



**Exclusion from civic engagement of a diverse  
older population: Features, experiences, and  
policy implications**

**New perspectives on civic engagement in  
later life**

*Results' Dissemination Seminar*

**Brigades Internacionals' Room - Rambla Santa Mónica, 10, Barcelona**  
**General Workers' Union of Catalonia**

*Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022*

## Seminar Aim and Description

This Seminar pursues to recognise older people's contribution in the field of civic engagement, making visible situations about inclusion and exclusion through their own experiences, and identifying how, when and why civic engagement happens (or not).

This Seminar will examine features of exclusion from civic engagement in later life and older adults' experiences of such exclusion.

The Seminar will also address the relevance of civic engagement among the older population and the risks of civic exclusion in later life. Likewise, a review of the preliminary results of the CIVEX project will be presented, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The current Seminar is the first of two Results' Dissemination Seminars.

## About CIVEX

CIVEX (*Exclusion from civic engagement of a diverse older population: Features, experiences and policy implications*) is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary research project funded under the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) "More Years, Better Lives".

CIVEX aims to investigate features of exclusion from multidimensional civic engagement in later life and older adults' experiences of such exclusion. In addition, this project seeks to identify evidence-based policy responses to address exclusion from civic activities among older people.

CIVEX includes research teams from five European countries: Belgium, Finland, Spain, Sweden and the UK, with the purpose of examining diverse welfare state regimes and cultural contexts. CIVEX has the collaboration of different entities related to civic participation in later life. In Spain, this entity is the Union of Retirees and Pensioners of the General Workers Union of Catalonia.

For further information about the CIVEX project please visit: [www.civex.eu](http://www.civex.eu)  
[https://twitter.com/civex\\_mybl](https://twitter.com/civex_mybl)

## New perspectives on civic engagement in later life

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- 9.00 – 9.20 **Registration**
- 9.20 – 9.40 **Welcome**
- Camil Ros – *Association of the General Workers' Union of Catalonia, Spain*
- Rodrigo Serrat – *University of Barcelona, Spain*
- 9.40 – 10.00 **Risks of social exclusion in later life**
- Thomas Scharf – *Newcastle University, UK*
- 10.00 – 10.20 **Questions & Answers**
- 10.20 – 10.40 **What is civic engagement and why it is important in later life?**
- Rodrigo Serrat – *University of Barcelona, Spain*
- 10.40 – 11.00 **Questions & Answers**
- 11.00 – 11.20 **From theory to practice: Participation and vindication**
- Manuel Becerra – *Retirees and Pensioners Association of the General Workers' Union of Catalonia, Spain*
- 11.20 – 11.40 **Questions & Answers**
- 11.40 – 12.10 **Coffee break**
- 12.10 – 12.30 **What does civic engagement look like among European older adults?  
Results from the quantitative study**
- Marina Näsman – *Åbo Akademi University, Finland*
- Toon Vercauteren – *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium*
- 12.30 – 12.50 **Questions & Answers**

12.50 – 13.10 **Civic engagement in later life: What qualitative interviews suggest**

Bas Dikmans - *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium*

Inma Peiró – *University of Barcelona, Spain*

13.10 – 13.30 **Questions & Answers**

## Speakers Biographies



**Camil Ros** completed the studies for Administrative officer. At the age of 14, he started his participation in social movements and politics, holding assemblies during the students' strikes of mid-1980s. In 1996, he joined the trade union as co-founder of the Avalot – Youth branch of the General Union of Workers (UGT) in Catalonia. Between 1998 and 2008, took the role of UGT General Secretary of the Girona province.

Afterwards, he got involved in the UGT National Secretariat of Catalonia region, as Secretary of Sectors Policy and since 2009 as Secretary of Trade Union Policy and External Area's Coordinator. After 2016 election, he was nominated as the Secretary General of UGT Catalonia, position he held to this day.



**Rodrigo Serrat** is a tenure-track lecturer and researcher at the Department of Cognition, Development and Educational Psychology of the University of Barcelona, Spain. His research interests are focused on civic participation in later life, with a special focus on older people's diversity and their inclusion in different contexts, such as political and volunteering organizations, interest groups and long-term care facilities. From the year 2021 he is Associate Editor of the journal *Ageing & Society* (official journal of the British Gerontological Society). He is the coordinator of the European project CIVEX.





**Thomas Scharf** is Professor of Social Gerontology at Newcastle University and co-leader of Newcastle University's Centre for Ageing and Inequalities in UK. His research encompasses the fields of social gerontology and social policy, particularly topics related to unequal ageing, social inclusion and exclusion in later life, ageing and social policy, and environments of ageing. He was elected to the UK Academy of Social Sciences in 2009 in recognition of his significant work on ageing.



**Manuel Becerra** has a Degree in Geography and History from the University of Barcelona. Until his retirement, he develops its main professional activity in the financial sector. Between 2011-2013 he was Secretary of Social Policy, Studies and Documentation of the Retirees and Pensioners Association of the General Workers' Union of Catalonia (UJP-UGT). Between 2014-2018 he made volunteering in Circles of Support and Responsibility, from Penitentiary Institutions (Ministry of Justice, *Generalitat* of Catalonia), among others. Since 2015 he is Councilor for Older people, Ageism and Unwanted Loneliness, Les Corts District, Barcelona City Council. Between 2018-2020 he was Secretary of Social Policy of UJP-UGT Catalonia, and since 2020, General Secretary of the UJP-UGT Catalonia. Retirement and aging could mean the reduction of some physical, sensory or cognitive abilities for older people, but in no case the loss of individual or collective rights, being our responsibility to defend them.

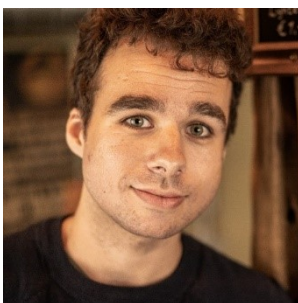


**Marina Näsman** is a Postdoctoral researcher in Social Policy at the Faculty of Education and Welfare Studies at Åbo Akademi University, Finland. Her doctoral dissertation addressed the conceptualization of well-being as well as age differences and changes over time. She has worked in projects related to social inclusion in old age, social inclusion and subjective well-being from a linguistic minority perspective, and well-being and loneliness among home care recipients.



**Toon Vercauteren** has a Master's Degree in Adult Educational Sciences from Vrije Universiteit Brussel and is currently a PhD Student in Psychology and Educational Sciences at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His research is related to a quantitative comparative study of secondary data from databases like SHARE (Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe), ELSA (English Longitudinal Study of Ageing), etc. about the multidimensional exclusion of civic participation in later life at a micro-, meso- and macro-

levels.



**Bas Dikmans** has a Master's Degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Amsterdam and a Master in Cultures and Development Sciences from the Catholic University of Louvain. He is currently a PhD student in Psychology and Educational Sciences at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. He is focusing currently on social exclusion from civic engagement of a diverse older population in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Brussels.

He is a qualitative researcher focusing on the life course of individuals, as well as participatory and ethnographic research methods.



**Inma Peiró** has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Psychogerontology from the University of Barcelona. She is currently a PhD student in Social and Organisational Psychology at the University of Barcelona, Spain. Her research addresses older people's civic participation in long-term care facilities, with the purpose of identifying real experiences of civic participation and exclusion. Her research will contribute to the improvement of residential policies and the public administration's field in terms of promoting civic participation and reducing situations or factors of exclusion.