

HANDBOOK OF AGING AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

EIGHTH EDITION

Edited by

LINDA K. GEORGE AND KENNETH F. FERRARO

Associate Editors

DEBORAH CARR, JANET M. WILMOTH, AND DOUGLAS A. WOLF



ELSEVIER

AMSTERDAM • BOSTON • HEIDELBERG • LONDON
NEWYORK • OXFORD • PARIS • SANDIEGO
SAN FRANCISCO • SINGAPORE • SYDNEY • TOKYO

Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier



Contents

Foreword xi
Preface xiii
About the Editors xv
List of Contributors xvii

I

THEORY AND METHODS

1. Aging and the Social Sciences: Progress and Prospects

LINDA K. GEORGE AND KENNETH E. FERRARO

Theoretical and Conceptual Developments 4
Methods and Data 6
Emerging Themes in Aging Research 9
What Aging Research Contributes to the Social Sciences: The Big Picture 16
References 20

2. Trajectory Models for Aging Research

SCOTT M. LYNCH AND MILES G. TAYLOR

Growth Modeling in a Nutshell 25
Latent Class Modeling in a Nutshell 31
Latent Class Growth Analysis 38
Growth Mixture Modeling 39
Important Issues in the Implementation of Trajectory Methods 43
Conclusion 49
References 50

II

SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

3. Biodemography: Adding Biological Insight into Social, Economic, and Psychological Models of Population and Individual Health Change with Age

EILEEN M. CRIMMINS AND SARINNA M. VASUNILASHORN

Introduction 56
Expansion of the Demographic Approach: The Process of Health Change 56
The Expanded Biodemographic Model of Health 57
Measuring Biomarkers in Population Studies 59
Use of Biomarkers in Assessing Population Health and Health Care Use and Its Effectiveness 60
Summary Indices of Biological Risk 63
Genetic Markers as a New Frontier 68
Summary 69
Appendix: Information on Biomarkers Often Used in Social Science Research 69
References 72

4. Late-Life Disability Trends and Trajectories

DOUGLAS WOLF

Introduction 77
The Conceptualization of Disability 79
Measuring Disability 81
Evidence on Trends in Disability Prevalence 84

Individual-Level Disability Trajectories	89
Conclusion	94
References	95

5. Early Life Origins of Adult Health and Aging

DIANA KUH AND YOAV BEN-SHLOMO

Introduction	101
Historical Overview	103
Early Origins of Adult Disease: From FOAD Through DOHAD to a Life Course Perspective	104
Early Life Origins of Functional Aging in a Life Course Perspective	109
Conclusions and Future Directions	116
References	118

6. Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health

JACQUELINE L. ANGEL, STIPICA MUDRAZIJA, AND REBECCA BENSON

Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Health	123
Theoretical Perspectives	125
Research Across Minority Groups	130
Summary and Conclusion	133
References	137

7. Immigration, Aging, and the Life Course

JUDITH TREAS AND ZOYA GUBERNSKAYA

Introduction	143
Immigration as a Life-Course Experience	144
The Principle of Life-Span Development	146
The Principle of Agency	147
The Principle of Time and Place	147
The Principle of Timing	148
The Principle of Linked Lives	149
Immigrants and Families	150
Socioeconomic Outcomes of Older Immigrants	152
The Health of Older Immigrants	154
Conclusion	155
References	157

8. Gender, Time Use, and Aging

LIANA C. SAYER, VICKI A. FREEDMAN, AND SUZANNE M. BIANCHI

Introduction	163
Measuring Time Allocation in Later Life	165

"A Day in the Life" of Older Adults	167
The Social versus Solitary Dimension of Time	173
Caregiving, Time Use, and Well-Being	174
Future Directions	176
Acknowledgments	178
References	178

9. Social Networks in Later Life

BENJAMIN CORNWELL AND MARKUS H. SCHAFER

Introduction	181
Network Concepts and Definitions	182
Why and How Social Networks Matter	185
Aging and Social Network Change	189
Social Networks and Stratification	191
Emerging Topics in Network-Gerontology	193
Conclusions	196
References	197

