

German Sociological Association (DGS), Section on Ageing and Society

University of Vechta

German Centre of Gerontology (DZA)

European comparative research on ageing – challenges and opportunities

Vechta, Germany, June 22-24

Current research needs in social gerontology call for a multilevel perspective on individual and societal ageing as well as for an interdisciplinary and international integration of data and conceptual approaches. Comparative perspectives and cross-national collaboration are crucial for modern ageing research. Although most European countries face similar challenges in the ongoing process of population ageing, different socio-economic and institutional contexts as well as varying national and disciplinary research traditions make sound comparative analyses difficult.

For this reason, the Section on Ageing and Society of the German Sociological Association is devoting the Spring/Summer Conference 2006 to the potentials, pit-falls and salient themes of international comparative ageing research in Europe. In issuing invitations to the conference “European comparative research on ageing – challenges and opportunities”, we intend to expand and share concepts, methods, data and analyses. It is our aim to create a meeting ground for major ageing studies in the region and to stimulate comparative analyses and cross-study collaboration. The meeting will also serve as a forum for new partnerships and projects, including international and interdisciplinary networking in preparation for the 7th framework program.

The conference will be jointly organised by the University of Vechta, the Section “Ageing and Society” of the German Sociological Association, and the German Centre of Gerontology (DZA).

The venue is the University of Vechta, the only university in Germany offering primary as well as higher degrees in Gerontology.

For further information and registration see <http://www.sektion-altern.de>

– PROGRAMME –

Thursday
June 22, 2006

14:00 **Welcome note**

Prof. Dr. Marianne Assenmacher, President of the University of Vechta, Germany

14:15 **Introduction**

Prof. Dr. Harald Künemund, University of Vechta, Germany

Dr. Andreas Motel-Klingebiel, German Centre of Gerontology, Germany

14:30 **Plenary session I: Micro issues**

Care and care systems

Prof. Dr. Marja Vaarama, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Helsinki, and University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland

Economic deprivation in later life

Prof. Dr. Jay Ginn, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 **Paper session I: Micro issues**

Care situations in different European countries: The impact of formal and informal support
Daniel Lüdicke, Eva Mnich et al., University of Hamburg, Germany

Marital status and living arrangements of the elderly population in Germany with special emphasis on people in need of care

Uta Ziegler & Gabriele Doblhammer, University of Rostock, Germany

The issue of loneliness in the elderly from a life course perspective

Leen Heylen, University of Antwerp, Belgium

17:30 Coffee break

18:00 Senior citizens and young technologies

Dr. Sylvia Korupp, University of Erfurt, Germany

Active ageing in Europe – Opportunities and challenges by novel technologies

Dr. Norbert Malanowski, European Commission, Joint Research Center, Sevilla, Spain

Overall discussion

19:30 Get together

Friday
June 23, 2006

09:00 **Plenary session II: Meso issues**

The importance of social context and the overestimation of cross-national differences
Prof. Dr. Theo van Tilburg, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

09:45 Coffee break

10:15 **Paper session II: Meso issues**

Confounding issues in comparative ethnography of older people
Prof. Dr. Ricca Edmondson, National University of Galway, Ireland

Europe's young old as a resource to the welfare state
Kathrin Komp, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Potentials beyond 50: Informal work of the older population in Europe
Stephanie Stuck, University of Mannheim, Germany

11:15 Coffee break

11:45 Response to culture or socio-economic differences? A comparative analysis of intergenerational relations in migrant and non-migrant adult families in Germany
Helen Baykara-Krumme, Free University of Berlin, Germany

Intergenerational transfers: A comparative German-Israeli analysis
Claudia Vogel, Free University of Berlin, Germany

Overall discussion

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 **Plenary session III: Macro issues**

A pan European perspective on the international political economy of ageing
Dr. Tony Maltby, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

14:45 Coffee break

15:15 **Paper session III: Macro issues**

European ageing in the long term perspective
Dr. Zdenek Tomes, Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic

