

the creation of, and belief in a coherent life story' (p. 30): it certainly has no resonance for him. He was also interested as to whether or not there is a role for the older-old person himself in real research. The impression he gained was that there were 'flaky grades of professional opinion' on the desirability of this (p. 17). He observes that some researchers seem reluctant to engage with those they study at anything other than the shallowest of levels. It appears, he concludes, that there is a terror of 'our making unreliable i.e. non-professional contributions ... checking interview transcripts and engaging in a discussion of ongoing projects, which might lead to challenging of the research findings, or even to a change in analytical processes' (p. 17). In the final pages he admits to having been a little tart on this topic, admits there is some good practice, and sees cause for encouragement.

With increasing numbers of us reaching 80 and beyond in similarly lively frame of mind and reasonable fitness of body, Hawkins' observations are pertinent to anyone who would carry out research on such lives. Academics would do well to obtain a copy of this book, read it, and then keep it to hand, dipping into it to remind themselves of the need for humility. This would have made a wonderful blog and would have allowed him to share his observations with a much wider audience. It is an entertaining and accessible read, and it was therefore no great hardship to read it twice, in order to do it justice in this review. As I did so, I found myself becoming increasingly fond of the author.

As this project ended, the 90-year-old Hawkins was planning another one – emigration from Britain to Canada. So intrigued was I, that I made enquiries and am assured that, at the time of writing, he is pleased with the way he is settling to a new life in British Columbia and finding it 'totally exhilarating'. This book is self-published and consequently has no ISBN. If you would like to obtain a copy, and I strongly suggest that you should do so, please write to the author c/o 29 Queen Court, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BB.

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Amanda Davies and Amity James, *Geographies of Ageing: Social Processes and the Spatial Unevenness of Population Ageing*, Ashgate Publishing, Farnham, UK, 2011, 224 pp., hbk £50.00, ISBN 13: 978 1 4094 1776 7.

Davies and James's carefully edited and well-argued book provides a comprehensive overview of the geographical dimensions of population ageing, and is an interesting exploration of the intersection between ageing studies and human geography. The main argument focuses on the spatial variability and unevenness in global population ageing, and thus associates spatial variance in macro ageing trends with spatial unevenness in socio-economic development. The authors provide an overview of current global

patterns of spatial distribution in older and younger populations as well as a projection (Part 1). Above all, they identify patterns of migration and 'ageing in place' as main drivers of population (Part 2). The analysis of the interaction between migration and population shift considers the connection of migration with lifecourse transitions (employment, family formation, retirement migration): Chapters 4, 5 and 6 examine these patterns in working-age populations, elderly retirement, and youth migration, mainly from rural to urban areas. The study of 'ageing in place', on the other hand, focuses on naturally occurring retirement communities – arising as a consequence of retirement migration for amenity or health care; and planned retirement communities – housing estates targeted at old people (Chapters 7 and 8).

Of particular relevance is the argument presented in Chapter 5 on labour geography, illustrating how unevenness in employment opportunities influences spatial mobility and distribution of working-age populations, and consequently impacts on the spatial unevenness of ageing. Spatial movements of working-age populations are in turn affected by spatial fixity of employment, and are the result of both demand and supply forces as well socially constructed divisions of labour – gender, class and ethnicity.

While these social processes create a shift in the population profile of communities, in Part 3 the authors challenge the common assumption that ageing produces a strain on socio-economic resources. They showcase examples where retirement migration has contributed to economic inflow and development of destination regions, and to environmental conservation.

The authors' main points are supported by case studies primarily carried out in Australia, with a few from the United States of America (USA). However, given global ageing trends, the fact that such studies are based on areas less affected by social and economic challenges of ageing is a limitation. It would be interesting to see this analysis combine the study of population ageing, human and labour geography with that of socio-economic development in regions presenting major population challenges, focusing on interactions between more developed economies with larger ageing populations and regions with lower socio-economic status and a higher proportion of the young.

The current case of many ageing European countries, where the driving forces of migration and labour flow from 'younger' areas with lower socio-economic development, such as Africa, may be a valuable example of how ageing and migration processes can result in new forms of migration (as in the case of migrant care workers) as well as relevant policy challenges and implications (International Organization for Migration 2010). Conversely, the volume's main focus on Australia and the USA will be of particular interest to researchers and students in these areas, providing a valuable general overview of population ageing as well as showcasing core population trends in those regions.

Reference

International Organization for Migration 2010. *The Role of Migrant Care Workers in Ageing Societies*. IOM Migration Research Series No. 41, International Organization for Migration, Geneva, Switzerland.

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Dawn C. Carr and Kathrin Komp (eds), *Gerontology in the Era of the Third Age: Implications and Next Steps*, Springer Publishing Company, New York, 2011, 288 pp., hbk \$75.00, ISBN 13: 978 0 8261 0596 7.

The preface to this book claims that it is timely and pedagogically powerful in terms of its contribution, given the centrality of understandings of the emergence of the Third Age to exploring the potential of later life. The collection is presented in three parts, each with four chapters, intended to offer in turn conceptual, methodological and applicability aspects of the extent to which gerontology addresses the Third Age. Part I (Theoretical Development and Frameworks in the Era of the Third Age) includes four useful chapters, each reviewing a dimension of theoretical evolution shared by both gerontological and Third Age studies. In turn, the contribution of lifecourse perspectives (by Moen), cultural studies (Gilleard and Higgs), political economy (Komp) and feminism (Calasanti and King) are evaluated. Along the way, current issues and debates are aired, signalling some of the recurrent themes and controversies which will be revisited in the third and final part of the book. At this opening-up stage of the book, one wonders if this circularity will in the end be satisfactorily resolved, or if fresh insights will arise. For me, the chapters by Moen and Calasanti and King add particular value, with their cogent critiques of hegemonic analyses, and persuasive challenges of the use of the singular term, 'The Third Age', when it is clear that there are many third ages, and agers. The other two chapters in Part I reinforce this, but none directly questions the international relevance of these debates, leaving the impression of a prevailing European/Transatlantic bias. Globally, there is an inference that the Third Age is not a construct which has yet reached the Third World: when and if it does, both terms may have outrun their utility.

Part II adds light and thereby detail to the perspectives offered, as each chapter argues for and demonstrates empirically diverse data, drawing on Third Age studies. Each chapter in Part II offers three very different methodological approaches for Third Age Research, starting with two developing demographic approaches: Chapter 5 (Brown and Lynch) outlines both demographic and epidemiological transitions, before exploring in more depth aspects of the construct of active life expectancy, alongside measures of disability and inequality. The words of caution with