Are they reflections of the public policies established by the last two democratic governments? Has retirement for individual taxpayers in recent years contributed to a shift in family structure and women's autonomy?

Data show that the Brazilian demographic revolution is both a milestone and a responsibility for public administrators and society. It is crucial to invest in promoting independent and healthy living in this social group, as well as to adequately care for its needs. This "new age of the old" requires planning, logistics, training for caregivers, and especially sensitivity to realize that the elderly population has come to stay and that it will continue to grow at least until the 2050s. (MINAYO, 2012, p. 09).

This research is currently being developed by the Applied Research Centre in Gerontology and Ageing (NUPAGE), the researchers, Guita Grin Debert from the Centre of Gender Studies (PAGU), the State University of Campinas, and

George Leeson, **Co-Director** of the **Oxford Institute of Population Ageing** (OIPA) collaborated in this project.

*Special thanks to Dr. Richard Miskolci for his comments and suggestions concerning this article and Dr. George Leeson for his collaboration and support in this project.

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PROYECTO ABUELOS EN CHILE

María Soledad Herrera

En Chile se realizará una investigación sobre la “dinámica de la abuelidad y su relación con el bienestar de las personas mayores”. Es un proyecto financiado por el Gobierno de Chile (Fondecyt Regular 1171071) con una duración de cuatro años.

Es de público conocimiento que Chile está envejeciendo a un ritmo acelerado, sin embargo, aún queda mucho por investigar acerca de los procesos de envejecimiento y las variables asociadas con la calidad de vida al envejecer. Uno de ellos son las relaciones abuelos-nietos.

Este proyecto tiene como objetivo general avanzar en la descripción y comprensión de las relaciones abuelos-nietos en Chile (ciudad de Santiago y otras regiones del país), contrastando un marco conceptual basado en los enfoques de solidaridad de Bengston, Silverstein y otros, los de conflicto y ambivalencia en las interrelaciones sociales, y los de generatividad de McAdams, de Bates y colaboradores.

Se aplicará una estrategia metodológica mixta, que combina técnicas cuantitativas y cualitativas, con uso de información secundaria y primaria. En primer lugar, se realizarán análisis estadísticos de datos secundarios provenientes de la Encuesta Nacional de Calidad de Vida en la Vejez, 2010, 2013 y 2016 y de la Encuesta Nacional de Caracterización Socioeconómica (CASEN) 2015. Ellas proveerán datos sobre proporción de adultos mayores que tienen nietos y cuántos cohabitan con ellos; asimismo, sobre edad de los abuelos y los nietos, frecuencia de contacto, calidad de la relación y referente al nieto más cercano, dónde se ven usualmente y qué actividades realizan juntos. Se estimarán modelos multivariados que expliquen las razones de la residencia en hogares multigeneracionales. En segundo lugar, se utilizará una metodología cualitativa de grupos de discusión y, en tercer lugar, se realizarán entrevistas semiestructuradas que permitan comprender en mayor profundidad y precisar el contenido de los conceptos solidaridad, conflicto, ambivalencia y generatividad. Se harán cuatro grupos de discusión con dos sesiones cada uno. En el análisis de la información se empleará una combinación de un enfoque inductivo que explora temas en las narraciones de los sujetos

sin supuestos a priori con un análisis de contenido que supone una guía teórica, aquí la de la solidaridad y generatividad. La entrevista semiestructurada se aplicará a 180 abuelos seleccionados de acuerdo a tres criterios: área geográfica, edad y nivel socioeconómico. Los temas son una combinación de los propuestos en el marco conceptual, más las preguntas que surjan del análisis estadístico y los temas que aparezcan en los grupos de discusión. En principio se ha propuesto indagar sobre: enfoque de solidaridad familiar en las relaciones abuelos-nietos en sus dimensiones asociativa, afectiva y funcional; enfoque de generatividad – preocupaciones y trabajos de transmitir conocimientos y habilidades prácticas-; identificación de conflictos y ambivalencia en las relaciones abuelos-nietos; capital social en el hogar, datos de los integrantes del hogar; participación e integración social de la persona entrevistada en diversos ámbitos; percepción de bienestar subjetivo, condiciones de salud, percepción de suficiencia de ingresos, datos sociodemográficos, autoeficacia.

