

quality of care an individual will receive in old age. Hafford-Letchfield's discussion of the role of social work mirrors some of the earlier debates on sociology in terms of an analysis of how different groups of people depend on the state for their support. The chapter moves into the discussion about the individualised approach to care – of personalisation and independent payments. Phillipson's chapter on globalisation seeks to add a further dimension in his discussion of changing patterns in social class.

The collection opens up as many questions as it offers discussion on. The 'power' element in the title possibly gets the least attention in this mostly stimulating collection of essays. The impact of the move from the traditional 'manufacturing' class grouping to more individualised occupations, and from a collective welfare services to 'personalised' services marks different types of power. Hyde and Rees Jones note the paucity of research drawing on older people's experience of class and the changes in later life. Cuts in adult education and leisure services will have affected many of those who hoped to take advantage of those activities for which they had no time during their working years and has widened the gap between classes in old age. Regardless of income, how older people are going to spend their time in good health is not addressed. More discussion on these areas would have provided a further thought-provoking dimension to this collection.

*Social Class in Later Life* offers new ways of looking at later life and demonstrates the complexity of the situation in which older people live, how they can exert control or power over their own lives, even if not over the increasingly complex system in which we all live. There is also value here to provide another way of exploring inequalities between generations and within the older population. Power appears to be becoming further removed from our grasp. The collective enterprise of this book exposes the difficulties of defining class today and what it means in old age. A happy consequence is the stream of possible areas for research – including defining class, how to measure the impact of class on old age and how to understand power in old age.

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Julia Twigg and Wendy Martin (eds), *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Gerontology*, Routledge International Handbooks, Routledge, Abingdon, UK, 2015, 480 pp., hbk £130, ISBN 13: 978-0-415-63114-3 (hbk), 978-0-203-09709-0 (e-book)

The editors are to be congratulated on bringing together some of the key academics both from the United Kingdom and outside to contribute chapters on key topics in Gerontology. With a useful index and extensive references for each chapter, it will provide a useful starting point for

researchers. With 50 chapters and 71 authors, it covers many aspects of ageing, ending, perhaps appropriately, with cemeteries.

The authors say in the blurb on the back of the book:

Later life is changing under the impact of demographic, social and cultural shifts. No longer confined to the sphere of social welfare, they are now studied within a wider cultural framework that encompasses new experiences and new modes of being. Drawing on the influences from the arts and humanities, and deploying diverse methodologies – visual, literary, spatial – and theoretical perspectives, Cultural Gerontology has brought new aspects of later life into view.

It is not strictly accurate to say that previous books were focused on social welfare. For example, one of the authors of a chapter, Christina Victor, published a well-rounded account of ageing in *Old Age in Modern Society* in 1992, as did many others.

This book is not always an easy read and it would have been helpful to have had definitions of many of the words and concepts that are used. Indeed, even a definition of Cultural Gerontology itself would have been useful. Chapter 1 talks about ‘the cultural turn’ which would have been helpful to unpack. It is always good to explain what is meant by terms. This could have been done in the text or elsewhere. The book does assume a prior knowledge of ageing and what has already been written.

The book is divided into five parts. Each one has a useful short chapter by the editors. There is some overlap. For example, digital issues are covered in two sections. In some cases this overlap is inevitable as, for example, issues of gender come into many of the chapters. The first part is ‘Theory and Methods’ which introduces the different disciplines involved – history, literature, the theatre, film, popular music, art and the body, visual methods, ethnography and narrative, and biography. The second is ‘Embodiment’ and covers the body including appearance, hair, dress, the falling body, dementia, and suffering and pain.

The third is ‘Identities and Social Relations’. This includes sexuality, grandparenting, widowhood, loneliness and social isolation, the fourth age, cultures of care and ethnicity. The fourth is ‘Consumption and Leisure’. This brings together chapters on retirement, money, possessions, gardening, sport and physical activity, travel and tourism, youth culture, celebrity culture, representations of ageing in the media and later-life creativity. The final one is ‘Time and Space’. This contains chapters on global and local ties, time, transitions, rural and urban ageing, lifestyle migration, digital technologies, meanings of home, public places and cemeteries.

I was surprised to see no reference (apart from a minor one about social care) to ethical issues.

This book is useful as a reference and for many of the authors updates their previous research (*e.g.* Sheila Peace’s on Home) but it is expensive and heavy. Definitely one for the library though.

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