

# **International Perspectives on Aging**

Volume 28

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Kieran Walsh • Thomas Scharf  
Sofie Van Regenmortel • Anna Wanka  
Editors

# Social Exclusion in Later Life

Interdisciplinary and Policy Perspectives



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of the European Union



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# Acknowledgements

Social exclusion in later life involves the marginalisation of older individuals and groups from mainstream society. It represents a complex set of research questions, a critical public and social policy challenge, and a profound societal concern for older people, families and communities in ageing societies. This has only been reinforced, across Europe and internationally, by the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The ways in which social exclusion can have a multifaceted impact on the daily lived experiences of older adults, and reflect the engrained position of older people and ageing within our structures and institutions, render it a particularly difficult issue to disentangle and tackle. With significant and welcomed advances in life expectancy, the task of answering these questions, overcoming these policy challenges and addressing these societal concerns has become critical – and even more so in the wake of the continuing developments related to COVID-19 and the implications for ageing societies. As co-editors of this book, we believe it is only by drawing together interdisciplinary and policy perspectives that we can provide the necessary scientific evidence to inform how best to undertake this task and advance this field of scholarship.

This book is a result of a collaboration between members of the COST Action CA15122 *Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion* – ROSEnet ([www.rosenetcost.com](http://www.rosenetcost.com)), supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). COST is a funding agency for research and innovation networks ([www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)). The book stems directly from the research and analyses that were engaged in across the period of ROSEnet's work programme, from 2016 to 2020. Although not all members are represented within this book, the debates and discussions that occurred as a part of ROSEnet seminars and conferences have contributed to the development of its themes and perspectives. It is on this basis we want to thank the PhD students; the early-stage, mid-career and senior researchers and academics; the policy stakeholders – particularly Patricia Conboy of HelpAge International and Maciej Kucharczyk of AGE Platform Europe for their expertise and guidance; and the Older Adult Reference Group who participated as members of ROSEnet. We would like to thank COST for giving us the opportunity to collaborate with these excellent colleagues

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Galway, Ireland  
Newcastle, UK  
Brussels, Belgium  
Frankfurt, Germany  
August, 2020

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