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In March 2020, the government of the United Kingdom advised all people aged 70 and above to self-isolate stringently for a minimum of 12 weeks in response to COVID-19. The British Society of Gerontology criticised the government for ignoring individual differences, deeming the approach ageist. Former British Geriatrics Society president David Oliver contested accusations of ageism, arguing that the approach was pragmatic discrimination based on epidemiological evidence. This debate catalyses core gerontological tensions regarding ageism, discrimination, categorisation and heterogeneity. A critical realist perspective reveals that both the government and gerontology are struggling to negotiate these irresolvable tensions. Contrary to the binary debate, age-based isolation simultaneously represents pragmatic discrimination and value-driven ageism. However, it does so partly because it relies on a chronologic epistemology that positions age as a potent biosocial axis of meaningful difference, thereby reflecting gerontology's own ageism. The ethical purism of gerontological accusations of ageism is thus somewhat misplaced, potentially obscuring an opportunity for reflection on value-laden engagements with age in social research.

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From: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X20001324

Addressing age stereotyping against older workers in employment: The CJEU and UK approach; by Lyndsey Bengtsson.

The purpose of this paper is to report on an analysis of direct age discrimination cases by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the UK courts and employment tribunals over an 11-year period. The paper focusses upon age stereotyping towards older workers and analyses whether it is endorsed at the European level and/or national level. This research has analysed a sample of 100 employment tribunal judgments concerning direct age discrimination together with 28 CJEU decisions on direct age discrimination. This paper highlights that there are a number of cases in which age stereotyping has been endorsed at the CJEU level. By contrast, the UK courts and employment tribunals have adopted a more robust approach. The main limitation is that it only considers case law from the European Court and the influence on the UK case law, without analysing the eventual decisions of the other EU member states.

From: https://doi.org/10.1108/IJLMA-01-2019-0019


Examines the effects of age stereotypes in the context of 380 German nurses aged between 19 and 63 years. Older nurses were seen as more competent, less physically strong and less adaptable whereas younger nurses were seen as less reliable, more adaptable and less warm. (NH)

ISSN: 01640275
From: http://www.journals.sagepub.com/home/roa


Implicit ageist beliefs about the warmth and incompetence of older adults may influence jurors' perceptions and judgments of an older adult's competence in legal cases hinging on capacity and consent, including elder sexual abuse. However, little is known about the nuances of implicit ageism in elder sexual abuse cases, and if it can be attenuated. The current study proposed to address these gaps via a randomized vignette design administered to a community sample of 391 US adults. Mock juror participants evaluated an elder sexual abuse case involving an older married couple, in which the victim had dementia. Results suggest that implicit ageism was present among mock jurors, consistent with a warm-incompetence bias, and was predictive of mock jurors' guilt ratings. Age-and dementia-relevant jury instructions and mock juror gender were not found to be predictive of guilt ratings. Implicit ageism among jurors should be addressed to reduce the potential for implicit age bias to affect elder sexual abuse cases.
The ideology of ageism versus the social imaginary of the fourth age: two differing approaches to the negative contexts of old age; by Paul Higgs, Chris Gilleard.: Cambridge University Press, August 2020, pp 1617-1630. 
Ageing and Society, vol 40, no 8, August 2020, pp 1617-1630.
The development of social gerontology has led to the emergence of its own terminology and conceptual armoury. ‘Ageism’ has been a key concept in articulating the mission of gerontology and was deliberately intended to act as an equivalent to the concepts of racism and sexism. As a term, it has established itself as a lodestone for thinking about the de-valued and residualised social status of older people in contemporary society. Given this background, ageism has often been used to describe an overarching ideology that operates in society to the detriment of older people and which in large part explains their economic, social and cultural marginality. This paper critiques this approach and suggests an alternative based upon the idea of the social imaginary of the fourth age. It argues that not only is the idea of ageism too totalising and contradictory but that it fails to address key aspects of the corporeality of old age. Adopting the idea of a social imaginary offers a more nuanced theoretical approach to the tensions that are present in later life without reducing them to a single external cause or explanation. In so doing, this leaves the term free to serve, in a purely descriptive manner, as a marker of prejudice.

This editorial argues that, over the course of the pandemic, we have seen evidence of openly ageist discourses, which complicate the experiences of living through COVID-19 for older people. Discourses that suggest that the death of an older person is not as important as that of a younger person, or that care should be rationed to the disadvantage of older people, undermine feelings of self-worth in older age and promote a sense of being a burden. There is an urgent need to support older people to mitigate the negative impacts on their physical and mental health from social isolation and ageist discourses around COVID-19. There is a need to support older people to have and retain their connectedness and communality with others to better enable a sense of belonging. One immediate element that needs to be highlighted is the possibility of previously vigorous older people becoming increasingly frail due to reducing their activities, especially walking, and leading an (enforced) more sedentary lifestyle, which will likely impact on their mobility and well-being over time.

Perceived age discrimination may have behavioural and psychological implications for adults' physical as well as mental health. This 20-year longitudinal study of 3,034 adults in middle and later adulthood in the United States finds that discrimination in general can be harmful both between and within people, that is, the experience of being exposed to discrimination and the effects it has on an individual's personality and other internal characteristics. (NH)

Age discrimination in the provision of health and care services was banned in the UK in 2012. However there continue to be age-related discrepancies in the prevalence, treatment and outcomes experienced by people with breast cancer. This report examines the extent to which ageism plays a part in the diagnosis, treatment and care of people with breast cancer in England. It also examines some attempts by the Westminster government, and by healthcare systems at a local level in England, to address differences in breast cancer outcomes by age. It recommends that data collection remains a priority, and that system leaders across the NHS ensure that care and support needs are not barriers to accessing treatment or to clinical cancer trials. The NHS should also promote age-relevant awareness-raising campaigns for older women, including the AgeX age extension trials, screening and programmes for (some) women aged 47-73. (RH)

Casual ageism is this report's subject of research, which asks why do we discriminate against older age? The focus is on three areas. First is consumer research of 4,000 UK adults, to understand how and when people experience ageism, how many of us admit to being ageist, and if people feel progress is being made to stamp it out. The research is based on nationally representative survey conducted by Opinium in August-September 2018 and May 2019. Second, an analysis of the use of ageist phrases across blogs and Twitter. Researchers also searched for the report's ageist terms in the national newspapers The Sun, The Daily Express and the Daily Mail. Third, a review of some of the UK’s biggest brands' representation of the over 50s in marketing communications. The report identifies L'Oreal, Barclays Bank, No7, Dove and B&Q as brands as examaples of non-ageist best practice. Among the report's ten main findings is that a fifth don't believe the UK is a good place for over 50s to live; and 31% say they believe ageism is a bigger problem today than three years ago. (RH)


Building on intergenerational climate to counter ageism in the workplace?: A cross-organizational study; by Martine Lagace, Lise Van de Beeck, Najat Firzly.: Taylor and Francis, 2019, pp 201-219.


The negative outcomes of ageism in the workplace have been well documented. This study looks at potential factors that may counter such outcomes. Relying on Intergroup Contact Theory (ICT), it is hypothesised that a positive intergenerational workplace climate as well as knowledge sharing and donating practices contribute to lower levels of perceived ageism from the perspective of the older worker. In turn and in continuity with previous studies, it is hypothesised that perceived workplace ageism is negatively linked to feelings of satisfaction and successful aging at work. A total of 415 Canadian older workers filled a questionnaire measuring concepts under study. The results suggest that a healthy intergenerational workplace climate exerts a significant and positive impact on perceived ageism in the workplace; in turn and as predicted, ageism significantly lowers feelings of satisfaction at work. Moreover, the importance of a healthy intergenerational workplace climate is demonstrated through a direct link with older workers? level of satisfaction. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

ISSN: 15350770
From : http://www.tandfonline.com

Everyday discrimination in the neighbourhood: what a doing perspective on age and ethnicity can offer; by Anna Wanka, Laura Wiesbock, Brigitte Allex (et al.).: Cambridge University Press, September 2019, pp 2133-2158.

Ageing and Society, vol 39, no 9, September 2019, pp 2133-2158.

Despite the fact that urbanisation, population ageing and international migration constitute major societal developments of our time, little attention has been paid to studying them together in a comprehensive manner. The authors argue that, when treating age and ethnicity as practical processes for addressing and identifying with social groups, it is necessary to do so from a 'doing' perspective. The question they ask focuses on which social memberships are made relevant or irrelevant in residential environments, and how that relevance or irrelevance is established. Drawing upon a quantitative study among individuals of Turkish migrant origin living in Vienna, Austria, the authors find that it is rather common for the respondents to have been assigned to multiple intersecting social groups, and that they were treated unfairly in their own neighbourhoods. However, such ascriptions do not necessarily correspond to objective categorisation of research or subjective identification. Hence, the discrimination that is present in a neighbourhood does not necessarily lead to decreased place attachment or a diminishing sense of home. In fact, the authors find that the 'satisfaction paradox' is quite common in environmental gerontology, and that it may actually intersect with the 'immigration paradox'. Applying processual intersectionality is not only fruitful for research; it can also improve the conceptualisation of age-friendly cities. (RH)

ISSN: 0144686X
From : http://www.cambridge.org


This study examined the causal relationship between knowledge, attitudes and discriminatory behaviour towards older people. The study further explored age-group differences using multi-group analysis. Data were collected

Originally self-published by the author in America in 2016, 'This chair rocks: a manifesto against ageism' is a call to wake up to the ageism in and around us, and to adopt a more nuanced, accurate view of growing older. Geriatrician Robert Butler had coined the term "ageism" in 1969, defining it as a combination of combination of prejudicial attitudes towards older people, old age and ageing itself. The author looks at the roots of ageism and how it divides and debases society. Having considered ageism, where it comes from and what it does, she examines ageism in relation to: identity; the older brain; the older body; sex and intimacy; the workplace; the independence trap; and the end of life. The last chapter, 'Occupy age! Beyond ageism', suggests how we could move towards an all-age-friendly world. (RH)

From: Melville House UK, Suite 2000, 16/18 Woodford Road, London E7 6HA. mhbooks.com

2018

The birthday card exercise: replicating research as active learning; by Dana Sawchuk.: Taylor and Francis, October-December 2018, pp 481-490.


One means of uncovering common attitudes toward ageing and older adults is to perform content analyses of popular print media forms, such as newspapers, magazines, and even greeting cards. This active learning activity involves small groups of undergraduate students replicating, in a limited way, elements of a published research study on the messages conveyed by age-related birthday cards. In the exercise, each group of students is asked to analyse a set of 15 different birthday cards, and to share qualitative and quantitative findings with classmates before submitting a written "discussion section" on their results to the instructor. Since this exercise is aligned with key course learning outcomes as well as with coursework preceding and following the activity, the author demonstrates how the exercise is integrated into the course's overall learning environment. Comments on student findings, the potential benefits of and modifications to the exercise, and the transferability of the exercise to other course contexts are also provided. (RH)
This study aimed to increase understanding of the nature and prevalence of discriminatory experiences in the workplace, focusing on issues of age and gender. The concept of everyday discrimination was operationalised in a survey of a representative sample of Australian workers. It was observed that overall, experiences of everyday discrimination were rare. Among men, such experiences declined with age, whereas for women almost no age differences were observed. It is argued that the nature of labour market age barriers has been misunderstood and the extent of discrimination faced by older workers possibly overstated. From a policy perspective the study indicates that there would be value in considering how discrimination manifests itself among workers with different characteristics. It is suggested that an intersectional approach that takes contextual factors and other grounds for discrimination into consideration might lead to tailored solutions that address specific sources of discrimination affecting both men and women in particular industry sectors or specific age groups (JL)
ISSN: 14406381
From: http://www.tandfonline.com/journal/ajag

Frailty has become the focus of considerable research interest and media attention in recent years. While it has much to offer geriatric medicine potential pitfalls also need to be acknowledged. The conceptualisation of frailty in very different ways _ as a syndrome or a risk state _ has created semantic dissonance: the frailest patients by one definition may have early sarcopenia, by another be bedbound and in institutional care. Caution is required in transferring findings between studies enrolling these different populations. Furthermore a yawning gap has emerged between the number of studies reporting the associations of frailty and those investigating interventions such that the empirical benefits of identifying and treating frailty currently remain unclear. Perhaps most importantly, frailty research has evolved with little account of the perspectives and preferences of patients themselves. The label of 'frail', being linked to mental or moral weakness, has pejorative implications and care should be taken to avoid the adverse functional effects of negative priming. In thus study pathways are suggested for future studies to provide a stronger evidence base to apply this important concept. This research is essential to avoid frailty becoming the new cloak of ageism, a tool for discrimination and disempowerment applied to the most vulnerable. (JL)
ISSN: 00020729
From: https://academic.oup.com/ageing

How are you ageing today?: Art, activism and ageing; by David James Martin.: Emerald, 2018, pp 121-128.
Working with Older People, vol 22, no 2, 2018, pp 121-128.
This paper aims to highlight the need to challenge ageism and to draw attention to how art, especially art activism, can challenge ageism and bring about a new personal understanding of ageing. The paper is a summary of personal reflections by the author. Its findings explore the pervasive, ageist, stereotypical attitudes developed at an early age, also the possible means to challenge and transform thinking through art. Artist and arts organisations, their commissioners and funders could consider focusing on ageing across the life course, and commission and create work which challenges thinking and the status quo on ageing, reflecting society's adjustment to an ageing society. Art and especially art activism could make a fundamental contribution to a raft of strategies, not only to combat ageism, but also assist personal understanding of our ageing. Currently, there are relatively few artists and arts organisation focusing on ageing across the life course. The author states the view that such art activity could assist with new ways of understanding personal ageing and challenge ageist attitudes. (RH)
ISSN: 13663666
From: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/wwop

Identifying age-related stereotypes: exercising with older adults; by Jochen G Bocksnick, Mary Dyck.: Taylor and Francis, October-December 2018, pp 278-291.
Kinesiology students represent a group of future professionals who might work with older adults in an exercise environment. These encounters may also be affected by the presence of age-related stereotypes. To identify these beliefs, 22 kinesiology students provided two written reflections on a group of older adults participating in an exercise programme. The students’ first response was written after viewing a 13-minute video of older
individuals' exercising; the second response occurred after their active exercise participation with the older adults. Thematic, qualitative analysis of the data suggested the students' stereotypes concerning the exercise behaviour of the older adults. (RH)
ISSN: 01924788
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

Gerontological educators are increasingly interested in reducing college students' negative, and promoting their positive, attitudes toward older adults. Over the course of a semester, students from six 4-year institutions viewed three life story videos (documentaries) of older adults, and completed pre- and post-test surveys that assessed their positive (Allophilia Scale) and negative (Fraboni Scale of Ageism) attitudes. The authors assessed changes in attitudinal scales between treatment (with videos, n = 80) and control (no video, n = 40) groups. The "treatment" group showed significant increases in kinship, engagement and enthusiasm, and decreases in anti-location and avoidance (all ps <.05). There was no significant change in affect, comfort or discrimination. This study demonstrates how video stories affect students' attitudes about older adults. (RH)
ISSN: 02701960
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

Interpersonal work context as a possible buffer against age-related stereotyping; by Beatrice I J M van der Heijden.: Cambridge University Press, January 2018, pp 129-165.
Ageing and Society, vol 38, no 1, January 2018, pp 129-165.
This study deals with the impact of relational demography on occupational expertise ratings, and possible moderating effects of interpersonal work context factors in a large Dutch company. The results revealed support for a decrease in supervisor ratings of occupational expertise of their subordinates as an effect of age difference (status incongruence, situations in which supervisors are younger than their subordinates). Moreover, it appeared that transformational leadership style could not moderate this effect. Dyadic tenure appeared to strengthen the negative effect of status incongruence, but only in the case of a longer duration of the relationship between employee and supervisor. Theoretical and practical implications of these outcomes are discussed. (RH)
ISSN: 0144686X
From: http://www.cambridge.org/aso

That age old question: how attitudes to ageing affect our health and wellbeing; by Royal Society for Public Health - RSPH. London: Royal Society for Public Health; Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, UK Branch, 2018, 40 pp.
The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) is calling for action to tackle intergenerational isolation, end the stigmatisation of older people, and undo media clichés that keep ageism alive and well. RSPH evaluated ageist attitudes across 12 main areas of life, of which the public are most ageist about memory loss, appearance, and participation in activities (both physical and community). The report presents results from focus groups and a national survey regarding attitudes towards ageing and older people. It finds that while ageist views are held across the generations, these are most prevalent among "millennials" (aged 18-34), who have by far the most negative attitudes to ageing. A sizeable minority of people (30%) believe that "being lonely is just something that happens when people get old", while a quarter (25%) of 18-34 year olds believe it is "normal" for older people to be unhappy and depressed. The report calls on stakeholders in the media, government, voluntary sector and schools to take action to reframe the way our nation views ageing in a more positive light. It makes recommendations on dealing with ageing by: integrating the generations; educating young people; and getting employers to promote age diversity and support well-being and resilience in the workplace in preparation for later life. It also recommends training those working in health and care settings to understand the effects of ageism. (RH)
From: Royal Society for Public Health, John Snow House, 59 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN. Download: https://www.rsph.org.uk/uploads/assets/uploaded/010d3159-0d36-4707-ace54e29047c8e3a.pdf

Age discrimination: key points for the workplace; by Acas. London: Acas, February 2017, 27 pp (Guidance).
Age is one of nine features known as protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010, which identifies four main types of discrimination: direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment, and victimisation. Generally, an employee is protected against discrimination because of age. This guide offers guidance on steps to take to prevent age discrimination happening in the workplace. The guide provides examples of how age

Age discrimination might still occur; also how it should be dealt with if it does happen. It identifies areas of employment where age discrimination is most likely to occur: recruitment; training; promotion; pay and terms and conditions of employment; performance management; redundancy; retirement; dismissal; and flexible working. It draws attention to other considerations such as managing the menopause at work, disability, ageist language, and age stereotyping. The reader is directed to many other information sources on keeping informed on other equality or discrimination issues, whether provided by ACAS (www.acas.org.uk) or other organisations. (RH)

From: http://www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/a/1/Age_discrimination_key_points_for_the_workplace.pdf


Older people may be less likely to receive interventions than younger people. Age bias in national guidance may influence entire public health and health care systems. This study examined how English National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE) guidance and guidelines consider age. The authors undertook a documentary analysis of NICE public health and clinical guidelines and technology appraisals. They systematically searched for age-related terms, and conducted thematic analysis of the paragraphs in which these occurred ('age-extracts'). Quantitative analysis explored frequency of age-extracts between and within document types. Illustrative quotes were used to elaborate and explain quantitative findings. 2,314 age-extracts were identified within three themes: age documented as an a-priori consideration at scope-setting (518 age-extracts, 22.4%); documentation of differential effectiveness, cost-effectiveness or other outcomes by age (937 age-extracts, 40.5%); and documentation of age-specific recommendations (859 age-extracts, 37.1%). Public health guidelines considered age most comprehensively. There were clear examples of older age being considered in both evidence searching and in making recommendations, suggesting that this could be achieved within current processes. There were found to be inconsistencies in how age is considered in NICE guidance and guidelines. More effort may be required to ensure age is consistently considered. Future NICE committees should search for and document evidence of age-related differences in receipt of interventions. Where evidence relating to effectiveness and cost-effectiveness in older populations is available, more explicit age-related recommendations should be made. Where there is a lack of evidence, it should be stated what new research is needed. (JL)

ISSN: 00020729

From: http://www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/ajag

Ageing and ageism: the impact of stereotypical attitudes on personal health and well-being outcomes and possible personal compensation strategies; by Guy Robertson.


Ageism largely remains a socially tolerated form of discrimination. From birthday cards to anti-ageing advertisements and comedy sketches, stereotypical ideas about older people and the ageing process abound. While generally trivialised in mainstream culture, this article argues that ageism is, in fact, a serious matter. Drawing from a growing evidence base, the article highlights the significant and largely detrimental impact that ageist stereotypes have on people's outcomes in later life. It then goes on to analyse some of the possible mechanisms through which stereotypes generate this effect. It concludes with a brief outline of some of the psychosocial interventions that might enable older people to weaken or neutralise the toxic effects of internalised negative self-perceptions of ageing. It should be noted that the structural and power relationship dimensions of ageism, while hugely important, are not considered in this article. Rather, the focus is on the psychological and emotional dimensions and their impact on personal health and well-being outcomes, an aspect of ageist stereotyping that is seldom discussed. (OFFPRINT) (RH)

This study examined the impact of everyday discrimination (both racial and non-racial) on the mental health of older African Americans. This analysis was based on the older African American subsample of the National Survey of American Life. The authors examined the associations between everyday discrimination and both general distress and psychiatric disorders as measured by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). Six dependent variables were examined: lifetime mood disorders, lifetime anxiety disorders, any lifetime disorder, number of lifetime disorders, depressive symptoms as measured by the 12-item Center for Epidemiological Scale of Depression (CES-D), and serious psychological distress as measured by the Kessler 6 (K6). Overall racial and non-racial everyday discrimination were consistently associated with worse mental health for older African Americans. Older African Americans who experienced higher levels of overall everyday discrimination had higher odds of any psychiatric disorder, any lifetime mood disorder, any lifetime anxiety disorder and more lifetime DSM-IV disorders, in addition to elevated levels of depressive symptoms and serious psychological distress. These findings were similar for both racial discrimination and non-racial discrimination. This study documents the harmful association of not only racial discrimination, but also non-racial (and overall) discrimination with the mental health of older African Americans. Specifically, discrimination is negatively associated with mood and anxiety disorders as well as depressive symptoms and psychological distress. (JL)


Studies have sought to identify the possible determinants of medical students' and doctors' attitudes towards older patients by examining links to a variety of factors: demographic, educational/training, exposure to older people, personality/cognitive and job/career factors. The purpose of this review was to collate and synthesise such findings. An electronic search of 10 databases was performed covering the period to February 2017. The main search identified 2,332 articles; of these, 37 studies met the eligibility criteria set. All included studies analysed self-reported attitudes based on correlational analyses or difference testing, therefore causation could not be determined. However self-reported positive attitudes towards older patients were related to: (i) intrinsic motivation for studying medicine, (ii) increased preference for working with older patients and (iii) good previous relationships with older people. Additionally more positive attitudes were reported in those with higher knowledge scores but these may relate to the use of a knowledge assessment which is an indirect measure of attitudes (i.e. Palmore's Facts on Aging Quizzes). Four out of the five high quality studies included in the review reported more positive attitudes in females compared to males. This article identifies factors associated with medical students' and doctors' positive attitudes towards older patients. Future research could bring greater clarity to the relationship between knowledge and attitudes by using a knowledge measure which is distinct from attitudes and also measures knowledge that is relevant to clinical care. (JL)


The authors suggest that ageing is misunderstood in America, and that such misperception creates obstacles to productive practices and policies. In order to effect change, the field of ageing needs to advance a set of core ideas that creates the shifts in public understanding essential to building the political will towards a more age-integrated society. This report is in four sections, and outlines the major findings of the Strategic Frame Analysis and its implications for communications, advocacy, and outreach on ageing. First - Anticipating Public Thinking - outlines how Americans mentally perceive ageing, and pinpoints where these patterns of thinking are likely to challenge efforts to advance an informed public conversation. Second, Communication Traps, cautions against reframing strategies that seem plausible, but are likely to have unintended consequences. Third, Redirections, outlines a series of thoroughly tested communications tools and techniques for reframing ageing and ageism. Lastly, Moving Forward, offers concluding thoughts and a call to action. (RH)

Recent figures show that discrimination in healthcare still persists in the European Union (EU). Research has confirmed these results but focused mainly on the outcomes of perceived discrimination. This article explores the influence of socioeconomic indicators (e.g. gender, age, income, education and ethnicity) on perceived discrimination in 30 European countries. Data from the EU-funded QUALICOPC (Quality and Costs of Primary Care in Europe) study were used. These data were collected between October 2011 and December 2013 in the participating countries. In total, 7183 GPs (general practitioners) and 61932 patients participated in the study, which had an average response rate of 74.1%. Data collection was coordinated by NIVEL (the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research). Bivariate binomial logistic regressions were used to estimate the impact of each socioeconomic indicator on perceived discrimination. Multivariate logistic regressions were used to estimate the unique effect of each indicator. Results indicate that in Europe, overall 7% of the respondents felt discriminated against, ranging between 1.4% and 12.8% at the country level. With regard to socioeconomic determinants in perceived discrimination, income and age are both important indicators, with lower income groups and younger people having a higher chance to feel discrimination. In addition, significant influences of education, gender, age and ethnicity discrimination were found in several countries. In most countries, more highly educated people, older people, women and the indigenous population appeared to feel less discriminated against. In conclusion, perceived discrimination in healthcare is reported in almost all European countries, but there is large variation between these countries. A high prevalence of perceived discrimination within a country does not also imply a correlation between socioeconomic indicators and perceived discrimination. (RH)

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There is a common perception that older people in health care systems often face covert and, at times, overt ageism. The present study presented preliminary findings from a large-scale nationally representative survey in Australia of people regarding trends in perceptions of ageism by health care professionals. In the survey, respondents of different age groups were asked whether they thought that older people were treated better, worse or about the same as younger people by doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Nearly two-thirds of respondents perceived no discrimination towards older people compared to younger people, but 21% considered treatment to be more favourable and 16% perceived worse treatment. Overall the findings suggest that most people do not perceive health care professionals as having ageist attitudes and, of the remainder, perceive slightly more positive than negative treatment. (JL)

ISSN: 14406381
From: http://www.wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/ajag

A social work perspective on how ageist language, discourses and understandings negatively frame older people and why taking a critical social work stance is essential; by Francis Duffy.: Oxford University Press, October 2017, pp 2068-2085.


As populations age around the globe, social workers will have more and more contact with older people, particularly in the fields of health care and social care services. Language and dominant discourses associated with older people and ageing in politics, in the media and other institutions are often underpinned by ageism and fail to convey accurate accounts and understandings of ageing issues. In response to how this pervasive ageism plays out in health care and social care services practice settings, this paper argues that all social workers urgently ought to move beyond conventional social work, which is most dominant in practice, and embrace more aspects of critical social work in relation to ageing societies and working with older people. This is necessary to identify, critique and challenge ill-informed and oppressive language, labels and discourses used to describe older people and explain ageing issues. Embedding gerontological social work as core learning in social work education is essential to social work achieving what is required to achieve these goals. The author draws mainly on examples found in Australian (and some UK) publications. (RH)
I 'know it exists ... but I haven't experienced it personally': older Canadian men's perceptions of ageism as a distant social problem; by Laura Hurd Clarke, Alexandra Korotchenko.: Cambridge University Press, September 2016, pp 1757-1773.

Ageing and Society, vol 36, no 8, September 2016, pp 1757-1773.

This paper examines how older men perceive, experience and internalise ageist prejudice in the context of their everyday lives. The authors draw on in-depth interviews with 29 community-dwelling Canadian men aged 65-89. Although one-third of the participants were unfamiliar with the term ageism, the majority felt that age-based discrimination was prevalent in Canadian society. Indicating that they themselves had not been personally subjected to ageism, the men considered age-based discrimination to be a socially distant problem. The men explained their perceived immunity to ageism in terms of their youthful attitudes and active lifestyles. The men identified three groups who they considered to be particularly vulnerable to age-based discrimination, namely women, older workers, and frail older people residing in institutions. At the same time, the majority of the participants had internalised a variety of ageist and sexist stereotypes. Indeed, the men assumed that later life was inevitably a time of physical decline and dependence, and accepted as fact that older adults were grumpy, poor drivers, unable to learn new technologies and, in the case of older women, sexually unattractive. In this way, a tension existed between the men's assertion that ageism did not affect their lives and their own internalisation of ageist stereotypes. The authors consider their findings in relation to the theorising about ageism and hegemonic masculinity. (RH)

Exploring the Care Act's potential for anti-discriminatory practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans older people; by John Crossland.: Emerald, 2016, pp 97-106.

Quality in Ageing and Older Adults, vol 17, no 2, 2016, pp 97-106.

The planning and provision of care for older people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities is an increasing challenge to traditional welfare systems. This paper explores the potential of the newly implemented Care Act 2014 in England for developing an anti-discriminatory approach. It draws on existing research and conceptual literature to identify how key provisions of the new Act can be interpreted in light of current knowledge. Overall, the provisions of the Care Act lend themselves well to positive interpretation in relation to the needs of older LGBT people and their support networks. A potential tension, however, arises in the locality focus of the legislation that could constrain good practice with geographically dispersed communities. There is also a need to challenge both heteronormative and ageist assumptions that lead to older LGBT people remaining unrecognised. Applied with imagination and commitment, the provisions of the Act could enable new forms of person-centred care to emerge to support older LGBT people. Social workers are in a key position to influence how the Care Act is interpreted and applied in practice, and can act as change agents for a societal move towards older LGBT people having greater choice and control over their well-being. (RH)

Intergenerational intervention to mitigate children's bias against the elderly; by Renee L Babcock, Eileen E MaloneBeach, Beini Woodworth-Hou.: Taylor and Francis, October-December 2016, pp 274-287.


An age-segregated society fosters ageism and has negative consequences for both young and old. The persistence of ageism may be due to a cultural fear of growing older, or gerontophobia (Bunzel, 1972), and is actively cultivated through various forms of communication and misinformation. Unfortunately young children are exposed to the damaging effects of ageism through their interactions with an ageist society. Partially in response to this prejudice, intergenerational programmes that involve some form of common activity shared in a multigenerational setting have become popular. The current study utilised the Child-Age Implicit Association Test and two measures of explicit bias to determine whether an intergenerational intervention could mitigate negative age biases in elementary schoolchildren. Though the programme did not seem to reduce bias, it was clear that implicit biases exist and that they seem to be distinct from explicit bias. It is suggested that a different programme or different age groups may be more effective in reducing ageism in children. (JL)
This article describes the development of an awareness campaign aiming to improve perceptions about ageing and older people in Lisbon, Portugal. This involved the presentation of positive images of ageing through the use of street posters and social networks (e.g., Facebook). An important feature of the campaign was the collaboration of various stakeholders from different fields and with different societal roles. This diversity of contributions and perspectives on ageing allowed the creation of an awareness campaign that gathered consensus among several social agents. Generally, the campaign received positive comments and reactions in the social networks. Congratulatory and other favourable messages came from individuals of different ages and occupations, from researchers to professional caregivers. (JL)
ISSN: 15524256
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

The term 'ageism' was initially proposed by Robert Butler, founding director of the U.S. National Institute on Aging. Ageism is typically expressed as discrimination against people on the basis of their age and is manifested through negative stereotypes and perceptions about older adults. Butler identified three distinct but related aspects of ageism: attitudes and beliefs, behavioural discrimination and formalised policies and practices. The purpose of this virtual issue editorial was to select and review papers published in the Australasian Journal on Ageing (AJA) from 1982 to the present day that illustrate Butler's three constructs. In all, 25 papers were found. The study concludes that despite many research initiatives designed to highlight and address ageist practices, ageism is still prevalent in Australia as with the rest of the world. (JL)
ISSN: 14406381
From: wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/ajag

In the United Kingdom and Europe, it has been found that ageism is the most commonly experienced form of prejudice. This article highlights some of the lesser-known negative consequences of ageism that permeate society. The study begins by examining some of the psychological processes underpinning ageism that older people may face by revealing how people of different ages use and apply the category labels 'old' and 'young'. The author argues that age categories are more than labels—they are also imbued with both negative and positive meanings that denote status and power. (JL)
From: journal.aarpinternational.org

Several studies have demonstrated a link between perceived discrimination and depression in ethnic minority groups, yet most have focused on younger or middle-aged African Americans, and little is known about factors that may moderate the relationship. Participants were 487 older African Americans (60-98 years old) enrolled in the US Minority Aging Research Study (MARS). Discrimination, depressive symptoms, and psychological and social resources were assessed via interview using validated measures. Ordinal logistic regression models were used to assess (1) the main relationship between discrimination and depression, and (2) resilience, purpose in life, social isolation, and social networks as potential moderators of this relationship. In models adjusted for age, sex, education, and income, perceived discrimination was positively associated with depressive symptoms (odds ratio [OR]: 1.20, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.10-1.31; p < .001). However, there was no evidence of effect modification by resilience, purpose in life, social isolation, or social networks (all ps = .05). Findings provide support for the accumulating evidence on the adverse mental health effects of discrimination among older African Americans. Because the association was not modified by psychological or social factors, these findings do not support a role for a buffering effect of resources on discrimination and depressive symptoms. Further studies are needed to examine a wider range of coping resources among older adults. (RH)
Challenging gerontophobia and ageism through a collaborative intergenerational art program; by Sadie E Rubin, Tracey J Gendron, Cortney A Wren ... (et al). Taylor and Francis, 2015, pp 241-254.

