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SPECIAL ISSUE

Aging in America: Perspectives From Psychological Science

Translucence Mari Adams

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On the cover: Translucence, *2014 by Mari Adams. Acrylic on canvas, 16 inches by 40 inches. Courtesy of the artist, www.mariadamsart.com. See p. 345 for more about Adams and her art.*

Special Issue: Aging in America: Perspectives From Psychological Science

Scholarly Lead: Karen A. Roberto and Deborah A. DiGilio

257 Psychology's Contribution to the Well-Being of Older Americans*
Margaret Gatz, Michael A. Smyer, and Deborah A. DiGilio

The first White House Conference on Aging in 1961 led to the key legislation of Medicare and the Older Americans Act. Following in this tradition, the sixth decennial conference in 2015 consolidated national action to address current needs of older adults. Psychological research that informed the conference's deliberations form the focus of this special issue, opening with illustrations of the contribution of psychology to understanding processes of aging.

268 Healthy Cognitive Aging and Dementia Prevention*
Glenn E. Smith

Social and mental stimulation, healthy diet, and physical exercise are watchwords in efforts to preserve brain function. While research on their impact is preliminary, preclinical states and mild cognitive impairment signal important opportunities for intervention. An all-hands on deck, multicomponent approach might make inroads on dementia, and psychologists are best trained to encourage health-producing change.

276 Promoting Healthy Aging by Confronting Ageism*
Todd D. Nelson

Derogatory age-related stereotypes are common in U.S. culture. Research has shown the insidious impact of such stereotypes on the mental and physical well-being of older adults. When internalized, ageism affects cognition, willingness to engage in preventive health behaviors, and even the will to live. Positive views on aging can be a countervailing force.

283 Caregiving Families Within the Long-Term Services and Support System for Older Adults*
Sara Honn Qualls

Families are the caregivers of the majority of long-term care provided to older adults. Because family caregiving emerges from a historical relationship and is ubiquitous, the needs of families are often unnoticed. Serious illness brings major role shifts, and psychologists can assess family needs and provide key support services when needed.

294 Long-Term Care Services and Support Systems for Older Adults: The Role of Technology*
Sara J. Czaja

Greater numbers of adults are living into their 70s, 80s, and beyond—a remarkable achievement of human longevity. While many are in relatively good health, others face chronic conditions and social isolation. As demographic trends intersect with health care changes, technology informed by human factors research can promote independent living for the increasingly large population of older adults.

(*Contents continue*)

302 The Complexities of Elder Abuse*
Karen A. Roberto

Elder abuse is a growing concern worldwide. Prevalence is believed to be substantially underestimated due to reluctance by older victims to discuss their situations and inconceivability that family or trusted others could be causing harm. Focusing on community residents, this article summarizes research on what constitutes elder abuse, risk factors, perpetrators, and outcomes.

312 Financial Exploitation, Financial Capacity, and Alzheimer's Disease*
Peter A. Lichtenberg

Financial exploitation of older adults is increasing. Psychologists are skilled in assessing financial decision making as part of cognitive capacities but have just begun to address this form of elder abuse. A new model for evaluating these factors jointly may lead to more comprehensive assessment and research on these interrelated vulnerabilities.

321 The New World of Retirement Income Security in America*
Joseph F. Quinn and Kevin E. Cahill

Older individuals are more vulnerable to financial insecurity than were previous generations. Recent changes have altered the traditional trio of retirement income support. Many now supplement social security, pensions, and savings by additional work late in life. The authors advocate for removing barriers that discourage employment and promoting saving across the life span.

334 Retirement Security: It's Not Just About the Money*
Jacquelyn Boone James, Christina Matz-Costa, and Michael A. Smyer

Retirement security is often equated with financial status, but security also extends to psychological concerns, such as the need to belong and continue to contribute to society. Ageist attitudes and outdated social structures can impede older adults' engagement in work and volunteer activities. Psychologists can help remove barriers and support retirees' meaningful engagement.

Other

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