Los resultados esperados a nivel académico son construir una herramienta conceptual para estudiar tanto a abuelas como abuelos desde el punto de vista de las relaciones de ellos con sus nietos y de ellos con quienes fueron sus abuelos. A nivel social, se busca comprender y describir, con evidencia triangulada, en qué consiste el rol de abuelo y los distintos tipos de abuelos que hay. El foco final del proyecto está en comprender y describir como la solidaridad con los nietos y la generatividad inciden en el nivel de bienestar de los abuelos.

En este proyecto participan investigadores de varios continentes, en un esfuerzo colaborativo internacional con el objetivo de avanzar en la comprensión de la contribución de los abuelos al cuidado, apoyo y “mentoring” de los nietos. Los países que participan en el proyecto internacional son: Reino Unido y Dinamarca (completo), México (casi completo), España, Argentina (pendiente financiamiento), SudÁfrica y Jamaica (pendiente financiamiento).

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GRANDPARENT'S PROJECT IN CHILE

María Soledad Herrera

In Chile, an investigation will be carried out on the "dynamics of grand parenting and its relation with the well-being of the elderly people". It is a project financed by the Government of Chile (Fondecyt Regular 1171071) with a duration of four years.

It is public knowledge that Chile is aging at an accelerated pace, however, there is still much to investigate about the aging processes and the variables associated with elderly quality of life. One of these variables are grandparent-grandchild relationships.

This project has as general objective to advance the description and understanding of grandparent-grandchild relations in Chile (Santiago and other regions of the country), contrasting a conceptual framework based on Bengston, Silverstein et al. approaches to solidarity, conflict and ambivalence in social interrelations, and those of generativity of McAdams, Bates and collaborators.

A mixed methodological strategy will be applied, combining quantitative and qualitative techniques, based on secondary and primary information. First, statistical analysis of secondary data from the National Survey of Quality of Life in Old Age, 2010, 2013 and 2016 and the National Socioeconomic Characterization Survey (CASEN) 2015 will be carried out. They will provide data on the proportion of older adults who have grandchildren and how many cohabit with them; age of grandparents and grandchildren, frequency of contact and quality of the relationships; in regard to the closest grandchild, what activities they do together. Multivariate models that explain the reasons for residence in multigenerational households will be estimated. Secondly, a qualitative methodology of discussion groups will be applied and, thirdly, semi-structured interviews will be carried out to allow a deeper understanding of the concepts of solidarity, conflict, ambivalence and generativity. There will be four discussion groups with two sessions each. In the analysis of the information will be used a combination of an inductive approach that explores subjects in the narratives of the subjects without assumptions a priori with a content analysis that supposes a theoretical guide, here the one of the solidarity and generativity. The semi-structured interviews will

be applied to a sample of 180 grandparents selected according to three criteria: geographical area, age and socioeconomic level. The topics are a combination of those proposed in the conceptual framework, plus the questions that arise from the statistical analysis and the topics that appear in the discussion groups. Accordingly, it has been proposed to inquire about: family solidarity approach in grandparent-grandchild relationships in the associative, affective and functional dimensions; a generative approach - worries and work of transmitting knowledge and practical skills; identification of conflicts and ambivalence in grandparent-grandchild relationships; social capital in the household, household data; participation and social integration of the person interviewed in various areas; perception of subjective well-being, health conditions, perceived sufficiency of income, sociodemographic data, self-efficacy.