Prejudices against older adults have been shown to reduce effective care delivery and to impact their long-term health outcomes. In an effort to combat these prejudices, intergenerational - and often unidirectional - programmes focus on challenging ageism. The PALETTE programme takes this further to employ collaborative activities as a way to challenge the gerontophobia that often accompanies ageism. Promoting Art for Life Enrichment Through Transgenerational Engagement (PALETTE) is an innovative programme for interprofessional undergraduate and graduate students that combines intergenerational arts activities with formal education on ageing, ageism and gerontophobia. Having demonstrated success in changing the attitudes of students, PALETTE serves as a model for an internationally replicable programme that has the potential to improve person-centered care while educating future generations of older adults about positive, optimal ageing. (JL)


Service learning is a pedagogical technique that integrates traditional coursework with activities outside the classroom that meet the needs of the community. Gerontology-focused service learning has been incorporated into many courses that cover ageing content and is believed to be beneficial to the learning process. Other research has demonstrated that service learning in general has benefits, regardless of the age of the service recipient. It is unclear whether benefits associated with gerontology-focused service learning are unique to experiences with older adults or are a product of the general benefits associated with this pedagogy. This study examined student responses to gerontology-focused service learning compared to youth-focused service learning. The results revealed that students working with older adults reported more negative expectations related to the assignment, more positive experiences interacting with the service recipients, and more reports of learning benefits attributed to service learning. (JL)

Sexism and ageism in the media; by Feminar Group of Feminism. Older Feminists Network Newsletter, no 209, August-September 2014, pp 7-10.

A precis of a meeting (called the Feminar) held in July 2014, which brought together instances reflecting attitudes to ageism, sexism and feminism on the part of newspapers, online sources, television and radio. (RH)


Some theorists from the field of social gerontology have argued that old age has been defined in terms of social structures such as retirement systems which create pre-defined notions of ageing in terms of set ages of retirement. In Western societies especially, retirement policies have been used by employers to reduce and restructure their workforces, resulting in perceptions of the age at which workers may be considered 'too old'. The devalued status of older workers approaching retirement has resulted in a 'grey ceiling' that denies older workers equitable treatment. Research findings suggest that stereotypical attitudes towards older workers need to be targeted if age barriers to employment are to be removed. Along with population ageing, population decline is expected to increasingly characterise demographic change in the 21st century, due to fertility decline which in turn will result in fewer younger cohorts entering the workforce. The author argues that rather than focus on older workers or an ageing workforce, employers need to address the concept of workforces in an ageing world, as the impact of population ageing permeates the lives of everyone in paid employment. (JL)
2013

The subject of this paper is the ban on age discrimination in goods and services that came into force on 1 October 2012. It sets out the policy context, and details how the age equality recommendations were made through an independent review. It provides an overview of the Achieving Age Equality Toolkit (produced by the National Development Team for Inclusion, NDTi), to give the background to its development, and to advise readers of the ways in which it has already been successful in the health and social care arena. Older people have different experiences of health and social care services, but most want to be able to access support when they need it. Age as a barrier to treatment and screening in areas such as mental health and cancer continue to give cause for concern. Organisations need to ensure they are working in an "age equal" way across services. Implications for further research could include an assessment of the extent of "institutional ageism" in services after the ban on age discrimination in goods and services on 1 October 2012. The article uses case studies to illustrate how use of the Toolkit enables an organisation to better identify where changes are needed towards embedding anti age discrimination practice. As well as obeying legal requirements, ending age discrimination in health and social care requires a change in hearts and minds towards encouraging society to think differently about the ways in which older people are supported by health and social care services. Since the review, there have been repeated cases of age discrimination in goods and services, illustrating the need for change. (RH)
ISSN: 13663666
From : www.emeraldinsight.com

While it is generally agreed that traditional societies are more favourable toward their elders, research findings have been inconsistent. This study presents a cultural comparison between Jews and Arabs in Israel in attitudes toward older adults and personal views regarding one's own ageing. It was assumed that Arabs would rate their culture as more tolerant toward older adults, would report spending more time with them and express lower ageism and ageing anxieties. 154 native Israeli citizens - 86 Jewish and 68 Muslim Arabs - completed measures of ageism, ageing anxieties and cultural views of older adults. Results showed that Arabs rated their culture as more tolerant toward their elders, perceived older adults as significantly more contributing to society and reported engaging in less avoiding behaviours toward them. Arabs also exhibited less general fears of growing old and concerns over one's physical appearance in old age. But it was interesting to note that Arab women reported higher scores of ageing anxieties and ageist attitudes in comparison to Arab men, whereas no such differences were found among Jews. These findings show that the cultural importance of elders for the Arab cohort transcends beyond Westernisation processes which affect the Arab society in Israel, and reflect the demanding role of Arab women as primary caregivers for the elders in the family. Limitations and implications of the study are discussed. (JL)
ISSN: 10416102
From : journals.cambridge.org/ipg

This inquiry brings together evidence and understanding about the experience of people with dementia from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities. It finds that high quality services are few and far between, and many people receive too little support from the National Health Service (NHS) or local authorities. Service providers need to be sensitive to the cultural needs of communities who are assumed to "look after their own". An appendix provides case studies illustrating good practice examples of services that have been tailored to the needs of people with dementia from BAME communities. (RH)
From : All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. E-mail: appg@alzheimers.org.uk

International Psychogeriatrics, vol 25, no 4, April 2013, pp 627-634.

Difficulty in remembering people’s names is very common in the early stages of Alzheimer’s disease and mild cognitive impairment. Such difficulty is often observed as the tip-of-the-tongue (TOT) phenomenon. The main aim of this study was to explore whether a famous people’s naming task that elicited the TOT state can be used to discriminate between amnestic mild cognitive impairment (aMCI) patients and normal controls. 84 patients with aMCI and 106 normal controls aged over 50 years performed a task involving naming 50 famous people shown in pictures. Univariate and multivariate regression analyses were used to study the relationships between aMCI and semantic and phonological measures in the TOT paradigm. Univariate regression analyses revealed that all TOT measures significantly predicted aMCI. Multivariate analysis of all these measures correctly classified 70% of controls (specificity) and 71.6% of aMCI patients (sensitivity), with an AUC (area under curve ROC) value of 0.74, but only the phonological measure remained significant. This classification value was similar to that obtained with the Semantic verbal fluency test. TOTs for proper names may effectively discriminate aMCI patients from normal controls through measures that represent one of the naming processes affected, that is, phonological access. (JL)

ISSN: 10416102
From : journals.cambridge.org/ipg


International Psychogeriatrics, vol 25, no 8, August 2013, pp 1299-1306.

Elder mistreatment, social ageism and human rights are increasingly powerful discourses in positioning older people in society, yet the relationship between them has rarely been subjected to critical investigation. This perceived relationship will have implications for how mistreatment is understood and responded to. Reports of public attitudes toward mistreatment suggest that it is thought to be more common than scientific evidence would suggest, however reporting is much lower than prevalence. While the discourse over mistreatment has tended to focus on interpersonal relationships, ageism has emphasised social attitudes, and human rights have concentrated on relations between the state and the individual. In this paper a series of models are examined which mark a tendency to restrict and then attempt to reintegrate individual, interpersonal and social levels of analysis. It is concluded that a focus on the processes of transaction across boundaries rather than contents would facilitate both integrative modelling and deeper understanding of the qualities of abusive situations. (JL)

ISSN: 10416102
From : journals.cambridge.org/ipg


Ageing and Society, vol 33, no 7, October 2013, pp 1105-1138.

This article explores the importance of ‘everyday discrimination’ and other psycho-social variables for psychological wellbeing in the context of the workplace, considering differences according to age, gender and socio-economic position. Using employee survey data collected within Australian organisations the study looks at a statistically reliable model of the relationship between aspects of the psycho-social work environment, psychological wellbeing and job satisfaction. The employee survey was carried out in two phases during mid-2007 and mid-2008 in a national representative sample of Australian organisations. Structural Equation Modelling was used to configure a model including psycho-social factors: respect, support, training, job insecurity and personally meaningful work. Everyday discrimination and consultation with supervisor were considered in terms of their direct effect on psychological wellbeing and job satisfaction and their indirect effect via the psycho-social factors enumerated above. Importantly, this generalised model attempts to describe the interrelations of these factors effectively for various age groups, gender and socio-economic position. The study identifies age, gender and socio-economic differences in the strength and relative importance of these relationships. A further validation study with an independent sample will be required to verify the model proposed in this article. The implications for the design of workplace interventions concerned with age discrimination are discussed. (JL)

ISSN: 0144686X
From : journals.cambridge.org/aso


Perceptions of older people are changing both nationally and internationally, with policy developments that emphasise the value of older workers and the extension of working life to accommodate a longer life-course. For national economies older workers produce benefits of increasing tax dollars and personal savings and reduce claims on the state through pensions. In terms of migration, older adults bring assets and other benefits generated elsewhere into the host economy, as skilled workers or as active retirees. It has also been argued that older societies may be more productive as a consequence of the contribution of older citizens. Nations that create barriers to older migration, such as is currently the case for Australia, run the risk not only of perpetuating age discrimination, but also of failing to take advantage of population change in a global context. The authors critically examine this area and raise a series of questions for future policy. (JL)

ISSN: 14406381

From: wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/ajag

A prescriptive intergenerational tension ageism scale: succession, identity, and consumption (SIC); by Michael S North, Susan T Fiske.

Psychological Assessment, vol 25, no 3, September 2013, pp 706-713.

The authors introduce a novel ageism scale, focusing on prescriptive beliefs concerning potential intergenerational tensions: active, envied resource succession, symbolic identity avoidance, and passive, shared-resource consumption (SIC). Four studies (2,010 total participants) were used to develop the scale. Exploratory factor analysis formed an initial 20-item, 3-factor solution (Study 1). The scale converges appropriately with other prejudice measures and diverges from other social control measures (Study 2). It diverges from anti-youth ageism (Study 3). The Study 4 experiment yielded both predictive and divergent validity apropos another ageism measure. Structural equation modelling confirmed model fit across all studies. In respect of an intergenerational-tension focus, younger people consistently scored the highest. As generational equity issues intensify, the scale provides a contemporary tool for current and future ageism research. (OFFPRINT). (RH)


Ageing and Society, vol 33, no 4, May 2013, pp 598-625.

The post-war history of hospital care for older people in Britain in the first phase of its National Health Service (NHS) emphasises a detrimental Poor Law legacy. This article presents a regional study, based on the South West of England, of the processes by which Victorian workhouses became the basis of geriatric hospital provision under the NHS. Its premise is that legislative and medical developments provided opportunities for local actors to discard the “legacy”, and their limited success in doing so requires explanation. Theoretical perspectives from the literature are introduced, including political economy approaches; historical sociology of the medical profession; and path dependence. Analysis of resource allocation decisions shows a persistent tendency to disadvantage these institutions by comparison with acute care hospitals and services for mothers and children, although new ideas about geriatric medicine had some impact locally. Quantitative and qualitative data are used to examine policies towards organisation, staffing and infrastructural improvements, suggesting early momentum was not maintained. Explanations lie partly with national financial constraints and partly with the regional administrative arrangements following the NHS settlement which perpetuated existing divisions between agencies. (RH)

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From: journals.cambridge.org/aso

2012


The NHS ban on age discrimination came into force in October 2012. The need for such a policy intervention has been highlighted by studies on cancer, which concluded that chronological age as opposed to physiological health has been a barrier to treatment for older people. In response to issues such as this, the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS), Age UK and MHP Health Mandate have undertaken a study to: assess how treatment rates for common surgical interventions vary according to age; explore potential reasons for this variation; and make recommendations about how the profession and other stakeholders can best respond. The 25 recommendations focus on six key areas. First, informing and communicating with patients to encourage them to seek help and take part in decisions about their treatment and care. Second, improving the evidence base to further our
understanding of the impact of age on surgical decision-making. Third, developing guidance to promote age equality in surgical care. Fourth, delivering the most appropriate care, by improving models of working and developing guidance for clinicians. Fifth, measuring progress and tackling under-performance. Sixth, delivering high-quality commissioning for older people. (RH)

From: The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE.


This paper focuses on stigma in collective living environments for older adults. Two design profiles are compared and contrasted - a purpose-built campus which opened in 1997, and an older setting that grew by accretion over decades. The separation by care levels in both sites is reflected in their cultures as residents and staff relate to levels of care through a vocabulary of fear. Residents of the independent living building on the purpose-built campus refer to the assisted living building as 'the dark side.' In this setting stigma is assigned to a place in the built environment. By contrast, the older setting features a less structured clustering of independent living and assisted living. Less stigma associated with levels of care can be observed in this older building. Grounding their analysis in data drawn from ongoing ethnographic research, the authors focus on the built environment as it relates to stigma in the social environment. (JL)

ISSN: 02763893
From: http://www.tandfonline.com


The Government Equalities Office (GEO) claim to have taken a proportionate approach, ensuring that the Equality Act 2010 prohibits only harmful or unjustifiable treatment that results in genuinely unfair discrimination and harassment because of or related to age. The GEO has sought no exceptions in health and social care, so all medical decisions based on age must be objectively justifiable. Financial services, on the other hand, have a blanket exception from the Act, although when age is used in decision making this must be made clear and, if cover is refused, signposts to alternative providers must be given. The intention is to bring into force the ban on age discrimination in the provision of services and exercise of public functions, and by private clubs and other associations in October 2012, along with related exceptions. Such exceptions include age based concessions, group holidays, immigration, sport, residential park homes, and age verification schemes to control the purchase of age restricted products. This report includes both the new and consultation versions of the Equality Act 2010 (Age Exceptions) Order 2012. (RH)


The article theorises that augmenting traditional humanities course work with documentary video-making can enhance and motivate learning. The author begins by reviewing scholarly research on using digital video in classrooms, from primary school level to college. The author then describes his own documentary video project which focused on ageing and the lives of older people in an adult daycare centre and a retirement community. Students documented older people's stories in video over 15 weeks. The instructor's goal was to use the immediacy of video to challenge and dismantle ageist stereotypes. The writer concludes that documentary video-making is a simple and enticing technology that gives students a powerful tool for getting to know older people. Scholarship on classroom uses of digital video-making is discussed and critical comments from the five reflective essays students wrote during the semester are used to track changes in student perceptions of older people. (JL)

ISSN: 02701960
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

Implementing a ban on age discrimination in the NHS: making effective, appropriate decisions; by Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, Department of Health - DH. Leeds: Department of Health, 28 September 2012, 19 pp (Gateway ref: 18154).

From 1 October 2012, the Government has fully implement the ban on age discrimination enshrined in the Equality Act 2010, giving protection against age discrimination in services, clubs and associations and in the exercise of public functions. The Act makes it unlawful for service providers and commissioners to
discriminate, victimise, or harass a person because of age. There will be no exceptions in health and social care. However, positive use of age in providing, commissioning and planning services will be able to continue: the Act does not prevent differential treatment where this is objectively justified. This briefing gives a short overview of the ban on age discrimination, and includes a list of online resources on the Act and the Public Sector Equality Duty. It is specifically aimed at those who plan, commission or provide NHS services, whether in the NHS, voluntary or private sectors. It has been developed by NHS Employers with the support of the Department of Health (DH), the NHS Commissioning Board Authority, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Local Government Association (LGA), Age UK, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), both the Welsh and Scottish Governments, and the NHS Confederation. (RH)

Positive ageing: from the political to the personal; by Guy Robertson.: Emerald, 2012, pp 149-153.
The aim of this paper was to highlight the corrosive impact of ageism on the health and wellbeing of older people and to propose a practical methodology for addressing the psychological and emotional damage. The paper examines published research from social gerontology on the impact of negative attitudes on longevity and health and incorporates research from the realm of positive psychology to produce some practical personal development approaches based on a synthesis of the two. Study findings showed that negative attitudes, largely fed by societal ageism, can significantly reduce longevity. Altering a person’s ‘explanatory style’ can produce significant health and wellbeing benefits. The latter is then proposed as a means of countering the former. Whilst each element is grounded in robust research evidence, there is as yet no dedicated research to show that the proposed ‘combined intervention’ will have the intended impact. A methodology is proposed for enabling individuals to examine their negative attitudes towards their own ageing and then use a variety of psychological techniques to ameliorate or replace them with more positive ones, which it is argued, will lead to greater health and wellbeing. (JL)

Systematic practice with older people: collaboration, community and social movement; by Mandy Clayton, Glenda Fredman, Eleanor Martin (et al).
The authors outline the practices they have been developing with their Older People's Project in Camden and Islington to counteract the effects of discrimination and isolation. This article is based on a presentation at the National PSIGE Conference 2012 that is informed by Glenda Fredman's 'Systemic Cs' idea, in which Collaboration is central. The aim is for older people to have a voice and Choice, and focus on how people are Connected in Relationship. Also key to the approach are Communication, Conversation and Co-ordination. Attention to Context is essential, since that gives meaning to actions and beliefs. Circularity, Curiosity and Competence are seen as important in identifying problems and avoiding judgements. (RH)

Why and how should we teach geriatric medicine?: by R Parikh, K Wardle, R Westwood ... (et al).
Currently a gulf exists in the U.S. between the care frail older people receive and that which they need. In order to create services that can meet complex needs doctors are needed who appreciate the specific challenges that older people face. There is a need to develop undergraduate and post-graduate programmes that focus on the complexities of real life practice and the commonly encountered challenges faced when caring for older adults. Early exposure to complex frail older people and experiences that challenge negative attitudes are important. Most care delivered to older people is delivered by non-geriatricians, and thus geriatricians have an important role in training. Training should be available for trainers as well as trainees. (JL)
Age discrimination in mental health services needs to be understood; by Dave Anderson.
The ageing population presents a major challenge to health and social care services now and for decades to come. Age discrimination in mental health services is more pronounced than in other areas of health care. Legislation, currently being reviewed, which will make unjustified age discrimination unlawful from 2012, has implications for the organisation and delivery of mental health care that need to be understood. (JL)
ISSN: 17583209
From : http://pb.rcpsych.org

Age discrimination in the labour market from the perspectives of employers and older workers; by Chau-kiu Cheung, Ping Kwong Kam, Raymond Man-hung Ngan.
This article presents the findings of a study on age discrimination against older workers in Hong Kong. The study collected survey data from 787 older workers aged 45 or above and 283 employers who were managers responsible for human resources management or for hiring people for organisations. The focus was on revealing the influences of the organisational goals of profit making and social responsibility on age discrimination, along with influences from negative stereotyping and other factors. Study findings showed that the social responsibility goal tended to be more influential than negative stereotyping on age discrimination. In contrast the profit-making goal did not display a significant effect on age discrimination. The authors offer implications for policy and practice for managing the ageing workforce in the labour market. (JL)
ISSN: 00208728
From : http://isw.sagepub.com

'If I look old, I will be treated old': hair and later-life image dilemmas; by Richard Ward, Caroline Holland.
This paper considers the social symbolism of hair, how it is managed and styled in later life, and what attitudes to appearance in general and hairstyling in particular reveal about ageism in contemporary culture. The study draws on findings from a two-year participative study of age discrimination in the United Kingdom, the Research on Age Discrimination (RoAD) project. Using data collected by qualitative methods it explores narratives of image and appearance related to hair and associated social responses. In particular it focuses on older people's accounts of the dual processes of the production of an image and consumption of a service with reference to hairdressing - and the dilemmas these pose in later life. The findings are considered in the context of the emerging debate on the ageing body. The discussion underlines how the bodies of older people are central to their experience of discrimination and social marginalisation, and examines the relevance of the body and embodiment to the debate on discrimination. A case is made for further scrutiny of the significance of hairdressing to the lives of older people and for the need to challenge the assumption that everyday aspects of daily life are irrelevant to the policies and interventions that counter age discrimination and promote equality. (JL)
ISSN: 0144686X
From : http://iwj.sagepub.com

Improving the lives of transgender older adults; by Harper Jean Tobin.
Like all older adults, older transgender people face many challenges as they age. Transgender people in general experience high levels of discrimination, poverty and victimisation but little is known about this group as they grow older. Some older transgender women and men transitioned from one gender to another at a time when trans people were largely invisible and legal rights were nonexistent. Even today transgender older adults face numerous obstacles to accessing adequate health care. There is much to be done if the lives of tran older adults are to be improved. (JL)
ISSN: 10553037
From : www.agingsoociety.org

Ageing and Society, vol 31, part 6, August 2011, pp 1051-1070.
The study looked at the prevalence of perceived workplace discrimination in the US, based on a national survey of 420 older workers aged 50 and above. Results indicated that more than 81% of older workers encountered at least one workplace discriminatory treatment within a year. Prevalence of perceived workplace discrimination
differed with age, gender, education, occupation and wage. The study further tested two competing hypotheses on the level of perceived workplace discrimination and found mixed support for both. As hypothesised, lower education and ethnic minority status were positively associated with perceived workplace discrimination. As counter-hypothesised, being younger and male were positively associated with perceived workplace discrimination. In examining the roles of supervisor and co-worker support, the study discovered that supervisor support was negatively associated with workplace discrimination. Finally the study revealed a non-linear relationship between wages and perceived workplace discrimination, with the mid-range wage group experiencing the highest level of workplace discrimination. (JL)

ISSN: 0144686X
From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/aso

The recruitment of early retirees: a vignette study of the factors that affect managers’ decisions; by Kasia Karpinska, Kene Henkens, Joop Schippers.

Retirement is characterised as a dynamic process that has several different outcomes, from early retirement to re-entry to the labour force. Recent studies of the Dutch population show that a substantial number of early retirees re-enter the workforce after early retirement, but others do not succeed even though they want to return to paid work. A commonly named reason for their failures is bias in the selection process. This raises the questions as to what restrictions do early retirees face in the labour market and what are the characteristics that enhance or limit their hiring chances? The aim of this study was to identify the individual and organisational characteristics that influence managers' hiring decisions, and for the purpose a vignette study among Dutch managers and business students was conducted. Profiles of results show that hiring early retirees is of low priority to both managers and students, and depends to a large extent on organisational factors (such as staff shortages) and the age of the retiree. The findings suggest that despite equal opportunities policies, age discrimination is still present in the Dutch labour market and that managers generally hinder the re-employment of workers approaching the retirement age. (JL)

ISSN: 0144686X
From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/aso

Presents findings from the European Social Survey (ESS) which compared data from nearly 55,000 individuals from 28 European countries exploring different aspects of ageism and age discrimination. The purpose of the study was to support policy work which is pressing for age discrimination measures in the UK and the European Union, including the Equality Act 2010. In particular the survey asked the following questions: At what age are people seen as young or old? What are respondents' experiences of age discrimination? Do people accord different levels of social status to different age groups? Are young or old people seen as threats to society? What is the quality and quantity of intergenerational contact? (JL)


2010

This briefing paper is intended to outline the historical, existing and potential future law on age discrimination. It is concerned with adult education, defined here as anyone over compulsory school age (aged 16+). It considers the limited effects of discrimination and equality law in the late 20th and early 21st century. The Human Rights Act 1998 (which came into effect on 2 October 2002) has given little protection for people discriminated against on grounds of age in relation to adult education. The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 (referred to as the 'Age Discrimination Regulations') cover all vocational training and all training in institutions of higher or further education. The author (a barrister at Matrix Chambers) comments that these Regulations appear not to have to any real shift in thinking about age equality in distribution of educational resources. The last part of this paper looks at the Equality Bill 2009 as it relates to intergenerational equity in relation to education opportunities: Part 6 of the Bill specifically outlaws discrimination on grounds of age in relation to further and higher education and by qualification bodies; and Part 11 proposes a "public sector equality duty". If enacted, this Bill offers the hope of a joined up legal framework for supporting development of educational opportunities across age groups. (RH)

In April 2009, the then Secretary of State for Health asked Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd to consider what the new measures on age in the Equality Bill would mean for health and social care. Their report, 'Achieving age equality in health and social care' (DH, October 2009) makes a number of recommendations, some of which deal with the form that secondary legislation under the Bill should take. Most of the recommendations focus on non-legislative action that the Department of Health (DH), and the National Health Service (NHS) and social care more generally, should take to prepare for the introduction of the new public sector equality duty and of the ban on age discrimination. This report considers responses to the resulting consultation, 'Age equality in health and social care' (DH, November 2009) which sought comments on the review's non-legislative recommendations, to feed into DH's response to the review, particularly how the DH can support health and social care in England to meet the requirements of the Equality Bill (which applies throughout Britain). Among proposal subjects commented on were: timing of the age discrimination ban; quality-adjusted life years (QALYs); reviewing age criteria in national policies; joint working; local authority assessment procedures; mental health; prevention programmes; training; and complaints. (RH)

From: Policy Support Unit, Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

The economic crisis in the United States has led to increased media coverage of older workers being laid off, forced to retire, or working longer than planned. Embedded in these reports are the intimations of workplace abuse. Social workers need to start taking into account ageism and abuse in the workplace as possible co-occurring issues to effectively implement policy, and organizational change that will address both issues. This brief article discusses ageism and abuse in the workplace using a human rights framework, the current state of the literature, and directions for future research. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 01634372
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

The characteristics of first episode psychosis in older adults in a county in North East England were considered. The present study used a naturalistic design to compare individuals aged 65 years and over with those under 65, with a first episode psychosis. Data were collected on demographics, diagnosis at presentation and hospital admissions in the first year. Almost a quarter of all patients were aged 65 years or older. The older group were admitted later on after presentation, but with longer average hospital stays (p < 0.01), compared to the younger group, with no difference in the use of the Mental Health Act. Late onset schizophrenia (40-59 years) and very late onset schizophrenia-like psychosis (60 + years) formed a considerable proportion of patients. There is a substantial proportion of older people with first episode psychosis, with a significant use of hospital bed days. There are large gaps in services for this group who often do not have the same access to those offered to younger people, e.g. Assertive Outreach or crisis teams, access to Clozapine and CBT. Ageism exists in all forms; older people are doubly disadvantaged in view of their age and mental illness. There is a substantial proportion of older people with first episode psychosis, with a significant use of hospital bed days. There are large gaps in services for this group who often do not have the same access to those offered to younger people, e.g. Assertive Outreach or crisis teams, access to Clozapine and CBT. Ageism exists in all forms; the elderly are doubly disadvantaged in view of their age and mental illness. In view of the Age Discrimination Act (2006) the older functionally ill group of patients should be entitled to the same level of care and equal access to services as younger people. More attention and interventions need to be focused on this overlooked group. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 08856230

The double face of discrimination; by Iona Heath.
British Medical Journal, no 7741, 6 February 2010, p 296.
There are both scientific and moral arguments against the complete abolition of age discrimination. A London general practitioner (GP) writes in the context of consultation by the Government regarding the age requirements in the Equality Bill. She refers to the moral case of the ''fair innings'' made by Alan Williams in
The Equality Act makes provision to require Ministers of the Crown and others, when making strategic decisions about the exercise of their functions, to have regard to the desirability of reducing socio-economic inequalities. The Act reforms and harmonises equality law and restates the greater part of the enactments relating to discrimination and harassment related to certain personal characteristics. The Act thus prohibits direct or indirect discrimination in respect of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. The Act enables certain employers to be required to publish information about differences in pay between male and female employees; prohibits victimisation in certain circumstances. The Act requires the exercise of certain functions to be with regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other prohibited conduct - as is the case with the public sector equality duty (Part 11) and disabled people and transport (Part 12). The Act also enables duties to be imposed in relation to the exercise of public procurement functions; increases equality of opportunity; and amends the law relating to rights and responsibilities in family relationships. Explanatory Notes have been produced to assist in the understanding of this Act and are available separately. (RH)
Price: £28.75
From: TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN. http://www.tsoshop.co.uk

Inequalities in disability-free life expectancy by social class and area type: England, 2001-03; by Chris White, Grace Edgar.
Disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) is an important indicator which combines longevity with functional health status. This article examines inequalities in DFLE by socio-economic position in England, and between Local Authorities (LAs) in the deprived 'Spearhead group' and other LAs. Census and vital event data available from the ONS Longitudinal Study were used to calculate estimates of DFLE based on limiting long-term illness or disability status for each Registrar General's Social Class (RGSC) in 2001-03, in England as a whole and within the 'Spearhead group' and non-Spearhead LAs. A predominantly linear relationship was present, with DFLE increasing with rising social class, and the differences observed between people assigned to the professional and unskilled manual social classes were statistically significant and substantial, showing clear social inequality in amount of life, functional health status during those years lived, absolute number, and relative proportion of life spent free from limiting long-term illness or disability. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 14651645
From: http://www.statistics.gov.uk

Inequalities in healthy life expectancy by social class and area type: England, 2001-03; by Chris White, Grace Edgar.
Healthy life expectancy (HLE) is an important indicator which combines longevity with health status. This article examines inequalities in HLE by socio-economic position in England, and between Local Authorities (LAs) in the deprived 'Spearhead group' and other LAs. (Department of Health's Spearhead Group of local authorities consists of those identified as the most deprived in England). Census and vital event data available from the ONS Longitudinal Study were used to calculate estimates of HLE based on general health status for each Registrar General's Social Class (RGSC) in 2001-03, in England as a whole and within the 'Spearhead group' and non-Spearhead LAs. The differences observed in HLE at birth and at age 65 between people assigned to the professional and unskilled manual social classes were statistically significant and substantial, demonstrating a clear social inequality in the amount of life, the quality of those years lived, the absolute number of healthy life years, and thus the relative proportion of life spent in 'Good' or 'Fairly Good' health. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 14651645
From: http://www.statistics.gov.uk

doi:10.1057/hsq.2010.3

International comparison of age discrimination laws; by Joanna N Lahey.
European age discrimination legislation is discussed in the context of the U.S. Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and related state laws. U.S. law was originally introduced to protect productive older workers from age stereotypes, but more recently preventing age discrimination has become important as a
means of keeping costs down on entitlement programs as the population ages. Changes in enforcement, penalties, exemptions, length of time to file, and burden of proof have changed the effects of the laws over time. The ADEA has had both positive effects on currently employed older workers and negative effects on the hiring of older workers. Enforcement and publicity are offered as possible explanations for the strength of these positive and negative effects. Age discrimination legislation in Europe, indicated in the Framework Directive 2000/78, is driven by economic and political considerations. European legislation calls for less enforcement and more exemptions than the corresponding U.S. cases that could lead to smaller effects on employment. However, pensions, disability, unemployment, and social security potentially have a stronger effect on social norms for retirement age than does anti-discrimination legislation. (KJ)

ISSN: 01640275
From: http://roa.sagepub.comdoi: 10.1177/0164027510379348

Is ageism in university students associated with elder abuse?; by Yongjie Yon, Larry Anderson, Jocelyn Lymburner ... (et al).
Research indicates that in comparison to middle aged adults, young adults exhibit higher levels of ageist attitudes toward older persons and that elder abuse is increasing. This study examines proclivity of elder abuse by young adults enrolled in a postsecondary institution. A total of 206 university students completed questionnaires on attitudes toward older persons and their proclivity to elder abuse. Results indicate that student attitudes are correlated with elder abuse. In addition, proclivity to psychological abuse is found to be significantly higher than physical abuse. (JL)
ISSN: 15350770
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

Referral from primary to secondary care: older and more deprived patients remain at a disadvantage; by Moyez Jiwa.
Older patients from socially deprived areas who consult their GP are less likely to be referred from primary to secondary health care, compared with their younger or more affluent counterparts. (JL)
ISSN: 09598138
From: www.bmj.com

The Equality and Diversity Forum (EDF) held two seminars in late 2008 looking at how we deal with the current financial crisis; this report outlines the proceedings. The first seminar, ‘Redefining equality and fairness’, introduced a Joseph Rowntree Trust (JRF) report, ‘Understanding attitudes to tackling economic inequality’ by Tim Horton and Louise Bamfield. The report examined attitudes to welfare in the UK and the effect of inequality on society. The second seminar, ‘Vision of the future: policy, economy and inequality’, bears in mind that a General Election will take place within 6 months. Three speakers from groups aligned respectively with a Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative outlook - Compass, Centre Forum, and Demos - each took a distinctive political perspective. Debate at the seminars identified seven key issues: importance of awareness of the facts about inequality and poverty; whether equality, fairness, social mobility and diversity are the same or different; the lack of transparency and consensus on fairness; whether there is a long term global trend to increasing economic inequality; whether or not social hierarchies and segregation are growing; that it is vital to make equality legislation work effectively; and the relationship between the benefits system and inequality. (RH)
From: Equality and Diversity Forum, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ.

