

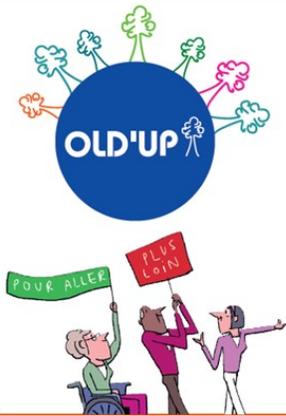
News from the Field

COVID-19 SPURS AGEISM WHILE MOBILIZING COPING MECHANISMS

With more than 10 million recorded cases and 500,000+ deaths worldwide at the end of June, COVID continues to turn our societies upside down, force policy makers and people alike to assess what's happening, face up to the fatal weaknesses of coping mechanisms, and rethink the road ahead. Individuals, institutions, civil society, and governments are all mobilizing to get through this pandemic and plan to be in a better posture for future risks, be they biological or natural.

Here, the Pass it On Network highlights examples of the outstanding work being done around the globe to listen, learn and innovate.

France: Older People -- part of the solution... 5,385 older people speak up... finally!



In Europe, Old Up, a cutting-edge French association of the “not so young, but not too old,” initiated a nation-wide survey with the support of the *Fondation de France*. More than 5,300 adults over age 70 replied and roundly rejected the public image of frail people for whom decisions need to be made for their own good. “We are capable adults. We understand that COVID is a threat to our lives and we take the necessary steps”. At one stage the French government considered keeping the plus-70 population confined till the end of the 2020 to “protect the most fragile”. Fortunately, the outcry against this discriminatory idea was such that it was quickly abandoned. It did however reactivate all negative representations on ageing and old age. See the full report in [French](#) and the [English translation](#), with thanks to Dr Carole-Lynne Le Navenec, PION liaison, Calgary, Canada.

India: COVID-19 Creates Rise in Elder Abuse



A nationwide survey conducted in India by the Agewell Foundation over the first two weeks of June showed an alarming rise in Elder Abuse. The results were published on June 15, the UN's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. [See full report here.](#)

Stakeholder Group on Ageing - Africa



If anything positive is coming out of the COVID pandemic it is awakening awareness; awakening awareness about many things such as the urgent need to act – see the [UN Secretary General’s statement](#) - the totally precarious nature of older people’s lives, the huge divide between rural and urban populations, the need for togetherness, the need to communicate across boundaries, and especially the need for a legal instrument to protect the rights of older persons. [See findings and recommendations](#) of the Africa-wide survey the SGA-Africa conducted. Dr Emem Omakaro (top right), chair-person of SGA-Africa, is planning a follow-up series of continental webinars on the impact of COVID in the context of the rights of older persons.

Several Pass It On Network country liaisons participated, including Femada Shamam (center bottom) from South Africa; Viljay Naraidoo (top left) from Mauritius; David Oludare Mark from Nigeria; Andrew Kavala from Malawi; Remy Ngobi from the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Beatrice Mushimiyimana and Elie Mugabowishema from Rwanda. Two countries were selected to show the effects and South Africa was one of them. See Femada’s [presentation](#) and [explanatory notes](#). Visit [SGA Africa website](#).



The Impact of COVID-19 Containment and Mitigation Strategies on Rights of Older Persons in Africa

COVID exacerbates discrimination

SGA Side Event to the UN’s High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs on July 7 showed how COVID-19 has exacerbated all forms of discrimination that already negatively affect older persons. Alex Kalache, director of the International Longevity Center, Brazil, made an impassioned statement saying that what was happening was tantamount to a "gerontocide".

Finland: Minorities slip through the welfare net

A study on how older people in minority groups – including Russians, Somalians, Kurds - were coping with COVID-19 showed that the welfare state excluded them. Five organizations working with older people in minority groups and the Society for Memory Disorders run by our Pass It On Network liaison in Finland, Siiri Jaakson, conducted the study. [See results in English.](#)

COVID-19 has stimulated a very busy Pass It On Network



Pass It On Networks' own second quarter zoom call with liaisons showed just how active members of the network are and how interaction among them is helping to spread positive ageing exponentially. Examples: Cullen Hayashida from Hawaii has shared policy concepts relevant to older workers, shaped by his six-month experience teaching at a Japanese university; Ingun Bol from the Netherlands, founder of the Female Wave of Change, has gathered older women for a wisdom exchange; James Mbatia Kinuthia from Kenya has shared his video adventures; Tom Holloway from the UK has recruited volunteers to be interviewed by his high school students in India. Emi Kiyota from the U.S., founder of Ibasho, was introduced as a new Pass It On Network advisor. [Listen to the full recording.](#)

Europe: Stop lumping all people over 50 into one category!