III

SOCIAL FACTORS AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

10. Stability, Change, and Complexity in Later-Life Families

J. JILL SUITOR, MEGAN GILLIGAN, AND KARL PILLEMER

Introduction	206
Theoretical Roots and Conceptual Advances	207
Substantive Advances	209
Relationship Quality Between Older Parents and Adult Children	212
Sibling Relations	215
Grandparent-Grandchild Relations	217
Marriage in the Later Years	219
Conclusion	220
References	221

11. The Influence of Military Service on Aging

JANET M. WILMOTH AND ANDREW S. LONDON

Introduction	227
Cohort Flow, Periods of War, and the Composition of the US Older Adult Population	228
Military Service as a "Hidden Variable" in Aging Research	230

Mechanisms Through Which Military Service Influences Aging	232
An Overview of Military Service and Aging Among Specific War Cohorts	234
Studying Military Service and Aging	242
References	246

12. Religion, Health, and Aging

NEAL KRAUSE AND R. DAVID HAYWARD

Introduction	251
Religious Involvement over the Life Course	252
Religion, Health, and Well-Being	254
From Correlation to Explanation: Identifying the Health-Related Dimensions of Religion	256
Spiritual Struggles: Assessing the Dark Side of Religion	264
Race/Ethnicity, Religion, and Health	265
Conclusions	266
Acknowledgment	267
References	267

13. Evolving Patterns of Work and Retirement

KEVIN E. CAHILL, MICHAEL D. GIANDREA, AND JOSEPH F. QUINN

Introduction	271
The Beginning and End of Earlier and Earlier Retirement	273
A Closer Look at the Retirement Process in the Modern Era	275
Changes to the Traditional Pillars of Retirement Income and How They Relate to Labor Force Participation	277
The Increasing Importance of Macroeconomic Influences	282
The Potential Benefits of Continued Work Later in Life	284
Disclaimer and Acknowledgments	287
References	287

14. Productive Engagement in Later Life

NANCY MORROW-HOWELL AND EMILY A. GREENFIELD

Introduction	293
Conceptual Issues	294
Relevance of Productive Engagement in Later Life	296

Scholarship on the Antecedents and Outcomes of Productive Engagement	299
Challenges and Future Directions	306
References	309

15. Aging, Neighborhoods, and the Built Environment

CAROL S. ANESHENSEL, FREDERICK HARIG, AND RICHARD G. WIGHT

Introduction	315
Theoretical Models of Neighborhood	316
Neighborhood Structure and the Health of Older Persons	321
The Built Environment and the Health of Older Persons	326
Discussion and Directions for Future Research	330
References	332

16. Abusive Relationships in Late Life

KAREN A. ROBERTO

Introduction	337
A Socioecological Framework for Understanding Elder Abuse	340
Vulnerabilities and Risk for Elder Abuse	342
Perpetrators of Elder Abuse	345
Responses to Elder Abuse	348
Future Research	350
References	351

17. The Impact of Disasters: Implications for the Well-Being of Older Adults

LISA M. BROWN AND KATHRYN A. FRAHM

Introduction	357
Types and Definitions of Disasters	358
Influence of Residential Environment on Disaster-Related Activities and Outcomes	359
Group Evacuation versus Individual/Independent Evacuation	360
Temporary Evacuation, Transfer, or Permanent Relocation	361
Age and Vulnerability	362
Stress and Coping	363
Age and Resilience	363
Disaster-Related Physical and Mental Health Issues	365
Social Factors and Disaster Response Outcomes	366
Role of Formal and Informal Social Support and Social Networks	367

Future Directions	369
Conclusion	370
References	370

18. End-of-Life Planning and Health Care

DEBORAH CARR AND ELIZABETH LUTH

Introduction	375
Death and Dying in the United States	376
Advance Care Planning	380
Public Policy Innovations	385
Conclusion and Future Directions	388
References	390

IV

AGING AND SOCIETY

19. Organization and Financing of Health Care

MARILYN MOON

Introduction	397
A Brief History of Medicare and Medicaid	399
Moving into an Era of Health Reform	403
Supplementing Medicare with Medicaid and other Insurance	405
The Affordability and Sustainability Questions about the Future of Medicare and Medicaid	410
Major Options for Reform	411
The Issues of Financing Medicare and Medicaid	415
References	416

