

A GERONTOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF OLD AGE IN WESTERN NOVELS

DR. G. RAMAMURTHY

Associate Professor in English, Usha Rama College of Engineering and Technology, Telaprolu, Andhra Pradesh.

ABSTRACT

Gerontology refers to the scholarly investigation of ageing, the ageing process, and the unique challenges of the elderly. The word Gerontology was coined by Ilya Ilyich Mechnikov in 1903 thereafter this hypothesis became widely famous. In the postmodern literature, this word can be examined within the theoretical framework of Disability studies. Changes in a person's body, mind, and social life as they get older; this is what gerontology examines. Research into how our nation's ageing population has altered our culture. Using this information to inform decisions and initiatives. Because of gerontology's interdisciplinary nature, many different types of experts use the term "gerontologist" to describe themselves. Humanistic and psychoanalytic approaches, as well as comparative studies of literary attitudes towards ageing, have all shed light on the subject of ageing in literature. The literature also features increased investigation of age and ageing narratives through the use of narrative methods. There is a growing consensus that the study of ageing is crucial to comprehending the nuances of old age.

Keywords: *Gerontological; Portrayal; Old Age; Social Life; Life change pattern*

INTRODUCTION

The golden years are the end of a person's life span. Age is a "time of moving away from a former and more desirable period—the prime of life" or "the years of usefulness," as noted by Henry and Cumming. The further one gets from their younger years, the more likely it is that they would look back on those days with nostalgia and, often, regret, while focusing on the present and ignoring the future as much as possible. It's been stressed numerous times that people are always evolving and developing. Early in a person's life, they undergo evolutionary changes that aid in the development of their structure and function. In the later years of life, most of these changes are involuntal, which implies that they include a return to earlier stages. The structural and functional features of the body and the mind are both affected by these changes, which are a normal part of the process that is commonly referred to as ageing. However, in the modern world, they are more likely to be economically, physically, and mentally fragile due to their inactivity, dependence, illness, and general weakness. The death rate among the elderly is falling, and this is contributing to a consistent rise in India's population of those aged 60 and more. This is because of developments in healthcare technology, educational resources, and healthcare infrastructure. It's also owing to other national initiatives or programmes for elderly age individuals. A social or economic issue or problem emerges when enough people express concern about the status quo. Problems like having too little money in retirement, losing a spouse or having too much free time, being sick, being alone, having strained or non-existent family ties, being physically or financially

dependent on others, etc. are all interconnected or dependent on one another. More and more people in India are opting for nuclear families rather than maintaining the traditional mixed family structure. The correct scenario regarding care and support for all of the senior family members is being investigated in the background. Their views on the medical attention and treatment they received from loved ones.

Social cohesiveness is crucial to the smooth functioning of any community, and as such, integration and participation are intrinsically linked to the concept. It's a society's ability to ensure its members' well-being throughout time, which requires the nurturing of intergenerational solidarity and reciprocity and the elimination of inequity. Caregiving responsibilities sometimes span generations, with grandparents looking after grandchildren and young people caring for their elderly relatives. Young people and the elderly have a lot to learn from one another. It is through such measures that the ultimate goal of creating a society welcoming of individuals of all ages can be realised.

Some modernization theorists believed that the decline of the extended family as a social and economic unit brought on by industrialization and urbanisation. In pre-industrial cultures, elderly adults enjoyed positions of prestige due to their capacity to contribute to domestic production and their years of experience. Furthermore, they were often very busy up until the time of their death. In tandem with the advent of the wage economy, the status of the elderly declined. People of retirement age lost the ability to predict how long they could keep working as production moved from homes to factories. As a result of the convergence of new technologies and industrialization, many people beyond the age of 50 have found it increasingly difficult to obtain gainful employment. Their power was severely weakened, and they quickly lost prestige as a result.