Quality of live of elderly in Central and East European countries
Dr. Valentina Hlebec & Ida Lah, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Political culture in ageing societies – Results of comparative research on the relation of old age and political participation
Ulf Thöle, University of Kassel, Germany

16:15 Coffee break

16:45 Public welfare and social change: New trends of elderly care policy in Western Europe
Prof. Dr. Emmanuele Pavolini, University of Ancona & Prof. Dr. Costanzo Ranci, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

Basic pensions: New welfare arrangements for old age security and its outcomes on social inequality
Dr. Ursula Dallinger, University of Hamburg, Germany

Overall discussion

18:30 Reception at ‘Gut Welpé’

Saturday
June 24, 2006

09:00 **Plenary session IV: Ageing and work**

Employment in ageing Europe

Dr. Jolanta Perek-Bialas, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland

Labour market policies for older workers – Great Britain and Germany compared

Prof. Dr. Frerich Frerichs, University of Vechta, Germany

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 **Paper session IV: Ageing and work**

Globalization and the late careers of older workers in OECD countries – Findings from comparative research

Dirk Hofäcker, University of Bamberg, Germany

Skilled unemployed older individual's experiences of the jobsearch process in the UK

Kate Hamblin, University of Bath, United Kingdom

11:45 Lunch Break

13:00 A cross-national study of employment initiatives for an ageing workforce

Andreas Reichert & Mirko Sporket, University of Dortmund, Germany

Older workers in Germany – no paradigm shift so far. Do other European countries perform better?

Cornelia Spross & Kristina Lang, Institute of Employment Research, Nuremberg, Germany

Overall discussion

14:00 **Concluding remarks**

Prof. Dr. Harald Kuenemund, University of Vechta, Germany

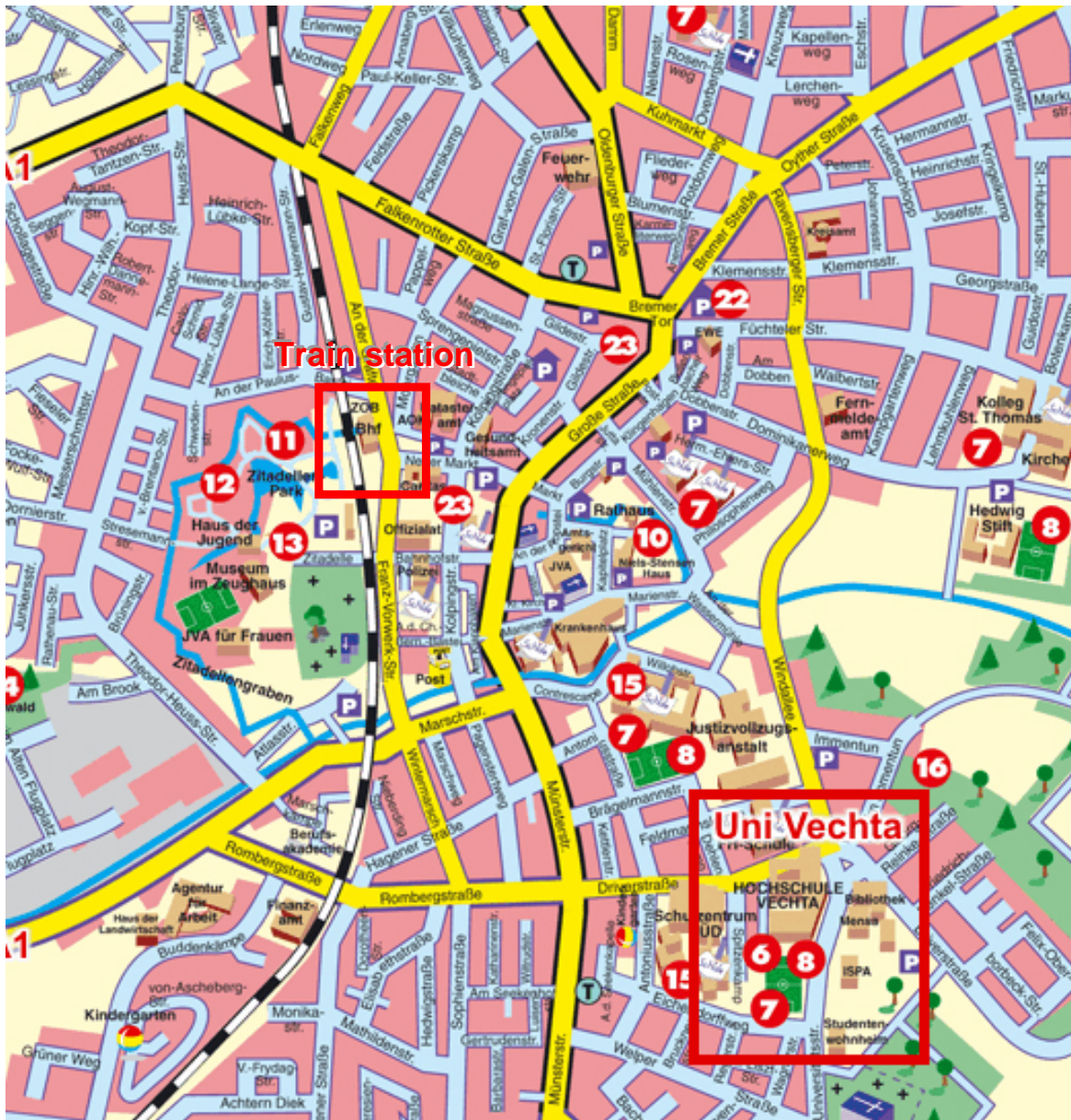
Dr. Andreas Motel-Klingebiel, German Centre of Gerontology, Germany