20. Innovations in Long-Term Care

JOSEPH E. GAUGLER

Introduction	419
Defining Long-Term Care	421
A Brief Historical Overview of Long-Term Care in the United States	422
Selected Innovations in Long-Term Care	424
Looking Toward the Future of Long-Term Care	435
References	436

21. Politics and Policies of Aging in the United States

ROBERT B. HUDSON

Introduction	441
The Altered Political Perceptions of Older Americans	442
The Transformation of Seniors' Political Environment	446
Accounting for Old-Age Policy Enactments	451
Emerging Issues	455
References	457

22. The Future of Retirement Security in Comparative Perspective

JOHN B. WILLIAMSON AND DANIEL BÉLAND

Introduction	462
Social Security in the United States	462
Employer-Sponsored Pensions in the United States	465
International Developments and Lessons	467
Conclusion	476
Acknowledgments	478
References	478

23. Health Inequalities Among Older Adults in Developed Countries: Reconciling Theories and Policy Approaches

AMÉLIE QUESNEL-VALLÉE, ANDREA WILLSON, AND SANDRA REITER-CAMPEAU

Introduction	483
Theories of Health Inequality in Older Age	484
Welfare States and the Interplay of Social Solidarity and Equity	489
WHO Age-friendly Environments Programme	494
Promising Avenues for Sociological Research	496
References	498

Author Index 503

Subject Index 521

Evolving Patterns of Work and Retirement

Kevin E. Cahill¹, Michael D. Giandrea², and Joseph F. Quinn³

¹Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, USA ²US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Productivity and Technology, Washington, DC, USA ³Department of Economics, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, USA

OUTLINE

Introduction	271	The Increasing Importance of Macroeconomic Influences	282
The Beginning and End of Earlier and Earlier Retirement	273	The Potential Benefits of Continued Work Later in Life	284
A Closer Look at the Retirement Process in the Modern Era	275	Disclaimer and Acknowledgments	287
Changes to the Traditional Pillars of Retirement Income and How They Relate to Labor Force Participation	277	References	287

INTRODUCTION

The work and retirement patterns of older Americans have changed dramatically since the turn of the last century. From the early 1900s to the mid-1980s, the story of retirement among men in America was straightforward – steady declines in labor force participation at older

ages (Burtless & Quinn, 2002; Purcell, 2009; Quinn, Burkhauser, & Myers, 1990). Growing prosperity permitted these earlier retirements, as Americans spent a portion of their newfound wealth on increased leisure later in life. Among older women, two trends – this early retirement trend and large increases in labor force participation after WWII – largely offset each other,

leading to stable labor force participation rates between the 1960s and the mid-1980s (Purcell, 2009; Quinn, Cahill, & Giandrea, 2011). Since the mid-1980s, however, both older men and women have been working longer than prior trends would have predicted.

In addition to the timing of retirement, the pathways to labor force exit have evolved as well. The stereotypical view of retirement – a one-time transition from full-time work to complete labor force withdrawal – fails to capture the diversity of retirement patterns today (Cahill, Giandrea, & Quinn, 2006, 2012; Quinn, 2010; Shultz & Wang, 2011). Among those with career jobs later in life, the majority move to another job before leaving the labor force completely (Cahill, Giandrea, & Quinn, 2013c; Ruhm, 1990, 1991). In addition, a sizable minority reenter the labor force after an initial exit (Cahill, Giandrea, & Quinn, 2011a; Maestas, 2010). For most, retirement is not a one-time permanent event, but rather a process.

The factors behind these retirement decisions are many. Changes in economic incentives within the traditional pillars of retirement income – Social Security, private pensions, and savings – have altered the relative attractiveness of work and leisure later in life, almost always in favor of work (Burkhauser & Rovba, 2009; Gruber & Wise, 2004; Quinn et al., 2011). As a result, earnings have become a critical fourth leg of the retirement income stool (Munnell, 2007; Munnell & Sass, 2008). Recent evidence suggests that macroeconomic forces may also be playing a role among the Early Boomers, who experienced the recent Great Recession while on the cusp of retirement (Bosworth & Burtless, 2011; Butrica, Johnson, & Smith, 2011; Cahill et al., 2013c; Coile & Levine, 2011; Gorodnichenko, Song, & Stolyarov, 2013; Gustman, Steinmeier, & Tabatabai, 2011; McFall, 2011; Sass, Monk, & Haverstick, 2010).

