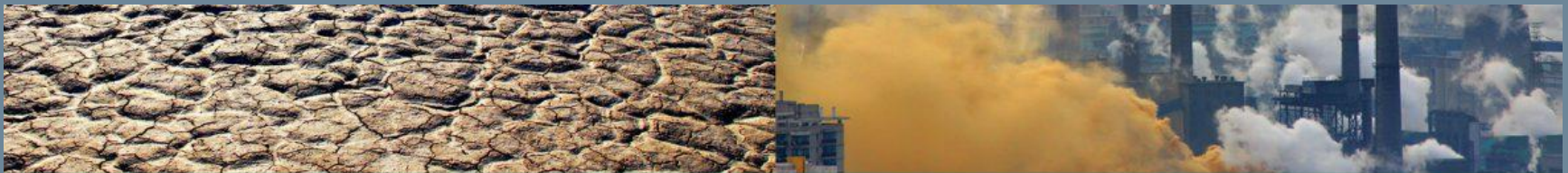


GREY NETWORKS FOR GREEN: the potential of networks of elderly people in coping with the environmental challenges

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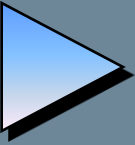
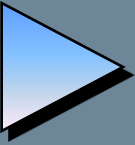
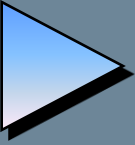


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1. Reasons why awareness and action by the self-organized networks of elderly people may be relevant to cope with environmental challenges (1/4)

In the domain of awareness and environmental action, **networks** in general (not only of elderly people) may be relevant for:

-  1. collecting like-minded people and opening up their attention to certain themes;
-  2. Reaching out to people who would be otherwise detached from them;
-  3. Dissemination of information flow, reinforcing credibility and linking to action

1. Reasons why awareness and action by the self-organized networks of elderly people may be relevant to cope with environmental challenges (2/4)

In the domain of awareness and environmental action, networks in general (not only of elderly people) may be relevant for:

- ▶ 4. declining the environmental theme directly about activities dependent and manageable by the person
- ▶ 5. Producing a well-meditated collective response, instead of individualistic and counterproductive adaptation response.

This will become even more important as the issues of adaptation to climate change, which are highly conflicting and which can cause maladaptation and a fall in social trust.

1. Reasons why awareness and action by the self-organized networks of elderly people may be relevant to cope with environmental challenges (3/4)

Older people are very important for environmental policies and behaviors because:

They vote
(more than
young people -
e.g. in USA)

Elites are always old
and therefore
their prejudices
and values
can more easily be
found among
decisionmakers

1. Reasons why awareness and action by the self-organized networks of elderly people may be relevant to cope with environmental challenges (3/4)

Not without the risk of pending against the environment

- because the talk of sustainability understood as the interest of future generations is selfish-rationally to be less interesting for those who have a more limited life prospect and are less willing to make sacrifices in the name of the future
- they may be less sensitive to environmental cause (because opinions were formed in a period of economic boom with a strong positive connotation of factories, automobiles, condominiums, roads, etc.) but they also may come from the '68 generation and its environmental ideals
- because scientific training is the one of decades past, not the latest scientific positions

while being, in turn, vulnerable

- because in the event of an emergency or an environmental phenomenon, the elderly is subject to vulnerability (e.g. heat waves in 2003 produced thousands of over-deaths especially in the older generations)

2. Research plan and interviews

The research plan consists of the following elements:

- * brainstorming by the authors on the themes to be asked in semi-structured face-to-face interviews
- * second-level national networks of social centres and unionised elderly as two major venues of networks by the elderly
- * tentative list of organisations of the elderly
- * first batch of interviews
- * second batch of interviews
- * analysis of results
- * peer-reviewed publication



3. Themes covered in the interviews

Organization in general, the role of the environment in the organizational chart (specific function, transversal, underlay), list of initiatives made and foreseen, civic engagement

Awareness of ecological footprint, climate change (mitigation and adaptation). Pollution.

Actions taken with respect with any environmental theme, including energy saving and renewables, sustainable transportation and tourism, food waste prevention, heat waves

4. Very preliminary reflections (1)

4.1 The lexical knowledge of leaders is incomplete.

4.2 Leaders consider elderly people most vulnerable in relation to pollution and climate change.

4.3 Sustainable lifestyles and energy saving are the areas on which they insist the most.

4.4 They consider their members to be on average/very conscious in relation to environmental issues.

4.5 Everyone considers that, in future, environmental issues will become more relevant to their organization.

Thanks for attention

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