The Feminization of Aging: New Challenges and Potential Solutions

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• Review epidemiological data and the impact of epidemiological transitions
• Discuss the intersection of gender, aging and poverty
• Geopolitical instability, climate change, scourge of HIV
• Intersectoral and life course approaches
• The global population aged 60 years and older is projected to double, reaching 2 billion by 2050
• By 2025, an estimated 87% of all people aged 60 years and above will live in low- and middle-income countries.
• Women make up a larger share of this population and will outlive men in nearly all countries.
• In the developed world, women outlive men by a margin of 4 to 10 years
• In the developing world, 58 percent of older people are women.
**Speed of Population Aging**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More developed countries</th>
<th>Less developed countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France 1865-1980</td>
<td>Azerbaijan 2000-2041</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden 1890-1975</td>
<td>Chile 1998-2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia 1938-2011</td>
<td>China 2000-2026</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States 1944-2013</td>
<td>Jamaica 2008-2033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada 1944-2009</td>
<td>Tunisia 2008-2032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland 1966-2013</td>
<td>Thailand 2003-2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom 1930-1975</td>
<td>Brazil 2011-2032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain 1947-1995</td>
<td>Colombia 2017-2037</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Dates show the span of years when percent of population age 65 or older rose (or is projected to rise) from 7 percent to 14 percent.

Trends in Aging, by World Region

Population Ages 65 and Older

Percent

World 2000 | 7
Africa 2000 | 3
Africa 2025 | 4
Asia 2000 | 6
Asia 2025 | 10
Latin America and the Caribbean 2000 | 6
Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 | 10
More Developed Regions 2025 | 21

China’s Age Distribution

Population Structures by Age and Sex

Millions

1950

2000

2050

Age

Male

Female

Age

Male

Female

Age

Male

Female

Women and aging

EXCLUSIVE
THE HIT MAN HUNTING OSAMA

The Bulletin

SPECIAL HEALTH REPORT  BY TONY WRIGHT

100
(THE NEW 80)

80
(THE NEW 60)

60
(THE NEW 40)

Australians are living longer.
One in three children will reach 100.
How we're turning back the years.

OLE SCHOFIELD  THE GREAT  UGH! BOOT DEBATE

Olive Riley,
104 years old

MARCH 16, 2004  $5.90 INC GST  NZ $6.90 INC GST
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
• Intersectionality
  - race, gender, age, ethnicity, health and other characteristics interface to determine identity

McCall 2005; Dennis 2008; Etherington et al. 2018
Sex and gender

Is there a difference?
• **Sex** refers to biological and physiological characteristics

• **Gender** refers to behaviors, roles, expectations, and activities in society
Girls killed in shelter fire are the latest victims of Guatemala’s war on women.
Women, Ageing and Health: A Framework for Action

“Double jeopardy” - exclusion on the basis of gender and ageism  p.3
• Unequal power relationships between men and women
• Social norms that decrease education and paid employment opportunities
• An exclusive focus on women’s reproductive roles
• Potential or actual experience of physical, sexual and emotional violence
The Feminization of Aging: How Will This Impact on Health Outcomes and Services?

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We conducted an integrative review to identify issues and challenges that face aging women and to distinguish areas for future research. We found that many older women continue to face inequities related to health and often are invisible within the discourse of aging policy. In this article we argue for a greater focus on the unique needs of women, a gendered approach to policy and intervention development, and promotion of the health of women across the life span. Policymakers, health care workers, and researchers need to consider the perspective of gender as well as age when implementing and evaluating effective interventions.

Population aging is emerging as a pressing issue for health and social services globally (Kasl, 1997; World Health Organization, 2003). Gender is a dynamic and socially defined construct comprising role enactment, values, and beliefs of both men and women (Frye, Putnam, & O’Campo, 2008). Gender-based roles, enactment, and health outcomes are shaped by social, economic, political, and cultural factors, rather than by biology alone (Raymond, Greenberg, & Leeder, 2005). Social determinants of health are the economic and social
"The social determinants of health (SDH) are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems."

World Health Organisation
• 3.5 million 65+ live alone, 36% of all people aged 65+
• Nearly 70% of these are women
• 2 million people over 75 live alone; 1.5 million of these are women
• 61% of widows (male and female) in England and Wales are aged 75 and older
• Carers UK estimate that 58% of carers (all ages) are women
• Over one third of people aged 60+ 41% are worried about the cost of heating their homes this winter

“Gender equality must become a lived reality”

Michelle Bachelet
Looking in a different place for the key.

Why is he looking at risk factors and behaviors when the key lies in social determinants?
Eliminating Disparities is the Pathway to Equity

This is Disparity

This is Equality

This is Equity

Adapted from http://themetapicture.com/equality-vs-justice
DISCUSSION PAPER

THE GENDER DIMENSIONS OF PENSION SYSTEMS:

Policies and constraints for the protection of older women

No. 1, July 2015

CAMILA ARZA
FOR PROGRESS OF THE WORLD’S WOMEN 2015-2016
TURNING PROMISES INTO ACTION:
GENDER EQUALITY IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
• Ending extreme poverty and sustainable economic growth
• Education as an emancipatory force
• Making cities and public spaces safe for women
• Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies
Health and well-being are moderated by the environment and there are clear social gradients in health.

Poorer people live shorter lives often with greater disability than more affluent citizens.

Health equity, human rights and distribution of power.

Epidemiological transitions and multimorbidity challenge health systems.

Intersectoral and intersectional approaches are needed.
A place where exceptional people discover possibilities that forever change their lives and the world.