All in all, continued work later in life among older Americans appears to be a good thing for many in light of the realities of our aging

society. Individuals benefit from a more secure financial position, reducing the probability of reductions in living standards. Employers benefit from a larger pool of skilled workers with a lifetime of experience. The nation as a whole benefits as well, with more economically productive citizens. While continued work appears to be a good thing on balance, it is important to note that, for some, continued work may not be an option. Individuals with poor health and/or a history of intermittent, low-paying, and physically demanding jobs may simply not be able to continue working beyond traditional retirement ages. Their plight is of particular concern. For these older Americans at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale, few options may be available to counter earnings losses, resulting in lower living standards and the possibility of financial hardship at older ages.

As we highlight throughout this chapter, older Americans on the cusp of retirement today face a very different economic landscape than did prior cohorts and will need to adjust to these changing circumstances. Indeed, evidence suggests that the reversal of the early retirement trend has already been underway for nearly three decades, and that older workers remain productive (Burtless, 2013). Moreover, the aging of our society is only beginning (Board of Trustees of OASDI, 2014). When it comes to the retirement trends of older Americans, an old adage applies: the only constant is change.

The next section documents the beginning and decline of early retirement in America. The section “A Closer Look at the Retirement Process in the Modern Era” examines retirement in the modern era and older Americans’ diverse patterns and determinants of labor force withdrawal. The next section documents changes to the traditional pillars of retirement income and how they relate to labor force participation. The section “The Increasing Importance of Macroeconomic Influences” describes recent research on the impact of macroeconomic influences on both the timing of retirement and

retirement patterns. The final section looks ahead. With our aging population and increasing strains on our existing sources of retirement income, continued labor force participation later in life is the most likely and most promising outcome for many older Americans. Earnings are already a substantial income source for many and are likely to grow in importance.

THE BEGINNING AND END OF EARLIER AND EARLIER RETIREMENT

The retirement environment in the United States looks very different today than it did in the past. Older Americans today are responding to a new set of economic circumstances and incentives and are now working at rates not seen for nearly 30 years (Burkhauser & Rovba, 2009; Quinn et al., 2011). Just as the world of retirement today looks very different from what it was in the mid-1980s, the latter was very different from the world of retirement in the early part of the last century.

At the turn of the last century, the typical older American male worked as long as possible. The average retirement age among men in 1910 was 73 (Quinn et al., 2011), at a time when jobs were more physically demanding and life expectancy at birth was more than 20 years less than it is today (Arias, 2012). The reason most people worked later in life was fairly straightforward – to avoid poverty in a world without a financial safety net. As recently as 1959, the poverty rate among Americans aged 65 years and older was 35%, higher than any other age group (DeNavas-Walt, Proctor, & Smith, 2012).

These labor supply patterns late in life began to change in the early 1900s. Costa (1998, 1999) documented steady declines in labor force participation rates among older American men as far back as the late 1800s. Further, as private pensions became a reliable source of income for an increasing fraction of older American men

in the mid-1900s, more people could leave the labor force without being thrust into poverty.

The Social Security Act of 1935 created the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) program (“Social Security”) (Perun & Dilley, 2011). Social Security provided insurance against poverty at older ages on a much larger scale than private pensions and enabled more older Americans to exit the labor force, even though their health might have permitted continued work. As America grew more prosperous, the OASDI program (which also provided disability insurance) expanded its coverage and employers began providing pension benefits more widely (Board of Trustees of OASDI, 2014; Congressional Budget Office, 2001; Sass, 1997). The availability of public and for many, private pensions, along with increases in other forms of wealth, such as housing and financial assets, allowed Americans to afford more leisure over their lifetimes, including earlier retirement (Burtless & Quinn, 2002).

