

# For the time being – temporality, ethics, aging.

Conversations between anthropology, art and philosophy Aarhus, March 31st – April 2nd, 2020.

Humans are time beings - beings who have perceptions of past, present and future. We care about time and we work on our experience of time. We plan, we hope, we regret, we reflect upon the past, we worry about the future, we cherish the moment, we lose track of time. With old age, do temporal horizons change and what kinds of 'time-work' do elderly engage in?

Humans tend to forget that everything is temporary – that what happens now is just 'for the time being.' We try to remind ourselves and others that things will change, but is it the case that experiences of impermanence and finitude increase with aging? In old age, one may be living with chronic diseases that have a certain stability, but one's body may also change dramatically. Frailty appears and disappears; people around you die – a reminder that living is temporary and that death is part of life and will come also to you.

Is there a gift 'for the time being' in old age – the experience of another way of being in time? A present of the present, a gift of time? Can we explore good old lives not as successful and active aging, but as meaningful decline without falling into romanticizing stereotypes? Might new forms of suffering that arise also fracture or destabilize earlier understandings of a meaningful life?

In this symposium, we ask: How do temporal perspectives on lived time and time left change with old age and what are the roles of inter- and intra-generational dynamics in elderly's perspectives on past, present and future life challenges and horizons? How does historicity play into experiences of lived time, worries about the future, and time-work in old age? And how may explorations of temporality, ethics and aging inform ongoing theoretical discussions in the anthropology of ethics and morality, philosophical anthropology and responsive and critical phenomenology?

The symposium is organized around the research project "Aging as a human condition – radical uncertainty and the search for a good (old) life" where philosophers, artists and anthropologists have been exploring four themes: the mindful body, home space, intimate others and lived time. In this symposium we explore the fourth theme – that of time. The uncertainties that emerge with old age are not only those of bodily function, financial means, and social and medical support, but that of time itself - how much is left, how to fill it, how to keep it moving ahead and how to live with human finitude.

The project is funded by VELUX FONDEN, with contributions from AU, AIAS and VIVE. The project exhibition "Growing Old" at Moesgaard Museum will be part of the symposium.

### Invited speakers:

Joel Robbins (University of Cambridge), Anne O'Byrne (Stony Brook University), Robert Desjarlais (Sarah Lawrence College), Cheryl Mattingly (University of Sothern California), Lawrence Cohen (UC Berkeley), Jason Danely (Oxford Brookes University), Susan Reynolds-Whyte (University of Copenhagen), Sverre Raffnsøe (Copenhagen Business School), Tine Rostgaard (VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research), Thomas Schwarz Wentzer (Aarhus University), and Anne Marie Pahuus (Aarhus University).







### **Tuesday March 31**

Venue: AIAS,

Høegh-Guldbergsgade 6B, 8000 Aarhus C

09.30 Registration & coffee

10.00 – 10.20 Opening Remarks

#### **Session 1:** TEMPORALITIES AND ETHICS

Chair: Rasmus Dyring, Aarhus University

#### 10.20 - 11.05 **Joel Robbins, University of Cambridge**

On the Prospects for a Comparative Study of the Good: Beyond the Bad and the Ugly in Anthropological Relativism.

#### 11.10 - 11.40 Harmandeep Kaur Gill, Aarhus University

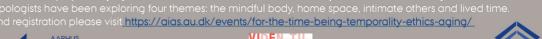
Waiting for death. Temporal perspectives in the Life of an Elderly Tibetan Monk in Exile, India.

#### 11.45 – 12.15 Lone Grøn, VIVE - The Danish Center for Social Science Research

Presents in Dementia – Exploring Temporality and Ethics at a Danish Dementia Ward.

12.15 – 12.45 Discussion

Lunch





#### Session 2: SPECTRAL AND IMAGISTIC TIME

Chair: Lotte Meinert, Aarhus University

#### 13.45 – 14.15 **Robert Desjarlais, Sarah Lawrence College**

The times of a life: aging, memory, and multi-temporalities within an elderly woman's lifeworld.

14.20 – 14.50 **Maria Speyer, artist** 

Drawing the Figure as Presence and Response.

14.55 – 15.25 Maria Louw, Aarhus University

*Specters of possibility.* 

15.25 – 15.55 Discussion

Coffee

#### Session 3: DYSTOPIC TIMES

Chair: Teresa Kuan, Chinese University of Hong Kong

16.25 – 16.55 Lawrence Cohen, Berkeley University

Enemies: the estrangements of home in late life.

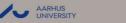
17.00 – 17.30 Sverre Raffnsøe, Copenhagen Business School

Coming of age and ageing. Human temporary existence in the Anthropocene.

17.30 – 18.00 Discussion

18.00 - Reception at AIAS







## Wednesday April 1st

Venue: AIAS

Session 4:	GENERATIONAL AND HISTORICAL TIME
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Chair: Patrick McKearney, University of Cambridge

10.00 - 10.30Anne O'Byrne, Stony Brook University.

Aging in Generational Time.

10.35 - 11.05Cheryl Mattingly, University of Southern California

Time Interruptions: Misrecognition, Alterity and the Historical Social Self.

11.10 - 11.40Thomas Schwarz Wentzer, Aarhus University

Ghosts from the past – German elders and the presence of World War 2.

Discussion 11.45 - 12.15

Lunch

Chair: Helle Wentzer, VIVE







13.15 - 13.45	Rasmus Dyring, Aarhus University		
	"Older than Being": For a Critical Phenomenology of Aging and Generationality.		
13.50 – 14.20	Susan Reynolds Whyte, University of Copenhagen Still Here: Age and Generational Time.		
14.25 - 14.55	Anne Marie Pahuus, Aarhus University		
	Meaning of the Past in Human Interaction and Human Interdependency.		
15.00 - 15.30	Discussion		
Coffee			
16.00	Excursion to MoMu for those who want a tour of the exhibition		

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"Growing Old" <a href="https://www.moesgaardmuseum.dk/udstillinger/naar-">https://www.moesgaardmuseum.dk/udstillinger/naar-</a>

Conference dinner at Restaurant Skovmøllen (speakers only).

19.00

## Thursday April 2nd

Venue: AIAS

Session 5:	INSTITUTIONAL TEMPORALITIES

Chair: Maria Louw, Aarhus University

09.30 - 10.00	Iason Danely,	Oxford Brookes	University
07.50 10.00	jason Danciy,	OXIDIA DIOUNCS	CHILVCISIC

Doing Time in Deviant Spaces: Aging and the Carceral Condition in Japan.

#### 10.05 – 10.35 Lotte Meinert, Aarhus University

The ID Card and the Good Life? Enigmas about the Invention of 'Old Age' in the Ik Mountains.

Grab a Coffee

#### 10.55 – 11.25 Tine Rostgaard, Stockholm University

Time and temporality in long-term care for older people in the Nordic Welfare states.

#### 11.30 – 12.00 Helle Wentzer, VIVE - The Danish Center for Social Science

#### Research

Timework in a Danish Rehabilitation Unite.

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12.35 – 12.45 Closing remarks

12.45 - 13.45 Lunch – or grab a sandwich to go

The symposium is organized around the research project "Aging as a human condition – radical uncertainty and the search for a good (old) life" where philosophers, artists and anthropologists have been exploring four themes: the mindful body, home space, intimate others and lived time.

For more information and registration please visit https://aias.au.dk/events/for-the-time-being-temporality-ethics-aging/





