Issue Mapping for an Ageing Europe

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Notes

1. Another recommendation, ‘favor controversies concerning scientific or technical issues’, is (among other reasons) a consequence of the origins of actor-network theory in science studies.

2. The final step, a move from cosmoses to cosmopolitics, should not be viewed as a specific methodological instruction, but rather as a philosophical repercussion of the work in focusing on the observation of the construction of a collective, even if it is temporary one.

3. Cosmos-objects reference ideologies or Weltanschauungen, and may be contrasted with issue objects which embody and express issues. See Marres, 2012.

4. We use Google’s convention concerning how to write search engine queries. We place brackets around queries, and show whether quotation marks were employed (for exact match queries), e.g., [“climate change”]. See Cutts, 2005. The Polish language queries for retirement, pensions, retirement age, pension reform and ageing are respectively as follows: [“emerytura”], [“emerytury”], [“wiek emerytalny”], [“reforma emerytalna”] and [“starzenie się”].

5. We used the Issuegeographer tool by the Digital Methods Initiative to look up the addresses where the websites are registered, too, so as to check whether the findings made about their host locations match with their registration locations, which they largely do. The seed actors link to mainly U.K.-based websites, and not to care worker source countries.

6. The top-level and second-level domain names of these websites are taken as the sector in which they operate and as a way of grouping them. Six out of the 17 websites (globalaging.org, euro.centre.org, oecd.org, social-policy.org.uk, cpa.org.uk, ec.europa.eu, europarl.europa.eu, unesco.org, unesco.org.uk, york.ac.uk, ageing.ox.ac.uk, soton.ac.uk, open.ac.uk, era-age.group.shef.ac.uk, futurage.group.shef.ac.uk, nhs.uk, evidence.nhs.uk and telegraph.co.uk) in which care drain resonates use the domain name .org (non-governmental organizations), including Global Aging, an American NGO that reports on older people’s needs and their potential within the global economy, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, with a research area dedicated to ageing and generations, and operating at the European level the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with an agenda that includes working towards the inclusion of people of all ages in the workforce. Non-governmental organizations with a British focus include the U.K. Social Policy Association, which has published a series of academic papers about ageing and policy, and the Centre for Policy on Ageing, an independent charity that works to promote the interests of older people through research. The last one from this group is the British section of UNESCO. Furthermore, two websites (those of the European Commission and the European Parliament) employ the .eu domain and identify as regional actors. The academic sector is grouped under the do-
main .ac.uk, and includes the University of York, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Southampton, Open University, and two projects funded by the European Union hosted at the University of Sheffield, Era Age 2 and Future Age. The U.K.’s National Health System, both the main site as well as a sub-site make use of the term ‘care drain’. Finally, the one media organization from the sample is that of The Telegraph, with a .co.uk domain.

7. ‘One of the stories I was taught as a student is that cartography became scientific only recently, say after World War II. It did so, the story went, largely for two reasons. First, it finally threw off art and subjectivity (here reference was often made to the work of Arthur Robinson and his call for formal procedures of map design). Thus science was posed in opposition to art. Second, it became as it were “post-political” by throwing off the fatal attraction to propaganda and ideological mapping evidenced prior to and during war […]. Yet both these developments are myths’ (Crampton, 2010, p. 3).

8. In August 2011 the official google.org blogger writes: ‘We see two consistent trends in search behaviour and Internet use in the affected areas: a substantial (and often dominant) proportion of searches are directly related to the crises; and people continue to search and access information online even while traffic and search levels drop temporarily during and immediately following the crises’ (Falor, 2011).

9. “Onze medewerkers zijn afkomstig uit landen uit Oost-Europa: voor het overgrote deel uit Polen [Our employees hail from countries in Eastern Europe, for the most part from Poland],” thecaringcrew.nl, 20 August 2012. Translation by the authors.

10. The countries where the local domain Googles were queried are as follows: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

11. Using Google web search to display societal concerns (as opposed to information only) is a research perspective developed by one of the authors and was applied in ambiguous queries for [rights] in a series of countries worldwide, in order to display issue hierarchies or ranked rights types per country. See Rogers, 2013.

12. There were 27 EU member states at the time of the study. Croatia, the 28th member state, joined the EU on 1 July 2013.

13. Queries were made in the local domain engines for Google in Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

14. Using the Google site query on 8 August 2013, the [University of the Third Age] appeared on age-platform.eu on four occasions, all of which on PDFs, suggesting that the issue is not prominent.