The idea that the development of industry has led in a weakening of the bonds that have historically bonded successive generations is generally attributed to Frédéric Le Play, one of the earliest current empirical social scientists. His main point was that the stem family, which was typical in many European cities at the time, was wiped out by industrialization and commercialization in the nineteenth century. The nineteenth-century setting is important to his argument. This family configuration included the parents, the spouse and children of the eldest married son (the heir), and the heir's unmarried brothers and sisters. In pre-industrial societies, this sort of family home served as the basic economic unit of production. Households were the basic economic units in pre-industrial societies. Everyone in the household, including the elderly, chipped in to assist out financially. Due to the loss of economic significance of the home as a place of production, family ties frayed as mass production moved away from the home and into factories. The elderly were left alone as children started moving out at younger ages. The family residences evolved from being enormous and vast to being tiny and nuclear.

Le Play thought family companies were the best way to structure a modern industrial economy. Owners of businesses owe it to their staff to help them save for and buy homes of their own. The primary duty of the employer was to establish a sense of moral leadership in the workforce and to help workers acquire private property to reduce the risk of family instability.³² This development was attempted to be explained by the structural-functionalist theories of the 1950s and 1960s,

which were fashionable at the time. These theories proposed a process called structural differentiation as the cause of this advancement. Since many once familial tasks are now handled by the state, schools, and the business, the nuclear family model has become increasingly common. Family now serves only two purposes: to integrate children into society and to provide a safe place for its members to recover emotionally from the stresses of the outer world. For the family, this was all that remained.

In rural locations, researchers discovered that landless people generally had smaller homes than farmers who owned their own land. This result was independently uncovered by several scientists. One such author is Swedish ethnologist Orvar Lofgren, who drew parallels between the domestic practises of landowner peasants and the increasing number of people in the nineteenth century who were without access to their own land. This clan is known as centrifuga I in Lofgren's taxonomy. It was the most typical location for nomadic people. Every member of these households contributed to the household economy in their own unique way. They fished, planted gardens, and did laundry for their neighbours in addition to their own duties as day labourers. They sent their kids out to work as farmhands and maids when they were young so that they could help support the family financially. The household continued to function as a viable economic entity in which resources were pooled even after many family members left the paternal home, either permanently or temporarily.

On the other hand, in the case of peasants who owned land, the farm was the major place from which extra labourers were hired. Some of the offspring stayed on the farm with their parents until the latter's retirement, which facilitated the development of intergenerational bonds and facilitated the creation of larger families. Orvar Lofgren describes this approach to household management as centripetal. It's crucial to remember that many people who moved to the expanding cities took with them habits and ideas from the countryside about how they intended to organise their lives there. This is one of the most significant causes for concern. Even while the urban environment allowed for the production of new forms of living arrangements to be used by people, it is likely that traditional patterns remained to affect the residential preferences of newcomers to metropolitan zones.

It's crucial to remember that many people who moved to the expanding cities took with them habits developed in the countryside and ideas for how they wished to organise their lives in the city. As things stand, this is a major cause for alarm. Even while the urban environment allowed for the production of new forms of living arrangements to be used by people, it is likely that traditional patterns remained to affect the residential preferences of newcomers to metropolitan zones.

Literary Growth in The United States

In American literature, men are more prevalent, and the writing is more diverse and authentically reflective of everyday life. Three distinct epochs can be identified in the evolution and flourishing of American literature. Roughly ten authors have been honoured with the Nobel Prize in Literature for their contributions to American literature thus far. To a certain extent, Michael Zweig's writing has influenced the evolution of American colonial literature. Wales Worth, Anne Blaze Ritter,

Edward Taylor, and the writings of Blaze Ritter and Taylor all contain allusions to English literature.

The literary biographies of post-World-War-II American writers were more in-depth and generally more successful than their forerunners. You might think of "• Ideal "• Henry James" as a prototypical biography written in this style. Beliefs will be disturbed not only because an excessive number of Jews were mercilessly massacred by the Japanese during World War II, but also because the detonation of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, an act that shakes American writers and literary critics, will disrupt these people's beliefs. This is the context in which war novels have become so popular.