In Europe, our partner association, EURAG, is the oldest federation of associations of and by older adults (160 associations across 29 countries). Dirk Jarré, President, and Dana Steinova, Secretary General, have taken to Zoom and generated very lively and productive debates in two-hour sessions on what COVID is teaching us and what innovative steps can be taken for the future.

Here are the conclusions:

- Stop seeing seniors as a homogeneous category of over 50s.
- Stop the confusion between social distancing and physical distancing. [See conclusions here.](#)



Age Platform Europe



To overcome the novel coronavirus challenge, greater solidarity and respect for each other are needed. Find more information and share good practices & initiatives from across Europe on [our COVID-19 webpage](#). (Click on the translation button (top right) to select any language from English through to Zulu.)

Canada: Pass It On Network in Canada Meet Up: Change is required NOW



Pat Spadafora, Helen Hirsh Spence, Margaret Young, Carole-Lynne Le Navenec, and Wendy Mayhew, all Pass It On Network liaisons spread across Canada, held an open house Zoom call for Canadian network community members around changing needs in view of COVID-19. Several points emerged. First, appreciation for the opportunity to meet and share one another's website information and emails for further exploration. Second, a strong sense that now is the time, given the pandemic experience, for Canadian liaisons to rally for change together, with neutrality and respect. Third, future actions should be developed in line with Pass It On Network's four pathways: ageing, community support, work & economic security, and lifelong learning. See the [Canadian network flyer and contact details](#).

Congratulations to the ASCCA and its founder, Nan Bossler, on 20 years' teaching digital skills



Nan Bosler, our Pass It On Network liaison for Australia, is a remarkable woman with 70 years' service to the community. She is honored in the 20th anniversary [souvenir booklet](#) of American Senior Computer Club Association, which she started and has seen grow from scratch to 144 affiliated clubs throughout Australia. Nan could speak with



pride about introducing thousands of older people to the Internet. The souvenir booklet celebrates Nan's outstanding contribution not only to ASCCA but beyond that, her 70 years' service to society.

Congratulations, Ramsey Alwin



Ramsey Lane Alwin has been named CEO of the National Council on Aging (NCOA) in the U.S. She steps up from her post as thought leader for financial resilience at AARP, co-leading the global Living, Learning and Earning Collaborative. Her prior gifts to positive ageing include development of the Elder Economic Security Index for WOW (Working Opportunities for Women) and the Savvy Seniors benefits assessment for NCOA – practical tools for life planning.

A powerful new strategic partnership in the ageing field



Starting this month, HelpAge International and the [Commonwealth Association for the Ageing – CommonAge](#) have created a formal strategic partnership that will enable the two organizations to integrate their work for older people across the Commonwealth. The timing has particular significance in light of the global experience of the coronavirus pandemic. [Read full statement here.](#)

Hispano-Americano Pass It On Network is in the making, thanks to Silvia Crom & Silvia Zweifel, our two liaisons from Argentina



Videos

English and Spanish Inglés y Español

Extended longevity demands rapid attention to enrich perspectives conducive to social and cultural innovation, along with a deeper understanding of many related issues. To move forward, Mercedes Jones, from the San Andrés University's Social Innovation Center in Buenos Aires, convened an open seminar. The invited participants included diverse stakeholders from universities, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and also informal groups and individuals. [See report here.](#) The decision to build an

Hispano-Americano Pass It On Network came from this meeting and is being championed by Silvia Zweifel and Silvia Crom with the support of Mercedes Jones. Silvia Zweifel is building a Spanish/English [YouTube Channel](#) to spread the word.

Network Connectors

New Advisor: Emi Kiyota builds community centers that kindle the agency of older adults



The Pass It On Network is delighted to welcome Dr. Emi Kiyota as an advisor. Dr. Kiyota is an internationally-recognized environmental gerontologist and organizational culture change specialist. Dr. Kiyota is currently considering how the work she did to empower elders in Japan recover from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 could provide lessons for empowering elders in the U.S. and elsewhere to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and better prepare for future events.