14:30 End of conference

15:00 Business Meeting of the Section on Ageing and Society

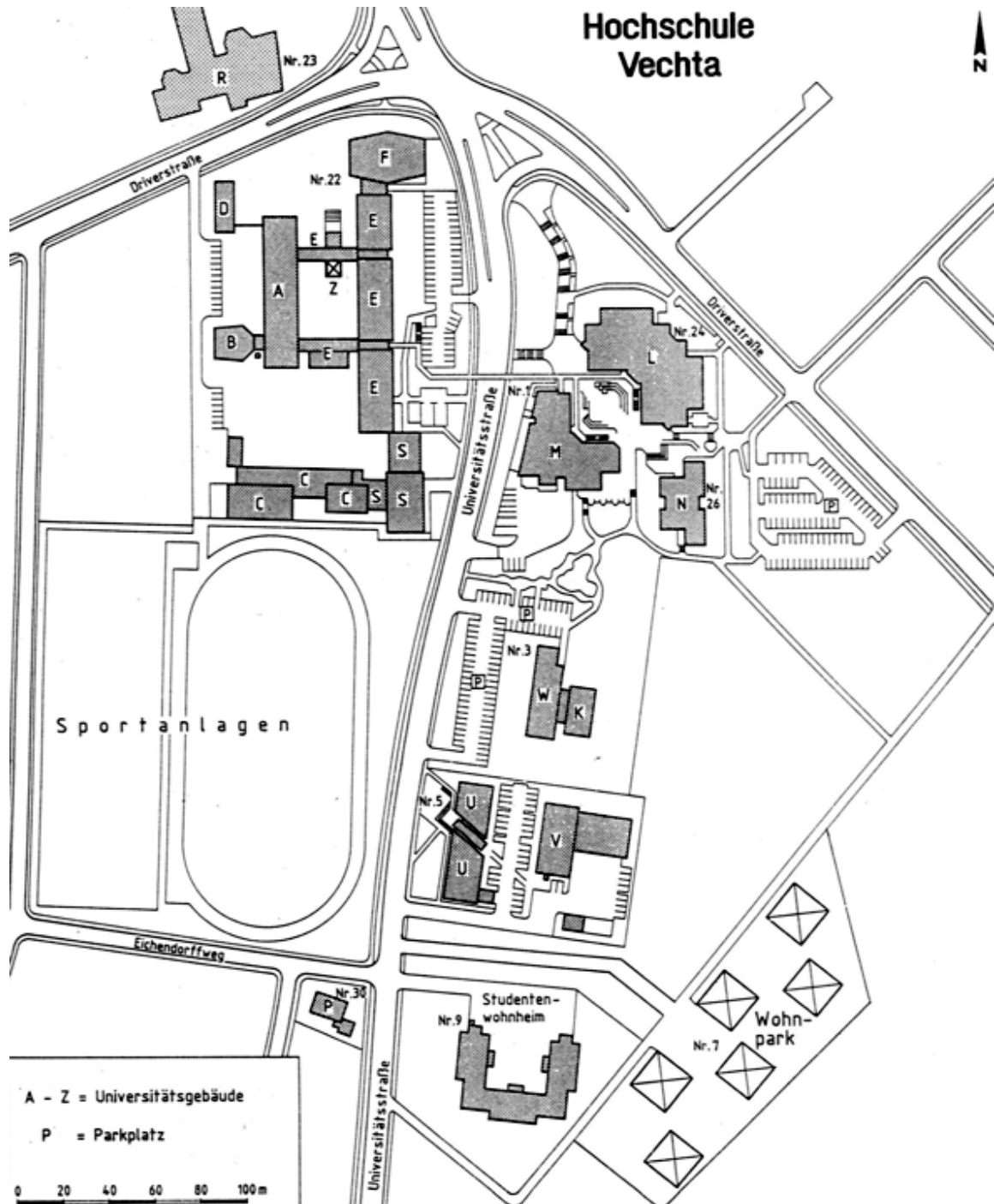
Travel information

The meeting will take place at the University of Vechta (<http://www.uni-vechta.de>) in Lower Saxony in the Northwest of Germany. The town of Vechta is located in the midst of Bremen and Osnabrück (<http://www.vechta.de>). Bremen airport is close by, a train from both Bremen and Osnabrück to Vechta leaves about every hour. Train tickets can be booked online (<http://www.bahn.de>). A map of Vechta is given below.



Location

While most of the conference hotels listed below are located next to the train station it takes a 15 minutes walk from the train station to the University of Vechta. The Institute of Gerontology can be found in Building R, the conference room (R005) is in the basement.



Accommodation

The following hotels are located close to the train station and in walking distance (15 min.) to the university campus (prices may be subject to change):

- Hotel am Kaponier, Große Str. 47 (<http://www.kaponier.de>) - single room about €41-52 per night