In response to these changes, the labor force participation rates of older Americans declined precipitously through the mid-1980s (Purcell, 2009; Quinn, 1999). By 1990, the average retirement age of men – here, the youngest age at which one half of the population is out of the labor force – was just 63 years and reached a low of 62 in 1994 (Burtless & Quinn, 2002; Quinn et al., 2011). Many older Americans in the 1980s and 1990s could expect 20 or more years of retirement. Even as older Americans left the labor force earlier and earlier, their poverty rate declined dramatically, from 35% in 1959 to less than 15% in the mid-1980s, to 10% in 2005, and near 9% in 2012 (DeNavas-Walt et al., 2012).

The end of the era of progressively earlier retirement began with several important changes in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Mandatory retirement, which once covered about one half of the American workforce, was first delayed (from age 65 to 70 in 1978) and then eliminated for the vast majority of workers in 1986 (von Wachter, 2002). In 1983, Social Security

amendments gradually raised the normal retirement age (NRA) to 66 and eventually to 67 for individuals born after 1959 (Congressional Budget Office, 2001). This increase in the NRA is equivalent to an across-the-board decline in lifetime Social Security benefits. In addition, Social Security's delayed retirement credit (DRC) had previously created a work disincentive (or retirement incentive) because increases in monthly benefits from postponing benefit receipt beyond the NRA were insufficient to compensate for the benefits foregone. The DRC was gradually increased from 3% to 8% for each year that benefits are postponed beyond the NRA, and now expected lifetime benefits remain more or less the same regardless of when benefits are first claimed between the ages of 62 and 70 (Munnell, 2013). This adjustment means that the work disincentive due to the DRC has been removed. Finally, the long-term financial outlook for Social Security may well require further reductions in benefits (perhaps through further increases in the NRA) and/or increases in the revenues that fund the program (Board of Trustees of OASDI, 2014; Congressional Budget Office, 2002, 2009; Lavery, 2009).

The 1980s also brought about a gradual shift in the nature of private pensions, and a move toward a "do-it-yourself" approach to retirement planning (Munnell, 2007). In the private sector, traditional defined-benefit (DB) plans, which provide lifetime annuities typically based on tenure with the firm and some measure of final salary, are being supplanted by defined-contribution (DC) plans, like 401(k)s (Copeland, 2009). While most traditional DB plans have age-specific work disincentives, usually at the earliest age of pension eligibility, DC plans are tax-deferred individual savings accounts with no such age-specific incentives (Munnell, 2006). In addition, individuals assume significant risks under DC plans, most notably investment risk and longevity risk, which are shouldered by employers under DB plans (Munnell & Sundén, 2004).

Private savings rates also began to decline in the 1980s and have since reached their lowest levels since the Great Depression, albeit with an uptick between 2008 and 2012, and then another decline (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2014; US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2013). In addition, fewer firms are providing post-retirement health benefits (Fronstin & Adams, 2012) and more employers are offering health plans with health savings accounts, which are tax-exempt accounts that can be used to pay health expenses (Fronstin, 2014). With these changes to Social Security, private pensions, and savings, along with potential cutbacks in Medicare and Medicaid generosity, many older Americans face a less attractive retirement environment than prior cohorts did, and many will face a choice between working longer or living poorer in retirement. For those unable to continue working, there may be little choice but to accept a lower standard of living at older ages.

The large influx of women into the labor force after WWII has had a substantial impact on retirement patterns. With labor force participation rates among older women now approaching those of older men (Quinn et al., 2011), and with more women's work histories including career employment, the labor force withdrawal patterns of older men and women are becoming more similar (Cahill, Giandrea, & Quinn, 2013a). Recently, however, the Great Recession and the subsequent sluggish recovery may have impacted older men and women differently, with the prevalence of bridge employment continuing to rise among women but declining slightly among men (Cahill et al., 2013a,c).

Retirement in the United States has changed over time, from a phenomenon enjoyed by the few at the beginning of the last century to the earlier and earlier retirements of most through the mid-1980s, and the reversal of that trend since then. The next section examines retirement in the modern era in more detail – when and how older Americans leave the labor force.