British Medical Journal, no 7741, 6 February 2010, p 302.
Does type of hospital admission (emergency compared with elective) and surgical procedure for colorectal, breast and lung cancer vary by socioeconomic circumstances, age, sex and year of admission? Despite the implementation of the NHS Cancer Plan, social factors still strongly influence access to and the provision of care in England. The Plan aimed to improve outcomes overall to reduce health inequalities. In this study, living in deprived areas and being male were associated with lower likelihood of receiving preferred surgical procedures for cancers with in the National Health Service (NHS). Older people were more likely to receive the preferred surgical procedure for rectal cancer, but less likely to receive breast conserving surgery and lung
cancer resection. This a summary of a cross-sectional study of 564,821 patients aged 50+ admitted to hospitals in England between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2009 with these cancers (and published on bmj.com). (RH)
ISSN: 09598138
From: www.bmj.comBMJ 2010;340:b5479

Unequal Britain: equalities in Britain since 1945; by Pat Thane (ed), Centre for Contemporary British History, Institute of Historical Research, University of London. London: Continuum, 2010, 228 pp.
Since 1945, there have been attempts in most of the areas considered in this volume to devise government policies and institutions to diminish inequalities. Contributors consider equality and inequality in Britain in respect of older people, race, religion and belief, gypsies and travellers, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, and disability. For each theme, a timeline lists major reports and events, followed by more detailed historical consideration of developments by decade. In all the cases considered, the introduction of policies and institutions was driven by organised activism by people who experienced inequality. While improvement has been made on most dimensions of inequality since the end of World War II, there are serious inequalities which have yet to be eradicated. (RH)
From: Continuum UK. The Tower Building, 11 York Road, London SE1 7NX. www.continuumbooks.com

2009

Achieving age equality in health and social care: a report to the Secretary of State for Health by Sir Ian Carruthers OBE and Jan Ormandroyd; by Ian Carruthers, Jan Ormandroyd, Department of Health - DH. London: Department of Health, October 2009, 63 pp (Gateway ref: 12804) + 31 pp Annex.
In April 2009, the Secretary of State for Health asked the authors to conduct a review of age discrimination in the health and social care sectors, to inform Ministerial decisions related to implementing the Equality Bill currently going through Parliament. This report is based on evidence, discussion and meetings with stakeholder organisations, which found that while many people of all ages received a good service, there were many examples of experiences of direct and indirect age discrimination. Particular recommendations are made on mental health, cancer and prevention programmes. On timing of implementation, the ban on age discrimination for health and social care services should come into force at the same time as for other sectors; the review has not identified any “specific exceptions” for removing parts of the service from the scope of the ban. Resource allocation issues are considered in terms of cost-effectiveness and QALYs (quality adjusted life years); little comment was received on charging in social care. As for shaping attitudes, behaviour, and organisational culture, and “seeing the person, not the age”, training and professional standards are seen as critical in rooting out negative attitudes and narrow assumptions about age, but particularly about older people. The authors recommend that following publication of their review, the Government develops and consults on its response to the recommendations. Also available at the weblink (http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107278) is an annex to this report, and links to four literature reviews on ageism and age discrimination in primary and community health, secondary health, mental health and social care services conducted by the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA). (RH)

Achieving age equality in health and social care: Annex to a report to the Secretary of State for Health by Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormandroyd; by Ian Carruthers, Jan Ormandroyd, Department of Health - DH. London: Department of Health, October 2009, 31 pp.
These working papers provide some background and additional information about the work of the review, especially the work in the South West that has focused on the practical implementation of the legislation. There has been a close collaboration between the analysis of the broad themes at a national level and the work in the South West focusing on specific issues that are of direct relevance to statutory organisations, their partners and service users and carers. This has led the review to both build on existing pieces of work commissioned by the Department of Health (DH) and to commission further work that will comprise a resource pack to support local implementation of the relevant sections of the Equality Bill. The annex contains the following sections: 1. Local Engagement Events: a summary of the key themes from the twelve engagement events held in September and October 2009; 2. The Resource Pack: details of the work commissioned from the National Development Team for Inclusion, the Social Care Institute for Excellence and Ros Levenson and colleagues to support local implementation; 3. Indicators: initial ideas on developing a set of indicators in collaboration with the University of West of England; 4. Age Explicit Criteria: a summary of initial review of national age explicit criteria within the Department of Health and its Arms Length Bodies; 5. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: summary of a review of local JSNAs by the University of West of England; 6. Literature Reviews: key themes from the
reviews undertaken by the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA); and 7. Cost effectiveness and Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs): Discussion of the work with the University of Leeds. The literature reviews undertaken by the CPA are also available to download from the organisation's website (www.cpa.org.uk). (KJ/RH)

From: Download from website:


Age Concern and Help the Aged comment on Ofgem's consultation investigating the pricing mechanisms of different payment method options offered by energy companies and how these are affecting older customers.
(RH)
From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. www.ageconcern.org.uk
Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk


Age based discrimination in health and social care services will be against the law if the 2009 Equality Bill is enacted. The Secretary of the British Geriatrics Society (BGS) presents a few facts and figures on service usage by people aged 65+. He reaches the conclusion that health services are not uniformly "age proof and fit for purpose"; for example, conditions affecting all ages are often comparatively less well managed in older people. Age based discrimination may sometimes be justified, and the Bill does allow for this. However, the attitudes, priorities, education and training of staff must reflect older people's need to be given "respect and dignity" in treatment. (RH)
ISSN: 09598138
From: www.bmj.com


Evidence on age discrimination in the US labour market and the effects of the 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) in combating this discrimination is reviewed. The focus is on the challenge of population ageing facing the US economy in coming decades. Combating age discrimination is likely to help in meeting the challenge by encouraging the employment of older individuals. The author also explores how the rapid ageing of the population protected by the ADEA might inhibit ADEA's effectiveness, and raises questions about possible changes in age discrimination policies and enforcement that could enhance the ability of the ADEA to mitigate some of the adverse consequences of population ageing. (RH)
ISSN: 01640275
From: http://www.sagepub.com

Age equality in health and social care: a consultation on preparing the NHS and social care in England for the age requirements in the Equality Bill that affect the provision of services and exercise of public functions; by Department of Health - DH. London: Department of Health, 23 November 2009, 40 pp (Gateway ref: 12985).

The Equality Bill currently before Parliament streamlines and strengthens existing legislation on discrimination. The Bill creates a new equality duty on public bodies and others carrying out public functions, and bans age discrimination in the provision of services and exercise of public functions. In April 2009, the then Secretary of State for Health asked Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd to consider what the new measures on age would mean for health and social care. The review's report 'Achieving age equality in health and social care' was published on 22 October 2009. It makes a number of recommendations, some of which deal with the form that secondary legislation under the Bill should take. Most of the recommendations focus on non-legislative action that the Department of Health (DH), and the National Health Service (NHS) and social care more generally, should take to prepare for the introduction of the new public sector equality duty and of the ban on age discrimination. This consultation seeks comments (by 15 February 2010 and applies only to England) on the review's non-legislative recommendations, to feed into DH's response to the review, particularly how the DH can support health and social care to meet the requirements of the Bill. In addition to this consultation paper, DH is publishing (on the same web page as this consultation) a partial impact assessment and equality impact assessment which consider the review's recommendations. DH's response to the review is expected to be published in spring 2010. (RH)
Price: PDF format only
Ageism and age discrimination in mental health care in the United Kingdom: a review from the literature; commissioned by the Department of Health; by Centre for Policy on Ageing - CPA. London: Centre for Policy on Ageing, December 2009, 60 pp (+ 40 pp appendices).

The Department of Health (DH) commissioned the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) to undertake four separate reviews from the literature to provide evidence of ageism and age discrimination in the UK in social care, secondary health care, mental health services, and primary health care. This semi-systematic literature based review looks at possible evidence of age discrimination in mental health service provision for older people in the UK in the context of policy since 1999. The report considers stigma stereotypes and ageist attitudes; evidence of under-provision, variation in provision, and under-use of mental health services by older people. It presents study data on age discrimination in the treatment of particular conditions including depression and dementia; on prevention and public health interventions; and on education and training. It suggests that there appears to be no ethical problems in use of quality adjusted life years (QALYs) by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to compare relative cost-effectiveness of treatments applicable to all ages. However, age discrimination in using QALYs may arise when comparing cost of effective treatment for conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The review concludes that there is evidence of continued explicit institutional "direct" age discrimination in some localities, but that mental health service provision should reflect local variations in need. Appendix 1 (7 pp), on methodology, notes search strategies and processes, and the search results for the databases searched. Appendix 2 (33 pp), a bibliography, lists all items found; key items cited are also listed at the end of the main report. This review has been conducted in the context of the European Commission Draft Directive COM (2008) 425 (July 2008) and the introduction of the Equality Bill to Parliament (April 2009). It has also informed 'Achieving age equality in health and social care' (2009), the review led from the South West region by Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd. (RH)

From: Centre for Policy on Ageing, 25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP. Available at: http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews.html

Ageism and age discrimination in primary and community health care in the United Kingdom: a review from the literature; commissioned by the Department of Health; by Centre for Policy on Ageing - CPA. London: Centre for Policy on Ageing, December 2009, 90 pp (+ 54 pp appendices).

The Department of Health (DH) commissioned the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) to undertake four separate reviews from the literature to provide evidence of ageism and age discrimination in the UK in social care, secondary health care, mental health services, and primary health care. The remit for this review of primary care services was to signpost areas where negative discrimination may be occurring. The focus is primarily on the experiences of older people in their access to general practitioner (GP) services, treatment, quality of care, referrals, preventative strategies and prescribing, as well as access to rehabilitation services, palliative care, dental care, eye care, foot care and hearing services. Discussion on use of quality adjusted life years (QALYs) by the National Institute for Health and Clinical excellence (NICE) notes that expert opinion is divided. The review concludes that discrimination in health care may occur in policies and practices, systems and structures, resources and staffing, and health promotion and ageing well. Appendix 1 (6 pp), on methodology, notes search strategies and processes, and the search results for the databases searched. Appendix 2 (48 pp), a bibliography, lists all items found; key items cited are also listed at the end of the main report. Evidence from this review will support DH activities to root out age discrimination in the context of the European Commission Draft Directive COM (2008) 425 (July 2008) and the introduction of the Equality Bill to Parliament (April 2009). This review has informed 'Achieving age equality in health and social care', the review from the South West region by Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd. (RH)

From: Centre for Policy on Ageing, 25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP. Available at: http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews.html

Ageism and age discrimination in secondary health care in the United Kingdom: a review from the literature; commissioned by the Department of Health; by Centre for Policy on Ageing - CPA. London: Centre for Policy on Ageing, December 2009, 73 pp (+ 56 pp appendices).

The Department of Health (DH) commissioned the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) to undertake four separate reviews from the literature to provide evidence of ageism and age discrimination in the UK in social care, secondary health care, mental health services, and primary health care. This review of secondary health care is a rapid semi-systematic literature based review, which considers ageist attitudes in healthcare and older patients’ experiences of hospital care. It reviews areas of discrimination in the treatment of particular conditions, and comments that it is common for older people to be excluded from clinical trials. Discussion on use of quality adjusted life years (QALYs) by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) concludes that expert opinion is divided. However, there is general consensus that appropriate education and training would root out ageism in the NHS. The review concludes that there is evidence of under-investigation and under-treatment, and indications of indirect discrimination against older people through inadequate
provision of necessary hospital services. However, cases of explicit, direct discrimination in secondary health care policy have been rare since publication of the National Service Framework for Older People (NSF) in 2001. Appendix 1 (6 pp), on methodology, notes search strategies and processes, and the search results for the databases searched. Appendix 2 (50 pp), a bibliography, lists all items found; key items cited are also listed at the end of the main report. This review has been conducted in the context of the European Commission Draft Directive COM (2008) 425 (July 2008) and the introduction of the Equality Bill to Parliament (April 2009); and it has also informed ‘Achieving age equality in health and social care’ (2009), the review led from the South West region by Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd. (RH)

From: Centre for Policy on Ageing, 25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP. Available at: http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews.html


The Department of Health (DH) commissioned the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) to undertake four separate reviews from the literature to provide evidence of ageism and age discrimination in the UK in social care, secondary health care, mental health services, and primary health care. This review of adult social care services aimed to determine whether older people (aged 65+) in the UK are treated less favourably than younger users in the way resources are allocated, needs are assessed, care is planned and services are delivered. The study looks at all aspects of the potential for ageism and age discrimination in adult social care, including institutional and individual ageism and age discrimination; quality and level of services; direct and indirect discrimination; differential levels of funding, allocation of resources, and policies on charging for services; attitudes of professional staff; and evidence reflected in service users’ attitudes and views. Also considered are residential care, extra-care housing, end of life care, older people with learning disabilities, and older prisoners. Concluding comments consider the extent of age discrimination in relation to systems and structures, policy and practice, and resources and funding. The evidence from this review will support DH activities to root out age discrimination in the context of the European Commission Draft Directive COM (2008) 425 (July 2008) and the introduction of the Equality Bill to Parliament (April 2009). The review has also informed ‘Achieving age equality in health and social care’ (2009), the review led from the South West region by Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd. Appendix 1 (7 pp), on methodology, notes search strategies and processes, and the search results for the databases searched. Appendix 2 (23 pp), a bibliography, lists all items found; key items cited are also listed at the end of the main report. (RH)

From: Centre for Policy on Ageing, 25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP. Available at: http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews.html

Ageism set to be outlawed: [the Age Discrimination Review]; by John Dixon.
Community Care, issue 1799, 10 December 2009, p 26.
The immediate Past President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) sets out what social care services must do to end age discrimination by 2012, in line with the Equality Bill (2009/10 Parliamentary session). He writes from his perspective as chair of the advisory group working in the South West with Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd on the Age Discrimination Review, which recommends implementing the ban on age discrimination by 2012. People working in both sectors (health and social care) are keen to see an end to age discrimination in their work on personalising services. (RH)
ISSN: 03075508
From: www.communitycare.co.uk

Bipolar disorder: overcoming ageism; by Mark Salter.
GM (Geriatric Medicine), vol 39, no 2, February 2009, pp 86-88.
Ageism within the National Health Service (NHS) and society as a whole has meant that some older people with bipolar disorder do not get access to the services they need. Dawn Powell talks to Dr Mark Salter about the need to see the patient not their birth certificate. Dr Salter is a Consultant Psychiatrist at City and Hackney Centre for Mental Health, Homerton University Hospital, London. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 0268201X
From: http://www.gerimed.co.uk

A comparison of psychiatric consultation between geriatric and non-geriatric medical inpatients; by Sarah E Schellhorn, John W Barnhill, Valentine Raiteri (et al).
The authors examine changes in psychiatric referral patterns for geriatric inpatients since last reported in the United States, more than 20 years ago, and compare geriatric psychiatric referrals to those of a non-geriatric
cogho. Their retrospective study compared psychiatric diagnosis, treatment and aftercare of 474 younger (ages 18-60 years) and 487 older (aged 60+) patients seen in psychiatric consultation in a large, urban, university-based tertiary care hospital setting. Compared to previous reports in the literature, this cohort contains a notably higher percentage of the old-old (>80 years), reflecting the general ageing of those who are hospitalised. Compared to younger patients, geriatric inpatients were more commonly referred for psychiatric consultation, but overall rates of referral remain low (<4%). Geriatric patients were diagnosed with dementia and delirium more frequently; with substance dependence less frequently; and were just as likely to be diagnosed with depression. Geriatric patients were also more likely to receive atypical antipsychotic medications and less likely to receive benzodiazepines than younger patients. In patients diagnosed with depression, psychiatric follow-up is more likely relegated to outpatient geriatricians and nursing homes. Consulting psychiatrists frequently encounter geriatric patients and, given patterns of diagnosis and aftercare, should play a major role in medical staff education and in development of enhanced in-hospital and aftercare services, including psychiatric liaison. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 08856230
From: http://www.interscience.wiley.com/journal/gps

Directive 2000/78 - Equal treatment in employment and occupation - Age discrimination - Dismissal by reason of retirement - Justification: Judgement of the Court (Third Chamber) in Case C-388/07; by European Court of Justice - ECJ; Age Concern England - ACE.: Electronic format, 5 March 2009, 9 pp.
The European Court of Justice ruling on the High Court's request for a preliminary determination on whether or not the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 correctly transpose the Equal Treatment Directive in UK law. The reference was made in the course of proceedings between The Incorporated Trustees of the National Council on Ageing (Age Concern England) and the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The European Court of Justice made the ruling on 5 March 2009, that national rules such as those set out in the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 fall within the scope of Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. The ruling can be downloaded from the website, but the information on this website is subject to a disclaimer and a copyright notice. (KJ/RH)

The Equality Bill was debated in the House of Commons on 11 May 2009, and this briefing outlines the measures contained in the Bill. At present, discrimination against carers takes many forms. While protection against direct discrimination in employment is included in the Bill, carers will still have to request flexible working from their employers. Carers UK and the House of Commons' Work and Pensions Committee disagree, and believe that the Bill should make provision for reasonable adjustment to ensure carers' participation in the workplace. Carers UK draws attention to its dossier on discrimination (http://www.carersuk.org/Newsandcampaigns/News/1239268359), where carers can provide their own evidence. (RH)
From: Carers UK, 20 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4LX.http://www.carersuk.org

This equality impact assessment looks at the impact of particular measures of the Equality Bill, the aim of which is to tackle discrimination and promote equality of opportunity. It broadly follows the structure of the Bill itself. Of particular interest will be Chapter 3, on protecting against age discrimination outside the workplace, and Chapter 4, on disability-specific changes; and establishing a single equality Duty on public authorities. (RH)

Age Concern and Help the Aged welcome proposals to include protection from discrimination on multiple grounds in the Equality Bill. This consultation response to the Government Equalities Office updates evidence provided by the Age Reference Group on Equality and Human Rights in 2005 in 'Age and ... multiple discrimination and older people: a discussion paper'. It identifies examples of multiple disadvantage and discrimination as the affect older women; gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender older people; older people
with disabilities; and black and minority ethnic (BME) older people. It also answers some of the specific questions posed in the GEO's document. (RH)

From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. www.ageconcern.org.uk
Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk Email: robert.brown@helptheaged.org.uk


The Government Equalities Office (GEO) outlines further proposals for a new legal ban on harmful age discrimination, which will make sure older people do not face unfair or substandard treatment when buying goods or using services, such as in shops, hospitals, or when accessing car and holiday insurance. The consultation published on 29 June 2009 covers three main areas: health and social care; financial services; and other services, including commercial services such as group holidays and concessions for particular age groups (including discounts). The annexes include definitions of direct and indirect discrimination; areas not covered in the consultation (for example, volunteering); and a section on objective justification (that is, where different treatment because of age can be justified). The link http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/age_consultation.aspx includes response forms as well as the consultation document. The closing date for comments is 30 September 2009. (KJ/RH)

From: Government Equalities Office, 9th Floor, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.
Download from website (30/6/09):http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/13511%20GEO%20Consultation%206th.pdf

Equivalence or difference? Revisiting the concept of age equality: report of an Age Concern seminar [held in January 2009]; by Age Concern and Help the Aged. London: Age Concern and Help the Aged, June 2009, 18 pp.

In June 2008, the Government had announced its intention to introduce legislation to outlaw age discrimination in goods, facilities and services (GFS) as part of the equality Bill. In January 2009, Age Concern held a seminar chaired by Andrew Harrop to explore the concept of age equality, with particular reference to older people. This report outlines speakers' presentations and the discussions that followed. Among concepts discussed were "agelessness" and issues around dignity. The seminar posed a series of linked questions, for example, should the focus be on age-old prejudice; to what extent should we promote age-based interventions that favour older people; and would human rights - or "equal human dignity" - provide a better framework for tackling old-age prejudice? (RH)

From: Download: http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/Documents/Equivalenceordifference.pdf


In 2006 and again in 2008, the European Union surveyed large numbers of people in each of the EU Member States regarding discrimination and inequality in Europe. The findings from the initial Eurobarometer survey in 2006 provided insight into the perceptions, attitudes, knowledge and awareness of discrimination and inequality in the EU. The most recent findings track how these perceptions and opinions have changed in the intervening year, which this article outlines. While the survey notes evidence of efforts to combat discrimination, it is too soon for the effects of implementing two anti-discrimination EU Council Directives to be discerned. Meanwhile, AGE - the European Older People's Platform has been working with AARP through the Anti-Discrimination Expert Group. (RH)

From: http://www.aarpinternational.org/themaj

Evaluation of 'see me' - the national Scottish campaign against stigma and discrimination associated with mental ill-health; by Fiona Myers, Amy Woodhouse, Indiya Whitehead (et al), Social Research, Scottish Executive; Rethink; Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive Social Research, 2009, 4 pp.

Health and Community Care Research Findings, no 73, 2009, 4 pp.

The national Scottish campaign against stigma and discrimination associated with mental ill-health - called 'see me' - was launched in October 2002. Funded as part of the Scottish Executive National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing, but managed by an alliance of five mental health organisations, the campaign's activities have included national-level publicity campaigns targeted at the general population, targeted publicity campaigns aimed at specific groups or environments, work with the media, and support for local activities. These research findings outline the results of an independent evaluation of the inception and first
four years of 'see me' which was commissioned by the then Scottish Executive in 2006. The aims of the evaluation were to: co-ordinate a detailed account of the development and activities of 'see me'; determine the extent to which the campaign had met its own strategic objectives; and make recommendations for future work in Scotland to address stigma and discrimination experienced by people with mental health problems. The full research report on the project can be viewed on the Social Research website (www.scotland.gov.uk/socialresearch). (RH)

Price: FOC

From: Scottish Executive Social Research website: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/socialresearch Queries about the research to: socialresearch@scotland.gsi.gov.uk


An overview of the Equality Bill notes how the Bill, when enacted, will strengthen equality law on matters that include: reducing socio-economic inequalities; putting a new Equality Duty on public bodies; banning age discrimination outside the workplace; protecting carers from discrimination; and strengthening protection from discrimination for disabled people. Part 2 of this document outlines what the Bill means for people including those from ethnic minorities, disabled people, older people, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people. (RH)

From: Government Equalities Office, 9th Floor, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.


In 2009, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and the newly merged charity Age Concern and Help the Aged (Age UK from Spring 2010) jointly established a programme of research and policy seminars called 'Just Ageing?: Fairness, equality and the life course'. The aim was to create a deeper understanding of equality over the life course, and to build momentum for action on the disadvantage that accumulates at different stages of the life and results in inequality in old age. This report builds on the Equality Bill published in 2009. It presents key findings, drawing on new research commissioned by the programme and five seminars held in 2009. It provides background on why questions about ageing, equality and the life course are important and outlines different ways of thinking about these issues. It presents new findings relating to early, mid and late life course factors that affect equality in later life. It offers eight key insights from the research and the seminars, for example the need to increase the voices of older and younger people, and to pay more attention to unpaid carers. The weblink www.equalityhumanrights.com/justageing provides further information. (RH)


Making older people equal: reforming the law on access to services in Northern Ireland: report for the Changing Ageing Partnership (Cap); by Lisa Glennon, Brice Dickson, Institute of Governance, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast. Belfast: Changing Ageing Partnership, February 2009, 93 pp.

The Changing Ageing Partnership (Cap) commissioned this research which was conducted between February 2008 and February 2009. The aim was to examine the laws in other countries to see how they protect people against discrimination on the grounds of age when accessing goods, facilities or services. The aim was to see if such laws could be implemented in Northern Ireland. The four jurisdictions examined - the Republic of Ireland, Canada, the United States, and Australia - have similar legal systems to that of Northern Ireland; and in each, the law was found to protect older people against this form of discrimination very effectively. The report notes widespread support throughout Northern Ireland for the need to do more to ensure older people's rights are protected and promoted and to reform the law accordingly. (RH)


Making the case: why children should be protected from age discrimination and how it should be done: proposals for the Equality Bill; by Young Equals; Children's Rights Alliance for England.: Children's Rights Alliance for England, 2009, 23 pp.

Young Equals is a group of charities and children who are campaigning to stop age discrimination. The group is coordinated by the Children's Rights Alliance for England, while 11 Million, the Children's Commissioner for England, and the Equality and Human Rights Commission have observer status. The Equality Bill going
through Parliament proposes to extend age discrimination protection to cover the provision of goods, facilities and services. However, protection for children is currently excluded from the proposed legislation. This publication brings together evidence showing why children need protection against age discrimination. The evidence cited relates to lack of: equal access to: public buildings and public transport for babies and young children; healthcare; child protection; justice; public leisure facilities; shops and restaurants; and public transport for older children. The publication was coordinated and written by the Children's Rights Alliance for England, and funded by Save the Children UK. (RH)

From: Children's Rights Alliance for England, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF. Website: www.crae.org.uk


Professor Sir Michael Marmot has been asked to advise the Secretary of State for Health on the future development of a health inequalities strategy in England post 2010. Age Concern and Help the Aged comment on issues raised in the consultation document on the first phase of the Strategic Review. First, it is suggested that the Review should consider 'financial capability' in order to reduce 'material inequalities. Second, implementing the Lifetime Neighbourhood strategy will contribute to reducing health inequalities. Third, older people should be considered as a vulnerable group. Fourth, equality legislation is essential to reduce health inequalities. Fifth, an ageing society should be considered as one of the cross-cutting challenges. The organisation has considered age discrimination in health and social care in more detail in its Response to the National Review of Age Discrimination in Health and Social Care call for evidence. (RH)


On the origins of ageism among older and younger adults; by Ehud Bodner.


Ageism is apparent in many social structures and contexts and in diverse forms over the life cycle. This review discusses the development and consequences of ageism toward older people by others of any age, according to the Terror Management Theory (TMT) and the Social Identity Theory (SIT). A systematic search of the literature was carried out on the social and psychological origins of ageism in younger and older adults. Studies on the reasons for ageism among older adults point to attitudes that older adults have toward their own age group, while studies on ageism in young adults explain it as an unconscious defensive strategy which younger adults use against death anxiety. In other words, TMT can serve as a suitable framework for ageism in younger adults, and SIT appears to explain ageism in older adults. A dissociation of the linkage between death and old age in younger adults can be achieved by changing the concepts of death and old age. For older adults, it is recommended to improve self-worth by encouraging social contacts in which older adults contribute to younger adults, weaken the effects of age stereotypes in TV programmes, and prepare middle-aged adults for living healthy lives as older adults. However, these conclusions should be regarded with caution, because several key areas (age related cues, activated cognitive processes, impact of death awareness on ageism) need to be investigated in order to validate this understanding of the origins of ageism among younger and older adults.

(KJ/RH)

ISSN: 10416102

From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/ipg


This report celebrates the first anniversary of the Commission. It features the stories of ten people whose lives have in some way been touched by the Commission during its first year. It gives an insight into why the Commission exists and what they will try to achieve for those facing disadvantage and discrimination. With pictures by the photographer, Suki Dhanda and words by reporter and columnist, Tanya Gold.