- Hotel am Neuen Markt, Neuer Markt 20 (<http://www.hotel-am-neuen-markt.de>) - single room about €38
- Hotel Drei Kronen, Markt 2 (Tel. +49 4441 2636 or +49 4441 852295, Fax +49 4441 3213): single room about €45

A slightly longer walk (20-30 min.) from the university campus (north of the train station, but still on the map on page 5 – close to numbers 22 and 23, respectively):

- Hotel Bremer Tor, Bremer Str.1-3 (<http://www.bremertor.de>) - single room about €52-72
- Schäfers Hotel, Große Str. 115 (<http://www.schaefers-hotel.de>) - single room about €52

Not at the train station, but still pretty close to the university campus:

- Hotel Tannenhof, Diepholzer Str. / Am Schützenplatz 1-3 (<http://www.hotel-tannenhof-vechta.de>) - single room about €35

Further away in the south:

- Gasthaus Hans Sgundek, Diepholzer Str. 91 (Tel. +49 4441 3162, Fax +49 4441 910266): single room about €33
- Hotel am Pferdezentrum, Lohner Straße 22 (<http://www.hotel-igelmann.de>) - single room about €52

For more information see <http://www2.vechta.de/englisch/indexuk.html> (English) or <http://www.vechta.de> (German).

Organisers

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