SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN LATER LIFE (SELL)
Measurement and drivers of social exclusion among older adults

Public defense to obtain the degree of DOCTOR OF ADULT EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES of

Sofie Van Regenmortel

which will take place on

Tuesday 12th of September 2017, 14:30
Promotiezaal (D.2.01)
Campus Etterbeek

How to reach the VUB: http://www.vub.ac.be/campus.brussels-humanities-sciences-engineering-campus
Pleinlaan 2 – 1050 Brussel

Please confirm your attendance before 7/9/17 via sofievanregenmortel@gmail.com

Jury:
INTERNAL:
Prof. Dr. Free De Backer (Chair)
Facility of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Prof. Dr. Gina Rossi
Facility of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Prof. Dr. Maurice De Greef
Facility of Psychology and Educational Sciences

EXTERNAL:
Prof. Dr. Veerle Draulans
KU Leuven, Belgium

Dr. Giovanni Lamura
INRCA, National Institute of Health & Science on Ageing, Italy

Promotors:
Prof. Dr. Liesbeth De Donder
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Summary

In the last decade, there has been a growing awareness regarding social exclusion. Considering the ageing population and the likelihood of older people to experience co-existing disadvantages there is a growing need to study old-age social exclusion. This is even more the case because social exclusion is associated with negative outcomes such as lower life satisfaction. Although social exclusion is considered as a multidimensional concept in which different dimensions of disadvantage are combined, this multidimensionality is often not retained in current measures. Furthermore there is a need to study old-age exclusion from the environmental and life course perspective.

This PhD study focuses on social exclusion among older adults in Flanders and Brussels. It develops an old-age social exclusion measure that retains the multidimensionality of the concept, leading to four categories of old-age social exclusion. Furthermore, this study examines prevalences of old-age social exclusion and explores the influence of setting different thresholds. Also the association of individual determinants (e.g. gender and educational level) and the influence of municipalities’ characteristics (e.g. criminality rate and service provision) are studied. Finally, analyses of 19 life story interviews give more insights in how financially excluded older adults experience and narrate their life course. This dissertation builds on the growing field of research focusing on old-age social exclusion and formulates some recommendations towards policy and practice to prevent and tackle old-age social exclusion.

Curriculum Vitae

Sofie Van Regenmortel ('Wilrijk, 1991) received her master’s degree in Adult Educational Sciences (Agogische Wetenschappen) from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in 2013. In October 2013 she started at the Department of Adult Educational Sciences at the VUB and became a member of the Belgian Ageing Studies research group. She started her PhD research on social exclusion in later life. In 2016 she joined the ROSEnet COST action on ‘Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion: Collaborations in Research and Policy’. Sofie’s work has been presented at international conferences and has been published in or is in review for journals such as Journal of Population Ageing, Social Indicators and Ageing and Society.