(KJ)


The author reflects on the operation of the European Directive 2000/78 (Equal treatment in employment and occupation - Age discrimination - Dismissal by reason of retirement - Justification) and the UK's Age Discrimination Regulations, in the light of legal action taken by Age Concern England (ACE) to challenge the operational interpretation of several aspects of the EU Directive. The case came before the English High Court...
in 2007, and in July of that year was sent to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) which has now made its judgment. The author reflects upon this judgment which he opines does not fully support the Regulations to regulate robustly against age discrimination. The author is Chief Executive Officer of TAEN - The Age and Employment Network. The judgment can be viewed at the website link: http://curia.europa.eu/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=rechercher&numaff=C-388/07 (KJ/RH)

From: http://www.aarpinternational.org/thelournal

The ban on unjustifiable age discrimination in health and social care should be brought into force in 2012, along with other sectors covered by goods, facilities and services provisions. This document draws together examples of evidence that Age Concern and Help the Aged found regarding the pernicious effects of age discrimination against older people in health and social care. At worst, age discrimination can be a matter of life and death. Age discrimination in health and social care are best understood as three different but connected mechanisms: explicit age-based policies; frontline decisions and behaviours; and organisational level decisions. Evidence from examples of age discrimination are outlined in respect of cancer, stroke, cardiology, depression, footcare, continence, palliative care and social care. The organisation's survey of members of the British Geriatric Society (BGS) found that 47% think that the NHS is institutionally ageist, and 77% would support the introduction of legislation against age discrimination in the NHS. This document identifies eight key themes for action: national leadership; transparency and accountability; workforce; incentives; innovation; regulation; personalisation and choice; and information technology. (RH)

From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. www.ageconcern.org.uk Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk Email: robert.brown@helptheaged.org.uk

Self-reported ageism in social work practitioners and students; by Priscilla D Allen, Katie E Cherry, Erdman Palmore.: The Haworth Press, Inc., 2009, pp 124-134.
The focus is on self-reported ageism in college students and social service providers; and this Louisiana-based study uses the Relating to Older People Evaluation (ROPE), Cherry and Palmore, 2008). The ROPE is a 20-item questionnaire that measures positive and negative ageist behaviours that people engage in during everyday life. Participants included 63 undergraduate and 27 graduate social work students and 41 practising social service providers in nursing home and mental health settings. Findings indicate that people of varying educational backgrounds and occupational experience in social services readily admit to positive ageist behaviours. Item analyses revealed similarities and differences between groups in the most and least frequent forms of ageism endorsed. Ageism as a social phenomenon with implications related to social work policy and practice is discussed. (RH)
ISSN: 01634372
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

'So forget how old I am!': examining age identities in the face of chronic conditions; by Philip A Rozario, Daniel Derienzis. Sociology of Health & Illness, vol 31, no 4, May 2009, pp 540-553.
The construction of age identity in older people with chronic conditions is examined using semi-structured interviews with 45 participants from two senior centres in Long Island townships in New York State. The authors applied symbolic interactionism and the concept of stigma in participants' narratives to identify three categories of age identities: definitely old; definitely not old; and ambivalent about their age identity. Further, they examined the metaphors of agelessness and the mask of ageing, relationship between chronological age and age identity, as well as the age-related stereotypes that older people offered in their narratives of their experiences of old age. Ideas about the meaning of old age itself varied, with some focusing on predominantly negative descriptors, while others saw it positively, i.e. as a time allowing for more freedom and self-exploration. The influence of chronic conditions on older people's age identities is more complex and nuanced that the characterisations promoted by ageist stereotypes. (RH)
ISSN: 01419889
From: http://www.blackwellpublishing.com
Submission to Joint Committee on Human Rights on the human rights compatibility of the Equality Bill; by Robert Brown, Age Concern and Help the Aged. London: Age Concern and Help the Aged, June 2009, 7 pp (Submission, Ref: 3509).

Age Concern and Help the Aged have collected much evidence on the pernicious effects of age discrimination on older people's human rights. This response notes Help the Aged's previous response in 2008 to the Joint Committee on Human Rights's call for evidence regarding the then unpublished Bill. Now that the Bill has been published, this submission comments on: goods and services; disability related discrimination; discrimination against carers; multiple discrimination; premises access; volunteers; forced retirement; and the public sector equality duty. (RH)

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In 2007/08, citizens' advice bureaux (CABs) dealt with 73,890 health and social care issues, of which a large proportion involved older people. This submission comments that most examples of discrimination seen by CABs are indirect: the design of a service means that some older people find it difficult to access a service because of their age. Three areas where service delivery is not sufficiently designed around the needs of older people are hospital transport, help with hospital travel costs, and discharge from hospital. This submission highlights some of the many cases seen by bureaux where it is the combination of a person's age and disability that creates additional needs or vulnerability that are not recognised or provided for. This amounts to multiple discrimination, and often also a failure to make reasonable adjustments relating to the disability. Citizens Advice calls for a provision to outlaw direct and indirect multiple discrimination to be included in the Equality Bill. Such a provision could lead to health and social care providers taking greater account of the combined impact of their users' age and disability. It would provide an additional lever for users, their families and advisers to challenge poor services. (KJ/RH)

From: http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/cr_equalitydiversitydiscrimination/national_review_of_age_discrimination/in_health_and_social_care


'Tomorrow's doctors' is a draft for consultation from the General Medical Council (GMC) on standards for undergraduate medical education. Age Concern England (ACE) and Help the Aged outline concerns around the quality of care received by older patients and on making clinical judgements on the basis of age, particularly in respect of mental health. Also sought is better training for conditions such as dementia and incontinence. Doctors should be trained so that they can work with patients as active participants. (RH)

From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. www.ageconcern.org.uk

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Age Concern and Help the Aged respond to the consultation by the Government Equalities Office (GEO) consultation on the proposed Equal Treatment Directive, by focusing on the "strong and compelling evidence of age discrimination in healthcare". While the National Service Framework for Older People (NSF) has resulted in removing the most explicit barriers affecting older people, two key barriers remain at age 65+: mental health services and the funding and assessment processes for social care. This response also comments on age-related practices in financial services; the scope of the Directive, for example, on the inclusion of housing; the positive action provisions of Article 5; and the length of time for implementing the Directive. (RH)

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The third wave of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) considered the concept of "social detachment" as a measurement of exclusion in older age. This Help the Aged briefing considers various aspects of older people's social, civic and cultural engagement, and its impact on quality of life. It considers both
inequalities within the older population and ways in which older people may be disadvantaged in general. Although a considerable body of evidence may be available to researchers, this may not necessarily be available to the general public. Even where such knowledge exists, there remain elements which are not “age-proofed” or where assumptions have been made about older people which may no longer be correct. Ways of rectifying such errors or gaps in our knowledge are suggested. (RH)

From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk  Email: info@helptheaged.org.uk


The Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) was commissioned by the Department of Health (DH) to undertake four reviews from the literature to identify possible evidence of age discrimination in policy and practice in secondary health care, primary health care, mental health services and social care in the UK. This pack includes the briefing for the symposium, and Nat Lievesley’s Powerpoint presentation which concludes with an outline of the four main themes discussed: organisational structures; age discrimination or age differentiation; fair processes for service delivery; and cultures and attitudes. (RH)


Extensive research on health disparities documents persistent differential diagnosis and treatment of many conditions according to patient characteristics, physician attributes, and healthcare systems. Less is known about how physicians arrive at their decisions. The authors use qualitative data from a vignette-based factorial experiment to examine how physicians reason through and account for their clinical decisions, and how variations arise despite the presentation of identical symptoms of coronary heart disease (CHD). It was found that physicians show evidence of cognitive biases but also actively interpret social characteristics they deem relevant to medical treatment. In an uncertain clinical context, these diagnostic pathways expose key junctures wherein physicians are detoured to alternative diagnoses, their certainty of CHD lowered, and scientific logic makes it difficult to return to a CHD diagnosis - thereby providing a fuller picture of why some cases are counted as CHD while others are not. These results have important implications insofar as diagnostic decisions like these contribute to the compilation of epidemiological base rates, and are therefore used as part of Bayesian decision making to determine the probability of CHD in subsequent patients. This work resonates with social constructivist concerns regarding the ways disease categories are established and maintained, and potential sources of bias in official rates detected. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 01419889
From: http://www.blackwellpublishing.com

2008


Does ageing affect the performance of doctors? If so, can experience compensate? These are the questions that this short article seeks to address. Age discrimination legislation has meant later retirement for many, with some exemptions. Several studies of performance in physicians and surgeons have suggested that increasing age is related to inferior patient outcomes, especially when combined with decreased patient volume. In a recent systematic review of 62 published studies that measured physicians’ knowledge or quality of care and described time since graduation from medical school or age, more than half suggested that physicians’ performance declined over time for all the outcomes measured. Only one study showed improved performance with age for all outcomes. The General Medical Council (GMC) has no age limit for registration and has recently decided to withdraw the age exemption for payment of the annual retention fee for doctors who are 65 or over. This is currently under judicial review. No specific limits on practice age can be determined from the literature but there are now assessment tests of performance, in particular cognitive ability, that can be carried out as part of a structured review of competence. However, until such assessments are validated and widely accepted, some organisations may determine age (it is suggested 70 years) beyond which they would not allow continued clinical practice. Other circumstances could be identified where precautions might be taken in the later years of a doctor’s career to ensure continuing competence and adequate caseload for patient safety. However, solutions
should be sought that entail both research and education to ensure that the skills of experienced doctors can be used towards the end of their careers. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 09598138

From: www.bmj.com

The Financial Services Experts' Working Group on age discrimination was formed in April 2008 following a Government paper on the Discrimination Law Review's proposals for a Single Equality Bill. The Government invited experts from financial services and age representatives to form a working group to discuss age legislation in financial services and to present evidence. This report by the Working Group discusses and estimates the costs of these options: do nothing; introduce a system to signpost customers to firms who can meet their needs; or make unjustified age discrimination unlawful, given certain assumptions. Annexes include: a map of financial services and who regulates them; an inventory of age related products and services; relevant information relating to the European Employment Directive and legislation passed in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and the US; and analysis of provision for older people by general and long-term insurance, banking and credit. (KJ/RH)

From: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_rsf_age_discrimination.htm

Age discrimination in mental health services; by Jennifer Beecham, Martin Knapp, José-Luis Fernández (et al), Personal Social Services Research Unit - PSSRU, London School of Economics and Political Science - LSE; Centre for Social Carework Research, University of Wales, Swansea; Centre for the Economics of Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. Canterbury: PSSRU, University of Kent, May 2008, 67 pp (PSSRU Discussion paper, 2336).
The UK is considering the introduction of legislation to outlaw age discrimination in the provision of public services. This is one of four reviews commissioned by the Department of Health (DH) on eliminating age discrimination in social services and mental health services (http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085763).
This report by PSSRU staff explores the extent of age discrimination in mental health services. Three broad issues are considered: inequalities between adult and older people's mental health services; inequalities between adults and older people with mental health problems in their use of health and social care services; and knowledge about the likely single equalities legislation in current services and the possible cost implications. The report does not examine differences in outcomes. Information is based on findings from interviews with mental health organisations, reviews of previous cost studies and models, and new statistical analyses. (RH)

From: http://www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2536.pdf

An age-old problem: new anti-ageism proposals are themselves unfair; by Peter Wilby.

New Statesman, 7 July 2008, p 16.
A brief article that considers whether age discrimination legislation itself is discriminatory, as it is of more benefit to those in less need, rather than those who are more needy, due to the government's own social policies which fail to redress health and social inequalities. The context is the White Paper, 'Framework for a fairer future - the Equality Bill', given the inadequacies of the age discrimination regulations passed in October 2006. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 13647431

From: www.newstatesman.com

Ageism in Britain 2006: an Age Concern research briefing; by Katerina Tasiopoulou, Dominic Abrams, Policy Unit, Age Concern England - ACE; Centre for the Study of Group Processes - CSGP, University of Kent. London: Age Concern Reports, May 2008, 12 pp.
In 2004, Age Concern England (ACE) worked with social psychologists at the Centre for the Study of Group Processes (CSGP), University of Kent, to develop research into age-related prejudice and discrimination in Great Britain. The partnership resulted in a questionnaire which was grounded in current social psychological theory on prejudice. This 2006 survey repeats the 2004 survey, and was conducted with a sample of more than 2000 people, to test whether and how public attitudes were changing. This briefing on the findings notes early indicators of change, continuing trends, and new findings. While there are positive attitudes to older people (e.g. being warm and friendly), negative views such as being incompetent and incapable abound. Detailed findings are presented on: categorising age (how young is "young" and how old is "old"); identifying with own age group; stereotypes; attitudes towards equal opportunities for older people; perceived impact on society;
experiences of discrimination; perceived seriousness of age discrimination; and intergenerational contact. While people are becoming more aware of the importance of tackling ageism, this form of discrimination continues to be experienced widely. (RH)

From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. http://www.ageconcern.org.uk

Consultation on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's social values judgements: summary; by Age Concern England - ACE. London: Age Concern England - ACE, March 2008, 2 pp (Policy response - ref: 0608(S)).

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has developed a draft second edition of its social values judgements for public consultation. These describe the principles NICE should follow in developing guidelines, for example on drugs, the safety of procedures, and treatment of care of people with specific conditions (e.g. dementia). Age Concern England (ACE) believes that the proposed social values judgements do not fulfil NICE's legal obligations, do not promote age equality, and confuse scientific and social values. Among ACE's other recommendations is that the document should be amended to ensure that NICE's responsibility to consider both health and social care costs when deciding on cost-effectiveness. (RH)

Price: FOC


Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) is a form of economic evaluation in which outcomes are normally measured using the quality-adjusted life-year (QALY), which combines information about the length and health-related quality of life. Researchers at Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, the Centre for Health Economics, University of York, and the Department of Economics and Related Studies, University of York used Econlit, EMBASE, HMIC and Medline to search for terms relating to ageism, discrimination, cost-effectiveness and quality of life. Their review summarises the theoretical literature to answer four main questions. First, what are the specific age-based criticisms and defences of CEA (and the QALY) within the literature? Second, to what degree could alternative methods address different equity concerns raised within the general debate? Third, are alternatives presented to standard CEA within the theoretical literature incorporating equity arguments? Lastly, to what degree could alternative methods (including CEA variations) address specific proposals in the DCLG Green Paper, 'Discrimination Law Review: a framework for fairness: proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain'? (RH)

From: Download (16/9/08): http://www.leeds.ac.uk/lihs/auhe/papers/cea_ageism.pdf

The costs of addressing age discrimination in social care; by Julien Forder, Personal Social Services Research Unit - PSSRU, London School of Economics and Political Science - LSE.; Personal Social Services Research Unit - PSSRU, April 2008, 36 pp (PSSRU Discussion Paper 2538).

Equality of resources, equality of outcome, and most importantly equality of opportunity are considered as relevant to this discussion on age discrimination in service provision. This report is concerned with equality between age groups in relation to the use of public care services. It uses two survey-based datasets are used to examine differences in levels of support between age groups: the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), and the national evaluation of Individual Budgets survey (IBSEN). Both datasets gave indications of differences in levels of support between age groups after accounting for differences required to compensate people with varying levels of need. The IBSEN data suggest that service users aged 65+ would require a 25% increase in support for these age differences compared to those aged 18-64 to be be removed. The BHPS data more tentatively suggest that older people's access to services is slightly more limited than for younger people. (RH)


The dangers and limitations of equality agendas as means for tackling old-age prejudice; by Colin Duncan.

This paper presents a critique of both the concept of age equality and of the limited scope it offers as a means for challenging old-age prejudice. The equality constructs that feature in anti-ageism initiatives and in current discourses on intergenerational equality have proved susceptible to political and ideological manipulation, which has led to the illegitimate dissociation of ageism from older age and promoted damaging notions of age equivalence. The consequence has been that old-age prejudice has been de-prioritised, and older people have
been de-legitimised socially and as welfare constituency. The corrective is best sought outside the confines of age equality frameworks, although legal remedies may play a useful role if human dignity is incorporated as an equality criterion. This paper also assesses other approaches to tackling old-age prejudice that avoid the constraints of equality constructs and engage more firmly with its roots. The notion of the 'third age' with new social roles merits reconsideration as an affordable alternative to current policies of work obligation and pension retrenchment. Radical interventions in the labour market in favour of older people may also be needed. Age activism and advocacy will increasingly influence policy on prejudice as an old-being in older age, but changed emphases are needed, as from defensive strategies and the ideologies of generational interdependence and solidarity, towards the promotion of organisational, financial and social autonomy in older age. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 0144686X
From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/ASO

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills consultation: Towards a DIUS single equality scheme: summary [of Age Concern's response]; by Age Concern England - ACE. London: Age Concern England, August 2008, 3 pp (Policy response - ref: 1808(S)).
The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) consultation document, 'Towards a DIUS single equality scheme' sets out how DIUS intends to deliver on its commitments to equality and diversity through three main levels of activity; as an employer, as a policy-making department, and as a sponsor of the further and higher education sectors and science and innovation activities. While Age Concern England (ACE) welcomes the consultation on its proposed equality scheme, disappointment is expressed that age is not included on the same basis as gender, disability and race. This summary notes key points and ACE's recommendations on: the importance of "age-proofing" departmental policy; age inequality; and DIUS's main areas of activity. ACE strongly urges DIUS to incorporate age in the forthcoming Single Equality Bill. (RH)

Price: FOC

Discriminatory behavior toward a person with Alzheimer's disease: examining the effects of being in a nursing home; by Perla Werner. Taylor & Francis, November 2008, pp 786-794.
Aging & Mental Health, vol 12, no 6, November 2008, pp 786-794.
A telephone survey was conducted with a representative sample of 501 lay persons (mean age 49) in Israel in summer 2007, and information regarding their discriminatory behaviour towards a male person with Alzheimer's disease (AD) was elicited using a vignette methodology. The effect of emotional reactions, perceptions of dangerousness and responsibility of the person depicted in the vignette as well as perceptions about the susceptibility of developing AD were examined, also the effects of place of residence. Four forms of discriminatory behaviour were found: coercion to restraint physically, coercion to restraint medically, segregation, and avoidance. Results provide partial support for an extended version of an attribution model, in that negative emotions were found to increase discrimination, whereas pity decreased avoidance. Perceptions of dangerousness were one of the main variables predicting discrimination. Contrary to the hypothesised relationships, being in a nursing home did not increase discrimination. The study adds new information about factors associated to the stigma of AD. (RH)
ISSN: 13607863
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

BGS Newsletter, issue 18, October 2008, pp 14-17.
The recent report by Age Concern England, 'Undiagnosed, untreated, at risk: the experiences of older people with depression' (ACE, 2008), highlights the "scandalous treatment" of older people suffering from depression. This article outlines the report's findings, which point to ageism in the treatment of depression in older people, but notes the Government's intentions towards age equality in health and social care. It discusses three obstacles to recovery: lack of awareness and negative attitudes; ageist attitudes among health professionals; and a system that discriminates against older people. It notes Age Concern's three-point plan to improve the lives of older people with depression: encourage them to seek help; ensure they are correctly diagnosed; and ensure they get the treatment they need. (RH)
ISSN: 17486343
From: http://www.bgsnet.org.uk
Older overseas-born Australians of diverse cultural and language backgrounds experience significant disparities in their health and social care needs and support systems. Despite being identified as a 'special needs' group, the ethnic aged in Australia are generally underserved by local health and social care services, experience unequal burdens of disease, and encounter cultural and language barriers to accessing appropriate health and social care compared to the average Australian-born population. While a range of causes have been suggested to explain these disparities, rarely has the possibility of cultural racism been considered. In this article, it is suggested that cultural racism be named as a possible cause of ethnic aged disparities and disadvantage in health and social care. It is further suggested that unless cultural racism is named as a structural mechanism by which ethnic aged disparities in health and social care have been created and maintained, redressing them will remain difficult. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 14406381

Ethnography and other qualitative data-gathering and analytical techniques were used to gather data from 309 participants (residents, family and staff) from 6 residential care or assisted living (RC-AL) settings in Maryland. Data were analysed using grounded theory techniques for emergent themes. Four themes emerged that related to stigma in RC-AL: ageism in long-term care; stigma as related to disease and illness; sociocultural aspects of stigma; and RC-AL as a stigmatising setting. Some strategies used in RC-AL settings to combat stigma include family member advocacy on behalf of stigmatised residents, assertion of resident autonomy, and administrator awareness of potential stigmatisation. Findings suggest that changes could be made to the structure as well as the process of care delivery to minimise the occurrence of stigma in RC-AL settings. Structural changes include an examination of how best, given the resident case mix, to accommodate care for people with dementia (e.g. separate units or integrated care). Processes of care include staff recognition of resident preferences and strengths, rather than their limitations. (RH)
ISSN: 00169013
From: http://www.geron.org

Just before the launch in 2000 of the Community action programme to combat discrimination, the European Commission noted the need for "data to measure the extent and impact of discrimination". This analytical study targets a twofold objective: The first is to develop a conceptual framework for evaluating progress in equality and anti-discriminatory efforts, and to formulate suggestions for indicators. The second is to start examining statistical data available and international, European and national levels that might contribute to evaluating progress made. The discrimination fields discussed are race and ethnic origin; age; disability; sexual orientation; and religion and convictions. Included as an annex is the text of the questionnaire sent to each member State. (RH)
Price: FOC
From: Order via website: http://bookshop.europa.eu

Following the Discrimination Law Review, this White Paper sets out the purpose and aims of the proposed Equality Bill, which will introduce a new Equality Duty on public bodies. The Bill will also de-clutter and strengthen the equality legislation, which has become complex and hard to understand. A short chapter on ending age discrimination states that the Bill will make it unlawful to discriminate against someone because of age when providing goods, facilities and services, or carrying out public functions. Other provisions proposed include: the requirement for transparency in tackling discrimination; extending positive action in employment; and strengthening enforcement in dealing with discrimination cases. A more comprehensive paper on the Bill's content is due to be published that will include the Government's response to the consultation. Discrimination

Alan Johnson has made tackling health inequalities one of his priorities. Rebecca Evans reports on an interview with the Secretary of State for Health, in which he comments on the target to improve life expectancy at birth by 10% by 2010. He is also of the opinion that age discrimination in health care should not be tolerated: everyone should be entitled to the same treatment. The value of joint working involving primary care trusts (PCTs) is emphasised. As for any future focus, Sir Michael Marmot has been commissioned to consider what the focus should be after 2010. (RH)

ISSN: 09522271
From: http://www.hsj.co.uk


In this study, 70 psychology students in Louisiana and 30 mental health professionals completed the Knowledge of Memory Aging Questionnaire, Alzheimer's Disease Knowledge test and the Fraboni Scale of Ageism before and after a lecture on normal and pathological memory issues in adulthood. Results confirmed that professionals were more knowledgeable about memory ageing and Alzheimer's disease (AD) and less ageist than college students/ Analyses of pre- and post-lecture response accuracy yielded comparable benefits in memory ageing and AD knowledge for both groups. Correlations analyses provided modest evidence for the influence of ageist attitudes on the knowledge measures. Implications for memory education courses and psychology curriculum are considered. (RH)

ISSN: 13607863
From: http://www.tandfonline.com


Participants in the recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) consultation "What are today's social evils?" revealed a strong sense of unease about some of the changes shaping British society. This Viewpoint continues the discussion about modern "social evils" on the theme of "inequality". Chris Creegan is Deputy Director of the Qualitative Research Unit at the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). He argues that until we can reconcile the problems of excessive individualism, consumerism and greed at the heart of contemporary society, life opportunities will continue to be lost, limited and wasted. Examples discussed include opportunities lost for older people, whose needs have become invisible compared to those at other stages of life; and the limited opportunities afforded to carers. (RH)

ISSN: 09583084
Price: download

Pain in older people: reflections and experiences from an older person's perspective; by Arun Kumar, Nick Allcock, Help the Aged; University of Nottingham; British Pain Society. London: Help the Aged, 2008, 41 pp.

Help the Aged found in a previous literature review that pain was one of nine issues to be dealt with, if older people using health and social care services are to be treated with dignity. In Part I of this publication, articles by six older people describe their thoughts and experiences of suffering pain regularly in older age. Part II is a summary of key literature and policy, highlighting the fundamental messages from research, and the lessons learned for assessing and managing pain. The authors wish to see four main points established. First, pain is not a normal part of ageing. Second, ageist and discriminatory attitudes toward older people in pain must be challenged and ended. Third, attention should be focused on identifying the physical, psychological and social risk factors relating to persistent pain in old age. Lastly, the impact that pain has on older people's quality of life and dignity must be recognised. Accordingly, recommendations are made for government and policy-makers, regulatory and professional bodies, and the NHS and social care agencies. It suggests areas where further research is required. (RH)
The parameters of prejudice: knowledge of ethics and age bias; by Jane M Roberts.
This study examined two matters pertinent to social work practice: professional ethics and age bias among practising social workers. Because social work ethics demand competent practice within one’s area of proficiency, and because bias toward any segment of social work clientele impedes competent practice, prejudicial attitudes toward older people are problematic. This study found that age bias exists among practising social workers (n=367), with no discernible association between knowledge of professional ethical standards and age bias. The findings suggest a subtle and pervasive bias associated with work with older people. Positive bias was more prevalent than negative bias. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 01634372
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

The Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) has undertaken a literature review of the likely costs and benefits of legislation to outlaw age discrimination in health and social care on behalf of the Department of Health (DH). The review distinguishes “ageism”, an attitude of mind, from “age discrimination”, an unjustifiable difference in treatment based solely on age. The review and three reports commissioned by the DH were published to coincide with the launch of the first draft of the Equalities Bill, and can be accessed via the CPA website (at http://www.cpa.org.uk/cpa/cpa_news.html). This briefing outlines the literature review's coverage and recommendations. (RH)

Researching age and multiple discrimination; by Richard Ward, Bill Bytheway (eds), Centre for Policy on Ageing - CPA; Centre for Ageing and Biographical Studies (CABS), Open University. London: Centre for Policy on Ageing, 2008, 100 pp (The representation of older people in ageing research series, no 8).
These papers originate from a seminar in March 2006 with the title 'Age-old prejudices: research with older people in a discriminatory world', held at the Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA), and organised jointly by CPA and the Open University's Centre for Ageing and Biographical Studies (CABS). The seminar's aim was to explore how older people encounter discrimination, and the processes involved in researching such experiences. Three of the four papers report on research undertaken in association with the OU's RoAD (Research on Age Discrimination) project. First, RoAD researchers examine the experiences of older members of three ethnic minority communities in Leeds and Bradford. In “The same hairdo”, Anthea Symonds and Caroline Holland of the OU report on older women's experiences of hairdressers, and the sorts of salon where they “belong” or “fit in”. Next, more RoAD project contributors present findings of a small-scale study on how age discrimination relates to and constrains sexuality in later life. Chi Hoon Sin, formerly of the Disability Rights Commission, anticipates the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR), by looking at constructions of age or ageing and disability or “disablism”. In their conclusion, the editors comment that while the forms of discrimination that have been discussed are unlikely to be resolved by policy and legislation such as the Equality Act 2006, the four papers support the value of involving older people in research on discrimination and ageing. (RH)
Price: £10.00
From: Central Books, 50 Freshwater Road, Chadwell Heath, Dagenham, RM8 1RX.

Seventy is the age at which "old" starts; by Joan Bakewell.
Dame Joan Bakewell, newly appointed Voice of Older People by the Government Equalities Office, offers a brief assortment of comment and opinion on personal freedom and attitudes to war. Dame Joan will help raise the profile of age equality issues and encourage public debate, particularly as the Equality Bill progresses through Parliament, and as work towards implementing the ban on harmful age discrimination is taken forward. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 13647431
From: www.newstatesman.com
The development of geriatrics has greatly improved care for older people. Three practitioners in Australia discuss the pros and cons. While Leon Flicker believes that specialist care remains important for this vulnerable group, the other two writers argue that age divisions are no longer relevant. (RH)

ISSN: 09598138
From: http://www.bmj.com

The time of their lives: [rationing]; by Alison Moore.
Health Service Journal, vol 118, no 6130, 30 October 2008, pp 20-22 (Health Inequalities). An ageing population means the question of whether some patients have more right to treatment than others will increasingly cause financial and moral conflicts. This article reviews the usefulness and usage of the quality-adjusted life year (QALY) in furthering debates around rationing of healthcare in the NHS. (RH)
ISSN: 09522271
From: http://www.hsj.co.uk

Valuing "lives saved" vs "life-years saved"; by James K Hammit, Harvard Center for Risk Analysis.: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, 2008, pp 34-37. Theory and empirical evidence suggest that neither "value per statistical life" (VSL) nor "value per statistical life years" (VSLY) is constant over an individual's life. Accurate valuation requires using values that depend on characteristics of the affected individual. This article was first published in Risk in Perspective, vol 16, no 1, March 2008, by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. It describes how the value of any intervention that alters mortality risk can be expressed using either lives saved or life years saved and the appropriate VSL or VSLY. (RH)
ISSN: 13561030
From: http://www.lse.ac.uk/LSEHealth

Worth fighting for: ten stories of ageism; by Help the Aged. London: Help the Aged, 2008, 12 pp (Just Equal Treatment campaign). Help the Aged believes that only through anti-discrimination legislation can we bring an end to ageism. This booklet is part of Help the Aged's campaign, Just Equal Treatment. Ten older people describe how the health service, social care system and financial sector have failed them because of their age. (RH)
From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk/justequaltreatment Email: info@helptheaged.org.uk

2007
Age Concern's comments on HM Treasury's consultation: 'The publication of data associated with the use of gender in the assessment of insurance risks': summary; by Age Concern England - ACE. London: Age Concern England - ACE, September 2007, 2 pp (Policy response - ref: 2707(S)). In order to implement the EU Gender Directive, the Government proposes, among other things, to amend the Sex Discrimination Act relating to insurance, to specify the circumstances under which insurance companies may charge different premiums or offer different benefits to men and women. One proposed condition is that data relevant to such differential treatment must be published and regularly updated. This response from Age Concern England (ACE) focuses on the proposal that data should be broken down by age as well as by sex. (RH)
Price: FOC

resolution; evidence of age discrimination; the case for legislation to tackle age discrimination; and justifying age discrimination in goods and services. Also noted is that the DLR does not refer to legal protection for volunteers, where evidence of age discrimination is still a problem. (RH)

Price: FOC


Age Concern England (ACE) responds to the Discrimination Law Review (DLR) Green Paper, 'A framework for fairness: proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain' (June 2007) which set out options for a clearer and more streamlined legislative framework for tackling discrimination. This policy response comments in detail on the questions raised in each of the Green Paper chapters. ACE comments on its opposition to mandatory retirement ages and its disagreement with the limited nature of priority equality objectives required of public authorities. It comments in detail on: extending a single duty to cover age; dispute resolution; evidence of age discrimination; the case for legislation to tackle age discrimination; and justifying age discrimination in goods and services. Also noted is that the DLR does not refer to legal protection for volunteers, where evidence of age discrimination is still a problem. (RH)


Although the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 are now in force, age discrimination outside the workplace remains lawful. This report presents evidence to support Age Concern England's (ACE) call for legislation against age discrimination in the provision of goods and services. It covers the following areas of concern: health and social care; volunteering and public life; and insurance and other financial services. (RH)

From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. www.ageconcern.org.uk

Ageism still the real enemy of better care; by Yvonne Roberts. Community Care, no 1663, 8 March 2007, p 16.

This commentary focuses on the recent publication, Dementia UK, a study published by the Alzheimer's Society, which for the first time estimates the true cost of dementia in the coming years. The author opines that, despite much progress being made in recent years to provide a responsive service to older people to meet their needs for support to retain independence, councils will still "savagely cut" services such as meals on wheels, often as a first step to balance local budgets. These cuts, it is felt, do reflect the value that society places on older people. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 03075508
From: http://www.communitycare.co.uk


In October 2007, a unified Commission on Equality and Human Rights ((CEHR) begins operation in Britain. As a precursor to the Commission, the Prime Minister established the Equalities Review, an independent, high-level investigation of the causes of persistent inequality and disadvantage in British society. This paper and its companion, 'Developing a capability list: final recommendations of the Equalities Review Steering Group on Measurement', were prepared as background papers to assist the development of the measurement framework for the Equalities Review. It discusses the challenges in translating capability theory into a practical measurement tool in the context of measuring inequality in Britain in the 21st century. This includes the definition of equality, a procedure for generating and revising a list of central and valuable capabilities, a measurement framework for monitoring trends in inequality, exploring the causes of inequality, and identifying possible policy interventions, and the types of information and analysis which are required. (RH)

Price: FOC
From: Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case

In October 2007, a unified Commission on Equality and Human Rights ((CEHR) begins operation in Britain. As a precursor to the Commission, the Prime Minister established the Equalities Review, an independent, high-level investigation of the causes of persistent inequality and disadvantage in British society. This paper and its companion, 'Definition of equality and framework for measurement: final recommendations of the Equalities Review Steering Group on Measurement', were prepared as background papers to assist the development of the measurement framework for the Equalities Review. The current paper focuses in more detail on the need for a list of central and valuable capabilities in terms of which inequality in Britain can be conceptualised and appraised (a 'capability list'). The paper sets out a methodological framework, which included a deliberative consultation with the general public and individuals and groups at risk of discrimination and disadvantage undertaken by Ipsos-MORI. The resulting list comprises ten domains of capability, to: be alive; live in physical security; be knowledgeable, understand and reason, and have the skills to participate in society; enjoy a comfortable standard of living with independence and security; engage in productive and valued activities; enjoy individual, family and social life; participate in decision-making, have a voice and influence; being and expressing yourself and having self-respect; and knowing you will be protected and treated fairly by the law.

