

## **Transforming Anxieties of Ageing in Southeastern Europe. Political, Social, and Cultural Narratives of Demographic Change**

Initiative: Herausforderungen für Europa

Ausschreibung: Herausforderungen und Potenziale für Europa: Der alternde Kontinent

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Projekt-Website: <https://transforming-anxieties.ios-regensburg.de/>

Southeastern Europe is of particular importance for Europe as a volatile region. The region's population trends ("greying", emigration) have the potential to cause additional social and political instability because they are framed in terms of "catastrophe". This gives rise to ontological anxieties (as if the existence of the nation is under threat) that result in demographic nationalism. The project has two major objectives: (1) to produce comparative, multidisciplinary research on narratives of ageing and on demographic change in Southeastern Europe as a region which is representative of the challenges but also transformative potentials of these processes for Europe as a whole; (2) to contribute to moving from prevailing catastrophic representations of ageing towards more diverse and empowering ones. The project team combines approaches from social history, ethnology, sociology, demography, political science, and cultural and literary studies, using qualitative and quantitative methods. The research in the project addresses different scales, from personal and community attitudes towards national and international policy and expert debates, and their interactions. The project brings together five partners in four countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary). The team encourages capacity building and will employ and train five PhD researchers. The team will produce a broad range of academic outputs, including a collective monograph, five dissertations, articles in peer reviewed journals, and a comprehensive database on demographic developments since the 1960s, plus historical and current population projections. Research data will be made available, and most of the publications will be in open access.

### **Projektbeteiligte**

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**Open Access-Publikationen**

**Three Generation Households in a Central and Eastern European Country: The Case of Hungary**

**What s New Is Old: Building Pathways Between the Humanities and Gerontology**

**Serbs the People that Ceases to Exist. Bela Kuga, Demographic Anxieties, and Nationalism in Serbia**

**Essay Collection on Aging in Eastern and Southeastern Europe**

**The Budapest Demographic Summit and Great Replacement Theories**