The expected results at the academic level are to construct a conceptual tool to study both grandmothers and grandparents from the point of view of their relationships with their grandchildren and of them with whom they were their grandparents. At the social level, it seeks to understand and describe, with triangulated evidence, the role of grandfather and the different types of grandparents. The final focus of the project is to understand and describe how solidarity with grandchildren and generativity affect the level of well-being of the grandparents. This project would be inserted in an international comparative project that aims greater understanding of the contribution of grandfathers to the care, support and mentoring of grandchildren. The countries that participate in this project are UK and Denmark (complete), Mexico (almost complete), Spain, Argentina (pending funding), Chile (pending funding), South Africa and Jamaica (pending funding).

CONVIENE REPENSAR CÓMO VIVIR MEJOR LA VEJEZ

Ricardo Iacub

La relación del Estado con la jubilación nunca fue sencilla. Este derecho surge de tensiones sociales, siempre presentes entre las reivindicaciones de los trabajadores y el impacto económico que esta política genera.

La jubilación emergió como la responsabilidad del Estado frente a la carencia de trabajo de quienes envejecían y no podían adecuarse a las nuevas formas de empleabilidad que planteaba la sociedad industrial. Su aparición fue el fruto de luchas sindicales y de grupos socialistas por garantizar un sistema solidario. Sin embargo, al mismo tiempo que surgían estas demandas sociales, aparecían otras de cariz más filosófico, que propusieron algo más que un sostén económico. Pudieron vislumbrar lo que la jubilación prometía: una etapa donde cada uno pueda gozar del tiempo, por fin, libre, saliendo de la alienación del trabajo como única promesa de bienestar.

Esta perspectiva permitió pensar en el derecho a vivir una etapa con algunas características diferenciales, pero donde, no “tan tarde”, ni por un solo criterio de enfermedad, se pueda gozar de vivir sin trabajar. Para ello, las sociedades occidentales vienen disponiendo de recursos para facilitar un desarrollo humano que contemple la educación, la actividad física y recreativa, los viajes y tantos otros espacios de disfrute, que algunos denominaron “los años dorados”. La jubilación ha sido una de las bases centrales desde donde se han ido constituyendo nuevos sentidos y formas de pensar la vejez. Con tiempo disponible para actividades y proyectos más personales.

Las investigaciones entraron en el debate tratando de validar o cuestionar la jubilación. Los resultados, aunque con ciertas contradicciones, suelen presentar una proporción de personas que tiene dificultades para sobrellevar el pasaje a la misma, especialmente en sus primeras etapas. Sin embargo, ésta parece ser una proporción minoritaria, no poco significativa, que en una investigación británica calcularon en un 25%. En términos estadísticos la mayoría desea jubilarse, especialmente cuando los haberes no se alejan demasiado de los salarios, y existe evidencia de

que, así como algunos llegan a enfermar, muchos mejoran su estado de salud al haber menos presiones y más tiempo para una vida saludable. Lo que nos indica que como sociedad podemos apoyar este proceso a través de espacios de formación pre jubilatorios o darles la oportunidad de continuar trabajando a quienes lo deseen, como sucede en países donde la jubilación es voluntaria o como sucede incluso con los profesionales independientes en nuestro país. Sabemos que jubilar a ciertas personas puede significar una enorme pérdida a nivel individual y social.

No cabe duda de que el envejecimiento poblacional actual plantea tensiones sociales novedosas. Las jubilaciones de reparto se basan en cálculos económicos que la hacían posible en la medida que sean más los trabajadores en actividad que los jubilados. Lo que no descarta que en muchos casos hubiera asistencia de impuestos para la composición del haber. Las nuevas ecuaciones convocan a pensar con mayor detenimiento el tema de la edad jubilatoria, así como también el modo de conseguir los recursos.

Pero hablar de la edad de las jubilaciones nos remite a otras dificultades que deberíamos tener en cuenta, como la empleabilidad. Si estamos en sociedades donde no abunda el trabajo y a la gente mayor de 50 le cuesta hallarlo, deberíamos ser juiciosos a la hora de pensar la edad jubilatoria, ya que extenderla podría complejizar más la búsqueda. Pero más aún, venimos padeciendo políticas en las que cuando no hay trabajo es preferible jubilar, pero luego cuando los costos de los haberes son altos se habla de elevar la edad. Los cálculos de desempleo y jubilación se asemejan al “lecho de Procusto”, ya que se tironea de un lado o del otro según la ocasión y necesidad.