Price: FOC
From: Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case


While anti-discrimination law in most EU Member States goes beyond the requirements of European law in some way, many of them still have considerable gaps. This report considers the different grounds of discrimination; the definition of discrimination (e.g. direct or indirect); the reasonable accommodation duty; exceptions to the principle of equal treatment and positive action; remedies and enforcement; equal treatment organisations; and implementation and compliance. Tables set out the general scope of the main relevant legislation in 25 EU Member States which transpose Directives 2004/43 and 2000/78. (RH)

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In the report, 'Age of equality? Outlawing age discrimination beyond the workplace', Age Concern England (ACE) has gathered evidence of continuing age discrimination against older people in all sectors of goods, facilities and services. ACE refers to that report by way of response to a general on-line consultation by the European Commission and its Policy Strategy for 2008, which signals commitment to further prevention and combating of discrimination outside the labour market. This policy response comments on the need and nature of any initiative; the nature and effectiveness of non-legislative measures; advantages and disadvantages of a single initiative; that there should be no exceptions to the principle of equal treatment; and the role of equality bodies. (RH)

Price: FOC


The Government's proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain have been developed as a result of the Discrimination Law Review, launched in February 2005. This consultation paper seeks views and responses on
the various specific proposals by 4 September 2007. It comprises 3 parts with 3 annexes. Part 1, on harmonising and simplifying the law, includes fair treatment in the provision of goods, facilities and services, of particular importance to older people. Part 2, on more effective law, considers equality duties for public and private sectors. Part 3, modernising the law, asks for views, among other things on whether changes should be made to the statutory protected grounds, the case for prohibiting age discrimination in areas outside employment, and on improving access to and use of premises for disabled people. Annexes include detailed tables on specific exceptions to discrimination law to be kept or removed. (RH)

From: Communities and Local Government Publications, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7NB. Email: communities@twoten.com Website: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/325332.pdf Other formats: alternativeformats@communities.gov.uk


The Government's proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain have been developed as a result of the Discrimination Law Review, launched in February 2005. This summary outlines the main issues covered by each of the main Discrimination Law Review documents. First, the three parts of the consultation document: harmonising and simplifying the law; making the law more effective; and modernising the law. Next, a section on the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) gives an overall summary of estimated quantifiable costs and benefits. Lastly, the equality impact assessment considers the impact of the proposals in terms of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and religion or belief. (RH)

From: Weblink: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/frameworkforfairnesssummary Other formats: alternativeformats@communities.gov.uk

Do the ABCS 135 short cognitive screen and its subtests discriminate between normal cognition, mild cognitive impairment and dementia?; by Timothy I M Standish, D William Molloy, Alwin Cunje (et al).


The AB Cognitive Screen (ABCS) is an easily administered 3-5 minute cognitive screen. The mean ABCS score is significantly different between normal cognition (NC) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and also between MCI and dementia. Verbal fluency and delayed recall sub-tests account for most of the instrument's sensitivity between NC and MCI. Verbal fluency was the most sensitive and specific of the sub-tests, especially in those aged 75+ with less than 12 years of education. These findings relate to a cross-sectional study of 302 participants with dementia and MCI at 4 geriatric clinics in southern Ontario, Canada. (RH)

ISSN: 08856230

From: http://www.interscience.wiley.com

Does disparity in the way disabled older adults are treated imply ageism?; by Robert L Kane, Reinhard Priester, Dean Neumann.


Although the nearly one in seven Americans who have disabilities share many characteristics, the attitudes toward and the programmes, care models, expenditures, and goals for people with disabilities differ substantially across age groups in ways that suggest ageism. Expenditures per recipient are substantially higher for younger individuals with disabilities, largely as a result of more effective advocacy. Programmes that are rejected by younger people with disabilities are considered mainstream for older people. As demographic, social and economic circumstances change, preserving the programmatic separation will become more problematic. Increased competition for finite resources may motivate a closer examination of commonalities across disabilities in an effort to achieve greater equity. (RH)

ISSN: 00169013

From: http://www.geron.org

Employers projects: lessons learned; by Alan Denbigh, Hilary Stevens, South West Opportunities for Older People (SWOOP), Marchmont Observatory, University of Exeter. Exeter: SWOOP Project, Marchmont Observatory, University of Exeter, 2007, 6 pp.

SWOOP is a regional partnership of agencies and organisations based at the University of Exeter that provides guidance, support and programmes to employers and individuals regarding older people's employability. SWOOP is part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) under the EQUAL Community Initiative
Programme and by the South West of England Regional Development Agency. The overall objective of the SWOOP employers' projects was to challenge and inform employers' attitudes to age discrimination. This paper outlines the three programmes working with different groups: Employer Action Working Sets (managers and personnel officers); Broker-Age (intermediaries); and Experience Matters" (older employees). (RH)

From: Marchmont Observatory, University of Exeter, St Luke's Campus, Heavitree Road, Exeter EX1 2LU. Website: www.marchmont.ac.uk SWOOP website: www.swoop-project.org.uk


This equality impact assessment considers the proposals emerging from the Discrimination Law Review which are contained in the consultation document, "Discrimination Law Review: a framework for fairness: proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain". It considers the impact of the proposals in terms of race, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and religion or belief. (RH)

From: Communities and Local Government Publications, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7NB. email: communities@twoten.com Weblink: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/frameworkforfairnesseia Other formats: alternativeformats@communities.gov.uk


Age Concern England (ACE) aims to be a key partner to the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR), and to support or challenge the Commission's work. This briefing sets out the areas ACE believes should be the priorities for such a partnership, by looking at each of CEHR's core areas, summing up the available evidence on ageing issues, and suggesting five potential objectives for each. Four core areas are examined: eliminating discrimination with fairer access to goods and services; reducing inequality, with skills and employment opportunities throughout the life course; promoting and protecting human rights through dignity, independence and control for older people; and securing good relations, by promoting understanding and inclusion across the generations. (RH)


While supporting the aims of the Discrimination Law Review Green Paper to review and not just consolidate current legislation, Carers UK has particular concerns that discrimination against carers has not been dealt with. Its response presents evidence of discrimination against carers, and puts the case for extending protection to carers in three main areas: the proposed new public sector equality duties; discrimination in employment; and discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services. A summary (4 pp) is also available. (RH)

From: Downloads from: http://www.carersuk.org/Policyandpractice/PolicyResources/Responsetogovernment


In June 2007, the Government published the consultation document, 'A framework for fairness: proposals for a Single Equality Bill for Great Britain'. Help the Aged seeks to make age discrimination illegal for healthcare, social care, insurance and financial services, and for a duty to be placed on public bodies - for example transport providers - to eliminate unlawful discrimination. This guide and questionnaire relate to these proposals. (RH)

From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk Email: info@helptheaged.org.uk

How bias starts at 65: [age discrimination in mental health services for older people]; by Gordon Lishman. Community Care, issue 1688, 30 August 2007, pp 30-31.

The Director General of Age Concern England (ACE) examines findings on older people's experience of mental health services, that much must be done if age discrimination is to be eradicated. The final report of the UK inquiry into mental health and well-being in later life (ACE: Mental Health Foundation, 2007) has ending discrimination as one of five main areas for action, and this article also considers indirect forms of discrimination. (RH)
"How do you stand working with all these old people?": [NHS staff and ageism]; by David Oliver.

Too many staff working in the National Health Service (NHS) are prone to ageism and reluctant to work with older people. The secretary of the British Geriatrics Society (BGS) calls for a change in attitudes, given an ageing population. (RH)

The human rights of older persons in healthcare: response [to the Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry] from the Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry of the Royal College of Psychiatrists; by David Anderson (chair), Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists.: unpublished, 13 February 2007, unnumbered.
The Faculty of Old Age Psychiatry provides evidence of discrimination against older people to the House of Commons /House of Lords Joint Committee on Human Rights. Referred to are: inequalities in community services; concerns about older people's privacy and dignity in their treatment in care homes and hospitals; discrimination in access to healthcare, also issues of abuse or neglect; and attitudes of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Healthcare Commission. While it cites a few positive examples of treatment for physical or mental illness, the Faculty also gives examples illustrating poor training and knowledge about human rights. The Faculty concludes that the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) should give priority to a formal inquiry on the discrimination and infringement of older people's human rights. (RH)

The impact of age discrimination legislation on the higher education sector: a literature review; by Emma Parry, Shaun Tyson, Cranfield University; Equality Challenge Unit (ECU).: Electronic format only, January 2007, unnumbered.
This literature review was commissioned by Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) in response to the UK legislation regarding age discrimination. The purpose of the review is to examine the impact of age discrimination legislation within the Higher Education (HE) sector in a range of specific countries where such legislation has existed for some time: the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Finland. The specific question that the review aims to answer is: What lessons can be learned from the experience of other countries with regard to the implementation of age legislation in the UK HE sector? (KJ/RH)

Insurance and age: exploring behaviour, attitudes and discrimination: a summary report from Age Concern and Help the Aged; research undertaken by CM Insight and Andrew Smith Research; by Age Concern England - ACE; Help the Aged. London: Age Concern Reports, in conjunction with Help the Aged, 2007, 34 pp.
Older people complain that insurance discriminates on the basis of age in two main ways: cost and access. In April 2006, Help the Aged and Age Concern England (ACE) commissioned consumer research to measure the extent and nature of age discrimination experienced by older people. Quantitative and qualitative research aimed to identify barriers to older people's access to insurance products. Andrew Smith Research conducted a quantitative phase, which recruited 229 people aged 65+ and 115 people aged 30-49. Participants took part in an initial interview to collect detailed data on attitudes, experiences and behaviour, and an insurance quotation exercise. Follow-up interviews analysed respondents' experiences in obtaining two quotations for one of three products (motor insurance, travel insurance, care hire), using two of three channels (face-to-face, telephone, internet). CM Insight conducted a qualitative phase with six focus groups (six or seven men/women aged 65-80 in each), and eight in-depth interviews (4 with respondents aged 80+, four with respondents aged 65-79 from social group DE). Participants were asked to complete a short insurance purchasing task before the group sessions. This report presents the findings, which suggest some challenges for government and insurance providers in their dealing with older people as consumers. (RH)
Insurance and age: exploring behaviour, attitudes and discrimination: a report from Age Concern and Help the Aged; research undertaken by CM Insight and Andrew Smith Research; by Age Concern England - ACE; Help the Aged; CM Insight; Andrew Smith Research. London: Age Concern England; Help the Aged, March 2007, 107 pp.

Older people complain that insurance discriminates on the basis of age in two main ways: cost and access. In April 2006, Help the Aged and Age Concern England (ACE) commissioned consumer research to measure the extent and nature of age discrimination experienced by older people. Quantitative and qualitative research aimed to identify barriers to older people's access to insurance products. Andrew Smith Research conducted a quantitative phase, which recruited 229 people aged 65+ and 115 people aged 30-49. Participants took part in an initial interview to collect detailed data on attitudes, experiences and behaviour, and an insurance quotation exercise. Follow-up interviews analysed respondents' experiences in obtaining two quotations for one of three products (motor insurance, travel insurance, care hire), using two of three channels (face-to-face, telephone, internet). CM Insight conducted a qualitative phase with six focus groups (six or seven men/women aged 65-80 in each), and eight in-depth interviews (4 with respondents aged 80+, four with respondents aged 65-79 from social group DE). Participants were asked to complete a short insurance purchasing task before the group sessions. This report presents the findings, which suggest some challenges for government and insurance providers in their dealings with older people as consumers. Appendices provide details of the research methodology and sampling, other research findings, quantitative questionnaires and qualitative discussion guides. (RH)

A literature review of the likely costs and benefits of legislation to prohibit age discrimination in health, social care and mental health services and definitions of age discrimination that might be operationalised for measurement: carried out by the Centre for Policy on Ageing on behalf of the Department of Health; by Centre for Policy on Ageing - CPA. London: Centre for Policy on Ageing, December 2007, 31 pp (+ 39 pp appendices).

Older people are disproportionately high users of health care facilities, but closer examination reveals that proximity to death rather than age may be the principal factor in health care costs. This review distinguishes ageism, an attitude of mind, from age discrimination, an unjustifiable difference in treatment based solely on age. Age discrimination is inherently measurable, and this review looks for ways in which age discrimination has been or might be measured. Legislation outside the UK outlawing age discrimination in goods and services (including health services) is also discussed. Although this review provides a useful analysis, from literature written internationally, of age discrimination in health, social care and mental health services, and the costs of providing these services for an ageing population, no studies were found which directly address the key focus, namely a post hoc analysis of the costs and benefits to social care, health and mental health services of introducing legislation prohibiting age discrimination. Appendix 1 (7 pp), on methodology, notes search strategies and processes, and the search results for the databases searched. Appendix 2 (32 pp), a bibliography, lists all items found; key items cited are also listed at the end of the main report. (RH)

A lot done, a lot to do: our vision for an integrated Britain; by Commission for Racial Equality - CRE. London: Electronic format only, September 2007, 66 pp.

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) takes stock of its work in the past 30 years in policy areas including education, employment, health and social care, criminal justice, migration, and democracy. For each, it notes the challenges ahead and makes recommendations for the new organisation, the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR). On health and social care, it highlights the need for CEHR to work together with the Department of Health (DH) on monitoring underlying inequalities in access to healthcare services. (RH)
Making a case against age discrimination: a practical guide for advisers; by Age Concern England - ACE. London: Age Concern England, January 2007, 71 pp. The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 came into force on 1 October 2006, since when it has been unlawful to discriminate in a work or training context on grounds of age. This guide is aimed at advisers who may need to identify or advise on a case where someone could have been discriminated against because of age in England, Scotland or Wales. It identifies what is and is not covered: there continue to be exemptions on grounds of "lawful discrimination". Discrimination issues around recruitment, retirement, redundancy and other dismissals are outlined; and case studies provide examples these different scenarios. The link www.ageconcern.org.uk/agediscriminationlaw provides further case studies. (RH)

Meeting the other: a way of fighting age discrimination?: A discussion circle with young and old participants in Sweden; by Britt-Marie Öberg. Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis, 2007, pp 27-44. Journal of Intergenerational Relationships, 2007, vol 5, no 2, 2007, pp 27-44. The idea that we are living in a society which is more and more segregated according to age is often voiced today. A feeling of facing a widening generation gap is mirrored in writings from governmental offices and non-governmental organizations in Sweden and in other parts of the world. The UNESCO Institute of Education's (UIE) conference in 1999 about Intergenerational Practice and Programmes (IP) is one example of the efforts made to analyse the gap between generations. In the declaration from the conference a definition of intergenerational programmes: "Intergenerational programmes are vehicles for purposeful and ongoing exchange of resources and learning among older and younger generations for individual and social benefits and is given as well as guiding principles for future intergenerational projects." An account of ongoing intergenerational projects in different countries is also included (Hutton-Yeo & Ohsako, 2000:3). The authors point out that there is a need to move from the traditional one-way IP (the young learning from the old) to IP based upon reciprocal relationships between different generations. They also underline the need to further develop non-familial IPs where biologically unrelated members of different ages interact (Hutton-Yeo & Ohsako, 2000:4-6). The Swedish drafting committee about issues of ageing and life in later years, "Senior 2005," points out that research and exchange of the experience regarding the potentialities of intergenerational encounters should be encouraged and reinforced. Only few such projects in Sweden have been accounted for. Bostromlmi states in her dissertation that in spite of the fact that many minor projects are carried out by voluntary organisations, interest groups, and enthusiastic individuals, most of these are not analysed and remain undocumented (Bostromlmi, 2003). The present article reports about a Swedish project aiming at a rapprochement between the generations. After a short presentation of the organisation in charge of the project, the different parts of the project are described. A discussion of the observations made in the course of the project is followed by an introduction of some theoretical concepts and ideas and the observations that are analysed and explained. (KJ)

ISSN: 15350770
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

A new age: age equality and human rights for older people in Wales; by Age Concern Cymru. EnvisAGE, no 6, Summer 2007, 24 pp (whole issue). This edition of Envisage focuses on age discrimination and the pursuit of A New Age for older people in Wales. Short articles draw on insights from older people and information gathered at ACC's Equality and Human Rights conference, and the opportunities to seize to make age discrimination a thing of the past in Wales. In 'Dignity matters: a focus on treatment of older people', Dr Win Tad uses data from a European funded study on older people's health and social care experiences. Other articles include Professor Teresa Rees on the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR); Alison Parken on European Union (EU) approaches to equality; Katie Ghose on older people and human rights; and Professor Dame June Clark on attitudes to ageing. In English and Welsh. (KJ/RH)
The power of personality in discriminating between healthy aging and early-stage Alzheimer's disease; by Janet M Duchek, David A Balota, Martha Storandt (et al).
Differences in personality in the earliest stages of dementia of the Alzheimer's type (DAT) relative to healthy ageing were examined, as was the power of personality in discriminating healthy ageing from early-stage DAT. Four groups of participants (middle-aged controls, older controls, people with very mild DAT, and people with mild DAT) and their families were administered Costa and McCrae's NEO Five Factor Inventory. On the basis of both self-report and informant report, there was an increase in neuroticism and a decrease in conscientiousness in those with very mild DAT relative to healthy individuals without it, and in people with mild DAT relative to those with very mild DAT. Moreover, informant reports of neuroticism and conscientiousness capture substantial unique variance in discriminating healthy ageing and very mild DAT, above and beyond standard neuropsychological tests. Discussion focuses on the importance of personality traits as a non-cognitive indicator of early-stage DAT. (RH)
ISSN: 10795014
From: http://www.geron.org

Proposals to simplify and modernise discrimination law: initial regulatory impact assessment; by Department for Communities and Local Government - DCLG. London: Department for Communities and Local Government - DCLG, June 2007, 113 pp (Code: 07EL04410/c).
This regulatory impact assessment estimates the costs and benefits of various proposals and options that may form part of a Single Equality Bill. (RH)
From: Communities and Local Government Publications, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7NB. email: communities@twoten.com Web link: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1511255  Other formats: alternativeformats@communities.gov.uk

Symbolic interactionism; by Stéphane Duckett.: Psychologists' Special Interest Group in Elderly People - PSIGE, British Psychological Society, October 2007, pp 24-26.
This brief article advocates that psychologists need to consider "how ageism can creep into our work as therapists". The fundamental principles of symbolic interactionism need to be borne in mind when working with older people, to help place their personal circumstances within the wider social context that they find themselves. Two principles apply: the first is that humans are symbolising creatures who need to impute meaning into life; and the second is that humans are reflexive, that is, we see ourselves as others see us. These principles need to be embedded in a social ecological context which Bronfenbrenner (1979) dissected into four components: micro-systemic, meso-systemic, exo-systemic and macro-systemic, and these are explained. This approach should enhance work with older clients and help therapists deal with "the built in obsolescence of humanity". (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 13603671
From: http://www.psige.org.uk

Too old: older people's accounts of discrimination, exclusion and rejection: a report from the Research on Age Discrimination Project (RoAD) to Help the Aged; by Bill Bytheway, Richard Ward, Caroline Holland (et al), Research on Age Discrimination Project (RoAD); Faculty of Health and Social Care, Open University; Help the Aged. London: Help the Aged, 2007, 94 pp.
Research on Age Discrimination (RoAD) is a 2-year participatory research study funded by the Big Lottery Fund, and undertaken by the Open University (OU) and Help the Aged. More than 300 older people from across the UK were involved in the project, which is based on a definition of age discrimination as exclusion, either threatened or actual. This report notes participants' use of diaries to provide systematic evidence of how age discrimination features in everyday life. Four chapters relate to issues experienced by all older people: the use of public places; being consumers; managing one's appearance (focusing on hairdressing and fashion); and health. Five further chapters relate to experiences of some older people but not all: culture and ethnicity; sexuality and sexual orientation; family life and families' attitudes towards age and care issues; vulnerability (particularly in residential care); and fear and isolation. The conclusion remarks on the distinctiveness of the RoAD approach and the defining of age discrimination in terms of how it is experienced. (RH)
ISBN: 1845980204
Price: £15.00
From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. E-mail: info@helptheaged.org.uk Website: www.helptheaged.org.uk
The intention of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) is to protect disabled people, including those with a long-term health condition, against discrimination and unfair treatment, and to ensure full and equal participation in learning and public life. This guidance covers all aspects of the DDA relevant to colleges, universities and adult education providers in England, Scotland and Wales. It covers an institution's duties as an employer of disabled people, as a provider of services to the public, and as a provider of educational services to students. It also covers an institution's responsibility to promote disability equality across the whole range of its functions, and to produce a Disability Equality Scheme, including good practice information. (RH)

Price: FOC

A study reveals that older women are less likely to receive standard management for breast cancer, as a report reveals age-related therapy discrimination. The research report is from the University of Manchester, "Non-standard management of breast cancer increases with age in the UK: a population based cohort of women >or=65 years" by Lavelle (et al) published in the British Journal of Cancer (2007). The study revealed significant disparities in treatment between women aged over 70 and younger women. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 14720795
From: http://www.nursingolderpeople.co.uk

Placed in the context of broader discussions and developments about service user involvement in research and evaluation, this paper looks at the role that user involvement research may play in health inequalities research. It examines the pressures for and against such user involvement research its different expressions and ideological relations, and what particular contribution it may have to offer in researching health inequalities. In considering how it may help in developing substantive understanding of these issues and the role it may play in the future, particular attention is paid to the issue of enabling the diverse involvement of service users in order not to reinforce existing exclusions and barriers in research, policy and practice. (RH)
ISSN: 09660410
From: http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/hsc

The experiences and perceptions of 12 women aged 50-65 in relation to the concept of ageism in paid employment were examined in a pilot study for a European Social Fund (ESF) funded project. The women were interviewed over the period March May 2004. The results show that whilst most of the women had faced (to differing degrees) or observed gender and age based discrimination, the experiences and interpretations revealed were not static, nor isolated from the wider historical, cultural and social contexts in which these women had grown up and grown older. It is therefore argued that policy attempts to combat age discrimination will need to take account of the gender dimension of ageism as well as the different ways in which it impacts on older women. For this to occur, more research and debate are needed on the issues raised in this paper. (RH)
ISSN: 14747464
From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org

2006

Policymakers like to make sure of age criteria, because they provide a transparent and seemingly objective standard. In reality, age limits are not as innocent as they appear: distinctions on the basis of age are often irrelevant and the actual age thresholds tend to be arbitrary. Age limits can also be criticised from a theoretical perspective: how can the heterogeneity of today's older people be reconciled with uniform age-defined classes? In response to a European Union Directive of 2000, Belgium implemented strict anti-discrimination legislation.
This provides all the more reason to ascertain the prevalence and justification of the use of age criteria in legislation. Belgium is a federal state with three communities and three regions, and the scrutiny has been restricted to the Flemish community and region. All legislation has been screened for using age 50+ as an age criterion, and all occurrences have been critically examined. The paper focuses on three fields of statutory regulation: early retirement, concessionary public transport fares, and the different care entitlements of people with disabilities and of older people. Evidence of age discrimination was found, although often in a form that benefits older people. The justification of the age criterion was often inadequate, so the adoption often appears no more than convenient standard practice. The paper concludes that policy makers should consider the systematic replacement of age thresholds by other criteria. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 0144686X

From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_ASO

Against a background of concerns about shortening working lives and ageing populations in the future, age discrimination is a topical issue in all industrialised countries. The author uses detailed research and an interdisciplinary approach to trace the history of the age discrimination debate in the UK and the US since the 1930s. This book is arranged in four parts. Part 1, Ageism and age discrimination, introduces the debate and the concept of the 'just' allocation of resources (justice between generations). Although the focus of Part 2, The current revival of interest in Britain, is on New Labour and age discrimination, it also traces the development of related legislation and policy since the 1960s. Part 3, Retirement, health status and work disability, traces history of the debate since the late 19th century, and whether working capacity has improved sufficiently to justify calls to delay retirement and extend working lives. Part 4 is a detailed examination of the origins (since the 1920s) of America's 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA). (RH)
Price: £17.99 (pbk); £45.00 (hbk)
From: Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU.
www.cambridge.org

The author offers an historical perspective on the age discrimination debate and the labour market problems of older workers. He links the new legislation to four discernible trends: declining economic activity rates; demographic trends post 2020 and the associated increased pension costs; skills shortages; and rising life expectancy. (RH)
ISBN: 1861348436
From: The Policy Press, University of Bristol, Fourth floor, Beacon House, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8 1QU.

Age equality in housing: a guide to tackling age discrimination for housing providers, commissioners, planners and builders; by Ben Harding, Housing and Older People Development Group (HOPDEV).: Housing and Older People Development Group (HOPDEV), 2006, 11 pp.
This pamphlet forms part of the Housing and Older People Development Group (HOPDEV) Ageism work stream programme. It explains what age discrimination is, and how common it is within the context of housing. It outlines changes in the law and social policy and the implications of those changes for housing planners and providers. It provides guidance for housing professionals who want to tackle age discrimination in their industry. (RH)
Price: FOC
From: Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC), 3rd Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP. E-mail: enquiries@eac.org.uk (quoting the report's title in full). Downloads: http://hopdev.housingcare.org

The survey on which this report is based was conducted among small, medium and large employers in England, Scotland and Wales who had received a newsletter and other material from the "Be Ready" National Guidance Campaign (NGC) relating to the forthcoming legislation outlawing age discrimination. The report also presents findings for a sample of 1,650 organisations on their opinions about age discrimination in the workplace. The evaluation and research is one of a number of projects commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on behalf of the Age Partnership Group (APG) as part of the National Guidance Campaign. (RH)
Ageism: a benchmark of public attitudes in Britain; by Sujata Ray, Ellen Sharp, Dominic Abrams, Policy Unit, Age Concern England - ACE; Centre for the Study of Group Processes - CSGP, University of Kent. London: Electronic format only (Age Concern), October 2006, 74 pp (Age Concern Reports). In the first comprehensive survey of its kind, research was conducted to measure ageism in Britain. The research was developed by a multidisciplinary team from within Age Concern England (ACE), Age Concern Research Services, the Centre for the Study of Group Processes (CSGP) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Kent, Research First Ltd and TNS plc. The aims were to explore whether measures of discrimination drawn from previous research on racism and sexism would related to ageism; and explore the prevalence of experiences of discrimination based on different aspects of social identity. Benchmark measurements on the prevalence of age discrimination for future measurement were created. This report explains how the survey used such concepts as follows: age categorisation; stereotypes and benevolent prejudice; intergroup threat; power or status acceptance; values and attitudes to equal opportunities; intergroup contact; perceptions of prejudice; and experience of discrimination. The research found that ageism exists in Britain, is more commonly experienced across all age ranges compared to other forms of discrimination, and takes the form of "benevolent prejudice". Examples include restricting access to the workplace, failing to offer opportunities, and an assumption that it is "natural" for older people to have lower expectations, reduced choice and control, and less account taken of their views. (RH)


This paper focuses on the origins, construction and potential impact of ageist stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. It briefly outlines: sociocultural aspects of ageism; theoretical perspectives; content and formation of ageist stereotypes; manifestations of ageism in social interactions, healthcare, the workplace and other social arenas; impact of ageism on the health and wellbeing of older people; and strategies for reducing ageism. The literature indicates that ageism is pervasive; and ageist stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination have been shown to negatively affect the following: confidence and self-esteem; coping skills; cognitive performance; physical functioning; self-efficacy; responsiveness; motivation; will to live; longevity; and mortality rates. (RH)

From: Word on the Street Consulting Ltd., 629-25th Avenue NE Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 1Y6. Email: edozois@telusplanet.net


Robert Butler's introduction expresses a hope that the baby boomer generation will have a transforming effect in countering age discrimination. This document starts with "report cards" on seven major categories in which age discrimination is evident in the US. It provides an overview of aspects of ageism, and how ageism has been created and perpetuated in culture, society, the media and marketing. Personal and institutional ageism - elder abuse, and ageism in health care, the workplace and emergency services - is considered. The costs of ageism - for example settlements made under the Age Discrimination and Employment Act (ADEA) - are assessed. The document concludes with a call for further research and an agenda for action that will raise the status of ageism to the level of human and civil rights. An appendix provides a list of dates since 1964 in efforts to combat ageism in America. (RH)

From: ILC-USA, 60 East 86th Street, New York, NY 10028, USA. http://www.graypanthersmetrodtroit.org/Ageism_In_America_-_ILC_Book_2006.pdf


The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, effective from 1 October 2006, applies in England, Scotland and Wales, and provides protection against age discrimination in employment, training and adult education, for people of all ages. This guide has been funded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). It provides general information, summarising who will benefit from these regulations, and where to find more information.
An update, 'Have you been forced to retire at age 65 or above?' (January 2006), notes that a judicial review brought by Heyday and heard in the High Court on 6 December 2006, has been referred to the European Court of Justice (ECJ). (RH)

Comparative analyses on national measures to combat discrimination outside employment and occupation: mapping study on existing national legislative measures - and their impact in - tackling discrimination outside the field of employment and occupation on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation, VT/2005/062; by Aileen McColgan, Jan Niessen, Fiona Palmer, Human European Consultancy; Migration Policy Group. Utrecht: Electronic format, December 2006, 74 pp (includes annex). This report sets out in brief form the law across EU Member States, Bulgaria and Romania relating to discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion and belief and age to the extent that such discrimination falls outside the current scope of EC law. The particular focus is on discrimination in access to education, goods and services, and issues around social protection and social advantages. The report is drawn up on the basis of detailed reports in respect of each of the countries surveyed, and a further five “comparator” countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the US. Much of the report focuses on the law of the existing and prospective EU Member States, but occasional reference is made to the comparator countries. While all the Member States surveyed exceed the EU requirements in at least some respects, and in many the protection provided in excess of EU requirements is significant, the extent of this protection varies considerably. (RH)

Comparative analysis of existing impact assessments of anti-discrimination legislation: mapping study on existing national legislative measures - and their impact in - tackling discrimination outside the field of employment and occupation on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation, VT/2005/062; by Annick Masselot, Marco Larizza, Todd Landman (et al), Human European Consultancy; Migration Policy Group. Utrecht: Electronic format, December 2006, 106 pp. This report's purpose is to provide the European Commission with independent and authoritative information on the application and impact of existing national measures combating discrimination in fields and on the grounds where there is no Community legislation. Specifically, it analyses the conclusion of impact assessments of national anti-discrimination law on the grounds of gender, age, religion and belief, disability, and sexual orientation in fields outside employment, such as education, healthcare, access to goods and supply of services, social services and social protection. Countries included in comparative analysis are the 25 EU Member States, Bulgaria, Romania, as well as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the US. The research asks about methodologies in conducting impact assessments on legislative anti-discrimination measures, and the impact of extending legal protection to fields of application not yet covered by Community anti-discrimination law. (RH)

Foundations for measuring equality: a discussion paper for the Equalities Review; by Tania Burchardt, ESRC Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion - CASE, Suntory-Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines - STICERD, London School of Economics and Political Science. London: STICERD, 2006, 19 pp (CASEpaper 111). The Equalities Review is an independent panel set up by the UK government in 2005 to investigate the persistence of social inequalities and to make recommendations for the development of a unified Commission for Equality and Human Rights. This paper was originally written for the Review. It canvasses possible responses to the questions "equality between whom?" and "equality of what?''. It argues that equality of outcome is intuitively appealing, but risks ignoring variations in need, differences in values and preferences, and the importance of individual agency. A broad interpretation of equality of opportunity - such as provided by the capability approach - can address these limitations, by focusing on the substantive freedom enjoyed by individuals. Substantive freedom may be limited by a lack of personal resources, or by the economic, social, political, cultural and environmental conditions context in which the individual is operating. This paper concludes by identifying, and indicating solutions to, a number of measurement issues that arise in operationalising the capability approach. (RH)
Gender discrimination and ageist perceptions: research report, executive summary; by Diane Grant, Helen Walker, Natasha Butler (et al), Gender Discrimination and Ageist Perceptions Project, Faculty of Education, Community and Leisure, Liverpool John Moores University; European Social Fund - ESF.: Electronic format only, 2006, 10 pp.

