



GRAZER
THEOLOGISCHE
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Call for Papers

LIMINA 3:1 (Spring 2020)

Clash of generations?

A question of intergenerational coexistence

Intergenerational coexistence has undergone far-reaching and radical changes in Europe over the last decade due to demographical developments as well as migration. The shift away from several generations living together under one roof towards a more disconnected relationship between different generations poses an unprecedented challenge for political, social and healthcare systems, as well as individuals. Often, this challenge is reduced to issues of aging and affordable care. However, irrespective of rash conclusions about age, what is clear is that: The demographical scales are tipping with more and more older people compared to fewer young and middle-aged people.

LIMINA's special edition on "Intergenerational Coexistence" will investigate the relationships between different age groups, the challenges faced by gerontology, social sciences and nursing sciences, and theological perspectives on these issues:

- The broad societal consensus is that being able to live longer than any previous generation is a generally good and desirable development. However, we have to consider the difference between quantity (number of years lived) and the subjective experience of quality of life. "Old age" invokes a variety of different images and connotations: For some, a "typical" older person is someone who endeavours to remain young, a "wise elder" who can draw on a life rich with experiences to guide them and others; for some, getting older means losing one's cognitive ability to dementia.
- Economic considerations often not only distinguish between genders but often view generations as separate entities. Thus, their relationships and place in society are externally redefined. This means that individuals need to reflect and question themselves and their attitudes and society as a whole as well as its institutions have to readjust to reflect reality.
- Economics and social ethics have been warning us for a number of years that the traditional "contract between generations" that relies on the younger generation to

pay for the older generation in their retirement does not hold up anymore. The question is how to redistribute economic resources and restructure mutual responsibilities between generations.

- The dynamic between generations is not only defined by economic aspects and social responsibilities. Traditions, attitudes und narratives passed on from generation to generation are equally decisive factors. Here, the question arises what tradition means in today's context.
- Religion can play an important role for individual generations and intergenerational relationships. Does religiousness distinctively differ between older and younger generations and how can we overcome differences through communication? How does the question of God change across one's lifetime and across different stages of age? What questions arise within the context of a multi-religious society in which completely different religious concepts regarding the relationship between generations coexist and meet?

Faced with mortality and the fragility of life, we ultimately have to consider human dignity across all stages of life. What does respecting human dignity mean in today's world?

We are looking for topical and innovative scientific articles for our next special issue of LIMINA – Theological Perspectives from Graz. Please submit your **outline** (max. 4,000 characters) to:

redaktion@limina-graz.eu

The final article should be approx. 40,000 characters.

For more information about the journal and publication guidelines please visit:

<http://unipub.uni-graz.at/limina>

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