The Zukunftskolleg engages in the UBIAS' Topic of the Year 2018 on “Ageing – Life, Cultures, Civilizations”.

As we grow older, our organism changes in ways that will reduce our ability to respond to stress, and hereby increasing the homeostatic imbalance and the risk of many medical diseases. These biological changes are accompanied by a range of psychological and social changes such as cognitive and physical decline, dependency on social care and medical treatment.

“Age”, can be addressed and analyzed in a broad context and from many disciplinary perspectives. The ways in which we view and interpret signs of aging as well as the age segmentation of the human life span (e.g. when are we considered old?) have changed through history and are subject to major cultural differences.

These and many aspects of “Ageing” will be discussed in a Special Jour Fixe Series. Within this framework we will host three events:

11 December  "The Science and Fiction of Ageing"
Jeff Kochan & Jennifer Randerath (Zukunftskolleg Fellows)

This Jour Fixe offers a combined look at ageing from the perspectives of science and literature. Jeff Kochan begins by reading brief excerpts from his translation of Francesco Micieli’s novella, *Hundert Tage mit meiner Grossmutter* (One Hundred Days with my Grandmother). Jennifer Randerath then introduces aspects of neuropsychological research on stroke and dementia as diseases of the ageing brain. Jeff Kochan finishes by reading his short story ‘Anti-Gravity,’ which explores the
anxiety caused by dementia as a threat in later life. Audience participants are then invited to discuss the topic, including the question of whether science and literature may be usefully combined in addressing matters of pressing public importance.

18 December

0-99, The Ageing Game
Anna Sophie Santner (Artist from Vienna)

My master project “0-99, The Ageing Game” is a board game about ageing and the course of life. The game was developed in order to find out how people of different ages reflect and verbalize their own ageing in a playful environment and whether a board game could function as a qualitative research matter. In my talk, I will present the project's outcomes and learnings. Afterwards you will have the chance to actually play the game as we will have a time slot solely dedicated to playing it.

8 January

The Role of Age in Leadership and Entrepreneurship
Hannes Zacher (Leipzig University)

The workforce is not only aging, but also becoming increasingly age diverse, with important implications for several work-related processes and outcomes. In this talk, I discuss the role of chronological age in leadership and entrepreneurship. While leadership refers to the process of influencing others by structuring tasks and relationships in a team, entrepreneurship is defined as the process of identifying and exploiting promising business opportunities. I first present a lifespan model of leadership and followership, as well as the results of a number of empirical studies designed to test the model's propositions. Findings suggest that age and age-related characteristics (e.g., motives to lead, age stereotypes) can impact on the leader-follower relationship and, subsequently, leadership success. Second, I present results from my research program on age in the entrepreneurial process. Findings suggest that several age-related characteristics (e.g., experience, time perspective) influence how entrepreneurs turn business opportunities into entrepreneurial intentions and venture success. I conclude with several ideas for future research and practical implications.

Photo: AU Photo, Aarhus University, Denmark.