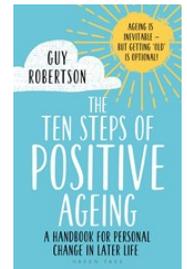
Emi Kiyota (continued)

She is the founder and director of Ibasho, an organization that facilitates the co-creation with older adults of socially integrated, sustainable communities that value their elders. Dr. Kiyota holds a Ph.D. in architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is a consultant with over 20 years of experience in designing and implementing person-centered care in long-term care facilities and hospitals globally. Her current focus is on creating socially integrated and resilient cities where elders are engaged and able to actively participate in their communities. She has published numerous journal articles and book chapters and served on the board of directors of the Global Ageing Network. Dr. Kiyota has been awarded fellowships to investigate this topic, including the Loeb Fellowship at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, the Rockefeller Bellagio Residency Fellowship, and the Atlantic Fellowship for Equity in Brain Health.

Country Liaison for the UK: Guy Robertson



Guy Robertson has joined the Pass It On Network as a liaison for the UK. He believes Positive Ageing is something to work at and to shape proactively, rather than just to experience in a passive way. By facing up to the reality of our ageing and envisaging the sort of later life we would really like to achieve, then we can begin to have more influence over our health and wellbeing as we age. He recently published *The Ten Steps of Positive Aging*. He serves on the management group for the Campaign to End Loneliness. He has worked in numerous roles within the field of ageing for over a quarter of a century and is a passionate proponent of the need to develop more positive approaches to ageing. He shares research evidence and other helpful resources at www.positiveageing.org.uk



New Network Liaison: Tom Mottl

“Connecting people and technology to foster collaboration that improves the quality of lives for all as we age.”



Tom Mottl founded the Community Networks for Aging in Place (CNAP) Alliance, a Guidestar-listed non-profit organization in the U.S. that promotes and helps develop collaborative initiatives to provide information and educational programs on issues related to the general wellbeing of individuals as they age. One of CNAP’s core issues is Ageing in Place. Recent workshops on different models for ageing in community attracted much interest. CNAP supports workshops, conferences, and programs, including the use of ICT technologies to move forward on this vital issue.

Tom Mottl (continued)

With an executive-level track record in planning and program development related to ICT, Tom Mottl shares his experience today as an advisor/mentor and management consultant to non-profit organizations and government agencies for programs that facilitate Elderhood – including the Pass It On Network.

Pathway Resources

Ageing

Cognitive Reserve – The Time to Act is NOW!

After its recent conference in Copenhagen about Cognitive Reserve, the International Foundation on Aging (IFA) published a short call to action [summary](#) of the findings of researchers and thought leaders from 22 countries. IFA calls for three urgent actions:

- Promote social policies that enable and foster activities that build cognitive reserve,
- Advance a new societal narrative,
- Coordinate a global action plan.

World Population Day



The July edition of [INIAnet newsletter](#) is dedicated to **World Population Day**, July 11. Achieving the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda is closely interrelated with demographic trends.

Is Europe's population shrinking?

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
SHOWS THE LINK BETWEEN...



This [short video](#) gives a clear picture of demographic changes in Europe. The accompanying [report](#) goes much deeper.

What is the Demographic Future for the U.S.?

Figure 6 Average Annual Growth Rate in the Elderly Population (Aged 65 & Over), 2010 to 2030



Source: UN Population Division (2019)

The graying of the United States is inevitable and today's policy decisions will shape how the country meets the challenge. Thus concludes *The Shape of Things*, a quarterly report of the Concorde Coalition and the Global Aging Institute [See report.](#)

Community Support

Social isolation and loneliness contribute to poorer health

We are all linked to each other in the communities where we live. Real people are still working to keep food arriving in stores and homes, to stabilize the digital infrastructure we use to connect to the internet, to provide care, etc. As many of us restrict our movements due to lockdown measures, we must consider the consequences of our "normal" links to each other being strongly curtailed or even severed.

This recent experience links to the topics of social isolation and loneliness, which have received notable research interest in recent years, especially with respect to older people and later life. **Loneliness** in particular has received significant attention outside academic circles, as featured in news articles and policy (with **three Ministers for Loneliness in the past two years in the UK**). [Read report here.](#)

Long Term Care for Elderly— COVID-19 Reflections



Four key international stakeholders in long term care show that collaboration and co creation are the way ahead to address the "sore spots" revealed in long term care by COVID-19. [Twelve key statements](#) come out of this combined work.

