In the decades since Michel Foucault formulated his theories about biopolitics, the shifting demographics of most Western countries have made ageing one of the central subjects of medical, political and individual concern today. Characteristic of this development is that current practices and discourses related to ageing not only focus on the end of life but consider ageing to be a life-long process in need of scientific exploration and self- and medical governing. Furthermore, the growing attention to matters of prevention and optimisation increasingly relies on preventive and health promoting measures reaching out of the clinic and into the everyday lives of ageing individuals. Practices and discourses such as anti-aging, active aging and healthy aging, then, not only function as ways to manage populations but also produce and shape current experiences of ageing, construed around a norm of active, healthy and long-living subjects. As such, ageing has become a site of intervention that bridges issues of health, normality and pathology, the body and the political, shaping life and death in new ways.

The Center for Healthy Aging hereby invites you to participate in the first international symposium on the Biopolitics of Ageing. The aim of the symposium is to build an intellectual platform for the merging of ageing studies and biopolitical perspectives, and to facilitate new research collaboration and exchange of ideas within this international and interdisciplinary field. This free two-day symposium will engage in these relevant and emerging topics through four public keynotes and eight three-hour-workshops in smaller groups for invitees only.

This is the invitation to also take part in the workshops.

The workshops will run in two tracks with the themes of neuroscience, everyday life, technologies of the self and ageing, biopolitics of death, commercialization of ageing bodies and medicalization of ageing bodies. The workshop format will differ from workshop to workshop but they will all focus on providing time and space for joint discussion for all participants. Participants are expected to actively engage in the workshop discussions and contribute constructively to the development of new research perspectives. Furthermore, contributions and discussions from keynotes and workshop participants may provide material for creating a special issue of a yet-to-be-decided journal; this will be planned and discussed at the symposium.
Registration and further information

The symposium is organised by Health and Aging in Everyday Life, a research programme under the Center for Healthy Aging, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

If you are interested in participating, please visit the symposium website to register; here you can also find more information about the symposium and workshops. The deadline for registration is Friday 1 November 2013.

http://healthyaging.ku.dk/events/biopolitics-of-ageing/

If you have further questions, please contact Morten Hillgaard Bülow: mohib@sund.ku.dk

We hope to see you in Copenhagen on 4-5 December 2013!

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 4 December 2013:
8:30am-9:00  Registration and coffee
9:00-9:10  Welcome
9:10-9:55  Keynote 1: The (bio)sociality of aging by professor Susan Whyte
10:00-1:00pm  Workshops:
  Track 1: Neuroscience of ageing 1
  (WL: Tiago Moreira)
  Track 2: Commercialisation of ageing bodies
  (WL: Jennifer Fishman)
1:00-2:00  Lunch
2:00-5:00  Workshops:
  Track 1: Neuroscience of ageing 2
  (WL: Tiago Moreira)
  Track 2: Technologies of self and ageing
  (WL: TBA)
5:15-6:00  Keynote 2: Sexualizing the Third Age: Biopolitics, Embodiment and ‘Post-ageist Ageism’ by professor Barbara Marshall
7:30pm -  Symposium dinner

Thursday 5 December 2013:
9:00am-9:45  Keynote 3: De-standardising ageing?
  by senior lecturer Tiago Moreira
10:00-1:00pm  Workshops:
  Track 1: Biopolitics of death
  (WL: Glennys Howarth)
  Track 2: Everyday practices 1
  (WL: Sarah Lamb)
1:00-2:00  Lunch
2:00-5:00  Workshops:
  Track 1: Medicalization of ageing bodies
  (WL: Bjarke Oxlund)
  Track 2: Everyday practices 2
  (WL: Sarah Lamb)
5:15-6:00  Keynote 4: The Biopolitics of Ageing Reloaded: Pensions, Migration, Care
  by professor Brett Neilson
6:00-6:30  Recap and further collaborations
7:30pm  Sandwiches and drinks at the university