"In our views, America is a poem: its vast landscape captivates the imagination, and it will not wait long for metres." These famous lines by Ralph Waldo Emerson capture the desire of many New World residents to find the perfect words to describe their homeland. Many people in the United States have been inspired by this dream. However, "America" was merely one of several names given to a concept that originated in European thought. Henry James's "He invented America: a very magnificent man" features a character who describes Christopher Columbus as "a very magnificent man." And that's kind of true; he did create the United States. An early English settler characterised it this way: "a Virgin Countrey" is "so preserved by Nature out of a desire to show mankind fallen into the Old Age of Creation, what a brow of fertility and beauty she was adorned with when the world was vigorous and youthfull." In contrast, Columbus was merely replicating a design that had been around for a while and had stood the test of time. This model represented an imaginary frontier. As a result, for a time, nobody remembered the ancient civilizations that had flourished in the Americas long before the arrival of Europeans. Emerson's allusion to "America...a poem" shows that this eradication of preconceived notions also applied to the idea that American literature is anything other than the translation of a New Eden into words. The literary community in the United States suffered a serious setback.

The History of British Literary Growth

British literature is an integral part of the world's literary heritage because authors from different periods—Chaucer in the Middle Ages, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Spenser, and Sidney in the Renaissance, Donne, Marvell, Milton, and Dryden in the Seventeenth Century, Pope, Swift, Defoe, Richardson, Fielding, and Sterne in the Nineteenth Century—all contributed to the growth of international literary practise and literary ideology. In the field of literary studies that focuses on the history of English literature, there is a debate that must be settled: the literary texts written by different authors at different times in British history and civilization are not simply a category that needs to be included in an overall literary system of English or international cultural legacy for the sake of displaying its completeness and aesthetic validity. This is the argument that needs to be explored in the discipline of literary studies that deals with the history of English literature. It's more that they're not like anything else, that they're one-of-a-kind, and that they're representative of a literary discourse that merits investigation as a system unto itself and that, if properly appreciated, may serve to dismantle and reorganise preexisting beliefs and theories about

English literature or a specific literary manifestation in Britain and suggest new ones. This is because they merit investigation as an autonomous system.

However, it is obvious from historical studies of British literature or the history of any other national literature or the history of world literature in general that literary history, which offers a historical perspective on literature, faces repeated methodological dilemmas. This is because this area of study is behind the times when it comes to keeping up with the rapid pace of change in contemporary literary theory and criticism. Tynyanov has warned that there may still be a lack of a clear theoretical awareness in literary history regarding how to analyse a literary work or what the nature of its relevance is. This is something Tynyanov has already talked about. However, the death sentence that has been passed on literary history is unwarranted and unjustified. This is because it is impossible to argue that a piece of literature is not influenced by its historical context, that no literary text is an expression of its time, or that the creation of a literary work has no relation to the author's life. It's atypical to assume that you can appropriately interpret a literary work using criteria that have nothing to do with time. On the other hand, it is quite typical to assume the effort of linking the synchronic and diachronic studies, and to assess the literary work as projected on a diachronic scale, in relation to both its history and its contemporary viewpoint.

In this scenario, literary history takes on the responsibility of figuring out how to reimagine its discourse with help from other areas of the humanities like cultural anthropology, social history, sociology, linguistics, and cultural studies, and in particular from the most cutting-edge and universally acknowledged theoretical and critical modalities of the more adjacent to literary history domains of literary theory and literary criticism. In this approach, literary history takes the initiative to identify ways to innovate its discourse by enlisting the aid of other humanities fields. It is hoped that literary theory, criticism, and literary history will eventually coalesce into a unified discourse for evaluating the aesthetic merits of literary phenomena. This discourse shall be consistent with scientific consistency. A constant and sufficient modernization of this discourse would be effective enough to preserve the accurate study of national and worldwide literary history and would even put an end to the widespread illiteracy that is brought about by a skewed interpretation of literary facts from the past. Books of imaginative writing may then continue to be a significant stimulation for the aesthetic and intellectual demands of humans, despite the complexity of new cultural choices and the shifting rhythm of human existence at the start of a new millennium. Even more so if they are worded in a way that sparks the reader's imagination.

