Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Introducing our new Famcare colleagues

Leen De Kort is a PhD student working in the field of health sociology. With her research she wants to find out if giving informal care to elderly parents influences the mental health of the informal caregiver, and if welfare policies influence this relationship. Leen studied sociology in the University of Ghent. At the University of Antwerp, she will be working under the supervision of Professors Edwin Wouters and Sarah Van de Velde.
Swabra Nakato is the Data Manager of ELIZA and the Global Health Institute. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Statistics and Economics from Uganda and a Master’s degree in Biostatistics from University of Hasselt.

Esther Ariyo is a PhD student researching welfare intervention programs for internally displaced people, and their impact on the wellbeing of children. The research will be conducted in Nigeria and will use a mixed method approach. Esther holds a bachelor degree in child development and a masters degree in Health social work. She will write her PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof Dimitri Mortelmans.
Gert Thielemans is a PhD student working on the association between female labour force participation and divorce. Currently his main focus is on anticipatory behaviour. Gert holds a master's degree in Social and Economic Science.

Allison Geerts is a PhD student researching intergenerational solidarity, specifically bottom-up solidarity from adult children to their parents. Her research will focus on understanding the determinants of giving and receiving this type of informal care from a life course and cross-country perspective. Allison studied Sociology at the Universities of Ghent and Utrecht, and is currently completing the European Doctoral School of Demography. She will be working with Dimitri Mortelmans.
**Sylwia Gawronska** is a PhD student researching the effectiveness and shortcomings of criminal regimes governing organ trafficking, and human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. Prior to joining the University of Antwerp, Sylwia lived in Asia and the Pacific region working on issues of human trafficking. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Relations and Masters of Laws in International Public Law from Oxford Brookes University.

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**Famcare Research Seminars**

We have had two research seminars this year. We kicked off the New Year with a breakfast seminar where Elke Claessens and Iemke Sarrechia presented their research. Our Seminar speakers in June were Maja Lopez Hartmann and Anina Vercrussen.

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**Objectifying Child Support Decisions - Elke Claessens**
Elke’s presentation analysed child support schemes in Belgium, and evaluated the different options available. She examined the diversity of child support calculation methods in Belgium, calculated support amounts, and actual paid child support amounts. This case study is part of a broader research project on international child support systems.

**Improving Health in Preterm Infants - Iemke Sarrechia & Jo Lebeer**

Iemke’s presented her work on preterm infants in 11 European countries. The research is part of the Screening to improve health in very preterm infants in Europe (SHIPS) project, directed by Jo Lebeer. The project assesses the impact of screening programmes on health, care and quality of life for very preterm infants and their families. It also looks at coverage, ability to meet needs, health equity and costs at the population-level.

**Understanding the Experience of Adult Daughters Caring for an Ageing Parent - Maja Lopez Hartmann**

Maja’s research investigates the care adult daughters give their ageing parents. She asks the question, “How do adult daughters experience caring for their frail parents who live at home?” Maya interviewed eleven adult daughters over time, asking them why they provide care, what care they give, and how they shared care with other family members and health care professionals. Maja’s research provides insights beyond understanding visible care giving. She examines invisible care giving such as protecting, stimulating and managing the activities of an ageing parent - which can be both difficult and energy consuming.
Can the Internet Reduce Loneliness among older people? - Anina Vercrussen

Anina has been collaborating with social scientists from the University of Linköping, Sweden on their project concerning loneliness among older people. At the Famcare seminar she presented the findings of their study on how internet use affects loneliness among pensioners. Interestingly, loneliness-reducing effects were found throughout all European countries when pensioners used internet. The how and the why are currently being studied in more detail in Sweden with focus groups and in-depth interviews.

Famcare Goes Wondering: A Culinary Tour of Antwerp
Famcare colleagues went wondering on the streets of Antwerp in late May. The regional journal of discovery was a walking tour of the Antwerp old town, with stops to sample the food and drink of our region. Along the way, we heard stories about the history of the city.

We would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season!

Famcare is a Centre of Excellence at the University of Antwerp. We research intergenerational solidarity & informal care, family dynamics & relationships, and methodological innovations. Keep in contact with us through twitter, our website, or email using the icons below.