Work & Economic Security

Lifelong Learning and Earning: A Continuing Conversation

The economic disruption and unemployment resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have particularly negative effects on older workers who have been “furloughed.” They are more likely to be skipped over when other employees are called back to work -- both because they are identified as “more vulnerable” to infection while less likely to be tech-savvy in relation to 21st century jobs, and because frugal employers see a chance to let go of those with higher wages based on longer tenure. They lack up-to-date work skills when they seek new employment and are forced to withdraw living costs from savings which may already be too limited for financial security in retirement.

Should lifelong access to skills-based education and the labor market be seen as a human right? Older worker rights to Lifelong Learning and Earning are connected with the UN’s Sustainable Development goals for Education and Work, and specifically with the UN’s Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEGWA). On April 7, the Pass It On Network convened an online Side Event for the OEGWA where varied experts described new norms for lifelong learning that would enable older adult access to the labor market to maximize their productivity and economic security.

Because there had not been adequate time for participant discussion of what was presented in April, the Pass It On Network ran a series of four webinars on the four Fridays of June to Continue the Conversation with the keynote speakers. The [final report](#) offers five proposals for progress:

- Eliminate arbitrary barriers to learning and earning based on age.
- Develop public/private/NGO collaboration for a multigenerational workforce.
- Transform the higher education system to accommodate lifelong learning for earning.
- Assure universal digital literacy with Internet access.
- Encourage experienced entrepreneurship

Dialoguing with four experts



Joanne Montepare



Ramsey Laine Alwin



Peter du Toit



Elizabeth Isele

Lifelong Learning

Seniors and Technology – Change in the airwaves



In ways that could not have been anticipated six months ago, the technology marketplace (with sellers and buyers) for older adults is accelerating in interest level and adoption, according to Laurie Orlov, founder of Aging and Health Technology Watch (www.ageinplacetech.com).

And that, she says, is likely an understatement. Following the [reimbursement changes after in-person visits disappeared](#) and the [numbers of visits exploded](#), firms with telehealth technology are finding a one-year-planned growth [compressed into one month](#). The odds are that all aspects of Wi-Fi deployment, including [donation of tablets](#) and [online video tools](#), are all accelerating in the time of COVID-19, which will be confirmed in a future survey.

Change Agents, Gerontotech Labs, Love Songs, Acts of Kindness, LLL online from Hong Kong and much more in ACAP's June/July issue



The newsletter of the Active Ageing Consortium Asia-Pacific (ACAP) has grown dramatically in its geographic outreach to both academic and community advocates for positive ageing. This issue of the [ACAP newsletter](#) offers a diverse array of stories about current activities.

U3A in Action around the World



The July edition of [Signpost](#) features examples of smooth adaptation to COVID-19 as face-to-face meetings pivot to online events that span the world and reach those who would never be able to travel.

Events [Check local time zones here](#)

ACAP Webinar Series, July–August 2020



[Register here](#) for ACAP's 1st Webinar Series!

They will hold 3 one-hour webinars on "Active Aging in the Time of COVID-19."

- **July 12, Sunday** at 11am Hong Kong time – featuring Kathryn Braun (moderator), Nan Bosler (Australia), Takeo Ogawa (Japan), and Susie Chun-Oakland (Honolulu).
- **July 26, Sunday** at 11am Hong Kong time – featuring Cullen Hayashida (moderator), Kaysorn Sumpowthrong (Thailand), Donghee Han (South Korea), and Ashish Goel (India).
- **August 7, Friday** at 5pm Hong Kong time – featuring Teresa Tsien (moderator), Thelma Kay (Singapore), Eef Hogervorst (UK), and Chandrakala Diwali (India)

NOTE: The first 2 webinars are on Sunday in Asia, and the 3rd is on Friday.

Webinar series organized by Pass It On's Liaison Dr. Ilango Ponnuswami, Chair, School of Social Sciences, and coordinator of the Heritage Centre for Gerontology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu State, India.
Email: pon.ilango@bdu.ac.in for registration.

- **July 23, Thursday** at 8:30am EDT; 6pm IST - Jan Hively—The Potential for Positive, Productive Ageing
- **July 24, Friday** at 8:30am EDT; 6pm IST - Rajiv Mahta—Strengthening Caring Relationships amongst Families and Communities

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