

From September 25 to 27, 2025, the international conference “SEE Aging Graz 2025: Transforming Representations of Aging in Southeast European Literature and Film” will take place at the University of Graz.



About the Conference

In Southeastern Europe, cultural perceptions and personal experiences of aging and old age, although ambivalent and multifaceted, are embedded in a general discourse of catastrophe: The region is at the forefront of a global trend in population aging. Southeast European countries are also among those EU member states with people’s lowest life expectancy. While increasing longevity is one of the main drivers of demographic aging in Western Europe and North America, a key factor in Southeastern Europe is the high out-migration of younger people. This development fuels fears and leads to what critical gerontologist Stephen Katz refers to as “alarmist demography.”

Fiction and film may partake in this ageist discourse, yet also offer alternative, more positive and empowering visions. Literary and cinematic representations or theater performances – as well as their interpretations – not only reflect but also challenge dominant narratives about older people as a burden and aging as threat, loss, and decline. The SEE Aging Graz 2025 conference seeks to investigate this kind of *transforming representations* (in the double sense of the word): We intend, on the one hand, to

trace and analyze how artistic representations of aging and old age have evolved and transformed over time and, on the other hand, to examine the potential of these representations to transform individual attitudes, cultural mindsets, and social practices.

Program

Poster

Venue

University of Graz, "WALL" building, Merangasse 70, 8010 Graz

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More information you can find **[here](#)**.