Older age groups have consistently been undervalued by employers for being too old, but now they are being encouraged to re-enter the workforce through schemes such as New Deal 50+ or to take up volunteering. This study investigated the experiences and perceptions of men and women aged 50+, to understand more fully the potential barriers this age group may face when accessing opportunities, employment, training and education. A national sample of 1035 men and women aged 50+ was surveyed, as were 181 employer representatives across the private, public, voluntary and higher education sectors. Interviews were conducted with 51 people aged 50+ and 21 with public, private and voluntary sector organisation representatives. This executive summary outlines the findings and main recommendations of the study's main report which was funded by European Social Fund (ESF) Objective 3. (RH)

ISBN: 0955343917
From : Report_Executive_Summary_Final_Complete_Reduced1.pdf

Gender discrimination and ageist perceptions: research report; by Diane Grant, Helen Walker, Natasha Butler (et al), Gender Discrimination and Ageist Perceptions Project, Faculty of Education, Community and Leisure, Liverpool John Moores University; European Social Fund - ESF.: Liverpool John Moores University, 2006, 200 pp.

Older age groups have consistently been undervalued by employers for being too old, but now they are being encouraged to re-enter the workforce through schemes such as New Deal 50+ or to take up volunteering. This study investigated the experiences and perceptions of men and women aged 50+, to understand more fully the potential barriers this age group may face when accessing opportunities, employment, training and education. A national sample of 1035 men and women aged 50+ was surveyed, as were 181 employer representatives across the private, public, voluntary and higher education sectors. Interviews were conducted with 51 people aged 50+ and 21 with public, private and voluntary sector organisation representatives. This report presents the findings of the study which was funded by European Social Fund (ESF) Objective 3. On organisations, it discusses issues such as flexible working arrangements; recruitment and retention; training and promotion; and perceptions of the work capabilities of older adults. For individuals, issues covered include women and work patterns; redundancy; unemployment; retirement; and influences on self-efficacy and life satisfaction. The report concludes with 18 recommendations on these and other issues raised. (RH)

From : Available upon request from: Gender Discrimination and Ageist Perceptions Project, Liverpool John Moores University, Faculty of Education, Community and Leisure.


There is ample evidence that the use of chronological age is applied as the basis for restricting availability and/or pricing of many services. This reference tool is the first in a series of publications from the Growing Older in Wales age equality initiative. It provides an age-proofing model to ensure equality standards are incorporated into the delivery of services for older people. The model is a combination of direct questions and impact assessment tool which uses the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (which comprises 18 items on the themes of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity). The disability rights movement has identified three social barriers preventing disabled people from achieving equality: attitudinal, institutional and environmental. These can also usefully be incorporated into an age equality model. (RH)

From : Download from website (10/8/09): www.helptheaged.org.uk

The influence of patient's age on clinical decision-making about coronary heart disease in the USA and the UK; by Ann Adams, Christopher D Buckingham, Sara Arber (et al).


The likelihood of ill health, including coronary heart disease (CHD), increases with age. This paper uses an analytic approach based on conceptualising decision-making as a classification process, to explore the ways in which UK and US primary care doctors' cognitive processes contribute to ageism in health care at three key decision points during consultations. In each country, 56 randomly selected doctors were shown videotaped vignettes of doctors portraying patients with CHD. The patients' ages (55 or 75 years), gender, ethnicity and
social class were varied systematically. During the interviews, doctors gave free recall accounts of their decision-making. The results do not establish that there was substantial ageism in the doctors' decisions, but rather suggest that diagnostic processes pay insufficient attention to the significance of older patients' age and its association with the likelihood of co-morbidity and atypical disease presentations. The doctors also demonstrated more limited use of “knowledge structures” when diagnosing older than midlife patients. With respect to interventions, differences in the national health care systems rather than patients' age accounted for the differences in doctors' decisions. US doctors were significantly more concerned about the potential for adverse outcomes if important diagnoses were untreated, while UK general practitioners (GPs) cited greater difficulty in accessing diagnostic tests. (RH)

ISSN: 0144686X
From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_ASO

Senior managers in older people's services are not immune to the stereotypical thinking that reinforces ageism. A survey of senior and middle managers in social services about the use of the term "the elderly" revealed that only a minority thought the term ageist or offensive. There is a need to broaden the equality and diversity debate beyond race, gender and disability to look at issues of age and ageism. (RH)
ISSN: 03075508
From: http://www.communitycare.co.uk

With the increasing corporate and governmental rationalisation of medical care, the mandate of efficiency has caused many to fear that concern for the individual patient will be replaced with impersonal, rule-governing allocation of medical resources. Largely ignored is the role of moral principles in medical decision-making. This analysis comes from a 1999-2001 ethnographic study conducted in three US intensive care units (ICUs), two of which were using the computerised decision-support tool, APACHE-III (Acute Physiological and Chronic Health Evaluation III), which notably predicts the probability of a patient dying. It was found that using APACHE-III presents a paradox regarding concern for the individual patient. To maintain jurisdiction over the care of patients, physicians share the data with the payers and regulators of care to prove they are using resources effectively and efficiently, yet they use the system in conjunction with moral principles to justify treating each patient as unique. Thus, concern for the individual patient is not lessened with the use of this system. However, physicians do not share the data with patients or surrogate decision-makers, because they fear they will be viewed as more interested in profits than patients. (RH)
ISSN: 01419889
From: http://www.blackwellpublishing.com

On 1 October 2006, new age discrimination laws came into force, making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of age. The author explores the impact that this will have on nurses and their employers. A research report undertaken by the Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of Hull is cited as evidence of age discrimination practised in the nursing profession. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 09547762
From: http://www.nursingtimes.net

Hitherto, the Human Rights Act 1998 has been limited in its impact in tackling issues such as age discrimination and elder abuse. The new Human Rights Act 1998 and Human Rights Act 1998 (CEHR) promises to be a major catalyst both for enhancing older people's protection, and for using human rights as a tool for transforming public services. This report makes the case for embedding older people's human rights into the CEHR's work. The human rights issues covered as they relate to public services include health, social care and housing. Although this report concentrates on issues as they affect England, the content has relevance for other parts of the UK. (RH)

In February 2006, Age Concern England (ACE) held a series of three seminars to explore how protection against age discrimination might be extended to include a positive duty on public authorities and cover the provision of goods and services. The seminars were designed to inform debate about ageism and age discrimination when work by the Discrimination Law Review and the Equalities Review was in progress. This report summarises speakers' presentations and the comments and discussion that followed. Seminar One, "Ageism - what's the problem?", was designed to increase understanding of ageism and age discrimination. Papers included presentation of findings of a national survey of ageing by ACE and the University of Kent; experiences of age discrimination; media treatment of age; and ageism in healthcare. Seminar Two, "An age equality duty - shaping the framework", explored what a public sector duty on age might look like in practice, with papers focusing on the situation in Northern Ireland, and public duty on disability, race and age. Seminar Three, "Difference by design - the goods and service debate", had as its starting point the work by AGE, the European Platform on Older People, on age criteria in goods, facilities and services (GFS); discrimination in financial services and healthcare ere also considered. (RH)
Towards European legislation on age discrimination in goods, facilities and services: proposal for a draft directive on age discrimination in goods, facilities and services: Explanatory memorandum, European Parliamentary meeting, October 4 2006; by Age Concern England - ACE; AGE (European Older People's Platform); Electronic format only, October 2006, 9 pp.

For many years, age sector non-governmental organisations (NGOs), organisations representing older people (the Age Sector), and other sections of European society have been concerned about the incidence of age discrimination. With the EU Employment Directive taking effect, October 2006 is considered timely for considering a more comprehensive consideration of age discrimination. This explanatory memorandum notes that following the EU's Green Paper 'Equality and non-discrimination in an enlarged EU' in May 2004, the European Commission was undertaking an in-depth study on possible further anti-discrimination measures. It outlines the possible content for such a draft Directive, stipulating what should be included and the grounds for permitting exemptions. The draft Directive's overall aim is to provide for a focus for debate and discussion throughout Europe, with the intention of providing better protection for people of all ages from age discrimination, and to demonstrate that legislation is practically possible. (RH)


2005


The Age Reference Group on Equality and Human Rights is a consultative group of older people's organisations (as a joint initiative of Age Concern and Help the Aged, and sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry), which was established to inform and advise those representing older people. This discussion paper describes what happens when those who experience discrimination and disadvantage for other reasons grow old, and when age discrimination compounds other forms of inequality and disadvantage. The main examples discussed are: gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender older people; disabled older people; and black and minority ethnic (BME) older people. The forthcoming Commission for Equality and Human Rights, the independent Equalities Review and the DTI's Equality and diversity consultation process all need to consider this evidence in their work. (RH)


Colm O'Cinneide drafted the text of this report on the authority of the European Network of Legal Experts in the non-discrimination field (on the grounds of Race or Ethnic origin, Age, Disability, Religion or Belief and Sexual Orientation), managed by the Human European Consultancy and the Migration Policy Group. The report is arranged in three sections. Part I considers age and the Framework Equality Directive. Part II, on direct and indirect discrimination, looks at issues including age as a "material factor", inferring direct discrimination, and establishing "disadvantage". Part III, on limitations and derogations, considers matters such as: justifying age discrimination; exemptions; age as a genuine occupational requirement (GOR); necessity and proportionality; positive action and the protection of disadvantaged groups; retirement ages; employment rights; pensions and insurance; and experience and seniority-based practices. In all, the issues raised point towards the need for EU Member States to take age discrimination seriously, and to be prepared to carry out comprehensive assessment of their policies and legislation in order to accommodate the Directive's requirements into their respective national legal systems. (RH)


The age discrimination debate in Britain: from the 1930s to the present; by John Macnicol.


Age discrimination has become a topical issue in Britain, and legislation is promised by the year 2006. It is often viewed as a recent problem, caused by the decline in older men's economic activity rates since the 1970s, by concerns over ageing populations in the future, and by the need to extend working lives. Yet it has a long
history, going back at least to the 1930s, with much research into older workers being conducted in 1950s Britain. Examination of this history helps us understand some of the difficulties inherent in the concepts of ageism and age discrimination. (RH)

ISSN: 14747464
From: http://www.journals.cambridge.org

Been there, done that: [older social care staff as an untapped source of experience]; by Mike George.
Community Care, issue 1594, 13 October 2005, pp 34-35.
Middle-aged women are the biggest group working in social care, and once they pass retirement age, such staff are an untapped source of experience. Although the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations which come into force in October 2006 may bring about a transformation of attitudes eventually, the author presents evidence that action needs to be taken now. (RH)
ISSN: 03075508
From: http://www.communitycare.co.uk

Comparison of efficacy and age discrimination between psychology and nursing students; by Nancy J Karlin, Jessica Emick, Elizabeth Emick Mehls (et al).
Two types of age discrimination (youth and elder) are considered, also related scores for 108 psychology students and 81 nursing students. The current study found that although the nursing students had a significantly larger number of courses related to ageing, both psychology and nursing students reported low levels of age discrimination. Overall, attitudes of both the nursing and psychology students toward both young and older populations were positive. Nursing students held higher levels of efficacy with regard to working with the older population as compared to psychology students. (RH)
ISSN: 02701960
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

This Act amends the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in respect of issues relating to public authorities, transport, and a range of "other matters" such as discriminatory advertisements. (RH)
ISBN: 0105411051
Price: £7.50
From: TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN.  http://www.tso.co.uk

These Draft Regulations are laid before Parliament under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 of the European Communities Act 1972, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament. These Regulations, which are due to come into force on 1 October 2006, will prohibit unjustified age discrimination in employment and vocational training, and require all employers who set their retirement age below the default age of 65 to justify or change it. The Regulations also introduce a new duty on employers to consider an employee's request to continue working beyond retirement. The Schedules cover issues concerning occupational pensions schemes, amendments to unfair dismissal legislation (the Employment Rights Act 1996), and duty to consider working beyond retirement. (RH)
Price: FOC
From: DTI Publications Order Line 0845 015 0010; Email: publications@dti.gsi.gov.uk  Braille, floppy disc, CD ROM, large print formats from DTI Response Centre 020 7215 5000. Download: http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/draftregulation.pdf

This encyclopaedia is a comprehensive review of over 125 aspects of ageism, dealt with from an American perspective, and alphabetically arranged. It accounts the persistence of negative attitudes towards older people, and includes suggestions on practical ways in which to counter age discrimination. It is written by 60 experts on the topics involved, with each entry containing references for further information. (KJ/RH)

Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This is a final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations. It seeks views (by 17 October 2005) on whether the draft regulations effectively reflect policy as set out in this consultation document, and whether details of decisions will give rise to significant practical difficulties. It also informs employers, providers of vocational training, and employees or students who have suffered discrimination on what the regulations will require. Sections cover: outlawing age discrimination; justifying age discrimination (including genuine occupational requirements); exemptions; retirement; occupational pensions; changes to other legislation (statutory redundancy payments and unfair dismissal); support and legal action; and benefits and costs. The document is accompanied by a questionnaire, "Coming of age: response form" covering issues raised in the consultation, which is also available as a downloadable item (http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/responseform.pdf). (RH)


Until now, there has been no legislation dealing with age discrimination in Great Britain. This will change on 1 October 2006, when the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations come into force, outlawing age discrimination in employment and vocational training. This summary outlines the main issues covered in the full consultation document, including: recruitment selection and promotion; pay and benefits based on length of service; retirement; unfair dismissal; redundancy; occupational pensions; and benefits and costs. It draws the attention of employers and providers of vocational training to what they should be doing in preparation for when the Regulations come into force. It also draws attention to the consultation, on which views are sought by 17 October 2005. (RH)

Equality Bill: a Bill to make provision for the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights; ... presented by Ms Secretary Hewitt, supported by the Prime Minister, Mr Secretary Prescott ... [and others]; by Patricia Hewitt. London: TSO, 2 March 2005, 71 pp (HC Bill 72 session 2004/2005).

This Government Bill makes provision for the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, and dissolves the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the Disability Rights Commission (DRC). It makes provision about discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, and imposes duties on public authorities to prohibit sex discrimination. Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), are published as Bill 72-EN. Following the calling of the General Election, this Bill was dropped. (RH)

ISBN: 0215705475
Price: £8.00
From: TSO, Publications Centre, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN.


This research is one of a number of projects commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on behalf of the Age Partnership Group (APG) as part of the National Guidance Campaign (NGC). The objective
of the study has been to collect information on the most common employment-related reasons for legal action on the grounds of age discrimination. The search for cases has focused on countries with explicit age discrimination legislation in place, but it has also included countries where age discriminatory practice is covered by wider legislation. This report indicates steps towards implementing the European Employment Directive in the UK and the situation in other EU member countries. Examples of case law from Australia, Canada, Ireland and South Africa variously cover: termination of employment, including retirement; redundancy packages; promotion; recruitment; recruitment advertising; pay and benefits; and working environment. The report notes that age discrimination in employment represents a very small proportion of all discrimination cases brought in other countries, with few cases settling in favour of the claimant. (RH)

ISBN: 1843884461
Price: FOC
From: Download copies: http://www.agepositive.gov.uk/agepartnershipgroup Email for hard copies: agepositive@dwp.gsi.gov.uk


This research is one of a number of projects commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on behalf of the Age Partnership Group (APG) as part of the National Guidance Campaign (NGC). The objective of the study has been to collect information on the most common employment-related reasons for legal action on the grounds of age discrimination. The search for cases has focused on countries with explicit age discrimination legislation in place, but it has also included countries where age discriminatory practice is covered by wider legislation. This executive summary indicates steps towards implementing the European Employment Directive in the UK and other EU member countries, and outlines a few cases of age discrimination in employment in the US, Australia, Canada and Ireland. (RH)

ISBN: 184388447X
Price: FOC
From: Download copies: http://www.agepositive.gov.uk/agepartnershipgroup Email for hard copies: agepositive@dwp.gsi.gov.uk


Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is part of the final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, and considers the impact of age discrimination legislation on employers and individuals, on the macro-economy and the Exchequer. It summarises the current position, sets out the case for introducing legislation and details future impact on employers and individuals. The main options under consideration are fourfold: a) Do nothing; b) Introduce a voluntary code of practice; c) Introduce legislation, without allowing employers to objectively justify some discriminatory practices; and d) Introduce legislation and provide for employers to be able to objectively justify some discriminatory practices. (KJ)

Price: FOC


Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is part of the final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, and considers the impact of occupational pensions on employers and individuals, on the macro-economy and the Exchequer. The options in implementing the legislation are threefold: a) Do nothing, which would mean that aged-based policies would need to be objectively justified; b) Provide that certain rules do not constitute unlawful age discrimination; c) In addition to (b), provide that other rules, which are always objectively justified are not unlawful. (KJ)

Price: FOC
From: Download: http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/occupationalpensions.pdf

Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is part of the final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, and considers the impact of pay and non-pay benefits (referred to as service-related benefits) on employers and individuals, on the macro-economy and the Exchequer. The aim of these regulations is to ensure that where employers provide age-based or service-based pay and non-pay benefits to employees that are objectively justified on grounds such as social policy or creating an incentive, employers should continue to be able to do so without the imposition of unnecessary burdens. The options considered in implementing the legislation are threefold in approach. (KJ)

Price: FOC
From: Download: http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/payandnonpaybenefits.pdf

Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) : Recruitment, training and promotion: [Coming of age consultation]; by Employment Relations Directorate, Department of Trade and Industry - DTI. London: Department of Trade and Industry - DTI, 2005, 18 pp (URN 05/1266).

Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is part of the final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, and considers the impact of recruitment, training and promotion on employers and individuals, on the macro-economy and the Exchequer. The main options under consideration are twofold: a) Implement the Directive by outlawing discrimination on the basis of age, without providing for employers, exceptionally to objectively justify age-based practices in recruitment, training and promotion; and, b) Implement the Directive by outlawing discrimination on the basis of age, and allow employers to objectively justify age discrimination in certain circumstances in recruitment, selection and promotion. (KJ)

Price: FOC
From: Download: http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/Trainingpromotionrecruitment.pdf


Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is part of the final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, and considers the impact of retirement ages on employers and individuals, on the macro-economy and the Exchequer. The main options under consideration are threefold: a) No national default retirement age (DRA) and employers not able to set their own retirement ages; b) No national DRA but allowing employers to set their own retirement ages which would have to be justified at Employment Tribunals, hence employer-justified retirement ages (EJRAs); c) No national DRA, allowing employers to set an EJRA and also giving employees a new right to request to work beyond their employer's retirement age (KJ)

Price: FOC
From: Download: http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/retirementages.pdf


Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is part of the final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, and considers the impact of statutory redundancy pay on employers and individuals, on the macro-economy and the Exchequer. The statutory redundancy payments scheme, introduced in 1965, currently has a number of aspects that discriminate directly on grounds of age and these will be removed; further aspects of the scheme that have an indirect disparate impact on different age groups, will also be reviewed and these are detailed in this RIA. (KJ)

Price: FOC

Under the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC), age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is part of the final consultation on the draft Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, and considers the impact of unfair dismissal on employers and individuals, on the macro-economy and the Exchequer. This RIA considers the options that would effect the upper age limit and calculation of awards for unfair dismissal. (KJ)

Price: FOC
From: Download: http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/unfairdismissal.pdf


An explorative and descriptive study seeks to establish whether age discrimination occurs in Irish health and social services, and if so, in what forms, and the impact of the experience on older people. A literature review explores the concept of ageism, measuring experiences of ageism (e.g. service rationing), and identifies examples of ageist practices, with a view to drawing comparisons between experiences, policies and practices in Ireland and those documented elsewhere. The research carried out comprised consultation with older people and health service staff, data analysis and reporting. The findings report on access to services: reluctance to refer to specialist services, condition prioritisation, barriers to access, and availability of services. Quality of care issues raised relate to assessments, inappropriate referrals, medication, information and consultation, family involvement, staff attitudes, and stereotyping of older people. Staff perceptions and experiences arising from Irish health service policies and practice are examined: service planning and implementation; resource allocation (or under-resourced provision); staff recruitment, retention and training; health promotion and active ageing; and elder abuse, do not resuscitate orders and living wills. The study identifies four key areas requiring measures to deal with direct and indirect ageist discrimination in the health and social services sector: policies and practices; systems and structures; resources and staffing; and health promotion and age awareness. (RH)
ISBN: 1900378361
Price: Euros 14 (inc p+p)
From: National Council on Ageing and Older People, 22 Clanwilliam Square, Grand Canal Quay, Dublin 2.
Website: www.ncaop.ie


The status of age discrimination across different areas of social policy in the European Union (EU) is reviewed for the five largest older EU Member States - France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK - and the three largest accession countries - the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. The analysis looks across different aspects of social policy, specifically: civic and public participation; healthcare; social care; labour markets; pensions and other financial services; and training, education and leisure. Appendices include a demographic overview of the EU and the Member States discussed. Ten themes are identified as important foundations for advancing age equality: cohesive social and economic policies; a binding legal framework; reversing negative stereotypes; personalising services; cultural awareness at all ages; productive engagement (particularly equal opportunities in employment); health promotion for all ages; evidence-based, appropriate care for all; sensitising future professionals to the needs of ageing populations; and life-long learning and training. Background research reports are available on the Alliance for Health & the Future website. (RH)


Empirical literature on questions relating to the costs of caring for older people is examined, and provides a factual context for the ethical discussion. The views of the American philosopher Norman Daniels - as expounded in "Am I my parents' keeper?" (1988), and what he calls the "Prudential Lifespan Account" - provide an ethical foundation which is questioned in later chapters. General ethical questions considered concern the ethics of resource allocation in medicine and the concept of "rationing". Another American philosopher of medicine, Daniel Callaghan, questions what he calls "the modernisation of ageing", prompting a critique of his work. Concluding chapters ask whether there is a crisis of ageing and whether older people are a burden. The implications of the arguments for policy making are summarised. Appendices include: a chronology of the
development of National Health Service (NHS) principles and priorities from 1942 until 2003; the ideas of justice and solidarity as in the Swedish system; and justice and the Nordic healthcare systems. (RH)

Towards age friendly provision of goods and services; by Eileen McGlone, Fiona Fitzgerald, Equality Authority (Ireland); National Council on Ageing and Older People, Ireland. Dublin: Equality Authority; National Council on Ageing and Older People, 2005, 40 pp (+1 poster, folded).

"Towards age friendly provision of goods and services" was published as part of Ireland's "Say No To Ageism Week" 2005. Its aim is to provide practical guidance to organisations on ensuring that they provide goods and services in a manner that is age-friendly. (RH)

ISBN: 1905628080

From: Equality Authority, 2 Connell Street, Dublin 2. e-mail: info@equality.ie (Website: www.equality.ie). National Council on Ageing and Older People, 22 Clanwilliam Square, Grand Canal Quay, Dublin 2. E-mail: info@ncaoap.ie (Website: www/ncaoap.ie).


Attention is drawn to a paper elsewhere in this issue of Age and Ageing (pp 61-66) on results of the Prospective Registry of Acute Ischaemic Syndrome in the United Kingdom (PRAIS-UK) concerning the management of patients admitted to hospital with ICS. The results indicate that although older patients are at greater risk of subsequent adverse effects than their younger counterparts, they were much less likely to receive evidence-based treatments. Three justifications for this different treatment are given: "they don't benefit from it"; they don't want to have it"; and "it's not an appropriate use of limited resources". This editorial suggests that two things about such attitudes must change. First, more clinical research should be undertaken to identify patients who would benefit from treatment. Second, the National Service Frameworks (NSFs) for Chronic Heart Disease and Older People should build on their successes and develop targets and outcome measures relevant to older people's needs. (RH)

ISSN: 00020729

2004

Age discrimination in employment: why its predicted demise is off the mark; by Laurie A McCann.: National Academy on an Aging Society, Summer 2004, pp 7-10.


The US stands on the brink of an unprecedented demographic shift. A significant labour shortage is predicted, precipitated by an ageing workforce, the retirement of the baby boom generation, lower birth rates, and fewer skilled younger workers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the proportion of workers aged 24-34 will increase by only 5% between 2001 and 2010, while at the same time the proportion of workers aged 55+ will increase by 46.6%. More than 25% of the working population will reach retirement age by 2010, resulting in a potential shortage of nearly 10 million workers. (RH)

ISSN: 10553037

From: http://www.agingssociety.org


Discrimination against older people is widespread. This briefing outlines current developments on age discrimination and the Help the Aged campaign for Age Equality. It highlights the dealings of some insurance companies with older people, also the exclusion of over 75s from some official statistics, in addition to employment and healthcare issues. (RH)

Price: FOC

From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk

An age equality duty: the time has come; by Andrew Harrop, Ella Saltmarshe, Age Concern England - ACE.: Age Concern England - ACE, 2004, 47 pp (Age Concern Reports).

