

Acculturating Age: Approaches to Cultural Gerontology

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Acculturation refers to the interchange of patterns of behaviour, perceptions and ideas between groups of individuals who have different cultural backgrounds.

In order for perceptions of the aging process and the management of aging societies to be improved across cultures and communities, there is a need for a process of acculturation amongst cultural gerontologists whereby first-hand, in situ experiences with aged populations are shared with other persons working in similar fields in other cultures. In this way, shared perceptions and experiences differentiated along cultural lines enable the comparison and diffusion of dependency systems, mediation techniques, societal empathy and comprehension, and cultural attitudes towards individuals experiencing the phases of later-aging.

This type of acculturation explains the degree of hybridity in terms of discipline and the degree of eclecticism in terms of approach that characterize *Acculturating Age: Approaches to Cultural Gerontology*. The contributions to this book are drawn from Australia, Canada, Finland, India, Ireland, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden, providing new ideas, imaginative initiatives and fresh approaches to the aging process and, especially, to the experience of late life.

ISBN: 9788484093848

