

Parting Editorial

This year IJAL celebrates its 10th anniversary and this Special Issue marks the event. In the call for papers we emphasized that we “would like the issue to include personal reflections either on the role of theory as eye-opener in gerontology, the potential of theorizing in our area of research and reflections around specific fields of expertise in gerontology.” We are pleased that we can present thought-provoking contributions that are eye-openers in their own right, illustrating how impressions from other subject fields and interests result in theoretical development.

Simon Biggs has used historical and personal experiences to identify eye-opening concepts. The discussion culminates in two issues that challenge cultural adaptation – generations becoming approximately the same size and finding an age-specific purpose for a long life. *Stephen Katz* focuses on the role of personal career events as eye-openers and reflects on five moments to think critically about gerontological theory. *Hans-Joachim von Kondratowitz*, born and raised in West-Berlin, identifies an escapist biographical urge to engage in border-crossing contacts and relates this to recent research on ageing regimes in the Mediterranean region. Finally, *Julia Twigg* discusses how intellectual and academic influences, long-term personal interests, and her own ageing have led her to the subject of dress and age.

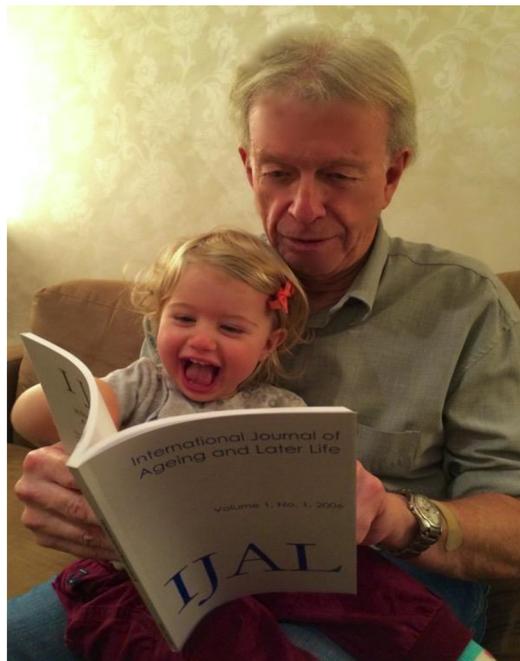
After ten years as Editor-in-Chief and with IJAL established as a renowned open access journal on ageing, this is also an opportunity for me to step down after the next issue. Working (more than) full time at a higher age is, as Simon Biggs puts it in his contribution, “just more of the same, offering few opportunities for new and age-specific existential exploration”. For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose – such as gerotranscending, grandparenting and focusing less on work.

In this context I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who have contributed to making IJAL a success in its segment of ageing research

during these 10 years: Associate Editor *Håkan Jönson*; Editorial Assistant *Karin Lövgren*; The Editorial Board (see p. iii); Linköping University Electronic Press (*David Lawrence* and *Peter Berkesand*), Datapage (*Tikoji Rao*, *Jincy Joby* and *Chitra Swaminathan*); Co-Action Publishing; all authors and reviewers; and finally, my closest co-workers to the very last: Associate Editors *Peter Öberg* and *Sandra Torres*, and Editorial Assistants *Laura Machat-From* and *Joy Torgé*.

From volume 11 (2016), Peter Öberg has accepted to take over as Editor-in-Chief, an encouraging decision for the continuation of IJAL as a channel for cultural and critical gerontology.

Lars Andersson
Editor-in-Chief



Retiring Editor-in-Chief and Molly, enthusiastic future reader of IJAL.