REVIEW LITERATURE

Martinson, M., & Berridge, C. (2015) In the past few years, ageing has become an important topic in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI). This article takes a close look at 30 years of research on getting older that has been released in the ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction (SIGCHI) community. A study of the language used in 644 old papers shows that getting older is often seen as a "problem" that can be solved with technology. In this paper, we talk about how the term "ageing" is usually used to describe things like the economic and social effects of older people's health and care needs, worries about how people will socialise as they get

older, and declining skills and lower performance when using technology. We use research from social and critical gerontology to show how these discussions in SIGCHI literature reflect common ideas about old age that have been widely held in gerontology literature as a whole. In the end, we suggest ways that future study in the area of HCI and getting older can be done.

Zeilig, H. (2014) This Paper discusses about the term "dementia," which was mostly used by biomedical models until lately. From the point of view of critical gerontology, we can learn more about dementia and guide this study. These points of view make us think about how cultural and historical factors have affected dementia, which in turn makes us question how societies have created and defined dementia. This piece makes you think about the stories we tell about memory and the words we use. The main point of the piece is to look at some of the stories about dementia that are found in and shaped by modern culture. Several films, TV programmes, news stories, plays, memoirs, novels, and poems that show some of the things that people with dementia go through are looked at closely. We look at these representations because they either support or contradict common ideas about life with dementia. By looking at these pictures, we can see how dementia is shaped by society and culture and how much it is a historical phenomenon.

Nussbaum, J. F., Pecchioni, L. L., Robinson, J. D., & Thompson, T. L. (2013) This Paper approaches ageing and the capacity to adjust to it from the viewpoint of communication. The emphasis on a life-span approach to understanding the social interaction that occurs in later life is carried over from the first edition, building on the original's groundbreaking work. Concepts of effective ageing, positive and negative stereotypes towards older persons, and health communication concerns are just some of the many subjects this volume addresses as it presents a thorough update on the existing and future research within communication and ageing studies. Conversational difficulties in the elderly are highlighted, as is the significance of overcoming these difficulties. Nonrelational processes, such as hearing loss, are taken into account because of their influence on interpersonal connections and healthy ageing.

Wiener, J. M., de Condappa, O., Harris, M. A., & Wolbers, T. (2013) Accurate spatial knowledge is only part of what's needed for effective navigation; the right tactics must also be chosen. We tested the impact of cognitive age on the selection and adoption of navigation techniques in humans by using a unique paradigm that allowed us to differentiate between beacon, associative cue, and location strategies. The task at hand was to get back on a known path after encountering an obstacle coming from a different direction. Over the course of six experimental sessions, it became clear that young participants' employment of an allocentric location strategy was crucial to their success. In contrast, when older participants approached crossings from a different direction than they had during encoding, they did not utilise the correct location method, even though they remembered the route correctly. They stuck with the same beacon technique throughout all six sessions, showing no signs of adapting to the environment. Given that this bias was already apparent in the first experimental session, the difficulty to adopt the proper place strategy is not due to an incapacity to convert from a firmly established response strategy to an allocentric place strategy. Contrary to popular belief, age-related deficiencies in allocentric processing lead to changes in favoured directional and response preferences. Differentiation

between beacon-based and associative-cue-based response learning in the striatum is examined, with the latter being more vulnerable to age-related alterations, which may explain the preference for a beacon method.

Zeilig, H. (2011) As cultural constructs, "age" and "ageing" are now generally acknowledged to be up for debate. Critical gerontology has been essential in stimulating thought on the nuances of ageing, old age, and later life. The complexity of later life can also be mined for insights through the examination of narratives of old age and ageing found in literature and other media. Critical gerontologists and narrative and literary gerontologists share many common interests. Critical gerontology has the capacity to shed light on and investigate these narratives of ageing, but it is generally overlooked. This article argues that critical gerontology and narrative and literary approaches to age and ageing can provide new lenses through which to understand and rethink the concept of "age". What a critical gerontology and narrative and literary gerontology can build a genuine dialogic interaction is the topic at hand. By doing so, we can make better use of the epistemic position of these accounts of ageing to deepen theoretical work on ageing.