Deberíamos poder imaginar qué queremos del envejecimiento y planificar esta etapa teniendo en cuenta sus particularidades, así como los cálculos económicos que ello genera. Pero resulta necesario valorizar las posibilidades de una etapa donde lo productivo o lo valioso no necesariamente pasen por su rendimiento económico sino por su rendimiento humano.

Informaciones y eventos

**EVENTO:
"LA EDUCACIÓN COMO FACTOR DE ENVEJECIMIENTO ACTIVO Y PARTICIPATIVO"
CÁTEDRAS UNIVERSITARIAS DEL ADULTO MAYOR**

**REUNION LARNA
OXFORD INSTITUTE OF POPULATION AGEING**

23 A 26 DE MAYO 2017

**UNIVERSIDAD DE LA HABANA
CUBA**

Del 23 al 26 de mayo de este año se llevó adelante una importante actividad académica en la Universidad de La Habana, Cuba con la organización de Cátedras Universitarias del Adulto Mayor.

El evento fue oficialmente llamado "VI Taller EduMayores 2017.

Dicho evento tuvo como lema "La educación como factor de envejecimiento activo y participativo" y fue auspiciado por la Cátedra del Adulto Mayor de la Universidad de La Habana bajo la presidencia de la Profesora Teresa Orosa y la Sección de Psicogerontología de la Sociedad Cubana de Psicología.

La actividad tuvo el auspicio del Oxford Institute of Population Ageing a través de su Red LARNA, cuyo director es el Dr George Leeson y su co-coordinador el Dr Alejandro Klein.

La actividad académica fue sumamente rica e importante. Se tocaron temas relevantes sobre población, calidad de vida, tendencias demográficas, cuidando especialmente de incluir en todo momento la discusión sobre políticas públicas para lo que se invitaron especialmente a representantes de organismos gubernamentales.

Hay que destacar que el evento fue organizado por los propios participantes de las Universidades de Tercera Edad de toda Cuba y que además se dejó un espacio especialmente reservado para estudiantes interesados en el tema.

El Dr Leeson por compromisos de último momento no pudo asistir, pero mandó un emotivo discurso expresando el compromiso del Oxford Institute of Population Ageing en mantener los lazos académicos con la Universidad de La Habana, en el entendido que existen compromisos de investigación que se vuelven impostergables.

El Dr Alejandro Klein impartió un seminario en las fechas referidas bajo el título: "Estudiando las diferencias generacionales-transgeneracionales en relación a la sociedad de envejecimiento".

Agradecemos la amabilidad y generosidad mostrada por los colegas de Cuba y esperamos volver a la brevedad. Y agradecemos especialmente a la Profesora Teresa Orosa por su compromiso y amabilidad.

THE VI LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH NETWORK ON AGEING (LARNA)

Congress and the II Congress ABRUNATI, held in Ponta Grossa, Brazil, October 4th – 7th 2016, were a great success. More than 500 delegates from across Latin America attended, reflecting the importance of ageing research in the region and the role of LARNA and the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford, in relation to researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

The conference at the University of Ponta Grossa was organized and coordinated by Professor Rita de Cássia da Silva Oliveira, member of LARNA founding core group. Professor Paola Andressa Scortegagna also help co-coordinate the conference.

Both Dr. Leeson, Director of LARNA, and Professor Klein, Co-coordinator of LARNA, explained the relevance of LARNA and of the conference.

The conference theme was Policies, diversity and empowerment in ageing societies and provided an opportunity to exchange experiences, to disseminate research findings and to develop th dialogue with policy makers and practitioners.

Many, many thanks to Professor Rita de Cássia da Silva Oliveira and Professor Paola Andressa Scortegagna for their magnificent efforts and to all of the delegates for their tremendous support.

Parabéns para elas!

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