

age and how it is conceptualised. This is followed by Kenneth G. Manton and XiLiang Gu's careful examination of the US National Long-term Care Survey and discussion of the changing prevalence of severe cognitive impairment. Both are valuable but very different in their scope and approach. Heidrun Mollenkopf, Isto Ruoppila and Fiorella Marcellini present findings from a five country European research project, 'MOBILATE: Enhancing Outdoor Mobility in Later Life'. They apply historical and generational perspectives to their analysis and present interesting contrasts to the US data in the paper by Karlene K. Ball, Virginia G. Wadley, David E. Vance and Jerri D. Edwards. The US team present the importance of driving for mobility and quality of life in the US and comment on various new technologies for vehicle safety and driver assessment.

The volume is not a teaching text. It has interesting reviews of the state of some specific research areas, and presents some important new research findings but it is not a book to read from cover to cover. The prime audience is clearly the research community. It is not an undergraduate text but might feature usefully on particular post-graduate programmes. The editors struggle stoically to bring coherence to this large and diverse volume of material. In their introduction they have a section appropriately entitled, 'On the dynamics of old and new aging: attempt to define a fuzzy concept'. In essence they contrast gerontological understanding during the third and last quarters of the twentieth century. They identify four themes that provide the framework for the book: the development of a fourth age in contrast to the third age; the scientific management and biomedicalisation of old age; changing dynamics in the societal acknowledgement and institutional support for old age as a period of the life span; and new societal discourses on the possibilities and burdens of old age. This characterisation does not reflect fully the book's focus on familiar social policy concerns. For example, there is little reflection on consumerism, generational cultures or the body, all of which have attended post-modern trends and the 'cultural turn' in social science. Indeed, the volume has a distinctly modernist flavour, not least with the several papers on new technologies and their impact. I presume it is a complete coincidence that the book's title is the same title as that of the current combined United Kingdom research councils' research programme on ageing. Let us hope that the millions of pounds that will be invested in that project produce as much insight as in this volume.

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Michael D. Fine, *A Caring Society? Care and the Dilemmas of Human Service in the 21st Century*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Hampshire, 2006, 272 pp., hbk £55, ISBN 13: 978 0 333 99338 5, pbk £19.99, ISBN 13: 978 0 333 99339 2.

Care presents a conundrum for the social sciences. It lies behind many of the key debates, and yet its presence remains shadowy, vague, off-centre to the core

of its subjects, and its nature unfocused, contradictory, managing to be both an ideal – and idealised – set of values, linked to the supreme virtues of love, and yet also a concrete but often messy set of practices, rooted in the day-to-day realities of home and human-service organisations. Part of the difficulty comes from the ways in which these subjects have emerged historically and intellectually. Both sociology and economics made their initial intellectual gains in part through their capacity to ignore key dimensions of life. Sociology focused strongly on work, economy, stratification and power – the serious subjects of politics and the public sphere – lauding rationality in its analyses and its subject matter. In the case of economics, the subject was constituted almost entirely on the denial of the significance, even existence, of care as a value or motivation. Indeed the concept of care contradicts the basic tenets of the discipline, formed as it is around assumptions of individualism and self-interest. In these analyses the subject of care belonged – with women and families – in the shadowy world of the private and domestic, part of the unexplored, untheorised mundane that was of little interest. And this is despite the fact that it was the back-stage mundanities that supported and made possible the front-stage of public life. The arrival of Second Wave Feminism blew this masculine world away and in doing so it brought into view dimensions of life that were previously obscured and passed over analytically: the body and embodiment, sexuality, emotion, the particularity of moral obligations, and the ethics of care. We are still living with the conceptual implications of that ‘genderquake’, which have extended far beyond debates concerning women and their lives. The subject of care was born into this context, though it is no longer limited by it.

In this comprehensive and fascinating account, Fine explores the nature of care and its relationship to important debates in social and public policy. Like all the best Australian academics, he has read widely in both the American and European literatures, of which he presents a masterly review. This wide foundation enables him to reflect on the character of the debate in different political and social traditions. The philosophical work on care has mostly gone forward in a North American context, where care has been discussed, as Fine argues, largely in terms of the deeper moral underlying the actions of individuals and society, and in which there is a conceptual bias towards concern with individual responsibility that reflects American culture. The European literature, by contrast, has been more deeply concerned with social provision, located in the family or public spheres and underwritten by ideas of citizenship and the role of the welfare state. Fine gives particular attention to Scandinavian and British work and its impact on policy development. He also discusses projections in relation to the future patterns of care and need, and their interaction with changes that are occurring in the family and in patterns of work. This takes him into the territory of work/life balance and the analysis of women’s involvement in the labour market. He also shows how this theorising relates to debates on the role of the care-ethic in human services like nursing.

In the last sections of the book, he turns to the context of social theory, drawing in new themes and exploring the relevance of care for key debates. He addresses the new focus on the body and its significance for our understanding of care-work. He addresses debates about individuation and the putative transformation of

personal life under conditions of high modernity. In a final and particularly interesting chapter, he discusses the ways in which care fits in with the new logic of global capitalism, exploring the rise of the service economy, the role of migrant labour and implications of this for the provision and funding of care. Fine's book is a wonderfully clear and well-based introduction to a central subject for analysis, and I recommend it wholeheartedly both to academics who want to engage with these debates and to students who need to understand them.

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Simon B. N. Thompson, *Dementia and Memory: A Handbook for Students and Professionals*, Ashgate, Aldershot, Hampshire, 2006, 256 pp., hbk £50.00, ISBN 13: 978 0 7546 4633 4.

Simon Thompson is a specialist in clinical neuropsychology at Portsmouth in the south of England. He formerly held positions as Visiting Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Portsmouth and as an NHS Consultant in Clinical Neuropsychology. He is the author of earlier titles on related subjects, such as *Dementia: A Guide for Health Care Professionals* (1997) and *Memory Problems* (2001). This new book discusses both subjects. It has three sections. Part 1 defines dementia and memory; Part 2 deals with coping with memory problems; and Part 3 with coping with dementia.

Part I has four chapters. The first is a well-balanced introduction to the concept of dementia and the distinction between memory problems in normal ageing, in depression and anxiety states, and in dementia. Chapter 2 addresses the definition and differential diagnosis of dementia. Alzheimer's disease (AD), vascular dementia, Pick's disease (obsolete terminology), Parkinson's disease and rarer causes of dementia and memory problems, such as Huntington's, Creutzfeldt-Jakob, multiple sclerosis, and Korsakoff's. All are discussed but there are no new insights. In fact current criteria, like NINDS-AIREN and Lund Manchester, are completely overlooked. Chapters 3 and 4 are very brief and deal with the characterisation of memory disorders and with learning disabilities and the social and cultural differences in the acceptance of normal ageing, learning disabilities, memory problems and dementia respectively.

Part II, comprising Chapters 5, 6 and 7, presents several ways of coping with memory problems. In Chapters 5 and 6, practical tips and ways of treating memory problems are discussed. Chapter 7, 'Case studies on memory', discusses the effects of donepezil on visual memory in patients with mild or moderate AD attending a Pfizer-funded memory clinic to which the author was the consultant clinical neuropsychologist. Part III has six chapters on coping with dementia. Chapter 8, 'How to assess dementia', rests almost exclusively on history taking and neuropsychological testing. Chapters 9 and 10, 'How to cope with dementia' and 'How to manage dementia', again are rather brief, the latter providing only an in-depth description of instructions on the use of progressive muscle relaxation exercises. Chapter 11 should provide the reader with case studies on dementia, but does not live up to the expectations raised by its title. Chapter 12 does offer