Rozanova, J. (2010) Researchers have spent a lot of time looking into what makes people age well, but not many studies have looked at how media portrays good ageing. Still, the media shape the way we talk about and understand getting older, and they pass on the meanings and different experiences of getting older from one generation to the next. This paper looks at common ideas about how to age well by looking at 146 articles from *The Globe & Mail* between 2004 and 2006 that show older people in different settings such as family, job, civic engagement, social policy, health care, the consumer market, and leisure. Using ideas from critical gerontology and critical discourse analysis, this study suggests that the three themes in the media discourse of successful aging—successful ageing as a choice, individual responsibility for unsuccessful ageing, and how to age successfully by staying engaged—embody the neoliberal ideas of keeping the costs of eldercare low and encouraging individuals to take on more responsibility and effort in managing their own risks of disease and decline.

WORKS AND LIFESTYLE

(i) Kingsley William Amis

Kingsley Amis (16 April 1922 - 22 October 1995) was a British author who passed away in 1995. Near the start of his career, he caught the eye of many observers. Because his works have been so full of innovations, shocks, and variations in approaches and issues, it is not surprising that critics and reviewers have found it difficult to make a definite judgement about his achievements. His body of work spans a vast array of genres, from fiction and poetry to reviews and criticism, from comedy to science fiction and even biographies. But his novels are the ones that have done the most for him, therefore they get most of the credit for his success.

There is a school of thought among literary critics that Amis's early books might be understood as "angry" protest literature against the current political and economic climate in Britain. Themes

include distaste for the status quo, an aversion to formal institutional ties, frustration with the lack of opportunity for individuals without financial resources, an aversion to pretence in any form, and an aversion to the past. Journalists were quick to label Amis and his contemporaries as part of a literary movement because they shared similar concerns with authors like John Wain, John Osborne, John Braine, and Alan Sillitoe. Many of these authors also shared commonalities such as low socioeconomic status, education at Oxford or Cambridge, and experience teaching at a provincial university. Their fictional protagonists, "Angry Young Men," were well-read gentlemen who disapproved of the notion of conforming to stereotypical gender stereotypes. The "mean, nasty, and envious... slime" that W. Somerset Maugham called them would one day rule England, according to the author. By calling them "a new, rootless, faithless, classless class," Kenneth Allsop implied that they lacked manners and morals. Some critics even managed to mix up the works' protagonists and authors. Because the character of Jim Dixon, who was represented by Amis in the novel *Lucky Jim*, was appalled by the routine and pretence of academic life, he came to be considered as a symbol of anti-intellectualism. Dixon, a professor at an obscure institution, became a byword for disdain for the likes of Cambridge and Oxford. Many critics began conflating Dixon and Amis because both worked as professors at nearby universities (Dixon at Swansea, Amis at Cardiff). But this oversimplified interpretation, like all others before it, was soon disproved.

(ii) Julian Barnes

On January 19, 1946, English author Julian Patrick Barnes was born, and he has since become a household name. His previous works, *Flaubert's Parrot*, *England, England*, and *Arthur & George*, had all been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize; nevertheless, it wasn't until 2011 that he eventually won the award for his novel, *The Sense of an Ending*. Beneath the alias Dan Kavanagh, Barnes also writes and publishes mystery fiction. In addition to novels, Barnes has also published collections of essays and short stories. He was made a Commandeur of the Order of Arts and Letters (C.A.L.) in 2004. Aside from the Nobel Prize, he has also been honoured with the Somerset Maugham Award and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. He is the recipient of the Jerusalem Prize for the year 2021.

Approximately six weeks after Barnes' birth, he and his family relocated to the suburbs of London. His mother and father both worked as language instructors. As a little boy of four or five, he claims, his love for Leicester City Football Club gave him "an emotional way of clinging on" to his hometown. At the age of ten, Barnes' mother scolded him for having "too much imagination." The novel's protagonist and his family moved to Northwood, Middlesex—or "Metroland," as the author calls it—in 1956. Between the years 1957 and 1964, he attended the City of London School for his official schooling. When it was over, he went on to finish his education at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he majored in Modern Languages. After finishing school, he worked as a lexicographer for the Oxford English Dictionary's supplementary dictionary for three years. Next, he became a literary editor and critic for the *New Statesman* and *New Review*. While working for the *New Statesman*, Barnes remarked, "When there were weekly meetings I would be paralysed into silence, and was thought of as the mute member of staff." As a result of his extreme timidity,

Barnes earned the nickname "mute member of the staff." From 1979 to 1986, he reviewed TV shows for both The New Statesman and The Observer. Starting off, he worked for the New Statesman.