Equality duties are legal obligations on organisations that require them to consider equality of opportunity in all aspects of their work, in a manner that involves employees, citizens and service users alike. Although the government is introducing duties in respect of gender and disability equality, Age Concern England (ACE) is concerned that proposals for age discrimination legislation cover employment and adult education, to the exclusion of older people's rights in respect of goods, facilities and services. This report makes the case for an age equality duty, by demonstrating that where non-statutory age equality initiatives have been introduced, these
have benefited everyone (but still with some limitations). It suggests a possible wording for a general age equality duty, and how an age equality scheme might be implemented and enforced. (RH)

ISBN: 1903629306
Price: £10.00
From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. Website: www.ageconcern.org.uk

Age matters; by Kerry Platman, Tony Maltby.
The authors respond to the UK Government's age consultation document (Department of Trade and Industry - DTI) that seeks views on best approaches to legislation outlawing age discrimination in the workplace. They contend that "Age matters" fails to grasp the nettle: in particular, the proposal to raise the mandatory retirement to 70 will not in itself end age discrimination. (RH)
ISSN: 09652000
From: (Editorial address) gr@ageing.ox.ac.uk

Data on ageism is presented from two sources. Firstly, a module of questions on this theme was included in the 2003 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey. Secondly, a stand-alone survey was conducted in the Republic of Ireland at the same time as the Northern Ireland survey. Respondents ranged in age from 18-24 to age 75+, and their views on the questions asked are reflected accordingly. Topics covered included: how older people are treated, adequacy of provision, views on pensions, the main problems facing older people and attitudes toward older people, also ageism and healthcare, employment, and financial services. ARK, Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive is run in collaboration with Queen's University, Belfast and University of Ulster. (RH)
From: http://www.ark.ac.uk

The various models of healthcare used in the first 50 years of the National Health Service (NHS) have left older patients denied access to many forms of treatment. There is evidence of ageism in a wide variety of acute, specialist and long term care areas, which this article summarises. The opportunity to tackle the issue has been raised by the National Service Framework for Older People (NSF). This requires the rooting out of barriers such as changing the prevailing role of older people in society and the economy; NHS structure and funding; and the education of health professionals, whose employment should be maintained beyond the age of 65. (RH)
ISSN: 13649752
From: http://www.iah-wmids.org.uk

Challenging ageist attitudes: [nurses' efforts to root out ageism]; by Janis Smy.
A 95-strong team of nurses, health care assistants, therapy staff and managers at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust act as older people's champions. All have undergone special training that highlights the needs and rights of older patients, and use their knowledge to root out ageism. They also advise other members of staff in wards and clinics about the care of, and attitudes toward, older people. This article reports their experiences as champions for older people's needs. (RH)
ISSN: 09547762
From: http://www.nursingtimes.net

Equality and diversity: age matters response: [BSG response to DTI Age consultation document]; by Kerry Platman, British Society of Gerontology - BSG.
At its Annual Conference in September 2003, the Executive Committee of the British Society of Gerontology (BSG) convened a consultative session to discuss the details and implications of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) consultation document. This submission is concerned with two key issues: the exceptional circumstances in which age discrimination in the workplace may be justified; and the proposed default retirement age of 70. The Society regrets the narrow remit of the proposed legislation, and points out that equality of opportunity for older people will only be achieved after profound cultural change and with age-inclusive policies and practices. (RH)

When Help the Aged launched its "Scrap It!" campaign in 2002, it published "Age discrimination in public policy: a review of evidence". Now, "Everyday age discrimination" records how age discrimination was experienced by some 200 older people over an 18 month period, from Spring 2002 to autumn 2003. Their stories are presented as case studies on the themes of employment, citizenship, social security, insurance, banks and retail services, health, social care, and advertising and the media. Given that these examples of age discrimination pervade every facet of older people's daily lives, the report recommends: banning age discrimination in the workplace through legislation; promoting age equality in employment through education; calling for a ban on age discrimination in all aspects of life and throughout the UK; and calling for a single Equality Act. (RH)


This TAEN Briefing cites some facts and figures (2002-2004) on employment and unemployment, training, and disparities in pay in some areas of the labour market for those aged 50+. It also notes a range of other recent evidence available from government, academic and market research sources. (RH)


This White Paper is presented also in association with the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Home Office. It follows the 2003 consultation paper, "Equality and diversity: making it happen: consultation on future structures for equality institutions". It sets out the Government's proposals for the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) in detail, including its role, duties and powers. It outlines the way in which the new Commission will deliver to its key stakeholders; and sets out the anticipated next steps towards establishment. The CEHR will be replacing separate existing Commissions: the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), the Disability Rights Commission (DRC), and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). Although not a consultation document, the Women and Equality Unit invites comments on any aspect of this White Paper. (RH)


A retrospective study was performed of medical records for 1,595 patients (989 men) with a diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction (MI) admitted over a 4-month period to all district general hospitals and tertiary referral centres for cardiology in Wales. Case notes were reviewed for treatment, stratification of risk factors and secondary prevention. Data were analysed for differences in treatment for men and women, and whether these could be attributed to age at presentation. Women were older than men at presentation (mean age 75, standard deviation 11, versus 66, SD 12 for men); fewer women received thrombolisis (34% vs 44%) and low molecular weight heparin (63% vs 71%); and women had higher 30-day mortality (28% vs 17%). Fewer women received cardiac catheterization, investigations to identify high risk, drugs for secondary prevention on discharge and referral to cardiac rehabilitation. However, intensities of treatment, investigation of secondary prevention were strongly related to age and, after adjusting for age, gender differences remained only for thrombolysis and exercise testing. Although women receive fewer investigations and treatments than men, this potential gender bias can be explained by age. (RH)
ISSN: 17413842
From: http://www.jpubhealth.oupjournals.org

A new approach to the link between identity and relative deprivation in the perspective of ageism and retirement; by Francine Tougas, Martine Lagacé, Roxane de la Sablonnière (et al).
Although the work force is ageing, views regarding older workers remain negative. As a result, complaints of discrimination on the basis of age have increased, and prompts these questions. What leads ageing workers to acknowledge disparities between younger workers and themselves, and what are the consequences for ageing workers of integrating into their self-image some of the characteristics commonly associated with their cohort? These questions are examined in the light of a new approach to the link between identity and relative deprivation. The following hypotheses were included in a predictive model: the more individuals include their group's characteristics into their self-descriptions, the more they experience personal deprivation when comparing their own situation to that of younger workers. These feelings, in turn, affect them during retirement, in terms of lowered self-esteem and decreased life satisfaction. This model was tested with 149 young retirees. Hypotheses were confirmed: end-of-career experiences do have an impact on the situation of young retirees. The more individuals integrated characteristics of ageing workers, the more they felt personally deprived as a result of invidious comparisons with young co-workers. The latter also had a negative impact on self-esteem and life satisfaction. (RH)

ISSN: 00914150
From: http://baywood.com

The Citizens Council of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) reflects its views about whether there are circumstances in which the age of a person should be taken into account when NICE makes a decision about how treatments should be used in the National Health Service (NHS). When NICE is deciding what constitutes value for money for the NHS, and when age is an indicator of likely risk, most of the members think that age differentiation when considering cost effectiveness is legitimate, indeed vital in some instances. Most think that NICE should be more generous to some age groups rather than others, if certain age groups are more likely to benefit from a treatment. On the other hand, most do not think that NICE should be more generous to some age groups rather than others on the basis of social roles that people have at different ages. Lastly, most do not think that NICE should be more generous in their definition of what constitutes value for money for some age groups rather than others based on how much chance people have had to experience life due to their age. Appendices list the members of the Citizens Council, and outline how it operates and informs its discussions. (RH)

From: Downloaded (28.4.04): www.nice.org.uk

Racial differences in perceived discrimination in a community population of older Blacks and Whites; by Lisa L Barnes, Carlos F Mendes De Leon, Robert S Wilson (et al).
In a sample of 2,632 Blacks and 1,630 Whites aged 65+ from the Chicago Health and Ageing Project (CHAP), perceived discrimination was measured with a 9-item scale developed by Williams, Yu, Jackson and Anderson (1997). A factor analysis of the discrimination scale revealed two sub-scales: unfair treatment and personal rejection. Blacks scored higher on both sub-scales as compared with Whites. In linear regression models, race was significantly associated with higher levels of unfair treatment and personal rejection, controlling for demographic variables and socioeconomic status. Each sub-scale was positively related to depressive symptoms, and these effects did not vary by race. These findings suggest that older Blacks perceive more discrimination than do older Whites. This may have important implications for health differences between older Blacks and Whites. (RH)
ISSN: 08982643
From: http://www.sagepub.com

A brief article that looks at the current debate about the "pension crisis", the impending age discrimination legislation due to come into force in October 2007, and the implications all this will have for retirement as a life stage. The author argues that although retirement should be reshaped, she considers it would be a retrograde step to abolish it. There are many people who are not able or willing to continue to work well into their later life and look forward to their retirement as "light at the end of the tunnel". (KJ/RH)
2003

Absence of ageism in access to critical care: a cross-sectional study; by Ruth E Hubbard, Ronan A Lyons, Ken W Woodhouse (et al).
Previous studies have shown that the number of critical care beds in the UK is inadequate to meet the needs of the population. In this study, all sick patients in five South Wales Health Authority hospitals were studied every twelfth day for one calendar year. Ten members of the Welsh Intensive Care Society subsequently judged the optimum location of care for each of the 4058 individuals meeting study criteria. This was based on a summary of diagnoses, procedures and physiological/biochemical results, but without access to the patient's age or the type of ward or hospital where the patients were actually treated. These data were analysed to determine whether the likelihood of being treated in the most appropriate setting, based on the consensus decision, was influenced by the patient's age. 2287 patients (56.4%) were being cared for in a general ward, and 1769 in critical care areas. The intensivist panel determined that 1085 (53%) ward based patients were more suitable for care on intensive care or high dependency units, and 220 (12.4%) critical care patients were suitable for ward care. The proportion of those considered to be in an inappropriate ward varied little in different age groups. (RH)
ISSN: 00020729

Help the Aged would like the scope of legislation outlawing age discrimination in employment to be extended to include the supply of goods and services. Part 1 of this discussion paper reports on a seminar which discussed whether age discrimination can be challenged in respect of financial services, given that age criteria are already deeply embedded in financial products. Issues raised included recommendations in the Sandler Inquiry, and the 2002 Green Paper, "Simplicity, security and choice: working and saving for retirement". Part 2 assesses how the debate can be taken forward on age discrimination in respect of goods and services, including financial services such as insurance and consumer protection issues. (RH)
ISBN: 1904528414
From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk Email: info@helptheaged.org.uk

Age discrimination in Britain and Europe: an ERA/AGE conference, Savoy Place London, 17 January 2003; by Equal Rights on Age (ERA); AGE (European Older People's Platform); Help the Aged; Age Concern England - ACE. London
The EU Council Directive 200/78/EC - commonly called the Employment Directive - established a general framework for equal treatment in employment and vocational training and guidance. The joint ERA/AGE seminar was held with the support of Help the Aged and Age Concern England (ACE). This report outlines presentations and discussions on: protecting fundamental rights; the UK's approach to implementing the Directive; and individuals' experiences of discrimination in employment and other areas. Therefore, a key issue for the conference was the need for comprehensive equality legislation. (RH)
From: www.age-platform.org

How health and social care organisations respond to the needs - and rights - of the United Kingdom's growing numbers of older people is increasingly in the spotlight. The Government's 2002 National Service Framework for Older People (NSF) has put age equality firmly on political and health service agendas, and new scrutiny groups have been set up at local level. But age discrimination is difficult to define and challenging to combat in practice. This guide gives clear, practical guidance about how to gather and assess evidence of age discrimination, who to involve in the process, what kinds of evidence to look for, and where to look. (RH)
Price: £15.00

Discrimination against self-funding residents in long-term residential care in England; by Fay Wright.
This paper reports the findings of research funded by the Nuffield Foundation on older people paying the full costs of their long-term residential or nursing home care in England. The research had three stages: a national postal survey directed at senior finance officers in social services departments (SSDs); follow-up telephone
interviews with a sample of them; and interviews in five case study areas. Those interviewed included social services staff, care home providers, self-funding residents and relatives. These self-funding residents were commonly relatively physically independent on admission to the care home. Despite central government directives that needs assessments should be available regardless of a person's means, it is a common policy to encourage older people in this situation to admit themselves directly to care homes without a needs assessment. Wide variation was found in local authority practice in respect to being prepared to make a contract with a care-home provider for older people able to meet the full costs of care. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 0144686X

Older workers have been affected by the restructuring of Australian workplaces, often finding it difficult to obtain alternative employment. This exploratory study examined the amount of information provided in résumés that could form the basis for unlawful discrimination. The covering letters and résumés of secretarial job applicants were examined and coded under strict ethical guidelines. Substantial information upon which unlawful discrimination could be based was provided by applicants, particularly those who were older. Applicants may reduce their chances of an interview and aid and abet unlawful discrimination by including personal information in their résumés. Suggestions to minimise the problem are offered. (RH)

ISSN: 14406381

Age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. The proposals in this consultation document aim to strike the right balance between regulating and supporting new legislation through other measures designed to achieve culture change. This summary outlines the proposals on who will be protected, and under what circumstances treating people differently on grounds age will be possible. Proposals with regard to retirement age; recruitment, selection, promotion, pay and non-pay benefits; unfair dismissal and redundancy are outlined. The benefit of increased participation rates for older and younger workers is highlighted. (RH)

Price: FOC
From : Website: www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/age

Age discrimination in employment and vocational training will become unlawful on 1 October 2006. This is the first consultation devoted solely to proposals for age legislation relating to the European Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (Council Directive 2000/78/EC). Sections cover: outlawing age discrimination; retirement age; unfair dismissal; statutory redundancy payments; recruitment, selection and promotion; pay and non-pay benefits; and cross-cutting issues (that is, other strands of discrimination in employment). In the light of responses to this consultation, there will be consultation on draft regulations in the first half of 2004; and with an aim for legislation to be laid before Parliament by the end of 2004. (RH)

Price: FOC
From : Website: www.dti.gov.uk/er/equality/age

Marketing and advertising to older people: report of a seminar held by Help the Aged on 19 September 2002 as part of its campaign against age discrimination; by Help the Aged. London: Help the Aged, 2003, 21 pp.
Although the majority of wealth and assets are held by the 50-65 age group, 95% of advertising revenue is aimed at under 35s. Much of the advertising that is aimed at older people is stereotypical in its attitudes and the images portrayed. The seminar focused on three major points: the scale of the problem; the underlying causes and how these can be tackled; and what role Help the Aged can play. Appendices include the findings of a survey of television commercials, undertaken as part of Help the Aged's campaign against age discrimination. (RH)

ISBN: 190452818X
From : Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. E-mail: info@helptheaged.org.uk
Website: www.helptheaged.org.uk
A new equality framework for the UK? The impact of the EU anti-discrimination Directives and the public duty to promote race equality: Report of the seventh UK Roundtable held on 14 March 2003 at the UK Office of the European Parliament, London; by Helen Masding, Anja Rudiger (eds), UK Secretariat, European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). London: EUMC, 2003, 28 pp. New equality frameworks are emerging throughout the European Union (EU), brought about by the European anti-discrimination Directives. Accordingly, this UK Roundtable focused on debating the required legislative and institutional changes. Plenary sessions included Lord Lester of Herne Hill and his advocacy of an Equality Act; Belgian implementation of the EU Directives; and government action on race equality. Workshop discussions covered proposed changes to UK equality legislation and practical implementation of race equality laws. (RH)

From: UK Secretariat of the EUMC, 201-211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1GZ. Email: secretariat@cre.gov.uk

Reducing stigma and discrimination against older people with mental disorders: a technical consensus statement; by Nori Graham, James Lindesay, Cornelius Katona (et al), Old Age Psychiatry Section, World Psychiatric Association - WPA; World Health Organization - WHO. International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, vol 18, no 8, August 2003, pp 670-678. Stigma results from a process whereby certain individuals and groups are unjustifiably rendered shameful, excluded and discriminated against. The destigmatisation of people with mental disorders is central to the current agenda of action within the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). This technical consensus paper was produced by WPO and WHO, with the collaboration of several NGOs and the participation of experts from different regions. It is intended as a tool for: promoting debate on the stigmatisation of older people with mental disorders; outlining the nature, causes and consequences of this stigmatisation; and promoting and suggesting policies, programmes and actions to combat this stigmatisation. (RH) ISSN: 08856230

Stigma and discrimination against older people with mental disorders in Europe; by Carlos A de Mendonça Lima, Itzhak Levav, Lars Jacobsson (et al). International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, vol 18, no 8, August 2003, pp 679-682. The European Office of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO) has established a Task Force on Destigmatization. On the release of the technical statement on old age psychiatry, "Reducing stigma and discrimination against older people with mental disorders", the Task Force ran a small survey in two European sub-regions to investigate the event of stigma and discrimination with reference to the older person affected by a psychiatric disorder in countries of those subregions. The survey questionnaire inquired on the inclusion of epidemiological studies on older people in each country's research programme, the time devoted to teaching in old age psychiatry, the degree of coverage of services for older people and their caregivers, and the extent of stigma present in society with regard to three psychiatric disorders. Given that stigma and discrimination seem to be present both in the health sector and among the public at large, the development of effective health and social facilities to support older people with mental disorders should be a high priority. (RH) ISSN: 08856230

Three faces of ageism: society, image and place; by Kevin E McHugh. Ageing and Society, vol 23, part 2, March 2003, pp 165-186. This paper elucidates and champions a spatiality perspective in social gerontology, by arguing that relationships between older people and the spaces and places they inhabit illuminate deeply-ingrained societal attitudes and values. The trilogy of society, image and place is explored through an interpretive reading of images and scripts in "successful ageing" and "anti-ageing" created and promoted by the booming "retirement industry" in the United States. Six tropes (metaphoric usages) are revealed in an interpretation of prevalent images of "Sunbelt retirement land": geographic cornucopia, ageless selves, near perfection, the right stuff, down home living, and nomads of desire. This reading serves as a springboard in elaborating T R Cole's (1992) notion of bipolar ageism, as we vacillate between negative stereotypes of old age and positive elixirs, such as anti-ageing and agelessness, that are cloaked denials of decline, disease and death. The paper concludes with a series of troubling questions about the perpetuation and depth of ageism in society and culture. (KJ/RH) ISSN: 0144686X

Towards equality and diversity: report of responses on age; by Department of Trade and Industry - DTI. London: Department of Trade and Industry - DTI, 2003, 10 pp (Age matters)(URN 03/924). This paper is a summary of the responses to the December 2001 consultation, "Towards equality and diversity". Responses revealed how common age discrimination was: 50% of respondents had either suffered from age discrimination at work, or had witnessed someone else suffering. Respondents give their views on: how age
discrimination should be tackled; under what circumstances age-related practices could be justified; and whether there was a place for age-based recruitment schemes. Other issues considered include promotion, training, positive action, pay (and other benefits), redundancy, and retirement age. (RH)

2002

Age Discrimination (No.2) Bill: a Bill to make it unlawful to discriminate against persons on grounds of age in connection with employment, or the provision of goods and services ...; by Paul Burstow.: HMSO, 7 May 2002, 11 pp (HC Bill 133 session 2001-2002).

If enacted, this Bill would make it unlawful to discriminate against persons on grounds of age in connection with employment, or the provision of goods and services. It would also establish an Age Equality Commission, with the function of working towards the elimination of such discrimination and promoting age equality generally. (RH)
ISBN: 0215701119
Price: £2.50
From: The Stationery Office, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1BQ.

Help the Aged commissioned research which examined seven areas of public policy to investigate the extent and impact of age discrimination: education, employment, health care, social care, social security, transport, and citizenship. The resulting report has recommended that age discrimination and its negative consequences should be openly acknowledged and backed by anti-discrimination legislation. While more research is needed, the older people themselves should be involved in policy development. This article comprises an extract from the executive summary of the report, ‘Age discrimination in public policy: a review of evidence’. (RH)


Help the Aged contends that ageism and age discrimination deprive the UK of the skills, talents and contribution of a major and growing section of the population. Help the Aged invited researchers with expertise, to consider how public policy discriminates, directly and indirectly, on the grounds of age in the following seven areas: education, employment, health care, social care, social security, transport, and citizenship. This executive summary outlines their findings. (RH)
ISBN: 0905852672
Price: £18.50
From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. E-mail: info@helptheaged.org.uk
Website: www.helptheaged.org.uk

This review examines how public policy discriminates, directly and indirectly, on the grounds of age in seven specific areas: education, employment, health care, social care, social security, transport, and citizenship and representation. It discovers clear evidence of direct discrimination in our national institutions; and it explores the impact of direct or indirect discrimination on older people themselves and on society as a whole. While the conclusions offer general remarks on ageing as a rationing device, and how older people are stereotyped or marginalised, a growing awareness of the existence of ageism is detected with efforts being made to combat this barrier to older people’s inclusion in civil society. (RH)
ISBN: 0905852656
Price: £18.50
From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. E-mail: info@helptheaged.org.uk
Website: www.helptheaged.org.uk

Ageism among health professionals: a comparison of clinical educators and students in physical and occupational therapy; by Lynne C Giles, Janis E Paterson, Sarnia J Butler (et al).

Negative attitudes towards ageing can be a substantial obstacle to the delivery of quality health care to older adults. This New Zealand study compared the attitudes towards older people and knowledge of ageing held by clinical educators and students in physiotherapy and occupational therapy. 175 participants completed a
questionnaire that consisted of the Kogan scale, Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz (version 1) (FAQ1) and questions concerning social interaction with older people and demographic information. The clinical educators of both professional groups had significantly higher attitudinal scores than the student participants. After controlling for the effect of age, clinical educators had a significantly lower negative bias on the FAQ1 than the students. Significantly higher positive bias scores on the FAQ1 were reported by the occupational therapy students and clinical educators in comparison to their physiotherapy counterparts. A stronger curriculum emphasis throughout the academic programme, together with increased clinical placements in settings of care for older people, may be necessary to better equip students for the workplace. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 02703181


Ageism and age discrimination in Canada: an introduction: part one; by Charmaine Spencer.
This article sets out to introduce the subject of ageism, and defines ageism and age discrimination as laid out in Canadian legislation. Information about provincial and federal human rights legislation is given e.g. the Ontario Human Rights Code which covers the actions of individuals, private bodies providing services to the public and various levels of government; whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms only applies to "government action". The author asserts that too few age discrimination cases are coming before human rights commissions, despite this legislature and considers better legal advocacy is still required in Canada. (KJ)
ISSN: 1188181X

Plenary sessions covered equality and human rights in Europe, and how discrimination is being tackled in Amsterdam, Denmark, and the UK. Workshop sessions examined three themes: European anti-discrimination legislation and its relevance to Britain; immigration and asylum policies in a European context; and community cohesion. (RH)
From: UK Secretariat of the EUMC, 201-211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1GZ.

The need for research was highlighted by the incidence of ageism as experienced and articulated by Wise Owl Employment Agency's client group, the over 45s who are seeking employment, better employment, or self employment, and live mainly in East London. The London East Learning and Skills Council (LELSC) commissioned the Agency and its sister organisation, SEA Limited, to carry out the research. Qualitative research was based on a sample of 300 over 45s seeking employment, the key feature being that it represents those sections of the 45-65 population most likely to suffer from social exclusion. Most people visiting the Agency's offices tend to live in deprived areas and generally have lower incomes. Among the recommendations made are legislation by December 2003 to outlaw unfair discrimination in employment and training. (RH)
From: Wise Owls Employment Agency Ltd., The Print House, Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL.

The National service framework for older people (NSF) Standard One, Rooting out age discrimination, states that "NHS services will be provided, regardless of age, on the basis of clinical need alone. Social care services will not use age in their eligibility criteria or policies, to restrict access to available services". This document reports on an initial audit of age-related policies carried out across 73.6% of the NHS. While awareness has been raised of age discrimination as an important issue, there is wide variation, and some age-related policies have been identified. Included as an annex is the 'Audit of policies for age-related criteria: a guide' (August 2001). (RH)
From: Download:
In this lecture, Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC called for a radical overhaul of existing anti-discrimination legislation, and for a single Equality Bill. A powerful and professional Equality Commission is required to promote equality, and to tackle all forms of discrimination, including age, as has successfully been introduced in Northern Ireland. The lecture heralds the start of a major campaign for Help the Aged on the issue of age discrimination and equality. (RH)
ISBN: 090585263X
Price: £5.00
From: Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ.

Age discrimination in employment; by Julia Branchflower.
The real problem for those who believe that age is the reason for being treated differently is that age discrimination is not yet unlawful in the UK. This article outlines circumstances under which an older employee may act. It also summarises two Codes of Practice: the DfEE's "Age diversity in employment"; and "Ageing in employment: a European code of good practice", produced by Eurolink Age. In the short term, these documents may be useful in highlighting difficulties faced by older workers, who may feel able to challenge practice and policies which result in age discrimination. (RH)
ISSN: 14737043

The Committee evaluated the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) Code of Practice on Age Diversity in Employment, and the European Union (EU) Directive on Equal Treatment which also covers occupational pensions and retirement. The Committee concluded that if the Government is to combat age discrimination effectively, it will need to set a demanding agenda in terms of legislation and in terms of increasing the effectiveness of the voluntary Code of Practice. The report includes DfEE oral evidence, and memoranda from individuals and organisations representing older people's employment interests. (RH)
ISBN: 010219601X
Price: £13.60
From: TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN.

The United Kingdom has committed itself to legislate against age discrimination in employment for the first time, by signing up to a European Directive (Council Directive 2000/78/EC). A number of countries already have such legislation. These Findings report on a study carried out by Zmira Hornstein, "Outlawing age discrimination: foreign lessons, UK choices" published for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) by the Policy Press. The study looked at what can be learned from those countries' experiences, and analysed the options for the UK in designing age discrimination laws. The study identified legislation against age discrimination in employment in 13 countries, and looked in detail at three - Australia, Canada and the US - where it has been established for some time. (RH)
ISSN: 09583084
From: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Homestead, 40 Water End, York YO30 6WP.

Age-based health care allocation as a wedge separating the person from the patient and commodifying medicine; by Katrina A Bramstedt.
The author contends that ageist limits have the effect of slicing a patient in half. The "medical half" contains the diagnosis, prognosis, vital signs and other physiological matters. The "other" half contains contextual and personal matters such as treatment preferences, personal beliefs, religious and cultural beliefs, and social dynamics. Ageism, as practised by limiting health care based on a person's chronological age profoundly denies a health care role for these components in the "other" half, because it renders their value as zero when the specified age limit is reached. (RH)
Ageism in work and employment; by Ian Glover, Mohamed Branine (eds), Stirling School of Management, University of Stirling. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2001, 382 pp (Stirling Management series).

Ageism, defined as unconscionable prejudice and discrimination based on actual or perceived chronological age, is present at all stages of employment. This book seeks to identify and discuss the nature and some of the main causes of ageism and age discrimination at work and employment in the UK, and to a lesser extent elsewhere. It describes and explores the experience and practice of age discrimination at work and in employment; and presents, compares and contrasts some of the main remedies that have been proposed in the context of relevant economic, political and social trends. Twelve of the chapters were first given as papers at a conference on Ageism, Work and Employment held at the University of Stirling in July 1996. (RH)

ISBN: 1840141492
Price: £47.50
From: Ashgate Publishing, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3HR.

The Ageism Survey: first findings; by Erdman Palmore.
A survey instrument was developed listing 20 types of ageism, and tested on 84 people aged 60+. The survey's aim was to answer three questions. First, what is the prevalence of ageing in various societies? Second, which types of ageism are more prevalent? Third, which sub-groups of older people report more ageism? The survey instrument found that respondents' experience of ageism was widespread and frequent. Most reported several incidents of ageism, of which more than half were reported to have occurred "more than once". The most frequent types were people showing disrespect for older people, followed by people showing assumptions about ailments or frailty caused by age. Consequently, the author trusts that the Ageism Survey may be useful in attempts to reduce ageism. (RH)

ISSN: 00169013

The complexities of age relations at work are examined. Garment workers believed that their fate was linked to ageism, and that their work experience was discounted by management. Managers wanted to be rid of older workers, because they commanded higher wages that younger workers. The issue was cost reduction, and age was implicated unintentionally. Still, managers seemed to use stereotypical images to discourage older workers, and they did not organize work routines to facilitate the adaptation of them. Instead, they subcontracted the easy jobs, relying on older employees' experience for difficult work, while not adapting the workplace. Theoretically, the authors argue that ageism and age discrimination can best be understood through a recognition of the importance of structured age relations and human agency. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 00169013

Are psychiatrists guilty of 'ageism' when it comes to taking a sexual history?; by Walter Pierre Bouman, Jon Arcelus.
72 old age and general consultant psychiatrists at 20 hospitals in the Midlands and South Yorkshire were sent questionnaires with one of two different case vignettes: an old man complaining of low mood, and a middle-aged man with the same complaint. Both questionnaires included questions on taking a sexual history and management of sexual dysfunction. Consultant psychiatrists (general and old age) take a sexual history more frequently from middle-aged than from older men. Middle-aged men with sexual dysfunction are referred to a specialised clinic, whilst older men are referred to a community psychiatric nurse. These findings indicate that taking a sexual history is often omitted in the psychiatric assessment of older men, who also do not receive appropriate referral and treatment for sexual dysfunction. Human sexuality and particularly aged sexuality requires more attention in psychiatric training. (RH)

ISSN: 08856230

Combating ageism: an imperative for contemporary health care; by Sian Wade.
Reports and publications condemning the quality of health and social care experienced by older people are not new. The Health Advisory Service (HAS 2000) report, "Not because they are old ..." lists factors that have perpetuated ageist attitudes; and the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People should also act as a catalyst for change. This paper draws on a cross-section of literature to explore reasons why ageism persists in society, and particularly within health care. It investigates strategies that might be adopted to engender more
positive attitudes, and to raise the perceived status of caring for older people, for example through education and continuing professional development. (RH)

ISSN: 09592598

One of the earliest expressions of the phenomenon now termed "ageism" appeared in Max Lerner's "America as a civilization" (1957). This response to Erdman Palmore's Ageism Survey proposal cites observations by Lerner and other proponents, highlighting problems regarding attitudes to, and perceptions of, ageism. (RH)
ISSN: 00169013

IN: Care services for later life: transformations and critiques edited by Tony Warnes, Lorna Warren, Mike Nolan, 2001, pp 103-118.
Health and social services have been subject to constant definition and re-definition since the inception of the NHS (National Health Service) in 1948. Boundaries have been drawn between services, between client groups, between locations (community and hospital), between professions, and between agencies and sectors. This chapter looks at some of the more recent boundary disputes, and considers their consequences for older people, the largest client group involved. Three areas of concern are identified and discussed: the quality of services; the health-social care divide; and the tendency for older people to be excluded from the health system, by discrimination on grounds of age. (RH)
ISBN: 1853028525
Price: £17.95
From: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JB.

Eradication of ageism requires addressing the enemy within; by Becca R Levy.
This response to Erdman Palmore's Ageism Survey suggests two components of ageing that merit consideration: implicit ageism, and ageing self-stereotypes. (RH)
ISSN: 00169013

Three distinct aims are presented in this literature review. First, it provides an analytic overview of the notion of ageism. Second, it discusses how ageism and images of old age are manifested in the public sphere. Finally, it presents a rationale on which to establish an anti-ageist practice. (RH)
ISSN: 10165177

Human rights enforcement agencies and the protection of older workers against discrimination: the case of the Quebec Human Rights Commission; by Oscar E Firbank.
An insight is provided into how a human rights enforcement agency, the Quebec Human Rights Commission, implements legal dispositions prohibiting age discrimination in employment. Drawing on data from claims filed before the Commission, this article establishes a quantitative profile of cases, and examines factors involved in the decisions made by the Commission. It is argued that the Commission's approach to investigating age discrimination cases and the burden of proof put on respondents are the main contributing factors to the limited number of cases validated. Despite these shortcomings, the Commission still fulfils an important role in defending and promoting older workers' rights. (RH)
ISSN: 08959420
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

Images of age; by Bill Bytheway.
From an early age, we learn certain values: children are wonderful; youth is beautiful; maturity means responsibility; old age is ugly and miserable. Such values are dominant in almost every culture: we tend to be attracted to the image of young people, and repelled by that of the old. This paper is based on a lecture by the author in which he examined a number of images of age and discussed their significance. (RH)

The UK is committed to legislation against age discrimination and, under the European Union (EU) Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation, is expected to have legislation in place by December 2003. This study looks at what can usefully be learned from other countries’ experiences, and analyses the options for the UK. It identifies legislation against age discrimination in employment in 13 OECD member states: the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Finland and the Republic of Ireland all have extensive legislation; and Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Portugal and Sweden have limited legislation. The report considers age discrimination legislation in Australia, Canada and the US in detail. The evidence was discussed at a workshop in March 2001 to refine the findings of the study, which is part of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's (JRF) Transitions After 50 Programme. (RH)

ISBN: 186134354X
Price: £14.95
From: Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN. Email: direct.orders@marston.co.uk


The author comments briefly on the responses to his Ageing Survey from Elias Cohen and Becca R Levy. (RH)

ISSN: 00169013


Drawing on the philosophical differentiation between sex and gender, this article focuses on structural mechanisms of gender discrimination within European pension systems. For this purpose, it distinguishes between two dimensions of the gender category: the work behaviour dimension, and the care dimension. It is argued that the differentiation between employment and family work on the one hand and specific living arrangements on the other is structurally implemented within old age security systems. All countries have established earnings-related schemes which, to various extents, refer to former earnings and continuous working careers. Many of the earnings-related schemes incorporate family work, by granting entitlement for the care of children and/or elderly or handicapped people. Most of the schemes are combined with additional benefits for spouses and/or survivors, referring to married heterosexual couples. Only a few countries have additionally established universal pension schemes based on residence instead of employment or family work. The comparative analysis of pension systems in the 15 EU member states gives an idea about national varieties of structural gender differentiation. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 09589287

A traffic sign recognition test can discriminate between older drivers who have and have not had a motor vehicle crash; by Jan M MacGregor, Daniel H Freeman, Dong Zhang. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, vol 49, no 4, April 2001, pp 466-469.

The 22 million drivers age 65+ in the US represent 13% of that country's driving population; one in twelve is 80 or older. Although the rate of crashes per person declines steadily with age, the rate per mile rises steadily after the age of 70. This study in Galveston, Texas, using a Traffic Sign Recognition Test (TSRT), found that the test significantly distinguished between 60 drivers who had crashed and 60 controls, which the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) did not. However, whilst the TSRT successfully identified older drivers who had recently had a crash, the test lacks sensitivity and specificity. A prospective study is needed to further delineate the TSRT's usefulness in predicting crash risk in older drivers. (RH)

ISSN: 00028614

2000


The Home Office commissioned the Institute for Volunteering Research to examine incidence of the practice of using the retirement age to limit older people's involvement in voluntary work. The main reasons given are insurance, health issues, and having a standard regulation for an age limit. Recommendations are made for
action by organisations and government to remove age restrictions for volunteering, and to judge older people on their abilities. (RH)

From: Institute for Volunteering Research, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL.


