Outline for a proposed qualitative study

BACKGROUND: The experiences and perspectives of knowledge users (people who are 60+ in this study) are important to understand the ways in which ageing, health and gender intersect. A qualitative study can also provide insights about way in which indicators used in populations studies are gendered. Based on previous work in the FUTUREGEN project, this study will examine resources needed for ageing well and analyse the ways in which some measures of health and care used in quantitative studies are gendered. Thus, it will use the perspective of knowledge users to better understand how social inequalities shape experiences of ageing and how particularly gender impacts the tools (indicators) used to gather knowledge about later life. The study’s findings will be important for future research on the intersectionality of ageing, gender and health.

METHODS: The study will use a purposive sample of key informants who are older than 60 years and span gender(s), caregiving/-receiving and diversity in terms of socioeconomic status. 90 in-depth semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 30 key informants from Canada, Sweden and Austrian each. The interviews will focus on resources from the perspective of the interviewees and compare women’s and men’s perspectives to better understand the links between gender and certain indicators in population studies (i.e. how certain indicators may have different meanings for women and men). Transcripts will be coded and analyzed using the seven-stage framework analysis method. The findings from the key informant study will complement the results from methods studies examining aspects of health, aging and gender.

CONCLUSIONS: Key informant interviews will be used to study the intersections of ageing, health and care through the lens of the lived experiences of knowledge users and to possibly identify new concepts that were not generated in the quantitative research in FUTUREGEN. We encourage the use of key informant interviews as a complement to methods studies of data-sets to obtain and include the real-life expertise of knowledge users on findings.