

The collection concludes with an annotated bibliography on older women, policy and politics, and three book reviews. Although somewhat informative, the majority of these entries consists of brief reviews of papers and reports that would be almost impossible to access for further reference and study.

Putting together a small collection on a topic as broad and diverse as older women is a difficult task. *Women As Elders* because of its diversity lacks cohesiveness. Its brevity does not allow for an in-depth analysis into any one of the topics. Despite the limitations, a commonality emerges around the issues raised and the questions asked which are germane to all women. The authors present a myriad of concerns and images we all confront as we age and they break through some commonly held stereotypes about older women. We are challenged to "look toward new forms, to develop alternatives to assert ourselves and to take the risks to realize our vision." Although I would not recommend this collection to be used as a primary text, these essays could be used by students of women's studies and by all persons as a preparation and a looking forward to the time when we will all be elders.

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Canada's Aging Population. Susan A. McDaniel, *Toronto and Vancouver: Butterworths, 1986. Pp.136.*

Canada's Aging Population, by Susan McDaniel is an excellent sourcebook for anyone interested in the area of population aging. *Canada's Aging Population* is the first book in the Butterworths Perspectives on Individual and Population Aging series, designed to provide review and analysis of Canadian based scientific and professional knowledge in a variety of gerontological topics. The choice of demographic aging is particularly appropriate to begin with as it provides a framework for discussion of other social gerontological topics. This book is written in such a manner that it can be easily understood by the reader without any expertise in this area.

McDaniel begins by exploring the causes, myths and measures of population aging. This first chapter provides a clear discussion of the terminology of population aging—what it is and is not—as well as an interesting exploration of the myths of population aging. This chapter also explores the measures used in the study of population aging. Charts and diagrams are well used by McDaniel to assist the reader in comprehension of this material.

Chapter two provides an excellent discussion of the conceptual and research perspectives in the study of population aging. The information is up to date and the strengths and weaknesses of the discussion of the various philosophical arguments within each perspective, but rather a concise and succinct overview of the research paradigms.

A third chapter is devoted to exploring the Canadian experience of demographic aging in a global context. This chapter outlines how Canada compares with other countries in the world, both developed and developing, in terms of how "old" it is. McDaniel strongly makes the point that if we understand that population aging is a *gradual* process then continued aging can be viewed as requiring accommodation and a shifting of priorities. The final part of the chapter consists of an interesting discussion of Canada's aging past and present. Within this the trends relating to sex ratio, place of residence, and language and ethnicity are highlighted.

Chapter four reviews some of the major contemporary issues and concerns surrounding population aging. The first issue discussed is the advent of zero population growth. McDaniel provides clear explanations of the relationship between zero population growth and mortality; between population growth and economic growth; between aging, zero population growth and level of economic development; and the changing attitudes toward population in the advent of zero growth. Within the section on aging, zero population growth and level of economic development, McDaniel provides a particularly interesting discussion of three situations of population change and the resulting relationships between population growth rates, economic burden, fertility, mortality and aging.

A further section of the chapter is devoted to a discussion of economic concerns in an aging population. Issues such as dependency burdens, productivity/creativity concerns and wealth distribution are briefly explored. Economic issues of a policy nature are more completely discussed in chapter five.

The remainder of chapter four introduces mobility and opportunity structures in an aging population and a brief discussion of the particular problems of women in an aging society. Particularly interesting is McDaniel's discussion of the confusion between women's dependency and population again. McDaniel states that because the greatest number of old people are women and that many of these women are in financial trouble due to their life

cycle pattern of limited labour force participation, it has been suggested by some that population aging is problematic. As a result, population aging is seen to be the cause of this burden on the public purse. McDaniel disagrees and suggests women's dependency is a much larger and different issue, not a problem of population aging. McDaniel argues that meeting the economic need of older women is necessary to alleviate some of these fearful images of living in an aging society.

Chapter five is a discussion of five policy and program issues in population aging: the economy, retirement and work, health issues, housing and family, and education. McDaniel states that her purpose here is to provoke thought, not to attempt to cover all the relevant policy issues. The section on the economy deals primarily with pensions and their relationship to population aging. This section also provides further discussion on the economic problems of older women, including pension eligibility, structural inequality and the use of gender based mortality tables which give women smaller pensions because they tend to live longer. The remaining sections of the chapter provide a balanced view of some of the other policy issues and point out areas of reform that could lead to appropriate responses to Canada's aging population. Issues briefly covered here include the changing world of work, the health care system, housing, education and the family. McDaniel's interest in gender issues is clear, gender differences in later life experience are discussed often in this chapter.

In chapter six, McDaniel deals with the future of demographic aging in Canada. The discussion focuses on the future of fertility, mortality and international immigration in Canada using population projections. This is followed by a discussion of the resulting age and age-sex structure in future Canadian society. McDaniel concludes this chapter by suggesting that a "period of grace" has been built into the Canadian age structure. McDaniel suggests that this period can be used as a time of "transition, planning and innovation" to prepare for meeting the economic and social needs of future Canadian society. It is McDaniel's opinion that neither a "seige mentality" nor "scare imagery" serve any useful purpose in the discussion of population aging in Canada, and may cause further harm than contribute to solutions. In the last chapter McDaniel provides a brief summary and presents a series of unanswered questions and implications for future research.

In summary, *Canada's Aging Population* provides a lucid and thoughtful discussion of the major social issues

surrounding population aging. The level of the book is appropriate for its intended audience, and an extensive bibliography is provided for those interested in exploring further the issues discussed by McDaniel. The book will be particularly useful for people seeking a thoughtful, rather than "doomsday," discussion of Canada's aging population.

Nancy Knudsen

Making Space: Women and the Man Made Environment. Matrix, London: Pluto Press, 1984. Pp. 148.

This book is authored by a group of feminist designers known as Matrix. The authors are seven women, all of whom have studied architecture and are currently working in a range of roles including architects, designers and builders. Matrix had its roots in the late seventies in the New Architecture Movement, a group of socialist architects, students, teachers and builders concerned with making architects more accountable to building users and questioning relationships between architect, user and builder. In 1978, the Feminist Design Collective emerged as a discussion group to understand and develop a feminist approach to architecture through discussion and work. In March, 1979, a conference on "Women and Space" was held. In 1980, the Feminist Design Collective split and Matrix was established as an umbrella organization "to develop a feminist approach to design through practical projects and theoretical analysis, and to communicate our ideas more widely" (p.viii).

The intent of this book is to assist women in understanding how the built environment fails to work for them and to initiate some thinking about how things might be different. Matrix clearly states that the intent is not:

To provide architects with a do-it-yourself feminist architecture kit. We are not prescribing solutions; we are describing problems, so as to help women understand their own relationship to the built environment and to help architects understand how the environment is a problem for women (p.8).

The book is a collection of nine papers, two of which provide an overview of issues written by all the authors together plus seven individual contributions on specific topics. Essentially, the first half of the book deals with an introduction to feminist concerns of how buildings and cities work for women, while the second half tends to be focused more specifically on issues related to house design