(iii) Moggach, Deborah

English author and screenwriter Deborah Moggach was born on June 28, 1948, and she holds the titles of OBE FRSL. The surname Hough belonged to her mother. The Ex-Wives, Tulip Fever, These Foolish Things, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, and Heartbreak Hotel are just a few of the books she has written and had transformed into films. Many short stories are among her other works.

She began her career at Oxford University Press after earning a BA in English from the University of Bristol in 1971 and later being certified to teach. In the middle of the 1970s, she spent two years bouncing between the United States and Pakistan. Most of her writings are contemporary and focus on issues including family life, divorce, raising children, and the ups and downs of romantic relationships. The Stand-In, a dark thriller set in the United States, Porky, a bleak narrative of incest set in the area around London's Heathrow Airport, and Stolen, a novel that compares Muslim family norms to English family ideals, all demonstrate her ear for comedy.

(iv) Carrington, Leonora

British-born Mexican surrealist painter and writer Mary Leonora Carrington OBE. On April 6, 1917, she entered this world, and on May 25, 2011, she left it. She is one of the few surviving members of the surrealist movement of the 1930s and spent the majority of her adult life in Mexico City. Carrington also played a pivotal role in the development of Mexico's women's liberation movement in the 1970s.

Chorley, in the English county of Lancashire, is where Mary Leonora Carrington was born. Her family lived in the Westwood House on Clayton Green. Her Irish mother Marie (née Moorhead) and her American father Harold Wylde Carrington (1880–1950) were the inspiration for her name. In 1950, she lost her father. Her three brothers were named Patrick, Gerald, and Arthur, with Arthur being the youngest.

(v) John Hassler

Jon Hassler was a famous American author and professor who wrote about rural life in Minnesota. On March 30, 1933, he entered this world; on March 20, 2008, he left it. He taught at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where he was also the Writer-in-Residence and earned the status of Regents Professor Emeritus. Jon Hassler spent his formative years in the small Minnesota communities of Staples and Plainview, despite being born in Minneapolis. There he completed the requirements for his high school diploma. He completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in English at St. John's University and received his diploma in 1955. He attended the University of North Dakota while teaching at three different high schools in Minnesota, eventually earning a Master of Arts in English in 1960. He remained a high school teacher until 1965, when

he began his academic career as a professor at Bemidji State University. He then taught at Brainerd Community College (now Central Lakes College) and Saint John's University, where he was named Writer-in-Residence in 1980. He continued to teach at the high school level until 1985, when he retired from teaching.

(vi) Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway, Ernest Miller, was an American sportswriter, journalist, novelist, and short story writer. On July 21, 1899, he entered this world, and on July 2, 1961, he left it. His minimalist, understated style, which he called the iceberg theory, had a huge impact on 20th-century fiction, but it was his risk-taking ways of life and public persona that earned him the respect of future generations. Between the middle of the 1920s and the middle of the 1950s, Hemingway authored the majority of his work, and he was given the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. In addition to his seven novels and six sets of short tales, he also penned two works of nonfiction. Three of his novels, four collections of short stories, and three nonfiction books were published after his death. Many of his books are now considered classics of American literature. Hemingway spent his formative years in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park. After finishing high school, he had a brief job as a reporter for The Kansas City Star before joining the military and serving as an ambulance driver on the Italian Front during World War I. He was severely wounded in 1918 and returned home. Written in 1929, "A Farewell to Arms" was inspired by his wartime experiences.

