

Initial project duration – 36 months – starting from 3 January 2019, new end date 28 February, extended 12 months due to COVID-19

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Overview

The primary objective of MASCAGE is to analyse social constructions of ageing masculinities and/through their cultural representations in contemporary European literatures and cinemas. MASCAGE specifically seeks: (a) to understand more fully the interrelationship of masculinities with a variety of social issues specifically associated with men's ageing: older men's health; social inclusion and exclusion; sexualities and affective relationships; and ageist stereotypes; (b) to explore men's experiences of, and attitudes to, ageing across different European cultures, exploring their commonalities and differences, at both national and transnational levels; (c) to gain a deeper understanding of ageing masculinities in and through cultural representations; and (d) to share the results of this project with other researchers, practitioners and policy-makers to help them devise strategies and policies designed to promote greater gender and age equity.

Progress to date and Impact of COVID-19

The project is achieving its original objectives even though some work has been delayed as a result of the covid-19 crisis. Mainly, deviations have affected the planned focus groups and interviews with older people, as a result of the Covid crisis. The planned project conferences have also had to be transformed into online events.

Team members

	Woman	Man	Other
Gender balance in the whole consortium	18 (56%)	14 (44%)	0 (0%)
Presence of women as lead researchers/PIs	4 (67%)	2 (33%)	0 (0%)
Gender Experts in the team	10 (56%)	8 (44%)	0 (0%)
Subsequent team members trained (Gender equality and/or IGAR)	0	0	0

Contribution to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

It has proven the relevance of gender, especially masculinity, to aging showing how both women and men are affected by aging, albeit sometimes differently.

Differences/inequalities between women and men highlighted by the project

The project has shown how the topic of aging has seldom been analyzed from a masculinity studies perspective, having traditionally focused on the specificities of older women.

Positive impact of the project on gender equality/scientific evidence on gender in the field

Applying to the cultural analysis an interdisciplinary corpus of masculinity and age studies, the project seeks to make an impact by crossing the traditional Social Sciences-Humanities boundary and by proving that not only do social notions of masculinity shape their cultural representations, but they simultaneously affect the social (de-)construction of both gender and age.

Socio-economic impact; involvement of policy makers/civil society

The (ongoing) results of the project have indeed been shared with policy makers and political agents (for example, at the Masculinities conference organised by the Government of Estonia in Tallinn in September 2020). We expect to increase the social impact of the project over the next few years.