

use linguistic and conversational analysis approaches to describe power relationships that occur in discourse and the way in which these power relationships influence care practices. The structured deconstructive approach to data analysis used in these methodologies enables general inferences and descriptions to be drawn and applied in a variety of gerontological contexts.

This book will be useful for educators who are interested in the intricacies of communication with older people and the ‘action’ of communication strategies, to researchers who are interested in linguistics as well as to students of gerontology who have a particular interest in communication studies. If I have any criticism of the book it is its title – it is ironic that the editors use the term ‘elderly care’ when this term is generally considered to inappropriately label older people and negatively influence how older persons are communicated with. It would be good to see this changed if there is another edition of the book.

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Cathy E. Lloyd and Tom Heller (eds), *Long-term Conditions: Challenges in Health & Social Care*, Sage Publications, London, 2012, 240 pp., pbk £23.99, ISBN 13: 978 0 85702 750 4.

This book is a much welcomed addition to similar texts debating the challenges for the people working in health and social care, supporting people who develop long-term conditions (LTCs). It differs by taking a thought-provoking approach to exploring the reality of the lives of people who are experiencing often multiple conditions and the challenges faced in providing effective care.

The editors provide a concise introduction drawing attention to the growing number of people in the United Kingdom (UK) living with LTCs. This could be transferred to other developed countries as global health statistics indicate similar trends. Attention is drawn to the changing landscape of care provision in the UK as services are influenced by government policy; embracing the concepts of person-centred care and inter-professional working with a focus on empowering individuals. The reality often evidences a disparity between the people in receipt of care, professionals and organisations. This is poignantly illustrated throughout the text powerfully positioning the voice of people using services and the impact on their lives. Divided into three sections, the book explores these differing perspectives from a diverse range of people (people using services, practitioners, managers and researchers). Each section includes empirical research to contextualise the perceptions explored, cleverly drawing the reader to reflect on theory and practice, as well as engagingly revealing the experiences and views of people with LTCs.

The first section focusing on receiving care achieves its aim of raising awareness of how people view their own situations: living with a LTC, dealing with their health concerns and trying to fit into processes. Sir Terry Pratchett (a recognised and prolific UK author) contributes first to this section and draws the reader into understanding the significance of listening to people who are in receipt of care services. He identifies his own circumstance of a diagnosis of early dementia and eloquently debates how society will cope with an ageing population, 'running right into the dementia firing range' (Chapter 1, p. 8). This section helps the reader to recognise the reality of living with a LTC and how labels direct people to services, with conditions being the gatekeepers as opposed to access to treatment and support of symptoms, *i.e.* pain and exhaustion. A clear illustration of the tensions within UK care systems are identified, drawing attention to insufficiencies in psychological support in predominantly medical models and pathways of care. People are highlighted as falling between the gaps of disability and illness, with stigma attached to unexplained conditions. This section concludes with Sara MacKian (Chapter 5) who focuses on the world people live in, when living with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), rather than the construction of ME. This author offers an interesting insight into her own experience of ME and the exploration of therapeutic landscapes offering a deeper understanding of how some individuals cope.

Working with people with LTCs is explored in the second section building upon the themes identified in the previous chapters. A diverse range of approaches are utilised to reveal current issues in relation to maintaining a person-centred approach whilst satisfying organisational demands. Rachel Purtell and Andy Gibson (Chapter 6) provide a lively debate surrounding the issues in relation to service users meaningfully contributing to research. The service-user experience is clearly audible in the chapters of this section as the significance of multi-disciplinary working and integrated health and social care systems are highlighted to re-orient bio-medical models of care to include a focus on the psycho-social consequences of living with a LTC.

The final section discusses the delivery of health and social care for people with LTCs. Alistair Hewison (Chapter 11) locates the reader to the policy context in a concise way, emphasising the complexity of supporting people in the management of their LTCs and the multiple systems they may come into contact with. The challenge is to keep track of the vast number of documents that continue to be publicised, as there is no central point of reference. This section returns to the fiscal management of a system aiming to support people with LTCs, to debate some significant factors in achieving its success. The voluntary sector, risk management and the presence of carers are explored, pointing at how potential gaps in systems could be addressed. Readers are drawn to thinking about how effective or restrictive systems and processes are. The concluding chapter by Stephen Pattison (written from the perspective of an ethicist) enticingly debates whether people can be helped to negotiate or prepare for life with a LTC.

This book will be a useful resource to people who use services, students studying in health and social care and researchers, as it gives an opportunity

to gain in-depth understanding of everyday life with a LTC, the implications for health-care provision and future research.

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Laura M. Carpenter and John DeLamater (eds), *Sex for Life: From Virginity to Viagra, How Sexuality Changes Throughout Our Lives*, New York University Press, New York, 2012, 384 pp., pbk \$27.00, ISBN 13: 978 0 8147 7253 9.

This edited work draws together a wide range of papers with the aim of approaching sexuality from a lifecourse perspective. The core themes are: transitions and their timing; cumulative advantage and disadvantage; the effect of life trajectories on sexuality; how people make choices about sexuality in their particular socio-historical contexts; and how gender and sexuality shape sexual pathways. Carpenter and DeLamater also draw upon the concept of sexual scripting – ‘people’s sexual lives are governed by socially learned sets of desires and conduct, rather than biological imperatives’ (p. 33).

The section on ‘Sexualities in Childhood and Adolescence’ contains three chapters: Jeffrey Thigpen questions the prevailing cultural belief in the United States of America (USA) that children are not sexually aware until adolescence and explores how culture shapes the sexual behaviour of children. Stephen Russell *et al.* consider sexuality development in adolescence and the importance of empowering young people to think critically about their own sexualities. Kristin Carbine-Lopez approaches the adult consequences of sexual assault in childhood with an emphasis on subsequent dysfunctional relationship scripts, perhaps not sufficiently counter-balanced by narratives of resilience and survival.

In the section ‘Sexualities from Young Adulthood to Midlife’, William Jaynes offers a meta-analysis of literature on the effects of parental divorce, concluding that adolescent children of divorced parents are more likely to engage in pre-marital sex and to become single parents. Lisa Wade and Caroline Heldman explore the ‘hook-up’ scripts of college students, which they suggest involve a narrative of alcohol use and unrewarding casual sex. Adam Green interrogates whether same-sex marriage represent a queering of marital traditions or a normalising of gay intimate relationships.

The section ‘Turning Points Throughout the Life Course’ addresses an eclectic mix. Yen Le Espiritu explores how Filipino sexualities in the USA are co-constituted through gendered, sexualised and racialised discourses, differently negotiated by first- and second-generation immigrants. Bronwen Lichtenstein explores how women in mid-life negotiate dating and sex after a relationship break-up. Alexis Bender describes a study of heterosexual men who had experienced spinal cord injury in adult life whose sexual trajectories were negotiated against a backcloth of normativity in relation to