CONCLUSION

The idea that the world's population is getting older is probably not news to anyone living in the modern era, and several reports have noted that the demographic pyramid is inverting at a much quicker rate than anyone had predicted. One third of the population in developed countries will have reached their 60th birthday in 2009, compared to one fifth in the developing world, according to a United Nations document titled "World Population Ageing," which takes into account demographic data from 2015 and 2016 and the current economic crisis. However, there has not been a corresponding increase in concern for and understanding of the needs of the elderly as a result of the maturing of the population. Contrarily, old age is still seen as a period with little positive worth.

REFERENCES

1. American Gerontological s Society 2015 Beers Criteria Update Expert Panel, Fick, D. M., Semla, T. P., Beizer, J., Brandt, N., Dombrowski, R., ... & Steinman, M. (2015). American Gerontological s Society 2015 updated beers criteria for potentially inappropriate medication use in older adults. *Journal of the American Gerontological s Society*, 63(11), 2227-2246.
2. Botwinick, J. (2013). *Aging and behavior: A comprehensive integration of research findings*. Springer.

3. Dahlberg, L., & McKee, K. J. (2014). Correlates of social and emotional loneliness in older people: evidence from an English community study. *Aging & mental health*, 18(4), 504-514.
4. George, L. K. (2010). Still happy after all these years: Research frontiers on subjective well-being in later life. *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 65(3), 331-339.
5. Kooij, D. T., Tims, M., & Kanfer, R. (2015). Successful aging at work: The role of job crafting. *Aging workers and the employee-employer relationship*, 145-161.
6. Katz, S. (2013). Active and successful aging. Lifestyle as a gerontological idea. *Recherches sociologiques et anthropologiques*, 44(44-1), 33-49.
7. Larsen, C. A., & DeJgaard, T. E. (2013). The institutional logic of images of the poor and welfare recipients: A comparative study of British, Swedish and Danish newspapers. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 23(3), 287-299.
8. Martinson, M., & Berridge, C. (2015). Successful aging and its discontents: A systematic review of the social gerontology literature. *The gerontologist*, 55(1), 58-69.
9. Martin, P., Kelly, N., Kahana, B., Kahana, E., Willcox, B. J., Willcox, D. C., & Poon, L. W. (2015). Defining successful aging: a tangible or elusive concept? *The Gerontologist*, 55(1), 14-25.
10. Phoenix, C., & Smith, B. (2011). Telling a (good?) counterstory of aging: Natural bodybuilding meets the narrative of decline. *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 66(5), 628-639.
11. Penningroth, S. L., & Scott, W. D. (2012). Age-related differences in goals: Testing predictions from selection, optimization, and compensation theory and socioemotional selectivity theory. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 74(2), 87-111.
12. Rozanova, J. (2010). Discourse of successful aging in The Globe & Mail: Insights from critical gerontology. *Journal of aging studies*, 24(4), 213-222.
13. Small, B. J., Dixon, R. A., McArdle, J. J., & Grimm, K. J. (2012). Do changes in lifestyle engagement moderate cognitive decline in normal aging? Evidence from the Victoria Longitudinal Study. *Neuropsychology*, 26(2), 144.
14. Salthouse, T. A. (2012). *Adult cognition: An experimental psychology of human aging*. Springer Science & Business Media.
15. Victor, C. R. (2013). *Old age in modern society: A textbook of social gerontology*. Springer.
16. Wiener, J. M., de Condappa, O., Harris, M. A., & Wolbers, T. (2013). Maladaptive bias for extrahippocampal navigation strategies in aging humans. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 33(14), 6012-6017.
17. Wada, M., Clarke, L. H., & Rozanova, J. (2015). Constructions of sexuality in later life: Analyses of Canadian magazine and newspaper portrayals of online dating. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 32, 40-49.
18. Zeng, Y. (2012). Toward deeper research and better policy for healthy aging—using the unique data of Chinese longitudinal healthy longevity survey. *China economic journal*, 5(2-3), 131-149.

19. Zeilig, H. (2011). The critical use of narrative and literature in gerontology. *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life*, 6(2), 7-37.
20. Zeilig, H. (2014). Dementia as a cultural metaphor. *The Gerontologist*, 54(2), 258-267.