



A Contemporary Theoretical Problem in Social Gerontology

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DESCRIPTION

Social gerontology uses the contentious but general conceptual framework of successful aging. This theoretical critique identifies four areas in which the discourse on successful aging is flawed. First of all, successful aging has an ageist aspect and creates discord between the body and the psyche. Second, effective aging ignores the more important aspect of quality experience in favor of quantitative activities motivated by the "busy ethic." Third, the consumerist and economic aspects of successful aging are not sufficiently addressed. Fourth, the language surrounding successful ageing was created using Western (particularly American) ideals, therefore it may not be as easily applicable to other cultures.

The study of aging's social, psychological, and biological facets is known as gerontology. Gerontology evolved from its early research and theory foundations into a broad field of study and, more recently, into a career field generally referred to as the field of ageing. It distinguishes between three types of gerontological workers and professionals, outlines general job duties for gerontological specialists, briefly reviews professional opportunities for gerontological specialists in several traditional fields, offers a glimpse into a variety of emerging career paths, and provides recommendations for further career development.

This study describes the emerging sociology of age stratification as a new approach to social gerontology that emphasizes all age strata within the changing society as a whole, rather than just being old and growing old. It calls for a reconsideration of old age as a component of the societal macrocosm, inextricably linked to and dependent on the other age groups. It also calls for a reconsideration of ageing and the succession of births and deaths as integral parts of societal process and change that follow their own rhythm and constitute immanent strains and pressures

towards innovation in and of themselves. This approach, which is similar to the highly developed sociological field of class stratification, has the potential to shed light on old age. Too little emphasis has been placed on the cumulative development of theory; readers are left with many empirical generalizations but underdeveloped explanations for how to interpret findings and build on them in subsequent research. The study gone through theoretical perspectives referenced most frequently to aid future theory development in social gerontology: social constructionism, social exchange, life course, feminist, age stratification (age and society), political economy of ageing, and critical theory are all concepts. They argue that these constitute a "third generation" of explanation in social gerontology, recognising their debt to older and more established traditions in social science theory. The study argue that if knowledge development about social aspects of ageing is to be cumulative, systematic, and incremental, should place more emphasis on theory development that is, the construction of explicit explanations in accounting for empirical findings.

This paper investigates the concept of resilience's applicability in the field of critical gerontology. Within the social sciences, resilience is becoming a more popular concept. We look at some key ideas about individual and social resilience from various fields and propose new ways to think about them in terms of resilience in later life.

This study examines the history of the concept of resilience, looks at some of the various ways gerontologists are attempting to apply it to later life, and discusses the benefits and drawbacks of using resilience as a conceptual framework in critical ageing research. We also propose new ways of thinking about resilience and ageing, highlighting the various scales of resilience that influence older people's ability to deal with adversity, as well as some key findings.

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