There have been frequent instances in the past year of patients being denied treatment or good quality NHS care because of ageist attitudes. These cases only usually come to light when the individuals concerned or their families complain. This briefing note is based on a review of the literature and a series of meetings with key stakeholders in older people's health and social care provision. While there are many examples of excellent care for older people in the UK, the review reveals evidence of unfair age discrimination in health and social care, with a whole range of services being implicated. There is clear evidence that some services have operated explicit age restrictions which have little justifiable clinical basis. Age discrimination is more often covert and subtle, and is implicit in a general lack of priority for older people's services. Discrimination is sometimes difficult to separate from other issues around gender, poverty, ethnicity, and the way in which people with disabilities and long term illness are treated. This paper was produced as part of a wider project on age discrimination at the King's Fund. (RH)

Price: FOC

From: Emilie Roberts or Janice Robinson, King's Fund, tel 020 7307 2523. King's Fund website: www.kingsfund.org.uk

Age-based rationing in the allocation of health care; by Ian Dey, Neil Fraser. Journal of Aging and Health, vol 12, no 4, November 2000, pp 511-537.

The debate about age-based rationing in health care has acquired increasing salience, particularly in the UK and the US. The authors identify four different levels (or types) of decision-making in health resource allocation - societal, strategic, programmatic and clinical - and assess how issues of rationing vary in relation to each level. They conclude that rationing is least defensible at the clinical level, where it is also most covert. The role of rationing at other levels is more defensible when based on grounds of cost-effectiveness rather than equity. The importance of fairness in health allocation is emphasised, suggesting that efficiency criteria need to be considered in that context. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08982643


The emergence and evolution of the concept of ageism in employment in the UK is traced. Such features are also challenged as being defective and undermining of efforts to eradicate age discrimination in employment. Also revealed is some loosening in recent years of the association of the term "ageism" with older employers. This latter observation informed the focus of the authors' empirical work, which examined the views of 460 Business Studies students concerning age and employment. A significant proportion had experienced ageism directly in employment. Most favoured the introduction of legislative protection against age discrimination, with blanket coverage irrespective of age. Though negative stereotypes regarding older workers were by no means uncommon among the sample, little firm evidence emerged of intergenerational tensions or resentment towards older people. The policy implications of these findings are considered, including the relative merits of weighting policy responses towards older employees. It is argued that initiatives restricted in this way, further constrained by commercial imperatives and macro-economic objectives, are likely to prove divisive and self-defeating as a means of combating ageism. (RH)

ISSN: 0144686X


An ageing population will have inevitable consequences for demands on acute and longer term health care resources. Moreover, old age is rarely characterised by positive images, and older age stereotypes are often unflattering and ugly. Many older people experience social exclusion as a result of low income, poor housing, little family support, isolation, disability and illness. Ageism is a prejudice which is invoked to deny older people the things they seek, and ageism in medicine probably reflects ageism in society as a whole. Old age is a criterion for rationing health care resources, and it occurs at all levels of the National Health Service (NHS). Older people are often excluded from research trials, have their surgical operations cancelled too often, and are less often accepted for cardiological investigation and intervention. Women over 65 are not routinely invited for breast cancer screening, and once they are diagnosed, they may not be offered the same treatment as younger
women. Ageism in clinical practice should be combatted by better education of healthcare workers, and treatment decisions should only be taken on an individual basis and not on stereotypical views. (RH)

ISSN: 03748014

Experiences of age discrimination in working life in Finland; by Anne Kouvonen.
Basic findings from the author's 1999 study, "Experiences of age discrimination in work and recruitment" are presented, in which the forms and extent of discrimination against older workers in Finland are examined. Her results show that age discrimination in recruitment is a more serious and important problem than age discrimination in work, and that the whole problem is challenging and difficult to solve. In trying to find solutions, it is essential to pay special attention to updating the education of older workers and older unemployed jobseekers. (RH)

ISSN: 13528580

Functional mobility discriminates nonfallers from one-time and frequent fallers; by Katherine B Gunter, Karen N White, Wilson C Hayes (et al).
Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences, vol 55A, no 11, November 2000, pp M672-M676.
Given that 90% of hip fractures result from a fall, individuals who fall frequently are more likely to be at greater risk of fracture than those who fall only once. The authors used the Get Up and Go and Tandem Gait tests to establish the possibility of distinguishing between frequent fallers, one-time fallers, and non-fallers. Get Up and Go is found to be very effective in both discriminating between fallers and non-fallers, and is associated with lower extremity strength and power. Prevention strategies should focus on improving both functional mobility and lower extremity strength and power. (RH)

ISSN: 10795006

Perceptions and consequences of ageism: views of older people; by Victor Minichiello, Jan Browne, Hal Kendig.
This qualitative study examines meanings and experiences of ageism for older Australians. While the concept is widely applied in academic social analysis, the term is not understood or used by many of the informants. They talk freely, however, about negative experiences in "being seen as old" and "being treated as old". Active ageing is viewed as a positive way of presenting and interpreting oneself as separate from the "old" group. Informants recognise that older people as a group experience negative treatment in terms of poor access to transport and housing, low incomes, forced retirement and inadequate nursing home care. While few have experienced overt or brutal ageism, interaction in everyday life involves some negative treatment, occasional positive "sageism", and others "keeping watch" for one's vulnerabilities. Health professionals are a major source of ageist treatment. Some older people limit their lives by accommodating ageism, while others actively negotiate new images of ageing for themselves and those who will be old in the future. (RH)

ISSN: 0144686X

Unjustified exclusion of elderly people from studies submitted to research ethics committee for approval: descriptive study; by Antony Bayer, Win Tadd.
The authors were interested in whether research protocols submitted to the local research ethics committee contained unjustified upper age limits and how the committee dealt with this. Of 155 studies of relevance to older people, more than half had an upper age limit that was unjustified. Negative stereotyping of older people was reflected in comments in the studies that participants need to be "fully competent", "reliable" or "without cognitive impairment". One argument for an upper age limit is that it minimises rate of dropout. However, the authors know of no evidence that older people are less compliant with the demands of research protocols. Ethics committees are in a strong position to influence research practice, and the authors urge more positive attitudes towards older people. This paper is part of the BMJ's randomised controlled trial of open peer review. (RH)

ISSN: 09598138

Why are older people left out?; by Nick Moor.
With the increasing marginalisation of psychiatric care for older people and the lack of development in the services that they are receiving, the care of older people with mental health problems is something of a Cinderella service. The author wonders whether whether ageism is built into the system. (RH)
ISSN: 09547762

1999

This new edition has been published to coincide with the International Year of Older Persons 1999 and the Debate of the Age. The CRE and Age Concern England are continuing their work together on a strategy aimed at improving the quality of life of older ethnic minorities. This is being undertaken by: highlighting the rapidly growing number of older people from ethnic minority groups; raising issues affecting ethnic minority older people among service providers; influencing policy makers and planners, and encouraging working alliances between relevant local groups and the ethnic minority communities themselves. As with the 1996 edition, this pack comprises a declaration of action for interested organisations, lists of useful organisations and publications, and 6 pamphlets: overview of life for ethnic minority elders in Britain today; housing; health; income; social welfare; education and leisure. The pamphlets have been expanded and updated to reflect changes since the previous edition. (RH)
Price: £5.00
From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

Age discrimination in employment in Australia; by S Encel.
Age discrimination in employment is alive and well in Australia, but its ramifications are only now being explored. Age stereotyping appears to affect older people, whose situation receives much less attention than youth unemployment, sex discrimination or sexual harassment. The general prevalence of ageism creates a climate in which age discrimination can flourish in spite of legal remedies. The author examines the issues and gives them a human face by using case studies. A preliminary version of this article was presented at the meeting of the International Association of Gerontology held in Adelaide in August 1997. (RH)
ISSN: 01635158

Ageism in cardiology; by Ann Bowling.
In assessing the ability to benefit from treatment, chronological age is less important than other factors concerned with the biological ageing process and the presence of associated disease. Any rationing because of limitation of health resources should be on the basis of assessed individual physiological ability to benefit. Cardiovascular diseases are a common cause of death and disability among older people, who are less likely to receive the appropriate investigations than those in younger age groups. The author recommends the development of clinical guidelines for more informed decision making in treatment of older people, who could also be empowered to influence the choices and standards of health care offered. An age discrimination act should be considered, if ageist attitudes and practices are to be eradicated. This is one of four articles based on presentations given at a BMJ conference on "Medicine in an Ageing Society" in November 1999. (RH)
ISSN: 09598138

This monograph considers ageism in contemporary western societies. It is necessary to first set the scene by considering historical evidence for attitudes that would be considered ageist today. A more recent 20th century history helps to contextualise many of the perspectives that have contributed towards a negative portrayal of later life. The social construction of the term ageism and definitions and attitudes to ageing are considered, including attitudes of health care professionals. A brief review of the discourse surrounding the body in later life is analysed, and the rationing debate is considered alongside the emerging phenomenon of elder abuse. The monograph briefly discusses how ageism can be tackled. (RH)
ISBN: 1902499700
Price: £4.95
From: NT Books, Emap Healthcare Ltd, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7EJ.

Ageism's impact and effect on society: not just a concern for the old; by Elizabeth S Kelchner.
Ageism, or discrimination against individuals because of their age, is a problem for both the individual and society. This article examines ageism as a prejudice against older people (over 65s) from the perspectives of
An explanation of how ageism is manifested and communicated is offered in an attempt to provide an understanding of its impact on the individual, on society, and on service provision. (RH)


During the 1990s concern over age discrimination or "ageism" emerged as an employment issue in the UK, given the declining participation of older workers in employment. Conservative and Labour governments have rejected legislation, but both parties have in various ways acted to discourage such discrimination. The role of the trade unions with respect to age matters is the main focus in this publication. The authors trace the origins of the concept of ageism, and explain its emergence as an employment issue by reference to the "early exit" phenomenon that has become apparent in the UK since the mid-1970s. Trade union policies and practices towards age matters in employment in post-war Britain are discussed, including analysis of responses received from some forty trade unions to a request for information and documentary evidence on age issues. The study concludes that trade union policy has taken "ageist" directions. However, little evidence was found that unions had secured any degree of control over exit procedures. (RH)

Colour discrimination, colour naming and colour preferences among individuals with Alzheimer's disease; by Helle Wijk, Stig Berg, Lars Sivik (et al).


Despite a long tradition of studies regarding the meaning and importance of colour, there is still a lack of studies on how dementia affects aspects of colour perception. The aim of this study is to gain further knowledge concerning the ability of colour naming, colour discrimination and colour preference in Alzheimer's disease (AD). 50 subjects tested were patients at the dementia assessment unit at the psychiatric clinic of the Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden, in 1996-97. The ability to detect colour differences in the yellow, red, blue, green areas, the ability to assign a name to 22 colour samples, and the ability to rank seven colours in order of preference were measured. Discrimination ability was significantly better in the yellow and red areas and for lightness variations. Cognitive decline had a significant impact on naming mixed colours and using elaborate colour names. Severity of dementia did not affect the preference rank of colours. Thus, ability to discriminate is affected by AD, with most errors in the blue and green areas. Naming colours shows a cognitive decline. Preferences for colour are stable, despite the disease. (RH)

The development of an ageism scale - suitable for use for people with dementia: the Lannacombe Inquiry; by Mike Bender, Victoria Parnell, Ben Wellens (et al).: Psychologists' Special Interest Group in Elderly People - PSIGE, British Psychological Society, October 1999, pp 32-36.

PSIGE Newsletter, no 70, October 1999, pp 32-36.

A literature search revealed no ageism scale suitable for use with older people. It was felt useful to develop a scale to measure ageism that could be used with this population, and which might be used to explore the relationship between ageist attitudes, social withdrawal, and an existential form of dementia. A twenty item scale was developed. This article describes the inquiry pilot, the questionnaire's reliability with younger adults, and the reliability of the ageism scale with older people. (RH)

Elder abuse: feminist and ageist perspectives; by Susan J Crichton, John B Bond, Carol D H Harvey (et al).


Elder abuse research reports little consensus regarding gender and age. This project examined 99 incidents of elder abuse by an adult child, and 86 incidents of elder abuse by a spouse, and compared the groups using the variables of gender, age and incidents. The results are discussed from a feminist and age perspective. Differences between the groups were found, namely that elder abuse by an adult child is most likely to be financial abuse. Traditional ideas about women and men, as well as ideas about the nature of the old were found to be factors in elder abusive relationships. (RH)
Feminism and gerontology: not just for women; by Toni M Calasanti.
Feminist approaches are not only appropriate for studying women, but can also offer one of the best frameworks for understanding the diverse ageing experiences of all groups. The author demonstrates this point with a brief overview of feminist theoretical premises, showing how they sensitise as to gender relations as well as other systems of privilege and oppression. To illustrate how feminist perspectives allow us to go beyond partial or exclusionary concepts, the author applies these assumptions to selected areas of interest to researchers on ageing: aspects of retirement; the family in later life; and ageism. These show how a feminist focus on diversity and power relations gives us a broader knowledge of social reality that results in more inclusive, useful concepts and a more complete understanding of the ageing experiences of all. (RH)

This circular draws the attention of social services authorities to the fact that further provisions in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 are being implemented in two stages, from 1 October 1999 and from 2004, and authorities need to comply with the requirements of Section 21 of the DDA by these dates. (KJ)

No foot in the door: an experimental study of employment discrimination against older workers; by Marc Bendick, Lauren E Brown, Kennington Wall.
Economic research provides a variety of indirect evidence that discrimination against older workers continue to operate in the US labour market. However, there have been few studies that have examined such discrimination directly. In this study, pairs of testers, one aged 57 and one aged 32, applied for 103 entry-level sales or management jobs in Washington, DC. Although their credentials described them as equally qualified, the older applicants received less favourable responses from employers 41.2% of the time. Three quarters of these differences occurred before older applicants could fully present their qualifications. The negative employer assumptions about older workers implied by these differences in outcome were seldom explicitly stated. (AKM)

This booklet outlines the facts about age discrimination, concentrating on the areas where it is most commonly found: in employment, in accessing healthcare, in financial services, and in the benefits system. It also sets out Age Concern's case for legislation to combat age discrimination.
Price: FOC
From : Age Concern, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4BR.

Ageism, real or imagined?; by Helen Behrens.
Ageism exists in society, but it is difficult to quantify. The author pinpoints evidence from examples in the media, language usage, ineligibility for mobility or invalid care allowances, health care rationing, and absence of rights to education. Ageism is linked to low economic status and lack of disposable income: with money, people can exercise choice, and their rights are more likely to be recognised. The author concludes that as more people plan for their retirement, making them a more powerful force in society, this may help to change society's negative perceptions of the older population.
ISSN: 09568115

Breaking the silence of ageism by teaching psychology musically; by Beverly L Harju.
Whereas ageism attitudes are pervasive across age groups, the collusion of silence about ageing is often invoked whenever an older person communicates with a younger person. This pattern of silent denial - or minimal
address of ageing issues - is also evident in psychology textbooks and presumably among teachers. This article proposes a method for managing the presentation of difficult material, and describes a procedure for transforming current attitudes to more accepting values. The music sonata provided a compassionately structured model; rather than a minimal address of ageing, this course in life span development both began and ended with late adults as the theme topic. They were presented as the role models and comparison group. Active discourse and appropriate self-disclosure were used to provide safe structures for the expression of experiences and opinions about ageing. Ageism was analysed to exemplify the process of stereotyping, and as an effort to build more accepting values about ageing. Most of the students' written opinions and comments favourably endorsed this thematic focus on older adults. Many stated that they could both identify and communicate more with older adults. (RH)

ISSN: 03601277


Health and social services have been subject to constant definition and re-definition since the inception of the NHS (National Health Service) in 1948. Boundaries have been drawn between services, between client groups, between locations (community and hospital), between professions, and between agencies and sectors. This paper looks at some of the more recent boundary disputes, and considers their consequences for older people, the largest client group involved. Three areas of concern are identified and discussed: the quality of services; the health-social care divide; and the tendency for older people to be excluded from the health system, by discrimination on grounds of age. This paper forms the basis for a chapter in the book "Care services for later life: transformations and critiques" edited by Tony Warnes, Lorna Warren and Mike Nolan. (RH/KJ)

ISBN: 1901097358

Price: £3.00
From: Centre for Policy on Ageing, 25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP.


Using data from the US National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experience, Mature Women's Cohort, this study examined the extent to which discrimination influenced pension receipt and levels of pension income among women aged 55-69 in 1992. It found that discrimination affected the level of pension income beyond that of demographic and human capital variables, when controlling for wage-related income, only among moderate-to-affluent nearly-older women. No relation was found between discrimination and receipt of pension income. (RH)

ISSN: 08959420
From: http://www.tandfonline.com


Balance confidence is an important indicator of functional mobility and independence in older people. Preliminary psychometric evidence for the Activities-specific Balance Confidence (ABC) scale is promising, with a series of four studies adding information on the discriminative and evaluative properties of this tool. The original validation sample was re-interviewed one year later. In the second study, the ABC was administered to 475 older adults ranging from home care clients to highly functioning individuals in community exercise programmes. The third study compared 31 residents of residential care homes given a 10-week balance control exercise programme and fall education with 32 residents who received only fall education. The fourth study examined balance confidence pre- and post-operatively for 27 patients undergoing hip or knee replacement. ABC scores remained stable over 12 months in higher functioning older persons, but deteriorated in care home residents over 26 weeks. Balance training significantly improved balance confidence, as did hip or knee replacement with standard physical therapy. These results provide comparative benchmarks for researchers and clinicians. (AKM)

ISSN: 10795006
In June 1998, the Government began the second phase of its New Deal programme, targeting older workers (aged over 25). This report looks at the implications for older (age 40 to retirement age) unemployed black people (i.e. of non-white ethnic origin), and suggests proposals for ensuring that the New Deal is effective for their needs. (RH)

Some of the emotional difficulties faced by older people may be understood with reference to the idea of shame. However, there have been no studies which have suggested that this painful emotion is something which is left behind as we pass through the lifespan. This article summarises ideas from the psychology literature concerning the nature of shame, and shame as a social emotion. The author considers the social and cultural context of some sources of shame for older people in the UK, with reference to negative stereotypes of ageing. Psychological services should be developed to enhance older people's image, and to work against the psychological difficulties caused by ageism. (RH)

Spoken word recognition in individuals with dementia of the Alzheimer's type: changes in talker normalization and lexical discrimination; by Mitchell S Sommers.
Four experiments were conducted to examine the effects of dementia of the Alzheimer's type (DAT) on talker normalisation and lexical discrimination. Talker normalisation has been proposed as the principal mechanism underlying listeners' ability to maintain perceptual constancy for speech signals. Lexical discrimination refers to the ability to distinguish individual words from phonetically similar items stored in the mental lexicon. Healthy older adults served as controls. Comparisons of controls and very mildly impaired patients with DAT revealed no significant change in either lexical discrimination or talker normalisation. In contrast, individuals with more advanced DAT exhibited significant declines in both abilities. The results are discussed with respect to the possible roles of general slowing and inhibitory declines as factors affecting speech perception in DAT. (AKM)

Vulnerable to attack or victim of ageist stereotype?: older people, crime and crime prevention; by Sue Ramsden, Simon Anderson.
Older people figure prominently in discussions about crime, often in stereotypical roles: as frail victims of mugging or assault, or as 'prisoners' in their homes. With funding from the Scottish Office, Age Concern Scotland commissioned research focusing explicitly on older people's views and experiences in relation to crime. Research was mainly based on group discussions with older people in different parts of Scotland, and background information from the Scottish Crime Survey. Discussions covered the following topics: perceptions of ageing and 'being old'; comparisons with the experience of previous generations; general perceptions of crime now and in the past; views on when and why things have changed; current perceptions of crime problems in their area and worry about victimisation; situations in which people feel unsafe; experience as victims of crime; and crime prevention. The research provides a reminder that some people are more at risk than others (who become isolated), whilst those who are in good health, active and involved in their communities are least likely to be anxious about crime. (RH)

Ageism and perceptions of employability: a challenge for gerontological education; by Phil Lyon, David Pollard.
Education and Ageing, vol 12, nos 1/2, November 1997, pp 32-44.
Without the prescription of the law, the only defence against age-discriminatory practices in the labour market is to change attitudes supporting such behaviour. A 1995 survey of post-experience management students appeared to show that this new generation of managers have more negative attitudes to older workers and their abilities than those of a group of managers surveyed in 1992. This paper was presented at the Association for Educational Gerontology (AEG) Annual Conference at Keele University in July 1997. (RH)
Demography, economics and the study of old age: "bad science" and ageist knowledge; by Gail Wilson.
In most parts of the world, practitioners and policy makers who work with older people operate within ageist societies. In the United Kingdom (UK), for instance, negative perceptions of the user, patient or client group rub off on those who work with them. This ageism is constantly reinforced by the way that knowledge, which passes as scientific, is generated and presented. This article discusses ageist, sexist and racist biases within demography and economics. These disciplines are the last bastions of modernist social science. In both subjects, the mainstream is quantitative and apparently wholly rational. However, the 'crises' of population ageing can be seen to be largely fabrications. They are the products of disciplines that do not consider the way that social prejudices bias the production of knowledge. Detailed consideration of the crises shows that, although older people are portrayed as responsible for these changes, they are in reality only minor players. More responsible, less ageist 'science' would be a contribution to improving text books and training courses and ultimately also to the self-esteem of professionals and their service users.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995; by John Williams.
The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 is a first step toward removing discriminatory behaviour towards people with disabilities. This article considers the Act's definition of disability, and the fact that the Act has made it unlawful to discriminate against disabled people in the provision of goods and services, in selling or letting property, and in employment. The author concludes that the Act's achievements will be measured by the extent to which attitudes and practices are changed, bearing in mind loopholes in the way in which the Act defines disability. (RH)

Discrimination of older workers in Germany: obstacles and options for the integration into employment; by Frerich Frerichs, Gerhard Naegele.
The employment prospects of older workers in Germany are restricted because of age discrimination. The main indicator concerning recruitment is that from the age of 45 the difficulties in finding a new job rise extraordinarily and, accordingly, the duration of unemployment rises. There is a lack of participation by older workers in vocational training and, additionally, they face numerous risks in the deterioration of their skills. Given the long-term implication of the ageing labour force, employers must adapt their approaches to recruiting and training older workers to prevent a further loss of skills and know-how. A comprehensive strategy for integrating older workers and overcoming age-barriers in employment is required. (AKM)

Linda Perham's Private Member's Bill was supported by MPs from all parties. If enacted, it would have been unlawful to publish an advertisement for employment or contract of services specifying an actual or preferred age or age range, unless justifiable on grounds irrespective of age (e.g. physiology, or restrictions imposed by laws regulating certain occupations or appointments). It included provision for publication of codes of practice containing practical guidance in relation to considerations of age in advertisements. This Bill was dropped after its second reading on 6 February 1998. (KJ/RH)

Frequency discrimination vs frequency estimation: adult age differences and the effect of divided attention; by Sharon A Mutter, Kelly M Goedert.
In this experiment, the authors explored age differences in frequency judgement. Young and older adults studied words occurring from one to six times under divided or focused attention, and then completed either a frequency discrimination or a frequency estimation test for these items. Divided attention led to a poorer performance on
both frequency judgement tests, suggesting that distraction during the encoding of target events results in less optimal encoding of the information that is necessary for any type of frequency judgement. Contrary to the notion that older adults encode this information more superficially than young adults, older adults were as sensitive as young adults to relative differences in the frequency of target words, and distraction did not magnify age differences for either type of task. On the other hand, older adults were less accurate in assigning an absolute numerical value to the frequency of the target words. Altogether, the results are consistent with the idea that the encoding and/or retrieval processes required for accurate numerical estimation of frequency suffer a larger age-related decline than do those required for accurate discrimination of relative frequency. (RH)

ISSN: 10795014

Nursing Times and Age Concern England (ACE) joined forces to organise a Parliamentary Lobby on 11 March 1997 on the subject of health care rights for older people. The two organisations are working together, because of their strength of feeling that older people are not getting the healthcare they deserve. ACE has campaigned for some time on the subject of age discrimination in health care, while Nursing Times' "Elderly Care Counts" campaign has produced a Health Care Bill of Rights for the Older Person. This report is the first part of a full review of research on age discrimination in health care, and outlines some of the main concerns. "Healthcare rights for older people: the ageism issue" is a later version of this item. (RH)
Price: £3.00
From: Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

Approximately one third of patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) respond favourably to the anticholinesterase tacrine, but the drug's usefulness is marred by a high incidence of side effects, the commonest being abnormal liver function tests. AD patients with white matter low attenuation (WMLA, or leuko-araiosis) have a significantly higher rate of withdrawal from tacrine.
ISSN: 00020729

The first survey asked opinion formers views on five proposed policy options: attitudes towards age discrimination in employment; legislation or other public policies directly aimed at combatting age discrimination; older unemployed and job-seekers; recruitment and in-company training by employers; and early exit from employment and retirement age. There was active support for labour market measures to promote employment. Anti-age discrimination had less support. In the UK survey (by Philip Taylor and Alan Walker), measures favoured were: comprehensive age discrimination legislation; action at European level; more education and awareness campaigns; financial incentives to encourage phased or flexible retirement; public policy measures to help older people re-enter the labour market; giving older people the same employment rights; and more emphasis on lifetime learning and training programmes to help with employability.
ISBN: 1899423087
Price: £25.00
From: Eurolink Age, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

There is a strong scientific basis for screening women aged over 65 for breast cancer. However, following recommendations made in the Forrest report of 1986, and the perceived poor response rates of older women to screening, the NHS has adopted negative attitudes to older people, leading to policy decisions which disadvantage them.
ISSN: 09598138
1996


Reports on a study in which the participants read a script of a forgetful young, middle-aged and older person being interviewed for a volunteer position, and then rated their opinion of the person's memory and capability of performing tasks.

ISSN: 08827974


Age Concern presents a graph representing the Department of Health (DoH) Renal review findings. The incidence of chronic kidney failure rises steeply with age, yet the number of older people being accepted onto treatment programmes - dialysis or transplant - is low compared to the high level of renal failure in the older population. Differences of acceptance rates for treatment for those aged under 60 were not significant.

Price: FOC
From: The Policy Unit, Information Services Division, Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.


A Working Party on Age, Discrimination and Employment Law was established by the Law Society in 1992, to consider options for dealing with age discrimination and the feasibility of introducing legislation in relation to unlawful discrimination on grounds of age. If anti-discrimination legislation were introduced, it could be workable and effective: it could be based on existing sex and race relations legislation. The report is supported by statistics relating to age and employment, and outlines of the law in relation to age discrimination in New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the USA and the European Union.

ISBN: 1853284351
Price: £7.50
From: The Law Society, 50 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SX.

Ageism victims "need help at national level"; by Jilly Welch.

Small charities and age campaigning bodies - such as the Bristol-based Freshstart Trust, the Third Age Action Trust (Tact), and Reach - are shouldering the burden of providing help for unemployed people over 40 years old. They would like to see the training and enterprise councils (Tecs) adopting a more co-ordinated approach in working with older unemployed people. (RH)

An analysis of ageism, the challenges it presents to the personal identities of elders: and the prospects for development, in social work practice, of identity work with elders; by Jez Millen, Social Care Association (Education) - SCA; Department of Applied Social Studies, University of Warwick. Coventry: SCA; University of Warwick, 1996, 81 pp (Social Care: Papers for Practice).

This dissertation examines ageism; considers how its economic, political and cultural forms can threaten the personal identities of elders; assesses 'traditional' social work's record of identity work with elders; and examines the potential for developing positive identity work, bearing in mind the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats posed by the NHS and Community Care Act 1990. The author presents a case study, to demonstrate work with an individual to try and address his identity needs in practice.

ISBN: 0901244597
Price: £4.50
From: SCA (Education), 23A Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4JZ.

Attitudes of employees and employers towards older workers in a climate of anti-discrimination; by M Steinberg, K Donald, J Najman (et al).

Attitudes and practices towards older workers were surveyed in Brisbane, by questionnaire to 525 employees randomly sampled from the electoral roll, and to executives of 104 companies. Results indicate that 'older workers' are young in terms of contemporary life expectancy, and younger for employers than employees. Older workers have some desirable personal qualities (e.g. loyalty), but are not perceived as adaptable. Workers aged
25-29 were preferred on qualities held to be important in the workplace, and there was minimal interest in recruiting anyone over 45 years.
ISSN: 07264240

The case for breaking through ageism in mental health care; by Trevor Adams.
Critically investigates the recent policy in mental health nursing on refocusing care on people with severe mental health problems, and argues that older people with illnesses such as dementia are excluded from this policy.
ISSN: 09547762

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995: the impact upon older folk; by Alec Samuels.
Outlines the impact of the legislation on older people.
ISSN: 1360239X

Disability Discrimination Act information pack; by Minister for Disabled People; Disability on the Agenda.
London: Issued on behalf of the Minister for Disabled People, April 1996, 6 pamphlets in folder (DL60; DL70; DL80; DL90; DL100; DL110; DL120).
A guide to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Contains a set of booklets, each dealing with a section of the Act: definition of disability; employment; access to goods, facilities and services; letting or selling land or property; education; public transport vehicles; the National Disability Council and the Northern Ireland Disability Council.
Price: FOC
From: Telephone: 0345 622 633 (local rate) or on textphone 0345 622 644.

A district-wide examination of 75-year olds suggests discrimination in the provision of services; by N Vetter, M George, P Lewis.
This study aimed to assess the adequacy of a health district's existing services for those aged 75 years, to detect shortfalls and biases in provision. Community based nurses assessed subjects' problems in a cross-sectional survey in South Glamorgan, and found a marked difference in results of assessment for different services. It was estimated that 76% of the 75-year-olds would benefit from additional health services, and 37% from social services. There was a striking difference between the services in the proportion of people whose problems were satisfactorily solved, according to the criteria used by community nurses. The proportion of problems that were solved varied according to the degree of dependency, and the service involved. Some services showed a clear trend to care more for dependent people; services with relatively undeveloped home delivery systems seemed likely to discriminate against people who were dependent.
ISSN: 03949532

Employment discrimination against older workers: an experimental study of hiring practices; by Marc Bendick, Charles W Jackson, J Horacio Romero.
Pairs of CVs (curriculum vitae), one for a 57 year old and the other for a 32 year old, were sent to 775 large firms and employment agencies across the US. Although the CVs presented equal qualifications, the older job seeker received a less favourable employer response 26.5% of times when a position appeared to be vacant. Vigorous enforcement of equal opportunity laws as well as initiatives to change employer attitudes are appropriate responses to such discrimination. The technique of employment testing, demonstrated in this research, can be useful in both efforts. (RH)
ISSN: 08959420
From: http://www.tandfonline.com

Older people, unemployment and discrimination; by Paul Convery.
Data from the Labour Force Survey shows that long-term unemployment is heavily concentrated among the older jobless, with fewer people aged 50 and over being economically active. Reference is made to a Private Member's Bill, the Employment (Upper Age in Advertisements) Bill, which sought to make it illegal for job advertisements to specify a preferred age range.
Prime and prejudice; by Paul Dinsdale.
The author investigates the prevalence of health care rationing on the basis of age.
ISSN: 09522271

Visual form discrimination test with elderly medical inpatients; by Nina A Nabors, Stephen J Vangel, Peter A Lichtenberg.
Reports on two studies which evaluated the ability of the Benton's Visual Form Discrimination Test to discriminate between cognitively intact and cognitively impaired older medical in-patients.
ISSN: 07317115
From : http://www.tandfonline.com

What is ageism?; by Ann Nolan.
The author looks at ageism and in the ways that theories of ageing - particularly theories of disengagement and activity - can contribute to our understanding of the position of older people in modern society.