Main topics of the project

Generational exchanges
The lengthening of life carries with it a longer period of social relations – between three generations or more – which will have an effect on the quality of life of older people. The research investigates the support that exists between generations, within families and voluntary associations. Well being through intergenerational relations is also investigate.

Media, ICTs, risks and benefits
The Internet and ICTs may provide opportunities for a better experience of active ageing e.g. easy access to information, entertainment and online social relations, but they may also carry the risk of creating social isolation within and outside the family. The research investigates the dynamics of intra- and inter-generational mutuality in the use of technologies and ICTs.

Self-perception of ageing
How do the elderly experience their situation? What differences are there between biological and subjective ages? What does “being elderly” mean? When does “seniority” start? The study addresses these questions about the self-perception of ageing by the elderly.

Are you interested in our research?
Are you a researcher or a research group and would like to collaborate with us? Do you want to explore together your areas of interest?
Are you a foundation or a company and would like to know more about our results, our ongoing research and future projects? Do you want to plan a research project about the elderly with us? Do you want to work with us to design spin-offs and further in-depth study related to the main project?

Contact us!
We can evaluate research areas of mutual interest together.
For more information contact us at:

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“I Don’t Want to Be Inactive"
A Longer Life: a Generational Challenge and an Opportunity for Society
Studying active ageing

Ageing in western society has become a key issue in political and academic debate: politicians, sociologists, doctors, demographers, psychologists and economists are all trying to understand the impact that an ageing population will have on our future society.

It is generally agreed that keeping active is an essential ingredient to ageing well and the services and devices available through media and communication technologies are ever more important to providing support to this aspect of ageing.

A multidisciplinary research team at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore is conducting ongoing research into ageing, active ageing and the role played by media and ICTs in creating an environment for elderly people conducive to constructing and maintaining social relations and promoting healthy ageing.

The results of the research project will provide information and data that can be used to plan specific policies and plans for those interested in promoting active ageing, whether they be companies, associations, families, government agencies or institutions.

The Project

The research project will run from 2014 to 2015 (two years). It covers an in-depth study of the literature of ageing, a survey based on a group of 900 elderly people in Italy, and a number of ethnographic sessions.

Research group

The project is being undertaken by academics and researchers from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore who belong to various departments and research centres connected to the faculties of Psychology, Political Science, Education, Economics and Sociology.

The work is being coordinated by Fausto Colombo, Head of the Department of Communication and Performing Arts. Professional experts and representatives of pharmaceutical industry were involved in the project at the design stage.

International network

Pearl Dykstra (Erasmus University Rotterdam – Coordinator of EU FP7 project on “How demographic changes shape intergenerational solidarity, well-being, and social integration”)
Yves Jeanneret, (Co-director of CELSA– Centre d’Etudes Littéraires et Scientifiques Appliquées - Université Paris-Sorbonne)
Martine Lagacé (University of Ottawa – “Centre de recherche de l’Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal”).

Publications and conferences

- S. Carlo, “Young elderly and ICTs: risks and opportunities in active aging”, Sociologia e Politiche sociali (3/2014), Franco Angeli

See complete list on http://anzianinirete.wordpress.com

Final international conference

An international conference entitled "Feeding the memory to feed the generations: active elders and well-being” is to be held at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy, on 11-12 May 2015, with the purpose of sharing the results of the investigation carried out by the research group.

There will also be an event with the EXPO 2015 World Exhibition in Milan.